



The Raymond L. Carter store fire in 1910.

## Port Haney Fires

*Devastating fires in 1910, 1926 and again in 1932 wiped out most of the Port Haney waterfront shops on Front Street in the vicinity of Ontario Street and the CPR station. The 1926 fire, set by an arsonist or arsonists, coincided with a fire that took out much of the Port Hammond business section the same night. From the 20 May 1926 edition of the Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows Gazette:*

Haney and Hammond Suffer from Flames – Hundred View Haney's First Great Fire – Haney loses four buildings – Monday evening was a busy one, for, in the Theatre Mr. Atkinson was showing pleasing pictures to a full "house"; in the Municipal Chamber a large number of ladies and gentlemen were planning for the great May Day Pageant; at Magistrate Drain's the Educational and Community Services of the A.O.T.S. (As One That Serves) were tussling with welfare concerns. All of those at 10 o'clock were busy as bees in Valembrosa.

But a busier time impended. The citizens were all to have a most serious encounter with a fire fiend. Suddenly, to all came

the clarion call. "There's a big fire." The location was soon known, and, within but a few moments a vast crowd had gathered, and, this increased till about 10:30 when Yennadon, Pitt Meadows, Webster's Corners, Hammond, Albion, Ruskin, etc. had sent several hundred to see, or, to work as improvised fire fighters.

By 10:15 the whole of the Berry Growers' Plant was a great mass of devastating flame. Without staying to ask who was in charge, or, even to get directions, nearly a hundred men, women and children were on active duty. Every bucket in town was speedily called into service. Reeve Martyn alone supplying a score or so. Great red sparks were flying over the C.P.R. station and upon the stores facing the depot. Quickly a dozen hands mounted the station roof and as many more the roof of the United Farmers' building, occupied as their second warehouse and by the Haney branch of the Gazette Printing Co. With the alacrity of a giraffe scores of helpers quickly carried on a busy stream, literally thousands

of buckets of water from the river and climbed ladders and stairways to those on top as well as thoroughly drenching the sides of the buildings facing the fierce ordeal.

The greater theatre of fight was for the U.F. Building, and, only after it was largely afire did the effort cease then, though a very dangerous practice, the doors were smashed into the press-room and a score of willing hands tried to get out the costly Phoenix and other presses but they could not.

Not to be budged, the Phoenix alone weighed some four tons. Fortunately some of the lesser articles, type, etc. were gotten out and borne across the railway track to supposed safety. The effort at saving was kept up until the whole building was a mass of conflagration.

Speedily, then the low-couched, tin-roofed, hay-laden building was made the strong theatre of the effort. Hay was taken out, carried some distance and stacked. The building was chopped down, but



Maple Ridge Council, 1928.

Aldermen Raikes, Fairweather, and Gunn, Mr. Harwood, *Province Reporter* (in corner); John Cooper McFarlane, City Clerk; John B. Martyn, Reeve; Aldermen Solomon Mussallem, Brooks, and Dunn.

unable to draw it into the river the flames in a short time crept underneath and soon blazed out at the eastern extremity and drove away all volunteers from that point of contact. The fourth building was the last stand of the four. For fully twenty minutes the fight was on from the roof, sides and upstairs. But the flames were to win. The inside of the house taking a big flame, those on the roof and upstairs barely were able to escape. The stacks of baled hay were now not safe and great quantities of hay and straw were thrown into the river. The fear now was for the safety of the Commercial Lumber Company's new wharf. Planks were quickly pried up and taken off, and, then when danger was at a pinnacle an engine came down the river and at once opened its considerable stream. Stop the conflagration it could not, but it did save the new wharf and its weight of lumber.

During all this time a stubborn and finally resultant fight was waged for the C.P.R. station and warehouse, and attached residence of Mr. Clark and family. On the roof were Mr. Daly, Mr. J. R. Leslie and Mr. Poole, while a full brigade carried no end of river water.

It was a bustle and some of the happenings were not too joyful—Mr. Mussallem Jr. got struck on the bare head by a falling bucket; another received a nasty blow beneath the eye from one of the peaked buckets supplied by the Reeve. Many more got drenched to the skin, among these the two Miss Clarks....

