



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Culture Walk: Exploring Our Nature

Maple Ridge, BC: Maple Ridge's celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary will start this week with "Culture Walk: Exploring our Nature" on Sunday, June 4 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The Culture Walk event, a free family-friendly program, will provide opportunities to explore and experience landscape, history and neighbourhoods in new ways at a number of Maple Ridge locations – Cliff Park, Kanaka Creek Regional Park, Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House. This event also marks the 50th anniversary of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

Some highlights include: cultural walking tours with Fern Gabriel, a Language & Cultural Teacher from Kwantlen First Nation. Recognized as a gifted storyteller, Ms. Gabriel will lead walking tours at the Kanaka Creek Park Fraser Riverfront location at 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm. Artists-in-Residence Robi Smith and Kat Wahamaa will guide the community in creating a nature mandala at Cliff Park using materials found in the local environment. In addition, seven new history inspired geocaches will be unveiled. The new geocaches were developed by the City of Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission and are designed to develop awareness of Maple Ridge's rich history and heritage. Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and provide clues to start the search. Geocaching is a great family activity that combines the excitement of a treasure hunt with outdoor fun, nature and hiking. Stop by the Bell Irving Fish Hatchery in Kanaka Creek Regional Park to learn about local environment and information on the work done by volunteers from the Kanaka Education & Environmental Partnership Society (KEEPS).

The Maple Ridge Historical Society will share tours, exhibits and crafts at both the Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House. The wonderful Port Haney miniature train diorama created and maintained by the Dewdney Alouette Railway Society will be open to the public on the lower floor of the Museum.

This is a free community event and participants are encouraged to car pool, bike, walk or take the shuttle bus, which will be running on a continuous loop, stopping approximately every 15 minutes to pick up and drop off at: Cliff Park, Kanaka Creek Regional Park, Fraser Riverfront, Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House.

Canada 150 celebration activities will take place throughout the year. We acknowledge the generous support in part by the Government of Canada and our community partners - the Community Heritage Commission, Public Art Steering Committee, Maple Ridge Historical Society, Dewdney Alouette Railway Society, the ACT Arts Centre and the Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows News.

Additional details, including an itinerary and map are available at mapleridge.ca/1723. For further information and photographs, please contact Yvonne Chui at 604-467-7415 or [ychui@mapleridge.ca](mailto:yvonne.chui@mapleridge.ca).