

Maple Ridge This Month

MID-MONTH MARCH 2015

SPOTLIGHT ON: Earth Day Poetry and Photo Contests

The Theme is 'Water, Water, Everywhere.' Express Yourself

The annual Earth Day poetry and photo contests are open for submissions, inviting creative minds to submit their work on the theme "Water, Water, Everywhere." The winners will be announced at the celebration at Memorial Peace Park on Saturday, April 18, and their work will be presented at the event.

The **poetry contest** invites poets to write about this year's theme of water, in poem or prose. Entries should be no more than 300 words, and will be judged in three categories: Children, (age 5-12); Youth, (age 13-18); and Adults (18 and up); with a prize awarded to the winning entry in each category. Three entries are permitted per person.

Winners may be asked to read their poem at the Welcoming Ceremony on Earth Day. Submissions are accepted in a Word document emailed to maple.ridgeearthday2015@gmail.com by Friday, April 3.

In its second year, the **photo contest** is accepting entries also around the theme of water, taken locally in Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows. Entries must be submitted via email to maple.ridgeearthday2015@gmail.com before Friday, March 27. Photos should be submitted in jpg format and entrants can submit as many entries as they like.

The photos will be posted on the "Celebrate Earth Day" Facebook page for residents to "like" their favourite



submissions, and the three photos with the most likes by the voting deadline on Friday, April 3 will be declared the winner. First, second and third place winning photos will be enlarged for display with all the other entries at the Earth Day event.

Volunteers are needed to help at the event. Anyone who would like to participate can call Carla at 604-466-8324. More information is also available on the Celebrate Earth Day in Maple Ridge Facebook page at [facebook.com/mapleridgeearthday](https://www.facebook.com/mapleridgeearthday) and at www.rmrecycling.org.

INFORMED: March 2015

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, March 16

10:00 am, Workshop - Blaney Room
1:00 pm, Committee of the Whole - Council Chambers

Tuesday, March 17

7:00 pm, Public Hearing - Council Chambers

Tuesday, March 24

7:00 pm, Council Meeting - Council Chambers

Monday, March 30

10:00 am, Workshop - Blaney Room
1:00 pm, Committee of the Whole - 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 Your 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 'Notify Me' and sign up today.

Council Meeting Videos

If you are unable to attend a Council Meeting, Public Hearing, Workshop, 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 centre of the home page. In addition, Council Meetings, Workshops, and Committee of the Whole are now broadcast on the internet via live streaming using the same technology used for our live budget Q&A sessions. For more information about the live stream go to the 'Council Meetings' page at mapleridge.ca.

INFORMED:

Transit Funding Referendum

TransLink Presentation is Online for Your Viewing

On Monday, February 2, 2015 representatives of TransLink appeared before Council as part of the Workshop agenda. Given the interest in the TransLink Funding Referendum and the associated 10 Year Plan, Council moved the meeting to Council Chambers to allow for more public seating and the capacity to record and livestream the meeting for the public.



The Referendum will be conducted using mail ballots that will be sent out next week and citizens across Metro Vancouver will determine if the proposed 0.5% sales tax will be used to fund the TransLink plan. This is a great opportunity to view the presentation which includes a question and answer period. Go to mapleridge.ca and click on the 'Your Council' link and then click through to the Council Agendas and Minutes section to view the February 2 Workshop recording. The TransLink presentation is at the beginning of the recording and lasts about 90 minutes. Be informed about this important issue.

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 City of Maple Ridge, please email enquiries@mapleridge.ca and one of our team members will respond to you.

INFORMED: Earth Hour 2015 is Saturday, March 28

Earth Hour was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. Since then it has grown to engage more than 7000 cities and towns worldwide, and the one-hour event continues to remain the key driver of the now larger movement. Earth Hour 2015 will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 8:30 to 9:30 pm. The event is held to encourage communities, households, businesses and individuals to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour as a symbol for their commitment to the planet.



Maple Ridge reduced electricity consumption by 0.7% during Earth Hour 2014; and the province reduced electrical consumption by 65 megawatt hours - equal to turning off over

7.2 million 9w LED bulbs. This year we want to encourage you to take direct action. What can you do during Earth Hour? Here are ten ideas to help you plan your one hour energy holiday:

1. Go for a moonlit walk
2. Drive to a dark place and stargaze for an hour
3. Play a board game by candlelight
4. Host a fondue dinner party
5. Tell ghost stories
6. Conduct a scavenger hunt by flashlight
7. Exercise
8. Unplug the electronics and chat with each other
9. Watch an environmental movie
10. Be romantic. How romantic is up to you.

Have fun. Use Earth Hour as a way to explore how you can live a more sustainable life.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Maple Ridge Photo Contest

Submit Your Photos for the 2014 Citizens Report

Each year at the Home Show the City of Maple Ridge unveils the Citizens Report that has become the 'community yearbook' for the previous year. The report details the City's financial health, looks back on the events that shaped the year and provides reports from each of the divisions at City Hall.

This year, in celebration of the City's 140th Birthday and the change of designation from a Municipality to a City, we'd like to create a photo essay that will be titled 'Your Maple Ridge' in the 2014 Citizens Report. This is the formal kick off of the 'Your Maple Ridge' photo contest. We would like you to show us your favourite things about our community. The Communications team will then select images from the submissions for the final photo essay in the upcoming Citizens Report as well as photo galleries on social media that will be shared widely. The contest is open to all citizens past or present.

We are looking for high resolution photos, so the file size needs to be a minimum of one megabyte, up to a maximum of eight megabytes (1000 KB - 8000 KB when you look at the

file size in the properties). They can be colour or black and white and the subject matter is wide open. We ask that the photographer provide a bit of an explanation of the location or setting of the photograph, along with their full name and contact phone number. You can submit your photos to enquiries@mapleridge.ca, or mail or drop off a CD to the City address below marked 'Your Maple Ridge Photo Contest.' Please do not 'watermark' the photos. By entering the contest you agree to have them published in the 2014 Citizens Report, placed on the City website and social media channels. Credit will be given in the publication. We will contact you if your image will be used in print or online. Enough with the rules and regulations - let's start getting those amazing images!



The deadline for submissions is March 20, 2015, so go through your hard drive or get snapping. This is Your Maple Ridge. Let's share it with the world!



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mapleridge.ca

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