



**Langley  
Heritage  
Society**

**{APRIL 2014}**

Langley Heritage Society  
P.O. Box 982  
Fort Langley, B.C.  
V1M 2S3

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE {APRIL 2014}**

Our AGM and potluck dinner was a valuable opportunity to visit with our members, old and new. Member attendance and support is what keeps the Directors working and planning the activities we share with our many partners. Thanks to Jane Watt who provided twelve books for door prizes. Michael Kluckner's presentation on photography was extremely interesting. Also, thanks to the directors, helpers, social committee, and cooks who made the evening a success.

We wish to thank Sandra Borger who has resigned as a Director, but is continuing on as newsletter editor. Sandra and her husband are expecting an addition to their family - a baby boy named Henry. We wish them the very best.

Welcome to our two new Directors, Nick Bilouzenko and Dave Buckley, who were elected at the AGM.

For the members and supporters who were unable to attend the AGM, I will review the past year's activities. We gave moral and financial support to the Willoughby Hall Society, the Hope Carriage House project, the BC Farm Museum, and CARES. The CN Station was improved by the addition of a new bathroom upstairs, and the Lattimer House in Milner is nearing completion. We plan to partner with the Kwantlen First Nation to restore the Holy Redeemer Church in the fall. We are continuing our support of seven Langley Elementary schools by paying fees and transportation expenses for children to attend the Langley Centennial Museum. And as always, the CN Station will continue to be a welcoming and free attraction in Fort Langley.

Fred Pepin  
LHS President

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## **WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

Langley Heritage Society  
is online! Go to  
[www.langleyheritage.ca](http://www.langleyheritage.ca)  
for society news,  
membership information,  
photographs, project  
updates, our blog and more.

## **“LOOKING AT LANGLEY HISTORY: SCANDINAVIANS IN EASTERN LANGLEY” {WITH MAUREEN PEPIN}**

### **A FINNISH IMMIGRANT COMES TO LANGLEY**

The Makela family (William and Kaisu) came from Finland in 1925. William first worked in an auto body shop in Vancouver, then moved to New Westminster, where he worked for Superior Auto Metal. Finally, in 1935, they moved to Aldergrove where he was employed by Ross Bros. Garage. They purchased the old school property on the Fraser Highway and built a house and barns from the remains of the old school. Walter Makela was born in 1929 and went to Aldergrove Elementary while his sister went to Langley High and then became a teacher. The family raised their own meat, vegetables, fruit, etc., while other supplies were obtained at H. Endacott's Red and White Store. They went two or three times a month to shop at the Overwaitea and visit their locker at Langley Cold Storage in Langley Prairie. In 1948 William left Ross Motors and set up his own business called Bill's Auto Body and Paint Works which operated until 1988.

### **A SWEDISH SAGA**

Oscar Hjorth came to Canada from Sweden in 1910, to be followed by his young bride Marta Erika in 1911. In 1914, they came to the County Line area and purchased five acres for \$875. Their home was a tiny one-room log cabin. They cleared the land themselves, and purchased their first cow for \$50. Oscar was employed at the Beaver Saw Mill as a millwright for \$175 a month, but the mill closed in 1920. They shipped milk to the FVMPA and in 1925 won third prize in the clean milk contest, the only award in the area. They gradually increased their holdings to 38 acres, but it was a long hike to Aldergrove and a long tram ride to New Westminster to purchase groceries. In 1928, fifty people in the Otter Road and Aldergrove area contributed \$80 each to bring in the power line. Electricity then replaced the coal oil lamps being used. After Oscar passed away in 1927, Erika married Carl Sedic, and after he passed away, she married Helmer Hedberg, who died in 1943. Erika sold the farm and began a new career cooking in fishing camps and on fishing boats up and down the coast. She moved back to Langley in 1957 where she married Andrew Ness. She was a member of the Vasa Lodge and the Beaver Women's Institute. Her hobby was crocheting, with exquisite results. Erika passed away in 1985.

Source: “THE PLACE BETWEEN”, VOLUME I.



The BC Heritage Society's 2014 Winter Quarterly issue features the S.S. Sicamous Paddle Wheeler. This is the same photo illustration on the poster for 2014 Heritage Week. The photograph was done by Shirley L. Anderson, the daughter of Langley Heritage Society member Sylvia Anderson. Shirley, who is a very talented amateur photograph, grew up in Langley. Her photographs have been exhibited at the Township of Langley/Langley Centennial Museum's Foyer Art program and have been shown in several locations in the Township. Sylvia currently lives in Penticton, BC, where she regularly shows her photographs in local galleries. Full newsletter available online at: <http://www.heritagebc.ca>

## **“DOWN BY THE STATION” {BY BAYS BLACKHALL}**

A 5 Star rating for Fort Langley \*\*\*\*\*

That was the slogan for the “Hands On Heritage” campaign. There were many ‘stars’ in Fort Langley, the Fort, the museums, the Hall, the Churches, other heritage buildings and of course the CN Station site. To have a star meant the site or building was there to save and demonstrate the village and BC history to our families and visitors. The station is definitely one of Fort Langley’s stars. It is one of the most historic samples of the past in the town and many people return to enjoy the railway experience and view the model railroad run by Gerry in the caboose.

