



Chatwin's Store in Port Hammond, 1907. The establishment was typical with residence above and groceries and dry goods below. It later became the Allison and Cross. General stores tended to sprout up in areas central to small populations and were the only way to purchase merchandise other than by mail order.



**Opposite Top**  
Port Hammond Station showing milk cans destined for Vancouver in 1912.  
**Opposite Bottom**  
Port Hammond Station circa 1927.

## The Port Hammond Fire

*Port Hammond suffered its first serious fire on the evening of 17 May 1926, the very same evening that much of Port Haney went up in flames. An arsonist no doubt waited for the right opportunity to set fires to both towns. The front page of the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Gazette dated May 20, 1926, wrote:*

*Monday evening saw practically four buildings burned to the ground in Haney. The citizens then had occasion, probably, to feel that they might be able to provide against any other such fatality.*

*Tribulations often do not come single-handed. Hammond about the same hour last evening had its devastating by fire when the fine, large two-storey building of Mr. Nevitt, built less than a year ago went to blackened ruins.*





Views to the northwest (left) and northeast (right) of Port Hammond taken from the Hammond Cedar Mill water tower, 1921.



About 11 P.M. Mrs. Dougan saw the reflection of a light that seemed brighter than usual. She went to the window and declared the Hammond Garage afire. Messrs. Nevitt, Madill, Cordelley and Johnston were quickly on hand, but it was apparent that the other buildings alone could be saved.

Soon people began to come in droves. The Telephone Office sent out SOS call through the municipality, and, the Hammond Cedar Company gave long direful whistles that had no uncertain sound for Haney, Pitt Meadows, Yennadon, etc.

The roofs around were quickly scaled, for the purpose ladders, buckets and much water was had and used with no stint. All the citizens around started to carry out the furniture and effects. By very persistent effort on the part of Mr. D. Madill the Nevitt Shoe Shop was saved, and, then the mill hose with a big following of men soon had the Company's streams pouring alike on the surrounding houses and the doomed building. The fighters now had relief as the hose held the situation. By this time over 300 people had gathered. Among

those from Haney were Reeve J.B. Martyn and Magistrate and Mrs. Drain and Clerk J.C. McFarlane and Councilor J.R. Brooks.

Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Bailey occupied the upstairs of the demolished building. Mr. and Mrs. Des Brisay had recently vacated to occupy Miss Kerr's house on the McKenney Road, and, downstairs by Bailey's Cafe and Lettner's Meat Market. Both these gentlemen were quite heavy losers. Both had built up strong businesses and rightly counted on a big season's service. Most regrettably the heaviest loser was Mr. S.J. Nevitt, the owner of the building.

Mr. Bailey did not return from Vancouver till 3 A.M. when seeing the ruins he learned of the occurrence.

Heard around among the group of men and women was fire protection, hydrants, hose and volunteer brigades.



Maple Crescent  
Pt. Hammond.



The four young men in the automobile are holding a poster advertising a dance at the Agricultural Hall in Haney for the Haney Athletic Club, circa 1921.



View south from McKenney Road (207<sup>th</sup> Street).

**Opposite Top**

View west down Maple Crescent circa 1925 featuring the Wilson's Ice Cream Parlour, E. W. Powell's real estate office, the Dale General Store, Bank of Montreal, and the Telephone Exchange, circa 1925.

**Opposite Bottom**

It was a period of transition from the horse & buggy days to the motor vehicle.



Port Hammond, 1942

- 1 First Avenue (later 203<sup>rd</sup> Street)
- 2 Hammond Public School
- 3 Hammond Road
- 4 Lorne Avenue
- 5 207<sup>th</sup> Street (previously McKenney Road)
- 6 Waresely Street
- 7 Dartford Street
- 8 CPR Hammond Station
- 9 William Dunlop Pool Hall
- 10 BC Telephone Co. Exchange
- 11 Bank of Hamilton
- 12 Dale's General Store
- 13 Madden's Confectionary Store
- 14 Hammond Water Tower
- 15 Doan M. Hartnell Residence
- 16 Hammond Cedar Company Ltd.

Following Pages

Various views of Port Hammond taken from the Hammond Cedar Mill water tower.



