



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2017 #17-31

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City of Maple Ridge Unveils New Street Banners

Maple Ridge, BC: The installation of six new street banner designs started on Monday, June 26 and the full installation throughout the community is expected by Thursday, June 29, just in time for the weekend Canada Day celebration at Memorial Peace Park. These new designs will remain on display until the beginning of December when the Christmas decorations are hung.

The Katzie & Kwantlen designs feature a very special artifact called the ‘Skytte Bowl’ which has been renamed as “Qelemteleg.” It was found in the mid-part of the last century, near Webster’s Corners in Maple Ridge by a homesteader who was digging a foundation for his house. He donated the piece to the Museum of Vancouver, where it has remained until recently. This piece was selected to be a part of a special Canada 150 display in Ottawa, and members of the Katzie & Kwantlen First Nations travelled with the artifact to ensure it arrived safely in its temporary home. The full story of the piece can be found on the City website at mapleridge.ca/1747.

The Katzie & Kwantlen banners and historical information were created by the Seyem’ Qwantlen Business Group company Pictographic Creative. In fact, their designer, Peter Arkell, worked with the City to help fine-tune the winning designs by local youth to complete the full array of banners.

Over 120 designs were created by students. Each school and class short listed their favourite designs and a selection committee with representatives from the City and School District No. 42 chose the four finalists. It was a difficult decision as there were many great designs interpreting the theme “Canada 150: Exploring our Nature”. The finalists were Laura

Bowman from Harry Hooge Elementary (turtle design), Paul Kwon from Harry Hooge Elementary (Maple Leaf landscape), Evynn Hewitt from Blue Mountain Elementary (trees) and Bobbi Symmes from Glenwood Elementary (alamander). Elementary students and teachers from four local schools in School District No. 42 worked with Artists in Residence Robi Smith and Kat Wahamaa to create artwork for these new street banners in their classrooms.

The inspiration for Glenwood student Bobbi Symmes' design was seeing all the salamanders around Maple Ridge. Bobbi liked working on the project, being with all her friends drawing and seeing everyone's different designs. Evynn Hewitt from Blue Mountain explains, "My design is about all the trees in Canada and how beautiful they are. I like being Canadian and living in Maple Ridge because there is such amazing wildlife and there are beautiful plants everywhere". Laura Bowman from Harry Hooge chose the turtle design because she likes swimming and so do turtles. Laura explains, "I found out that the turtle is important to Canada because in some First Nations beliefs the strong shell on the turtle's back is the foundation on which the land was built on." Harry Hooge student Paul Kwon chose the Maple Leaf, different animals found in Maple Ridge and Golden Ears Mountain for his banner design. You can hear the young designers describe their work on the City of Maple Ridge's YouTube Channel at youtu.be/5arC_fHvDOs.

The four young students who designed the youth banners will be recognized as part of the protocol ceremony on Saturday, July 1 between 12:30 - 2:00 pm in Memorial Peace Park.

This project is one of a number of activities planned to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary through collaboration with the City, its Public Art Steering Committee, School District No. 42, local First Nations, community partners and numerous volunteers. Details of all of the events can be found at mapleridge.ca/1723.

We wish to thank the Government of Canada for their financial support and a special thanks to our media sponsor the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News.

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