



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE {FEBRUARY 2015}

I was very pleased to see strong community support for the retention of Langley Secondary School at the recent meeting in Langley. As future population growth continues to be focused on the western portion of Langley, the present buildings are well placed for the future. The increasing cost of building sites, infrastructure, and construction is making the retention of older buildings very attractive.

Our larger cities are examining ways to preserve the character of their older communities. Vancouver is exploring their options for the retention of character homes in Shaughnessy and other neighborhoods with a new Heritage Action Plan. The Vancouver Heritage Foundation is working with city staff and consultants to improve the protection and management of their heritage.

The Langley Heritage Society, through our special projects, support of our partners, and continuing communication, will continue to support our history and the conservation of our local heritage.

I wish you all a great Heritage Week.

Fred Pepin
LHS President

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WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Langley Heritage Society
is online! Go to
www.langleyheritage.ca
for society news,
membership information,
photographs, project
updates, and more. To contact
the LHS, please email us at:
info@langleyheritage.ca

“NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING”

Date: Friday, April 24, 2015
Place: Fort Langley Community Hall, Fort Langley
Meet & Greet: 5:30 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm
AGM to follow: 7:00 pm
No guest speaker – Entertainment is in the works

NOTICE OF CHANGE:

This year, the buffet dinner will be a catered-to event, by Valley Caterers. Tickets will be sold for \$15.00 per person, and are subsidised by the Society. The dinner includes Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding, Chicken, three salads, vegetables, all condiments and dessert.

Ticket holders will be eligible for the raffle for Jane Watt’s donation of historical books. Jane reviews these books for the BC Historical Federation.

Tickets will be available from Rosemary Genberg (604-534-2338), or any Director. Tickets are not required for the Annual General Meeting, but are required for the dinner. Tickets will *not* be for sale at the door and must be pre-purchased.

Ticket deadline: Wednesday, April 20th.

For more information: info@langleyheritage.ca

“MAPLE RIDGE WALKING TOUR”

What: “Celebrating Main Street Walking Tours.” Erica Williams, of the Maple Ridge Historical Society, will be leading two 1-hour tours featuring the heritage of Maple Ridge’s downtown along 22th Street and side streets. Tours are limited to 15 people each. Participants will receive a booklet with a map of the tour’s highlights. Donations are welcome.

When: Saturday, February 21

Times: 11:00am OR 2:00pm

Where: Meet at the Memorial Peace Park Fountain, located on 224th Street in Maple Ridge

Contact: Maple Ridge Museum for details and to register at 604-463-5311 or mrmuseum@gmail.com

Community, Past, Present & Future

Join the Maple Ridge Historical Society

Celebrating Main Street Walking Tours



HERITAGE WEEK
“Main Street: At the Heart of the Community”
16-22 February 2015

Saturday February 21
11:00 am or 2:00 pm
Meet at the Memorial
Peace Park Fountain
224th Street

Erica Williams of the Maple Ridge Historical Society will lead two 1 hr walking tours featuring the heritage of downtown Maple Ridge along 224th Street and side streets. Tours are limited to 15 people each. Participants will receive a booklet with a map of the tour’s highlights. Donations are welcome.

Contact the Maple Ridge Museum for more details and to register.
604-463-5311 or mrmuseum@gmail.com

 MAPLE RIDGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**“LOOKING AT LANGLEY HISTORY:
ANOTHER SWEDE COMES TO OTTER –
THE LUNDGRENS”
{WITH MAUREEN PEPIN}**

John Lundgren was born in Dalsland, Sweden, on December 13, 1884, and his wife Ellen Johnson was born in Baksfors, Dalsland, Sweden, on July 1, 1886. After church confirmation at age 15, Ellen left for Stockholm where she became the private cook to the Kuylenstierna family for six years.

