



Prince David Masonic Lodge

From the Heritage Plaque at the entrance to the Maple Ridge Museum

By 1921 Freemasons living in Maple Ridge were determined to start their own lodge but lacked a person of sufficient standing within Masonry. This changed when Rowe W. Holland moved to Haney. He was the immediate Past Master of Western Gate Lodge in Vancouver.

The new lodge was duly constituted on 3rd September 1923. Early meetings were held at St. John the Divine Anglican Church followed by Maple Ridge School and the Oddfellows Hall. By 1930 the desire for a hall of their own led to the purchase of property at 225th Street and Lougheed Highway. Dugald Brown, a member of the order, constructed the lodge and the opening ceremony took place on the 15th June 1931.

James Hadgkiss joined Prince David Lodge on 3rd October 1937 and was appointed District Deputy Grand Master in 1954. Throughout his involvement with the Masons, he regularly played the organ adding a musical touch to the meetings. He

described his feeling about being a Mason:

“Masonry has been an important part of my life. The personal friendships made through coaching and lodge work have been very valuable and long lasting. I believe all men gain knowledge and self-confidence from the work. I am sorry some good men miss out because they wait to be invited in.”

Jim Hadgkiss was the very last member to have personally have known all the Past Masters of Prince David Lodge and one of his last actions was to compile a biography of those men.

In July 1980 Prince David Lodge was moved from its original location to its present site next to St. Andrew’s Heritage Church.

George Edward Sayers, a graduate of the University of British Columbia, first worked at ALLCO and afterwards at Hammond Cedar Company Ltd. Sayers was the Worshipful Master of the Port Haney Prince David Masonic Lodge in 1934.

