



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE {JANUARY 2015}

Here we are in 2015 and Heritage Week begins on February 16. This year's theme is "Main Street at the Heart of the Community."

Invite a friend and join me on a bus tour and lunch to historic Murrayville, one of our oldest and largest collections of early buildings at the centre of Langley. You will see examples of successful and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings and sites not normally open to the public, such as school classrooms in a former blacksmith shop.

At the BC Heritage conference and awards programme, the North Vancouver School District and the Central Okanagan School District received awards for preserving their school heritage resources. Unfortunately, in Langley the only two historic school buildings in use were preserved by community groups.

It is shocking to contemplate the closing of Langley Secondary School. From 1948 – 1958, every grade 7 – 13 student in Langley attended this school, and since 1958 when Aldergrove School opened, Langley Secondary has been one of the major high schools in Langley, catering to more than 1000 students at one time. The site was designed for the use of buses, and their use now in transporting the excess students from northwest Langley would reduce the crowding and safety/traffic problems that are a concern at our other school sites. This facility with its extensive shops and gyms and sports facilities should not be abandoned.

If you are concerned about the closure of Langley Secondary, please write to the Langley School Board and express your views.

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, and more. To contact  
the LHS, please email us at:  
[info@langleyheritage.ca](mailto:info@langleyheritage.ca)

## **“LOOKING AT LANGLEY HISTORY: HOLLANDERS - FINLAND TO BROWN ROAD” {WITH MAUREEN PEPIN}**

August John and Sofia Alexandra Hollander bought their twenty acre “stump ranch” at 3080 Brown Road (240) in 1931. The bill of sale for \$750 with a down payment of one dollar bought them the farm from Miss Amanda Hebler, who resided in New York City, a long distance investment in land in BC. The tax notices from the Corporation of Langley reveal that the taxes for 1934 and 1935 were \$12.21 and \$15.07.

The family did not come directly to Brown Road. After leaving Finland in 1922, they travelled to Liverpool and then across the Atlantic by coal-fired steamship. They landed at Hull, Quebec, after a seven day crossing, then crossed Canada by train, and stayed with friends in Nelson, BC. They later lived on a five-acre farm in the area, and then in 1931 travelled to Brown Road.

At one time, there were twenty-three Swedish/Finnish families living on this road, including the Bjorknus, Wickman, and Granholm families. They were a hard working bunch of immigrants, with most of the men working as loggers (fallers, buckers, and high-riggers). The women and children ran the farms while the men were away in the logging camps. There was no electricity, just coal oil lamps. Because there was no rural mail delivery, they had to walk to Hopington Post Office to get the mail. Once a week, Berry’s Store (now Ye Olde Country Store) at the corner of 232 and Fraser Highway delivered the groceries by truck from a list given to the driver the previous week.

One of the characters who lived on Brown Road was known for his eccentricities. He lived in a root house with a sod roof and dirt floor, and spoke many languages (English, Russian, Italian, Spanish, French, and Japanese). He had served in the Crimean War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. He was shell-shocked in the latter war, causing his whole upper body and head to shake uncontrollably from the violent hiccups that wracked his frame. He was probably a remittance man supported by his family in Europe.

Life was not easy on the farm. Everyone was kept busy filling woodboxes, carrying water, “eternal” summer canning, weeding gardens, washing with the old rippled glass scrub boards, ironing with the heavy irons heated on the stove, and haying. The main entertainment was visiting neighbours, and the occasional dance at the Otter Hall where they all learned to dance waltzes, fox trots, and even the schottische.

The family grew from two children born in Finland (Elsa and Ossian), to the rest of the family born in Nelson (Judith, Lillian, Eva).

August Hollander died on August 25, 1941, at the age of fifty, and Sofia passed away in 1985 at the age of ninety-four. In 1987, the property was sold to the Arnoldt brothers who developed a landscaping business.

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

Even though we are closed, the site remains a popular place for visitors. Gareth, our caretaker, tells me that almost every day there are families consuming hot chocolate and snacks, watching the trains go by and taking a lot of pictures. Unfortunately they have been leaving a fair amount of garbage around, which is a bit of a nuisance. Gareth also reported that there are a lot of requests about the Caboose and when it will be open. It seems that many families come to Fort Langley especially to see Gerry's model railroad.

Now that Christmas is over the station committee will be meeting soon to plan the new season and our important 100<sup>th</sup> celebration. Any volunteers will be most welcome so please let me know if you can help with ideas etc. The special weekend is August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Happy New Year from the LHS CN station committee!

And now for a lovely poem sent in by Bays Blackhall entitled *Fort Langley* by Justin Wilson (late 1800s or early 1900s).