In 1905, John emigrated to Canada to join his uncle’s family on Livingston Road. He obtained a job at Hastings Mill in Vancouver where he lived in a bunkhouse. At that time they were logging near Hastings Park and out into the Fraser Valley. John acquired 80 acres of bush in the Otter area and began to carve out a homestead.

In 1911, he sold 30 acres to raise money for a return trip to Sweden where he married his sweetheart, Ellen. They arrived in Otter after their marriage on June 22, 1911, and here they farmed, John went logging and Ellen looked after their farm and home. They raised three children: Agnes (McDonald), Victor, and Albert. The children attended Otter Elementary School.

In the 1920s Victor, Albert, and a friend, Albert Hoover, often went fishing in Bertrand Creek, east of Coghlan Road (256th). The farmer who used the field for pasture chased them off several times, finally warning them that the next time he would shoot them. Victor and Albert took his warning to heart and stayed away, but Albert Hoover tried again crossing the creek in the bush. The farmer came down and shot him, and then went to his neighbor to say that he thought he had shot someone, thinking it was a bear. When they investigated, they found Albert Hoover dead, shot through the chest. The other two boys changed their fishing to Salmon River, north of Coghlan Road.

There was a lot of wildlife around at the time—deer, bears, lynxes, bobcats, raccoons, skunks, mink, and otter, in addition to many fish (steelhead, coho, trout, etc) in the creeks and many types of birds.

Albert went logging up the coast in 1931, and married Margaret Konrad from Bradner in 1937. They lived in Abbotsford for many years. Victor also went logging and lived in Nanaimo. His wife, Agnes, moved to Clearbrook later on.

John Lundgren died in 1977, and his wife Ellen died in 1978. Both are interred in Aberdeen Cemetery. They had three grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. It was quoted that John’s “passing marked the departure of yet another silent cornerstone of our growing community.”

“MARK FORSYTHE - FVRL PRESS RELEASE”

Mark Forsythe, the host of CBC's provincial radio show *BC Almanac* (just retired), will be touring in early 2015. He is a phenomenal speaker, and has a very interesting slide show about this book on February 26th at 7:00pm. In *From the West Coast to the Western Front*, Mark Forsythe has teamed up with journalist Greg Dickson to mark 100 years since the start of WWI. The two of them have compiled stories, photos, letters and artifacts sent in by *BC Almanac* listeners from all over the province.

Please phone the Murrayville Library at 604-533-0339 to reserve a seat for the presentation.

“GRANDPA’S WAGON” {BY ROSEMARY GENBERG}

I am a true pioneer of Langley B. C. for 75 years. I am a member of the Langley Heritage Society and sit on the committee for the Douglas Day Pioneers Dinner. Our local heritage has always been very important to me. I was born on the property I currently live on that my Grandfather purchased in 1921. There was no hospital here when I was born. He used the wagon, 100 chickens and a harness for collateral to buy the 55 acre parcel of land. For many years I have had the four wheels from his wagon decorating our front yard, and this morning I discover someone has stolen them. These are a part of my family’s history and mean so much to me, and would only have sentimental value to me and my family. I realize I will never see them again, but I felt the need to let the community know of someone’s heartless actions causing a sad day for me and my family.

“DOWN BY THE STATION” {BY BAYS BLACKHALL}

It is about the CN Station’s 100th Anniversary! The RR committee met last month with members of the Board to discuss the coming year and our plans for celebrating the history of our CN Station, which was built in 1915. It is hard to believe that the Society moved the Station house in 1983. It is amazing to learn the history and realize that our building is a century old!

The site is part of British Columbia history so it seems appropriate to celebrate with special displays and events thus bringing this valuable asset to the attention of our community and to the Country. To this end we plan to ask other members of the village and Township to participate and help emphasize the importance of this sample of railway history. Plans include model rail displays, a RR theme for our Society AGM in April, a float in the May Day Parade, a celebration in the Community Hall on August 14 and 15 and special plantings in Mrs. Simpson’s garden. Also, FLAG artists will have a railroad theme for their August show in the Baggage Room Gallery.

