

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

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## MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

<a href="#">Happy Birthday</a>	<a href="#">Happy Anniversary</a>
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### UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Mar 23: UNICEF Canada and Yemen	Mar 30: Ridge Meadows Salvation Army	Apr 6: Ridge Meadows Foundry Society
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### OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President **Clinton Callison** presided  
 (with a little help from President Elect **Patrick Dobbyn**).

#### Guests:

**Dr. Shea Henry**,  
 Executive Director of the Maple Ridge Historical Society (MRHS)

**Shannon Macelli**,  
 Community Engagement Coordinator of the MRHS

Program: Dr. Shea Henry: A Brief History of Maple Ridge



**About Dr. Henry:** Dr. Shea Henry has taken on the role of Executor Director of the Maple Ridge Historical Society, after holding the position of curator for the last three years.

An archaeologist by profession, Shea has had 15 years of experience in the Maple Ridge Museum, historical archaeology, and heritage fields.

**About the Maple Ridge Historical Society:** the MRHS (which manages both the Maple ridge Museum and the Haney House Museum) was established in 1957, with the purposes of "providing current, former and potential residents of Maple Ridge with the means to make our history their own through the collection, preservation, and sharing of our historic images, documents and artefacts; and to create a sense of identity and pride both within and outside our community, preserving the past and the present for the future". Charter members of the Society began a collection of objects, pictures and documents important to community history. This collection lived in a variety of basements and sheds around town until 1967, when a display area was made available in the public library. In 1984, after a decade in a corner of the Maple Ridge Library, the Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives moved to the former manager's house for Port Haney Brick and

Tile. The museum is situated in Jim Hadgkiss Park next to the Haney Bypass overlooking the Fraser River. [Unfortunately, the society is in cramped facilities and underfunded. Only 0.8% of the Museum's collection is on display. Our City needs a proper museum!!]

[Did you know that our own **Mike Davies** is the treasurer of the MRHS?]

[Dr. Shea's Presentation](#)

## Maple Ridge History 101



Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows are situated on the traditional unceded territory of the **Katzie and Kwantlen Nation**. They say they have settled here "since the beginning of time", and the archaeological evidence shows they have been here at least 10,000 years. The museum is currently the holder of the archaeological evidence on behalf of these First Nations. The Hammond Mill (which recently shut down) is situated on a large archaeological site. Much of Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge consisted of wetlands which were used for cultivation for thousands of years.



The “modern era” begins with Fort Langley (a Hudson Bay Company trading post) which was first settled in 1828 (some say 1827). **Samuel Robertson** crossed the river from Langley and planted fruit trees in the Albion area. When the trees grew into an orchard, he became the first settler in the area on the north side of the river. Other early settlers were **John McIvor** who settled on what is now the Maple Ridge golf course, and **Thomas Haney’s** house is down the hill towards the river on 224 Street, and is still standing.



Sam Robertson

John McIvor

Thomas Haney

Prominent women included **Anne Haney** (who followed her husband on her own from England with a two-year-old, while she was pregnant), **Honor Laity** who was the local midwife (there were no doctors here at the time), and **Mary Barry-Charlton** who ran the only store in the area.

