

Maple Ridge This Month

MID MONTH UPDATE: JANUARY 2014

SPOTLIGHT ON: Test Drive the New District Website

Discover New Features to Help Enrich Your Online Experience

The web team at the District has been working with our partners at CivicPlus to create the new mapleridge.ca website. Our internal team has been busy reviewing and migrating content to the new site and the CivicPlus team have been working in the background to create the functionality to improve our user experience.

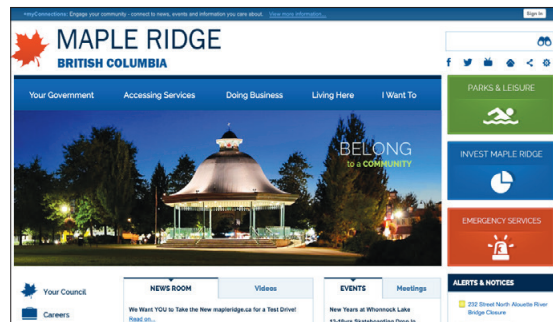
On December 27, 2013 we 'flipped the switch' and launched the new site, an important milestone towards the development of our new mobile app and integration of our online presence with our social media outreach.

A big part of the project was the installation of Google Search to power our site search. As more citizens use our site, the accumulated search results of each interaction will help improve the overall search function on our website to help take users to the content that they are looking for.

Our formal roll out of mapleridge.ca will occur in late February, 2014 when we will promote the new website's features and mobile application launch.

Up until December 27 our website administrators were maintaining two websites, the old site, and the development site that has been tucked away on a server. Since the new launch we've been able to focus our energy on the new mapleridge.ca and we've already made a bunch of changes based on suggestions from the public.

We need your help. We are inviting citizens to take the new mapleridge.ca website for a test drive to provide us with the 'real world' feedback on the new functions of the site. We want you to take it for a test drive and provide us with



your comments and observations to the email enquiries@mapleridge.ca.

Whether it's a broken link, some wording or terminology that doesn't make sense or something weird that happens on your tablet computer, we want to hear about it so that we can fix it. It's that simple. We will be monitoring your emails and inviting some citizens to attend some face-to-face focus groups in late January as we move forward to the full launch and promotion in a couple of months.

In addition, everyone who sends in a comment or suggestion will be entered in a draw for an iPad Mini that will be held as part of the official launch ceremony in February.

That's it. This is our new website. We know that when you are all finished your test drive and you give us your feedback that it will be perfect. Thank you in advance for being part of this crowdsourcing experiment in making a great community website.

INFORMED

November 2013 Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor and Council encourage everyone to attend these important public meetings. It's your chance to see how public policy is debated and enacted.

Monday, January 20

9:00 am, Workshop - Blaney Room

1:00 pm, Committee of the Whole - Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 21

7:00 pm, Public Hearing - Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 28

7:00 pm, Council Meeting - Council Chambers

Agendas & Minutes

Agendas for these meetings are posted online the Friday before the meeting date. Go to mapleridge.ca, click the link under Mayor & Council on the home page.

Council This Week

Subscribe to the 'Council This Week' eNewsletter that provides a summary of issues discussed at Council Workshop meetings. Go to mapleridge.ca, click the link to 'Council This Week' and sign up today.

Council Meeting Videos

If you are unable to attend a Council Meeting, Public Hearing or Committee of the Whole meeting you can now watch these meetings on your computer 24/7. The entire unedited meetings are posted two to three days after the meeting. The video is indexed to the agenda package so that you can watch them in their entirety or click through by agenda item. Go to mapleridge.ca and click on the video link at the bottom left of the home page.

INFORMED:

What's Your Goal for 2014?

INFORMED: Be Safe! Be Seen!

Smart Cyclists and Pedestrians Are Wearing Bright Clothing to be Seen

Time for a little reminder about the importance of being seen. In October of 2013 a team including ICBC, the RCMP, the Maple Ridge Fire Department, volunteers from the RCMP Auxiliary, Citizens On Patrol, the Fire Youth Academy and RCMP Youth Program split up throughout the Downtown distributing reflectors and information sheets with tips for pedestrians and drivers on how to be safe and be seen this fall and winter.

Here are the tips we gave those folks during our blitz:

Tips for Pedestrians

- Always make eye contact with drivers when crossing the street. Never assume that a driver has seen you.
- Focus your full attention on what's happening around you. Remove your headphones and never talk, text or use electronic devices in an intersection or while crossing.
- Wear reflective clothing or use reflective gear to make it easier for drivers to see you. This is especially important in wet weather and dark conditions when drivers may not be able to see you.

Tips for Drivers

- Always be on the lookout for pedestrians - especially in dark, wet weather when visibility is limited, at intersections and near transit stops where pedestrians will be coming and going and may not use crosswalks.
- When turning at an intersection, scan the crosswalk to make sure there are no pedestrians crossing.
- If a vehicle is stopped in front of you or in the lane next to you, they may be yielding for a pedestrian, so be prepared to stop.

It's simple; the best fashion for winter is bright reflective clothing. Reflectors, arm bands, safety vests and anything that stands out in the dark is what you should be wearing when you are walking, jogging or on your bike. While the days are getting a bit longer every day we felt that it was time for another reminder to be safe and be seen this winter!

FEEDBACK

Contact us at enquiries@mapleridge.ca

If you have a question about any of the content in this ad, or questions about any programs or services offered by the District of Maple Ridge, please send an email to enquiries@mapleridge.ca and one of our team members will respond to you.



11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge BC V2X 6A9

mapleridge.ca

[@yourmapleridge](https://www.facebook.com/yourmapleridge)

[@yourmapleridge](https://twitter.com/yourmapleridge)



Fulfil your Goals with Parks & Leisure Services!

Just in time for the New Year, the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre is offering a special discount to all existing and new members. Purchase a 3 month, 6 month, or 1 year membership before January 31st and receive up to 25% off!

- Flexible, no commitment membership plans.
- 30+ Certified instructor-led fitness classes/week.
- 15+ Certified instructor-led water fitness classes/week.
- Full size gymnasium with a variety of drop-in sports available.
- Racquetball, squash and wally ball courts.
- Swimming pool, hot-tub, sauna and steam room.
- Drop-in childminding.
- Spin/Cycle studio.
- 5,000 sq. ft. fitness centre with a variety of accessible equipment.
- Free one-hour parking.
- Family-oriented atmosphere with friendly and helpful staff committed to ensuring you have a safe and enjoyable experience EVERY visit!

www.mrmparksandleisure.ca

Up to 25% off!



The Leisure Centre is kind of the 'health hub' of Maple Ridge. For a lot of folks their time centres on the pool. Learning to swim or hanging out with the kids is a great way to be active together regardless of the weather outside.

We'd like to issue a challenge to you. Ditch the 'resolution' and replace it with a new shared goal to be active as a family. The Maple Ridge Leisure Centre offers a variety of ways you can be active. From instructor led fitness classes to drop in programs that fit your busy schedule, there's something for everyone. Maybe you want to try the fitness centre while the kids have a swim, or maybe you can get a pickup basketball game going during the drop in gym session. The keys to being active are variety and fun, and the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre literally has something for everyone.

Right now, to encourage folks to get active, we are offering a special discount for all new and existing members! Purchase a three month, six month or one year by January 31, 2014 and you can save as much as 25%. This is a great time to get together with friends and make a plan to get active together. You set your goals and we will help you achieve them.