



# Heritage Here

SUMMER 2014

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## CHC CHAIR MESSAGE

“A tourist in my own town.” That phrase has become a trite commercial booster in many places. And many of us only explore our own neighbourhoods when we have visitors who want to see the sights. The population of Maple Ridge has grown hugely in the last 20 years. Many of us work in other communities, coming home to rest and set off again. So we don’t take much time to learn about the history of our homes and our neighbours.

I took the moments of sun filtering through the clouds on Easter Sunday afternoon as a message that I should go out and explore. My first stop was NOKAI PARK on 222nd Street. I am thankful that Maple Ridge resident Lynn Currie pursued this recognition of the Haney Japanese Farmers Association.

Next I toured the MAPLE RIDGE CEMETERY. The twin maple trees at the entrance spread their welcoming branches. The flowering trees and new columbaria were enhanced by the music of wind chimes and bird song.

As the wind picked up, I sought the new pocket park on Wharf Street in Hammond. It was soon to be dedicated to EMMELINE TOD MOHUN, a Hammond business woman. The park is at the intersection of Wharf and Hazelwood Street which commemorates Emmeline’s farm. The park offers a dramatic view of Golden Ears Bridge and will mature into a lovely outdoor space for the neighbourhood.

Alas the clouds rolled in again and I returned to my cozy living room. This was only one of many spontaneous outings I expect to make as a tourist where I live.

In April two events stand out in my calendar. The Maple Ridge Historical Society Annual Heritage Tea was a great social occasion to start the month. The following week the Community Heritage Commission joined the Agricultural Advisory Committee to host the “Intersections Networking Event” for District of Maple Ridge Council Committees and their associated organizations. Attendees spent the evening getting to know each other better and building relationships beyond the usual suspects. The most frequent comments expressed appreciation for how interconnected the projects and programs are, and surprise that so many volunteers participate in advising Council. We hope to host this event annually.



## Heritage Contributors

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This year offers many more opportunities to celebrate. Maple Ridge Historical Society opened our first museum 40 years ago. Tell us about your landmark moments and let us help you celebrate.

Finally, our Commission meetings are open to the public on the first Tuesday evening of each month from September to June. We hope you will come to tell us about your heritage interests and initiatives.

Yours in telling the Maple Ridge story

*Brenda L. Smith*

## SAVE THESE DATES!

### MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF HERITAGE LEADERSHIP

The Community Heritage Commission congratulates Maple Ridge Historical Society on 40 years of collecting, preserving, interpreting and sharing the Maple Ridge story.

Mark your calendar for these opportunities to join the party:

#### LIBRARY DISPLAY:

View your contributions to museum and archives collections on display at Maple Ridge Library in August.

#### PICNIC IN THE PARK:

Reserve August 10 for the party at the brickyard site in James Hadgkiss Park. Eat cake and enjoy the Tiller's Folly free concert. Wear your historic costume or your silly hat. Be inspired to tell a story of your family's past.

#### SING AND DANCE

"Music on the Wharf" will delight audiences in Port Haney on July 14, 28 and August 18, 25. This popular series is presently accepting artists' submissions. Tune that guitar and hum a little.

#### PUT IT IN PRINT

Check your copy of the Maple Ridge Historical Society Newsletter through the year for "History Makers" articles telling us more about the folks who have built the organization. And watch for launches of new publications telling the Maple Ridge story. Sharpen your pencil and put your story on record.

#### JOIN THE FUN

Lots of volunteers are needed to make these events memorable. You are invited to take a bigger share in the party by contacting Allison at the museum and archives (604-463-5311 or mrmuseum@gmail.com).



MAPLE RIDGE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CHC Chair Brenda Smith  
at Emmeline Mohun Park  
April 2014. Photo by Erica  
Williams



## Emmeline Jane Mohun 1835 - 1928

Known for her "ardent and dominant spirit" Emmeline Mohun was one of the first woman landowners in British Columbia. In 1875, she became the registered owner of 555 acres near what is now Maple Ridge. In partnership with John and William Hammond, Emmeline was one of three landowners of the new town Port Hammond Junction, registered in Victoria in 1883.



