



President's Message {February 2016}

As we celebrate Heritage Week, it is great to see our efforts to increase awareness resulting in a larger community response. Last month's program meeting at Milner had the largest ever attendance for a monthly meeting. I wish to thank everyone involved with the evening's arrangements.

This is the second year that all the tickets for the Murrayville Bus Tour have been sold. It is very encouraging to have a growing appreciation of Langley Heritage shown by local people. I wish to thank the people in Murrayville who participate in this event for their co-operation.

The Langley Centennial Museum is also sponsoring a walking tour of Fort Langley as part of the week's activities. You can sign up through the Museum.

Our sponsorship of school class visits to the Museum has been well-received with many notes from teachers and students thanking us for our sponsorship.

The province has instructed all societies to re-write their constitutions to meet a new uniform standard. The executive has been doing revisions to meet the objectives for the next 35 years.

I hope to see you at Milner on February 23 at 7:30 pm.

Fred Pepin
LHS President

Inside This Issue

Langley Heritage Fairs
Page 2

Free History Presentation
Page 2

Dumais Family Returns
Page 3

Down by the Station
Page 4

Mennonite Heritage Museum
Page 4

CN Anniversary
Page 5

Heritage Building Incentive
Page 5

Upcoming Programs
Page 6

Want to Know More?

Langley Heritage Society is now
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

Langley Heritage Fairs

{By Kay McComish}

In collaboration with the Langley Centennial Museum, the Langley School Board (SD35) and the BC Heritage Fairs Society, the Langley Heritage Society will be a sponsor for the Heritage Fairs in Langley this year. There are three local schools participating this year and judges are required to conduct short informal interviews with the students about their projects.

The schools and times are:

Richard Bulpitt, (120 student), on February 24, 2016, starting at 9:30 am;

Dorothy Peacock (66 children), on February 29, 2016 starting at 9:30;

James Kennedy (120 students) on March 3 & 4, 2016 (times to be confirmed).

The winners from these district fairs will compete at a Regional Fair in Langley, on the 22nd, at the Fort Langley Community Hall. This will be before the Abbotsford Regional Heritage Fair which will be held on April 28 & 29, 2016.

Judges are required for the three district fairs and we are looking for as many judges as possible. Training will be provided immediately prior to the judging (9:30 – 10:00 am), and the time commitment would be about two hours, 10 am – 12 pm for the district fairs, and 10 am to 2 pm for the regional fair in Fort Langley. If you are interested in volunteering as a judge, please contact either Sharon Johnson (604-881-6017) or Kay McComish (604-888-0448), or info@langleyheritage.ca.

At the Regional Fair on Friday April 22nd, it will be an opportunity for the Langley Heritage Society to bring our displays and brochures for the students and parents to view. It is early days in the planning, but the society will likely be responsible for providing certificates and awards for the students.

FREE Presentation: Nursing in Surrey by Glennis Zilm

Members may remember Glennis Zilm present at one of our members' meetings last year. She is a noted speaker on the history of nursing in B.C. Zilm will use artifacts and images to bring to life Surrey's early health care history. The presentation is by donation at the Surrey Museum (17710—56A Avenue) on Saturday, March 19 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. No RSVP needed; show up 10 minutes prior to the presentation. Exhibit Gallery will be open to visitors.

Dumais Family Returns {By Mark Forsythe}

They were both born in the house; one of them went on to farm the land. Brothers George (left) and Ernest Dumais (right) recently visited Wark Dumais house at 5950 Glover Road, filled with countless memories. Their father Albert bought the farmhouse and 87 acres in 1926, three years later he brought his young bride Cecile from Quebec and they went on to build an impressive dairy farm. The couple had two sons and two daughters, who walked to school each day at nearby Milner. The family added a basement to the original house built in the 1890s by Irishman Robert Wark, who had claimed a land inheritance from his uncle, Henry Wark. Ernest says the exterior of the house was covered in pink stucco when the Dumais brothers were growing up; it was later restored to the original wooden cladding by the Langley Heritage Society. Ernest remarks, "The stucco preserved it quite nicely!"



The brothers toured through the home that today caretaker tenants Barry and Ann Fredrickson live in. Ernest points to the spot where their mother's rocking chair once sat, and each admires the original multi-colored windows in the entrance hallways. "It's a good feeling to know the house is still here, and people are taking care of it", comments George. Ernest remembers the day in 1952 when their father died while milking a cow in the barn. After completing high school, Ernest took over the farming and Mrs. Dumais managed farm operations for many years. "Our best hayfield is asphalt now."

The Dumais family sold the property in 1976; it is now an historic centerpiece to the Kwantlen Polytechnic University campus, restored and managed by the Langley Heritage Society. Students from the horticulture program help keep the gardens and lawns looking beautiful. George appreciates the opportunity to reconnect with the family's heritage, "It's wonderful to come here and see home."

“Down By The Station,” By Bays Blackhall

The CN Station committee met in the E&E coach on February 3rd and got right down to the business of planning for the 2016 season. First, all the maintenance, upkeep and repair items were addressed and each job delegated to the appropriate member so the site will be ready by the opening in May. Greg Hayes, our tenant/caretaker, will be helping. He and his daughter, Andrea, are enjoying the Station and feel as though they are ‘back home’.

All our signs are in a state of deterioration, but fortunately Board member Sharon Johnson, involved in signage, has taken on the task of producing new and improved signs which will provide the public with colorful pictures and up to date information. (Sharon is also designing a new, more colorful and fully updated brochure for the Langley Heritage Society, which will be distributed to all appropriate venues giving the Society a higher profile in the community.)