Our volunteers have fun and serve the public. If any members would like to come and help June Young during the season please phone or email me at 604-888-1759 or [bays@shaw.ca](mailto:bays@shaw.ca).

Please note: FLAG has changed their opening to May 3rd as they will be part of the Fort Langley Artists Tour, which will take place May 3rd and May 10th.

## **JUNIATA, SASKATCHEWAN, 1942-43 {BY DIANE SIMPSON}**

This is the first station I have clear memories of living in, partly because I began school there, and partly because it was the start of a nefarious career for my little brother of getting into trouble and, unfortunately for him, always getting caught. Such a small town it was; station, one farm and a store.

There was the episode of my brother and his little friend Sheila playing in the middle of the track one fine day, forcing the freight train to stop after blowing the whistle to no avail. the Fireman climbed down and sent them home with a thorough dressing-down. Very surprising, one would think, on the main line between Saskatoon and Winnipeg, except that the prairie was so flat, one could see for miles ahead. Another time, the two little miscreants got into the freight shed, found some storm windows and also red station paint and played Picasso until caught in the act by Dad. They painted every window!

One evening my curious brother slipped into the office and pulled the wires out

of the open battery which was under the desk. It powered the Dispatcher's phone - a very vital communication indeed. (There was no electricity in small towns then.) The Dispatcher was responsible for seeing that troop trains and supplies were on time and on track. About an hour and a half later, a freight train stopped and a CNR Inspector got off to do a little investigating as to why the Dispatcher's phone was out of service on the main line during wartime. The Inspector made some very pointed comments about keeping that child behind the office door, but after a good cup of tea and a piece of Mom's apple pie, didn't give Dad any Brownie points. As for my brother, it was the beginning of many more misdemeanors, not the end!

## LANGLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Langley Heritage Society welcomes two new directors for the upcoming year, as voted on at the Annual General Meeting that occurred this month.

**Back Row:** Dave Buckley, Fred Pepin, Nick Bilouzenko, Mike Frost.  
**Front Row:** Lotte Elias, Kay McComish, Carol Briner, Sharon Johnson, Bob Armstrong and Ted Lightfoot. **Missing:** Toots Tucker and Ellen Worrell.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND LOCAL EVENTS

April 24, 2014 (7:00pm-8:30pm) - The Surrey Museum hosts fashion historian Ivan Sayers to expose the forgeries of the fashion world with a slide show presentation and authentic examples from the past century in "Fashion Fakes and Forgeries." Former Curator of History at the Vancouver Museum, Ivan specializes in the study of fashion from the 1600s to the present. His large and impressive collection of historic clothing can be seen in exhibits around British Columbia and in local fashion shows. Cost is \$10. To register, call 604-592-6956.

May 1, 2014 (6:30pm-8:30pm) - Opening reception for the BC Farm and Machinery Museum's "Seeds" exhibit. Members are invited to the opening reception. RSVP through Kate Petrusa by phone 778-840-7510 or email [kate.petrusa@gmail.com](mailto:kate.petrusa@gmail.com).

May 10, 2014 (11:00am-12noon) - Join historian Derek Hayes at the Surrey Archives as he charts the development of our province through fascinating historical maps of the Fraser Valley and beyond. Cost is \$10. To register, call 604-592-6956.

May 19, 2014 (10:00am-5:00pm) - Victoria Day at Fort Langley National Historic Site. Start with the May Day Parade at 11:00am, then catch the Fur Trade Game show at 12:30pm or the Historic Weapons Demonstration at 2:00pm. Blacksmithing demos on all day long.

July 1, 2014 - Join us at our Canada Day display at Langley Centennial Museum.

Sunday, August 24, 2014 (4:00pm-8:00pm) - Pepin Picnic BBQ at the Pepin residence. Bring something to BBQ, something to share, a lawn chair, a sweater, and a swimsuit. The Pepins will provide the dishes, punch, wine and cutlery.



### OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday May 1, 2014  
6:30-8:30pm

**BC Farm Museum**  
9131 King Street  
Fort Langley, BC

Please join us in celebrating our new exhibition. We will be hearing from some special guests and serving refreshments.

**Click to RSVP**  
or email [kate.petrusa@gmail.com](mailto:kate.petrusa@gmail.com)  
or call 778.840.7510.



Figure 9.  
Common Carrot  
*Daucus carota* L.