## Swept by Blaze

*From the 1 December 1932 edition of the Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows Gazette:*

**Lower Haney Town Swept by Fierce Blaze** – The town of Haney received a real shock when it arose Wednesday morning to find nothing but debris and ashes where the day before had stood the offices of Dr. Buckley and J. B. Martyn, the Knox Cafe, the Haney Pool Room and Barber Shop, the Post Office, the home of Mr. Wickham, and the C.P.R. station and freight shed. It was a sad wreck. Even the Bank of Montreal suffered some loss in the way of windows, furniture and by the deluge of water

poured into the building.

For the benefit of those in the outlying district we will give a brief account of it, although when this reaches you it will not be news.

The fire started in the café when at about 3:00 o'clock an explosion awakened Mr. Millard supposedly from the motor of the refrigerator. In no time the entire building was in a blaze. But thanks to the telephone Chief McDonald and many of the citizens had been warned and quite a group were on hand to aid in removing the goods from the burning buildings.

The post office lost but little mail.

The bank saved practically everything. Very little was left in the C.P.R. station and the Wickhams were able to save most of their furniture. The pool hall and the barbershop lost practically everything.

Chief McDonald did nobly and should be commended for the way he handled the crew of local fire fighters. Fire engines from Mission, Westminster and Vancouver hurried to the spot, as did a big crew of the C.P.R. by a special train. Water was pumped from the river and the fire thoroughly quenched.

Plans for the future of the lower town have not been divulged, but in the meantime all are carrying on. Mr. Martyn has moved to Simister's old bakery. The post office is located temporarily in the end of the building occupied by Cordelle's Store. Mr. Eaton is busy putting new windows in the bank preparatory to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson moving back to the living quarters above.

Messrs. Baker and Owen plan to re-open their poolroom somewhere within a week.

As this issue goes to press a petition is being circulated asking that the post office be rebuilt in Upper Haney.

In spite of it all there is a splendid spirit of cheerfully making the most of the situation.

This last fire was the needed excuse for old Port Haney to move lock, stock and barrel to Upper Haney along both sides of the newly built Lougheed Highway.



Lordco Parts Ltd. was incorporated in August 1974 by its two founding members, Roy Lord and Ed Coates. A simple combination of their surnames gave the company its name, and they hired one employee to help them in their modest 900 square foot store in Maple Ridge, B.C.



Lordco Parts 1974

From the beginning, the two shareholders agreed that success would only come through a diligent, common sense approach to selling automotive parts. Knowledgeable salespeople selling quality merchandise, backed by a commitment to service wouldn't create instant success, but would give them a fighting chance to make it in the long run.

The formula would prove to be the right one. As the business gathered momentum, plans for the first expansion were developed. In 1976, a large site was purchased in Maple Ridge, and new, larger facilities were built. Today, it still houses the Corporate Head Office and Fleet Maintenance complex. To support its commitment to service, Lordco also purchased a local machine shop in order to offer more complete automotive solutions to its customers. In the early 1980's, the economy took a turn for the worse and the owners found themselves under increasing financial pressure, eventually resulting in Ed Coates buying out his partner.

The months and years that followed provided a stern test of the owner's resolve, but the company stubbornly held to its principles and weathered the storm.

From its humble beginnings, Lordco has grown to become the largest, privately held automotive parts distributor in Canada.

We currently employ about 1,800 people, including 95 outside sales representatives. The delivery fleet currently consists of more than 450 vehicles from small parts delivery cars and trucks, up to five ton vans and 18-wheel semi trailers that are responsible for replenishing store inventory around the province daily.

In 1999, Lordco's flagship location on Dewdney Trunk Road in Maple Ridge underwent a stunning transformation as a two storey Head Office complex was added to the site, and the store received impressive retail updating. The populace responded enthusiastically locally while the company flourished and grew throughout the province, and it soon was obvious that the site would not be able to sustain both administration and retail needs.

In 2006, property was acquired just to the east of the original location and a bright new megastore covering well over 23,000 square feet was built by Lordco's construction team. At the same time, the company's headquarters expanded to take over the previous sales floor. Lordco's mission is to provide our valued customers with the highest level of service possible. We strive to structure our sales programs to suit the individual needs of every customer. With our specialized service, combined with providing quality technical clinics and sales support, we feel we offer all the tools necessary to support our customers' businesses. Our commitment remains to sell only the highest quality name brand products that customers recognize and feel confident installing into their own, or into their customers' vehicles.



Lordco Parts 2008

**www.lordco.com**

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IN OVER 90 LOCATIONS  
ACROSS B.C.**



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