**William Henry Newton**  
1833 - 1875

Married to Emmeline in 1856, William worked for The Hudson's Bay Co., and was in charge of Fort Langley from 1859-1864. Emmeline and William were among the first prominent landowners in Maple Ridge, purchasing large parcels of crown land in the 1860's. After his death in 1875, Emmeline Newton became the sole registered owner of their land and thus one of B.C.'s first female landowners.



**Charles Edward Mohun**  
1838 - 1912

In 1878, Edward married the widowed Emmeline Newton. A civil engineer and land surveyor he made the first CPR surveys of B.C. Anticipating a projected railway through his wife's property, he developed a "Plan of the Town of Port Hammond Junction," on behalf of Emmeline and Joe and William Hammond. As attention turned to the rapidly growing city of Vancouver, the Mohuns moved to Victoria where Edward ended his surveying career working for the City of Victoria.



**Looking Forward**  
The "Plan of the Town of Port Hammond Junction," drafted by Edward Mohun and registered in 1883 on behalf of the three landowners of the new town: Emmeline Jane Mohun and the Hammond brothers, Joe and William. The plan subdivided large parts of Emmeline's land and many of the projected streets and names are still there today.

The wonderfully designed plaque at Emmeline Mohun Park unfortunately includes some errors in the text. It shows at one place the name Joe Hammond instead on John Hammond. It also shows Emmeline Mohun as registered owner of acreage "... near what is now Maple Ridge." Historically correct that should be: "... in the newly incorporated District of Maple Ridge." The present plaque will be replaced with a corrected version.

## MAPLE RIDGE FUNERAL CHAPPEL

On September 14, Maple Ridge Funeral Chapel celebrates 50 years of service to our community.

Tom Osborn started Osborn's Shoe Store in Maple Ridge in 1932. His children Leslie and Irene took over the business in 1952. In 1964 Les and his wife Eileen built Maple Ridge Funeral Chapel.

The Osborn Family invites the community to celebrate with them on September 14 from noon to 4:00 pm.

They are developing an exciting family-oriented program of music, food, antique vehicle display, children's games and cemetery tours. For information call 604-463-8121 and watch their web site for program updates. [mapleridgefuneralchapel@shaw.ca](mailto:mapleridgefuneralchapel@shaw.ca)



*Les and Eileen Osborn.  
Photo provided  
by Maple Ridge  
Funeral Chapel and  
Crematorium*

## COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM IN MAPLE RIDGE

We are re-establishing this program in Maple Ridge after a 10-year hiatus. This program was established in 1995 in the United Kingdom, has grown in popularity throughout Europe and now in Canada.

This judged event takes place mid-July every year and is evaluated within categories such as:

Tidiness, Urban Forestry, Environmental Action, Landscape, Floral Displays, and Heritage Conservation.

Floral displays evaluates efforts to design, plan, execute and maintain floral displays such as annuals, perennials, bulbs, and ornamental grasses in the use of flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes, etc.

Heritage Conservation includes efforts to preserve heritage within this community as well as cultural heritage, which includes monuments, memorials, artifacts, museums and history, archives, traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations.

Maple Ridge is rich in history and Shady Lane, Davidson's Pool and Port Hammond will be a part of the judge's tour.

What makes Maple Ridge a unique competitor is our sense of pride. A program called "Project Patriotism", is one that will set us apart from any other community and let us rise to the top.

It is our hopes that that every business, agency, organization, vehicle and/or residence fly a Canadian flag, bunting, or banner from it. Let's let our friends, neighbours and Communities in Bloom judges know we are united!

For more information and to become involved in Maple Ridge's Community in Bloom program please contact [<mapleridgecommunitiesinbloom@gmail.com>](mailto:mapleridgecommunitiesinbloom@gmail.com)

CYNDY JOHNSON-McCORMICK



Events + Projects

## JOIN THE MAPLE RIDGE COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION BECOME A MEMBER!

The Community Heritage Commission is committed to projects aimed at promoting heritage education and public awareness. If you are interested in joining the Heritage Commission, please submit a letter of interest to:

Community Heritage Commission,  
c/o the Maple Ridge Planning Department,  
11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, BC, V3X 6A9,  
Fax: 604-466-4327,  
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