

## Wardens, Reeves, and Mayors of Maple Ridge

1874–1875	Wellington Jeffries Harris
1876–1878	Henry Dawson
1879	John McKenney
1880–1881	Daniel Dockstader
1882	George Howison
1883–1884	Henry Dawson
1885–1886	George Howison
1887	Wellington Jeffries Harris
1888	Hector Ferguson
1889	Robert Blackstock
1890	Wellington Jeffries Harris
1891	Hector Ferguson
1892–1893	John Henry Laity
1894	Joseph Stephens
1895–1896	Hector Ferguson
1897–1899	Robert Blackstock
1900–1901	Hector Ferguson
1902	William H. Ansell
1903	John Blaney
1904	Hector Ferguson
1905–1906	John Blaney
1907	John Carleton
1908–1909	John Henry Laity
1910	James Selkirk
1910–1913	John Cooper McFarlane
1914–1916	Nelson Seymour Loughheed
1917–1920	William H. Ansell
1921–1924	John A. McIver
1925–1929	John Blake Martyn
1930–1934	Solomon Mussallem
1935	William Hope
1936–1943	Solomon Mussallem
1944–1945	Hugh F. Cunningham
1946–1953	Solomon Mussallem
1954–1971	Peter Jenewein
1972	Gerald Trerise
1973–1978	Betty Dube
1978–1981	Norman Jacobson
1982–1983	Austin Pelton
1983–1987	Daniel Griffin
1988–1990	William Hartley
1991–1993	Belle Morse
1994–1998	Carl Durksen
1999–2002	Allen Geoffrey Hogarth
2003–2004	Kathy Morse
2005–2008	Gordon W. Robson
2009–2010	Ernest Samuel Daykin

## Reeve Mussallem

SOLOMON MUSSALLEM was the Chief Magistrate or Reeve of Maple Ridge from 1930 to 1934, 1936 to 1943, and from 1946 to 1953. As a result he rode the eye of the storm during the tumultuous Second World War years that resulted in the expulsion of the Japanese from coastal British Columbia to the interior or east of the Rockies or in their repatriation back to Japan. It was a difficult time, and his council often retired from the council chambers to the Masonic Hall for “in camera” meetings.

In *Solomon Mussallem: A Biography* by Herbert Baxter King, Mussallem only spares a page or two about the war and the Japanese:

The war created the problem of Japanese dispersion. Throughout the previous decades the Japanese population had grown steadily. Almost half of the children of the Maple Ridge schools were Japanese. After the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor the Fraser Valley Japanese were considered a military danger: in the Philippines, it was noted, the Japanese settlers had joined the invaders in active military operations. There was fear in the valley over the possibility of Japanese sabotage. The white population was much perturbed.

It was decided by the Federal government to disperse the entire Japanese coastal population to other parts of Canada, and this was done.

Solomon’s policy during this period was to keep the citizenry calm:

There was real danger of public hysteria that might have led to violence. The hotheads who wanted the dangerous excitement of mass meetings were kept in check. The Japanese were removed to areas beyond the mountains, where they have prospered happily. There were no riots and there was no blood shed.

One interruption in Solomon Mussallem’s long succession of electoral victories occurred in December, 1943, in the middle of the Second World War, when the majority of voters thought they wanted a change. Hugh S. Cunningham, with the prestige of having been the Mayor of Port Moody, defeated Mussallem.

The great flood of 1948 became another major challenge for Reeve Mussallem. He managed to convince the provincial government that the responsibility for the repairs caused by the high water belonged to them and not the local municipalities.

**Soloman Mussallem occupied the position of Reeve and Chief Magistrate for the Municipality of Maple Ridge for 18 years.**