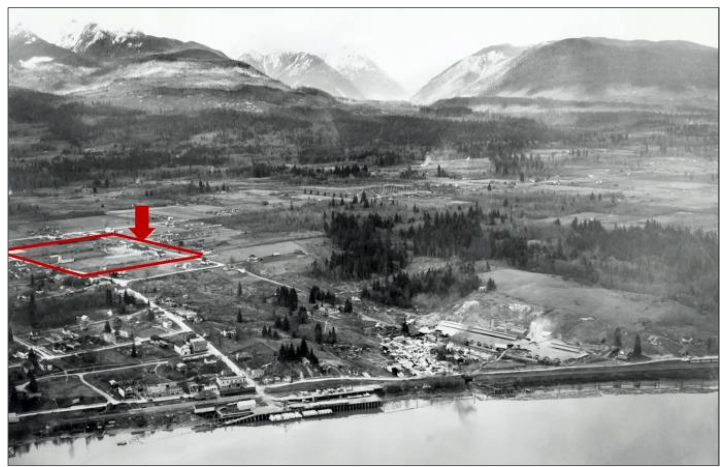


Mary Berry-Charlton

Honor Laity

Anne Haney

Maple Ridge was incorporated on September 12, 1874 at a meeting on John McIvor’s property, which was located on a high ridge with lots of maple trees. Thus came the name Maple Ridge. To develop the area and connect the settlers, road building was needed, and one of the main reasons for incorporating was so they could collect taxes to pay for hiring road building crews. The paddle wheeler named Ramond serviced the area, but the area really grew when the CPR was constructed.



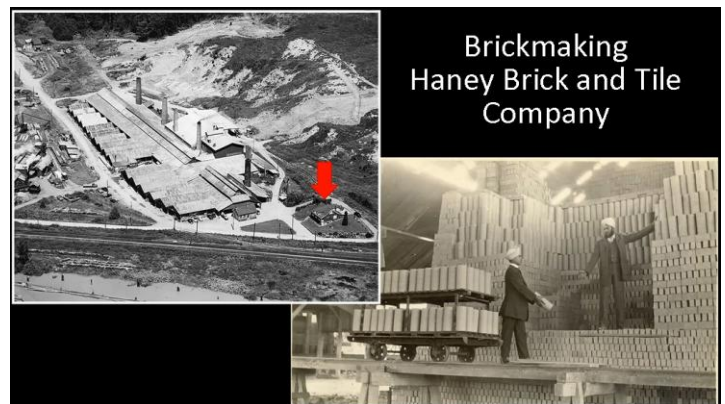
(The red square is where the town square is now)

Various communities were settled within Maple Ridge, including Whonnock, Ruskin, and Albion (which were basically farming communities), Yennadon, and Webster’s Corners (which was a Finish community). Each of these communities or neighbourhoods were culturally and historically different. There was a large Japanese community with 30 to 35% of the population being of Japanese descent. 80% of strawberries sold in British Columbia came from Maple Ridge, mostly grown by the Japanese. Of course, a shameful period of history took place during the second world war when the Japanese homes, properties and businesses were confiscated without proper compensation and 300 families were rounded up and evicted from the area, with most of them being sent to Alberta or northern British Columbia. Only seven families returned to Maple Ridge, largely because they were not welcomed back by the inhabitants.



The People of Maple Ridge Japanese Neighbours

The major industry in the early days was logging, and also the making of bricks which was later dominated by the Haney Brick & Tile Company (on the present site of the museum). The concentration in the downtown core started in 1931 when the Lougheed Highway was constructed.



Brickmaking Haney Brick and Tile Company

Businesses in Port Haney moved up the hill to the highway, as did many in Port Hammond. In 1894, Pitt Meadows broke off from Maple Ridge. Although the name Maple Ridge has been the official name since its incorporation, the town was mainly known by the several communities (noted in the previous paragraph), each of which had their own post offices which were the focal point of those communities. Letters were addressed to Webster's Corners, for example, and not to Maple Ridge. In the 1970s the mail system changed when all letters were addressed to Maple Ridge.



#### Happy and Sad:

**Sharon Kyle** had two "Happies": firstly, for the new Club Roster put together by Peter Boekhorst; and secondly, for **Matt DeBruyn's** efforts in booking the campsite for the 2021 camping weekend.

**Roger Powley** was pleased to get his first vaccination shot, and suffered no negative reaction.

**Ineke Boekhorst** was also glad that Matt was able to book the campsite across the river in Fort Langley, and that the club got certified as applicants for the District Grant. To get certified, certain club members had to attend the course, which this year included club members **Debbie McRae, Ineke, Patrick Dobbyn, and Roger.**

#### Fine-mistress:

**Debbie McRae** imposed a fine on everyone who had not either bought a Duck Race ticket or who (if they used social media) had not liked or shared the word about the Duck Race.



All club members are reminded to either donate a bottle of wine for the Wine Fest, or give \$20 (via Ineke) so that one can be purchased on your behalf for the WineFest raffle.

**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**