“GUEST SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY”

We have had a change of guest speakers for our February 24th meeting:

Guest speaker, Ruth Derksen, will talk about her book “Daughters in the City”. In the 1930s, young Mennonite women began to arrive in Vancouver seeking work as domestic maids. Most had recently come to Canada as refugees from Russia having escaped the terror of Stalin’s regime. Their desperate families owed a substantial debt to the Canadian Pacific Railway for their journey. Ruth will have her book available for sale.

The meeting will be held at Milner Chapel, 6716 – 216th Street, as usual. After a short business meeting, our guest will make her presentation. Light refreshments will be provided after the presentation.

“ON EXHIBIT AT THE LANGLEY CENTENNIAL MUSEUM”

The Langley Centennial Museum’s newest exhibit take a look back at the history of the museum’s collection. Want to know what kind of gems are stored in the collection and rarely get to be displayed? Now is your chance!

The museum is one of the oldest community museums in the province. Its collection was originally established through the efforts of the Native Sons of B.C. After purchasing the last remaining Hudson’s Bay Company fort building, the storehouse, from the pioneer Mavis family, the Native Sons collected artifacts from the Langley area that related to its pre-contact and post-contact history and exhibited them there. Part of this early assortment of artifacts became the basis for the museum’s collection when it opened in 1958. The remaining items stayed at the Fort Langley National Historic Site.

While early collecting reflected the community’s HBC and pioneering past, it also collected the exotic; travelling to a museum much like a trip around the world and allowed people to see things they might not have otherwise. Later, the collection grew to include more artifacts that were examples of pioneer life, but often the age and look of the item was more relevant than the actual connection to Langley’s history.

In later decades, gaps were filled in the collection, sometime for exhibit purposes, and the collection continued to grow in local relevance. What we collect today reflects the community’s history and the present.

Come by to see some of the interesting, unique, and beautiful items the Langley Centennial Museum has been fortunate to collect over the last 57 years! Admission by donation. Contact the museum for further details at 604-532-3536.

**LANGLEY HERITAGE
SOCIETY 2014-2015
SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

Members' meetings occur on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at historic Milner Chapel, located at 6716 - 216th Street. Stay for social time, coffee & refreshments after.

September 23, 2014

Robert Mackay
WW1 & Canadian Calvary

October 28, 2014

Julie Ferguson
James Douglas

Sunday, November 16, 2014

Douglas Day Potluck
Location: Willoughby Hall
James Foulkes
Collins Overland Telegraph

January 27, 2015

Gwen Settle
WRENs of the 1960s

February 24, 2015

Ruth Derksen
"Daughters in the City"

March 24, 2015

Helen Chernoff Freeman
Doukhobor Assimilation in
British Columbia

April 25, 2015

Annual General Meeting
Fort Langley Hall

**UPCOMING
MEETINGS & EVENTS**

{February 24, 2015}

Ruth Derksen & "Daughters in the City"

Join Ruth Derksen as she follows the journey of Mennonite girls who left their homes in the rural Fraser Valley to work as domestics in the big city of Vancouver. Many did not speak English, did not understand modern conveniences like vacuum cleaners and had just escaped the terror of Stalin's regime. Book available for sale after presentation for \$25.

SUPPORTERS & SUPPLIERS

LHS wishes to express our gratitude to supporters who contribute to our projects. We recommend these trades people and suppliers.

Clark Drilling Services

604-534-9941

Bob McPherson (Electrician)

604-530-8715

Terry Tokiwa (Plumbing)

604-533-1983

Robertson Plastics

604-533-6677

A-1 Glass, Aldergrove

604-856-6550

Charlie Ness (Plumbing/Renovation)

604-626-2911

DJ Hockin Painting and Decorating (Dave)

604-850-8520

Nufloors

604-533-4231