

WINTER 2009 – 2010

# Heritage Here

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### HERITAGE BUILDING AWARD

#### Mike & Carolyn Holt

For their "love of the Hill House" and their outstanding work in its restoration and preservation



This year's Maple Ridge Heritage Award for a Heritage Building goes to Mike and Carolyn Holt for their loving and painstaking revitalization of "Hill House." This four-storey Edwardian-style house features a wrap-around clamshell veranda and a bellcast octagonal corner turret. Also known as "Castle House" this landmark heritage home in Albion, was built in 1912 for Hendrick Hill with money he had earned during the Klondike Gold Rush. Mr. Hill was Finnish and he turned to a fellow Finn, Victor Rossi a builder from Webster's Corners, to construct his home. Recent renovations also turned up a pencil inscription stating that "this building was worked on by Master Builder Wilho Tapio from Kalvia Finland."

This 4,000-square-foot house has maintained many of its original design features such as hardwood floors and panelling, bay windows, stained glass, and built-in glass fronted cabinets. Members of the Hill family inhabited the building until 1972. In its original location this home was part of a working farm which included a dairy herd, chickens and pigs. From 1952 to 1956, a portion of the home was converted into a restaurant. Fine dining in an elegant setting was a feature of "Hilltop Dining" which was the first restaurant with a liquor license on the north side of the Fraser River. The Hill family sold to Dr. Arthur Jones, whose family enjoyed living here for 23 years.

In the mid 1990s Hill House property was sold to developers and it stood vacant for a number of years. In 1999, the house was moved from its original location to a site on 240<sup>th</sup> Street on the southwest corner of the original property. Hill House faced imminent destruction from a wrecker's ball when it was rescued by Mike and Carolyn Holt in 2001 who had admired the house for over 30 years. Since purchasing Hill House the Holts have spent most of the last decade laboriously renovating and preserving the best features of Hill house. The house was in sad shape when they moved in. Previously, the last major renovation to the house had been done in the 1960s. The shag carpeting, psychedelic wallpaper, and linoleum tile have been replaced by refinished hardwood floors, new leaded glass, and a renovated kitchen and bathrooms. Some of the architectural features that could not be purchased were lovingly hand-crafted by the Holts.



MAPLE RIDGE HERITAGE AWARDS 2010



*The 2010 Heritage Awards were presented on February 18 at St. Andrew's Heritage Hall. Above: The "Hill House" was the winner in the Built Heritage category.*

*More photos inside.*

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## 2010 HERITAGE AWARDS

A CHEERFUL CROWD of almost 60 filled St. Andrew's Heritage Church on Thursday night, February 18, to celebrate the presentation of the 2010 Heritage Awards. The hall looked festive with flowers, and the Lava Lights jazz ensemble provided background music. Former Heritage Commission Chair Jim Connor acted as MC and entertained the audience with his subtle wit.

First Lynne Probyn, current CHC Chair, handed plaques to owners of houses recognized earlier, but who had not received their plaques yet. These were Paul and Darleen Weston for the Roberts House at 21336 Douglas Avenue, Dave and Glenda Speicht for the Holberg House at 20275 Ospring Street, Henry and Carole Ricard for the Katainen House at 25575 - 125th Avenue, and Mike and Sue Cizik for the Carter House on 21694 River Road.

Next Mayor Ernie Daykin presented the 2010 awards, which were the following: Valerie Patenaude, Director of the Maple Ridge Museum, received the Sheila Nickols Award for Community History and Heritage Teaching. The History and Heritage Research and Publication Award was split between the two local newspapers, *The Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Times* and *The News*. Mike and Carolyn Holt received the Heritage Building Award for painstakingly and lovingly restoring the Hill House on 240th Street. To bring this residence, which they took over in a dilapidated state, back to life and beauty took this couple eight years and a lot of resources and elbow grease.

The final award of the evening, the Heritage Landscape Award, was shared by four Whonnock residents, Sue Schulze, Trudi DesRochers, Steve Bentley, and Reginald Friesen, who, by living in and caring for the Whonnock Post Office, the former Red & White Store, and the two former Byrnes residences, assure that "The Front," Whonnock's commercial and civic centre since the 1800s, is again as attractive and vibrant as it used to be.

After the presentations there was opportunity for mingling and taking photos, there was more music, and attractively arranged refreshments were enjoyed. A raffle, with book and flower prizes, concluded the evening, which was considered a complete success by all who attended.

—Helmi Braches



*One of the plaques handed out to owners of four houses that were previously recognized but hadn't received a plaque yet.*



Clockwise from top left:

- Mayor Daykin presents award to Mike and Carolyn Holt (Hill house), while Councillor Craig Speirs looks on;
- CHC Chair Lynne Probyn (right) presents plaque to Paul and Darleen Weston;
- Mayor Daykin and Councillor Speirs with Chris Campbell, Editor of THE TIMES;
- An audience of almost 60 filled St. Andrew's Church hall;
- The Heritage Landscape Award, left to right: Councillor Speirs, Sue Schulze, Trudi DesRochers, Steve Bentley, Mayor Daykin, Reg Friesen;
- Val Patenaude (Sheila Nickols Award) with Councillor Speirs and Mayor Daykin;
- (7) Lynne Probyn (right) presenting plaque to Dave and Glenda Speicht.



## MEET OUR NEW COMMISSIONER: BRENDA L. SMITH

Family History Consultant Brenda L. Smith, is a writer and researcher, living in Maple Ridge.

For twenty-five years, while living in the Central Interior of British Columbia, she developed and presented programs to teach research, organizational development, public speaking and theatre skills. Her experience in journalism includes a time as Community Editor of the *Quesnel Cariboo Observer*.

Brenda chairs the Education Committee of the British Columbia Historical Federation. Presently, she is project manager for a transportation-themed issue of *British Columbia History* journal. She writes for the Maple Ridge Historical Society Family History Newsletter, and leads the Hammond Family History Project. She presents research methodology programs for libraries, museums and archives, family history societies and other interested groups.

For the Cloverdale Genealogy Collection of Surrey Public Library, Brenda developed and teaches two workshop series: "Start searching your family history—a beginners' workshop", and "Start writing your family history—a communications workshop."

Annually, Brenda presents for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints "Finding Your Roots Annual Tri-Stake Seminar" in Surrey, BC. In October 2005 at Fort Langley, BC, she joined prestigious author Warren Sommer and members of the Old Cemeteries Society of British Columbia in presenting "Down To Earth," a symposium on the historic nature of cemeteries.

In 2006, she was the recipient of the Maple Ridge Heritage Commission Sheila Nickols Heritage Achievement Award for Community History and Heritage Teaching. In 2008, Brenda organized a family history event to complement the "Children of Fort Langley" Reunion during Brigade Days at Historic Fort Langley National Historic Site. In December 2008, she represented family and local history researchers and writers at the West Beyond the West Digitization Symposium.



### Events + Projects



## LOOKING FOR GHOSTS

The Community Heritage Commission is looking for local ghost stories to use in a public program that we hope to present this fall. If you know of any haunted house or a creepy happening in Maple Ridge that you are willing to tell us, please contact

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