Railroader Ted Lightfoot has created an arbor over the steps on Mavis and is in the process of painting it black to match the railings. He is researching suitable plantings, and we can just visualize brides and grooms walking “under the arches” to Mrs. Simpson’s garden. Mark Forsythe’s suggestion that we use ‘costumed role-players’ as Mr. & Mrs. Simpson walking about the site was met with great approval by the committee, as this would be fun and really add to the historic appeal of the Station.

Next, be sure to look for the video on our new LHS website. Designed by Mark and Sharon, it will show the present and past history, and will include the history of the CN site. Again, I will remind members that we really enjoy volunteering at the old “Station” and would welcome other members to join us for a few hours once a week in the summer months.

“Mennonite Heritage Museum”

The mission of the Mennonite Heritage Museum is to preserve and exhibit the stories of the Mennonites from their origins in the 16th century to their settlement in the Fraser Valley. The Mennonite story is one of an enduring Christian faith throughout an often tumultuous history. The Mennonite sojourn from The Netherlands to Poland (later Prussia), and then to Russia (later the Soviet Union), is one of joy and sorrow, stability and turmoil. Settlement in Canada and, in particular, the Fraser Valley, has



allowed the Mennonite story to take root and flourish. The new museum is located at 1818 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford. For more

“CN Anniversary” {By Ted Lightfoot}

2015 was the 100th anniversary of the historic Fort Langley Heritage Society CN Railroad Station. The Station committee and the Board decided that the site needed to be cleaned up and that something should be done to leave a lasting legacy to honor and commemorate the long history and the volunteers who helped save and restore the Station.

First thing was to paint the newly installed galvanized handrails along Mavis. Next came the garden, which needed a lot of work. Top dressing, weeding and new plants: Barb Bryson’s expertise and labour was greatly appreciated. Then there was Arbor Day, which was celebrated by the planting of three Camperdownii Elms (historically significant in Fort Langley). These were donated by the Fort Langley Heritage Gardeners. A Ginko tree, donated by LHS member Mike Frost was also planted to celebrate this important day.

The planted “birthday cake” came next to let the changing flow of visitors know that 2015 was the 100th year celebration of this historic railroad station. It also provided a photo opportunity for tourists and friends. Barb Bryson stepped up to do the planting and our then, caretaker/tenants’ Gareth and Kaity Abreo took on the watering which proved to be a lot of work with the ongoing summer drought.

In the meantime, an arbor leading down the steps from Mavis to the “Simpson Garden” was planned but appeared costly to erect. Luckily, recycled metal arches were found and a friend, John Higgins of Burns Steel, offered to donate his time to build the structure. Then, with a lot of volunteer work in the design and building, the arch was installed as a permanent reminder of the celebration of 1915 to 2015. And so it is there and will be painted black to match the railings. Plants, to enhance the arbor will be chosen and planted by the committee with the LHS Board’s approval. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this happen.

Heritage Building Incentive Program {By Elaine Horricks}

The Heritage Building Incentive Program is designed to assist with the costs of restoring, repairing, and maintaining eligible heritage buildings within the Township of Langley. Grants are available to property owners of heritage buildings included in the Township of Langley’s Inventory of Heritage Resources. The next deadline for the grant program is **Friday, March 4, 2016 at 4:30pm**. For an application form, visit the Township of Langley website at tol.ca/hbip.

Langley Heritage Society
2015-2016
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 22, 2015

VPB Commissioner,
John Coupar

Bloedel Conservatory

October 27, 2015

Jasmine Moore

Society for the Museum of
Original Costume

Wednesday, November 18

Douglas Day Potluck

Venue:

Fort Langley Community Hall

January 26, 2016

Susan Safyan

All Roads Lead to Wells

February 23, 2016

Jay Sherwood

Surveying Southern BC

March 22, 2016

Val Patenaude

Maple Ridge History

April 29, 2016

Annual General Meeting
Fort Langley Community Hall

Upcoming Programs

{February 23, 2016}

Jay Sherwood & Surveying Southern BC

Join Jay Sherwood, retired teacher and librarian, for his presentation on "Surveying Southern BC." The focus will be on prominent BC surveyor, Frank Swanell, and will cover the years from 1902 to 1907. The book, which was a finalist for both the 2014 BC Historical Federation History Award and the BC Book Prize for Regional History, will be available for sale after the presentation.

{April 29, 2016}

LHS Annual General Meeting

Venue: Fort Langley Community Hall, Fort Langley

Meet and greet at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm

Annual Book Raffle around 6:30pm

AGM to follow at 7:00 pm

Entertainment: Mark Forsythe & the
Brookwood Video Project for Website

The catered dinner last year was very successful. This year we have engaged Coast & Country Caterers from Cloverdale to cater the dinner. Tickets will be sold for the dinner for \$15.00 per person (balance is subsidised by the Society). Dinner will include Baron of Beef and Chicken (boneless) three salads, vegetables, condiments and desserts.

Ticket holders will be eligible for the raffle for various historical books.

Tickets will be available from Kay McComish (604-888-0448) or any Director. Tickets are not required for the Annual General Meeting, but are required for the dinner. Please note: TICKETS WILL **NOT** BE FOR SALE AT THE DOOR AND MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. TICKET DEADLINE: TUESDAY, APRIL 19.

For more information: info@langleyheritage.ca