

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME 40-odd years ago that the people I interviewed about the early history of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows when I was a rookie policeman stationed at the Haney Detachment would ever be acknowledged in a book. Although these people were thought to be ancient by my young partners, to me they were young at heart and had fascinating stories to tell. I still find it hard to believe that the “white” history of the two municipalities is so recent and that I actually talked with Ann and Thomas Haney’s daughter, Mrs. Hawley. She was the one who told me about pranksters leaving a skull on the mantle piece at the St. John the Divine Anglican Church at Derby. I also talked with Mrs. John A. McIver, the daughter-in-law of John McIver, the first settler in Maple Ridge. She told me many interesting stories. There was also Mrs. Mildred Howe from Pitt Meadows who told me how Mrs. Harris had told her about her husband’s friendship as a youth with an old explorer by the name of Simon Fraser.

It is to all these people, some of whom are no longer alive, that I first and foremost want to extend my heartfelt thanks—in sharing their information they have helped to preserve important historical information that otherwise would be lost.

I remember as if it were yesterday the exciting boat ride that I had up Pitt Lake with Chief Joachim Pierre to see the pictographs. He told me that if I was a good person that the red ochre paintings would reveal themselves. They did, and I photographed them. I was truly amazed to scan the 40-year old transparencies and have the images come out as pristine as the day they were taken.

Jackie Keats gave me material for “A Japanese Love Story,” while Eli Male wrote to me back in the late 1960s and early 1970s about the Finns of Webster’s Corners. She has been helping me to get the text correct right up until this project is going to the printers.

I must thank old-time friends Maureen and Sieb Swierstra for helping with the editing of the Pitt Polder story. Sieb suggested that I take aerial photographs and tell the story with my camera. The “story” began to make complete sense to me after photographing the Deep Slough.

More recently I have to give my utmost thanks to Val Patenaude, Jordana Feist and Rob Evanson from the Maple Ridge Museum & Archives and Leslie Norman from the Pitt Meadows Museum

& Archives. They all bent over backwards and helped so much in ensuring that I sourced out original old photographs. I was able to look at the 8,500+ photographs in the Maple Ridge Archives alone.

My search didn’t stop with the local museums. I visited Victoria and Vancouver and came back with treasures from both cities—my thanks to helpful staff in those facilities as well.

I also collected images from the families of the local pioneers. I was able to go into their homes with a laptop and scanner and scan photographs, negatives, or transparencies. Their treasured images never had to leave their homes. I much appreciate it that in almost every case the families gave me not only permission to use any of the images in a book but also to pass on the files to the respective museum and archives.

In putting the book together, I had the support, guidance, and help from a number of people without whom the end product would not have been what it is. I want to thank Mayor Gordy Robson for writing the enthusiastic foreword, Helmi Braches for thoughtful editing, Fred Braches for advice on a number of issues and topics, and above all, Johannes Schut for the final design. Johannes and I spent many years together working on the book, placing the photographs, moving the text about, and making decisions on how the final product was going to look. Needless to say, I accept full responsibility for any errors that may still be in the book. And last but not least I thank my wife Tina for her unwavering and loving support during all this time and the whole process.

Donald E. Waite
Maple Ridge, 2014

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