*Stand fast old Fort, thy timbers grey  
Have watched the long years pass away.  
And mankind hasten to obey  
The edicts of a newer Day.  
Stand Fast! a record of the past  
A tribute to the things that last.*

*Stand Fast old Fort, men go their way  
And what is wrought alone doth stay.  
Where moving grass the grave doth mark  
Of dust that knows no vital spark.  
Stand Fast! lest men forget their debt  
And value not the gifts they get.*

*Stand Fast old Fort, the hands are still  
That built thee for the men that fill  
The stately homes the years have brought  
Through peace thy sturdy builders taught.  
Stand Fast! and may thy timbers grey*

## **“MARK FORSYTHE - FVRL PRESS RELEASE”**

Mark Forsythe, the host of CBC's provincial radio show *BC Almanac* (just retired) and author of the recently released book, *From the West Coast to the Western Front: British Columbians and the Great War*, will be touring in early 2015. As you may already know, he is a phenomenal speaker, and has a very interesting slide show about this book.

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 every corner of the province.

The book covers the “Flying Aces,” who heroically fought battles in the sky, nurses who went to the front lines, and decorated Japanese-Canadian soldiers who—due to racism in BC—had to go to Alberta to enlist (many of whom went on to be interned during WWII).

It also tells stories of the home front: the families left behind, the Ukrainians who were interned and the people (such as Ginger Goodwin) who chose not to fight. The result of this compilation is a memorial to a war that has left a mark on both individual British Columbian families and the province as a whole.

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

## **“ROYAL BC MUSEUM - PRESS RELEASE”**

From more than seven million objects in the Royal BC Museum’s galleries, archival stacks and workrooms behind the scenes, curators, archivists and other expert staff have selected some of the most fascinating (and often seldom-seen) objects – what they are calling the “100 Objects of Interest”.

Starting today, these artifacts, specimens, archival records and works of art will be featured on the 100 Objects of Interest website, <http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/100/>. The website features a photo of each object and a brief description of its significance. The objects will rotate over time, as new items are uploaded to the site.

The Royal BC Museum is embarking upon a number of web initiatives that allow greater access and interaction with the full scale of its collections, including the digitization of First World War diary entries and letters home by British Columbian soldiers to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Great War... Many of the objects are never on public display. Regardless of size or fame, each object has a compelling story and special connection to a place in British Columbia or period in our history.

Visit <http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/100/> to see the 100 objects of interest online exhibit.

## “HERITAGE WEEK 2015”

From the Heritage BC Website - “The theme for Heritage Week 2015 in British Columbia is Main Street: At The Heart of the Community. The week kicks off with the national Heritage Day designated by Heritage Canada The National Trust.

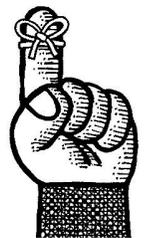
Main Street, King Street, Queen Street, Water Street, Broadway – whatever their name, Main Streets and traditional downtowns are at the heart of communities big and small across British Columbia. Centres of commerce, civic institutions, community commemoration and events, Main Streets embody the history and evolution of a community.

Today many communities are leveraging the heritage of their downtowns as assets to stimulate tourism, attract new residents, provide affordable housing, and encourage investment by creating affordable space for smaller businesses and start-ups, as well as authentic retail experiences.

This Heritage Week celebrate the history of your Main Streets and the revitalization of traditional downtowns throughout British Columbia.”

## “LHS MEMBERSHIP REMINDER”

Just a friendly reminder that membership fees for the Langley Heritage Society are due, starting January 1st. Benefits of membership include monthly meetings, monthly newsletters, access to heritage events, lectures, information on the restoration of heritage buildings and more. Donations over \$50.00 will receive a tax deductible receipt in the mail.



Single membership is \$10.00/person, Family membership is \$15.00/family

Please make cheques payable to “Langley Heritage Society” and mail them to:

Langley Heritage Society  
P.O. Box 982  
Fort Langley, British Columbia  
V1M 2S3.

HERITAGE WEEK FEBRUARY 16-22 2015

**Main Street**  
At the Heart of the Community  
Share your community events, stories and photos!

Heritage BC  
www.heritagebc.ca

Photo: Digital Composite by Owen Barrett. Original Photograph by Stuart Thomson. CIVIL 8994500. "Site at A.C. Sade's Warehouse" (1874) War 20.17 March 1903  
Salem: Digital Composite by Pictorix. Background: Original Photograph by Philip H. Thompson. CIVIL 6104. P10. Concrete Street Looking North from Robinson Street c1900

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**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

Cam Cathcart  
Vancouver's Roedde House  
Museum and Family

March 24, 2015

Helen Chernoff Freeman  
Doukhobor Assimilation in  
British Columbia

April TBA, 2015

Annual General Meeting

**UPCOMING  
MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**{January 27, 2015}**

**Gwen Settle & the WRENS**

Join Gwen Settle, who served on the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia, as she discusses being a young woman going through basic training and serving in the Royal Canadian Navy in the early 1960s. Born in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, but moving to British Columbia in 1983, Gwen has also spent time working in architectural, engineering and accounting firms.

**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