

Langley Heritage Society

{Fall 2016}

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

"Providing the window into the past to preserve Langley's heritage for today and tomorrow"

President's Message - Fall 2016 {By Fred Pepin}

We have had another very busy summer at the CN station. Our volunteers and staff have greeted over 8000 people during the 240 hours that the railcar has been open so far. Many more thousands have visited the site every week when we are not open. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of making our visitor's experience complete. We have many pages of people expressing their thanks and support.

Our program to sponsor Langley school students to attend the great programs at the Museum has been well received by the schools. Last year we sponsored 25 percent of the onsite students' visits, as well as some classes at Lochiel school.

A committee is working to improve our website which is now receiving a good number of visitors and generating inquiries from people outside the country as well as local.

A very nice day brought out over 70 people to our summer picnic, and we are hoping to see large numbers at our Program Meetings this year.

The newsletter will not be published so frequently this year. It will be mailed in September, January, April and June. Information will be provided regularly via email. Therefore, if you are not receiving our emails, please advise us of your address so that we can stay in touch.

Fred Pepin
LHS President

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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

Annual Pepin Picnic {By Hannah Bennett}

Langley Heritage Society members enjoyed a fun and relaxing evening at the Pepin's on August 21, 2016. It was a good turn out at 72 guests, with people mingling and enjoying the fine weather and food. Fred Pepin spoke of the great work that has been done by the LHS repairing, restoring and preserving the built heritage of Langley, as well as of the exciting challenge of the Haldi House project. Bays Blackhall prepared a report on the goings on of the CN Station from the busy summer months. Some guests toured the impressive vegetable garden and two inquisitive deer crashed the party. It was as good get-together as always!



Looking at Langley's History: Miller Family of Aldergrove {With Maureen Pepin}

John Miller was born in the Orkney Islands in Scotland on December 22, 1848, and Ann Rendall was born in the Orkneys on July 22, 1846. They married on January 4, 1875 in Leith and had four children there: John Jr., James, Thomas, and Ann. John worked as an able seaman in foreign

shipping, as well as a ship's carpenter, and then came to Canada in 1882 to work for the CPR at Perth, Ontario. He, along with a large group of men, were sent from Kingston across the US to San Francisco, then by coastal steamer to Victoria and Yale where they worked to complete bridges for the CPR in order to complete the western end of the railway across Canada.

John homesteaded at Shortreed's Corner in Aldergrove in 1886, and the rest of his family arrived in June of 1888; their tickets cost a total of \$163.47. His second daughter was born on the homestead in September 1889, and was delivered by her father who had walked from New Westminster the day before. The children attended the first school house, located on land donated by Finley Shortreed. John fell from a bridge while working for the CPR and died the next day on February 8, 1894. John Jr. became the man of the house and kept the family going, working for neighbours and selling eggs and turkeys. The going wage for labor was \$2 per day, and eggs sold for 25 cents a dozen. Ann Miller purchased a strip of land from Yale Road to add to their homestead.

James worked in logging camps and eventually ran a dry cleaning store with his wife, Mary. Thomas taught school and became a doctor. Ann worked in Bob Shortreed's store and married Harold McKinnon of Abbotsford. Margaret stayed on the farm and left during the first World War to train as a nurse. John worked in Vancouver as a building foreman, and married Elizabeth Latta in 1916. They had two sons, Tom and John.

James, the second son, worked in logging camps and joined the RCAF during World War 2. He spent a year as a POW in Germany and returned to Aldergrove in 1945 after the war. He worked for Otter Co-Op and then Canada Customs until retirement in 1979. Tom and his wife Mary raised three children: Roy, Deane, and Rita, all of whom went to school in Aldergrove. Rita still lives on the homestead. Tom and Mary have passed away after an active life in Aldergrove. *From "The Place Between, Vol 1, page 221."*

Save the Date! Douglas Day Potluck

Date: Thursday, November 17, 2016

Time: Meet and Greet at 5:30pm, Welcome and Grace at 6:00pm, Dinner at 6:15pm, Toast to James Douglas and Guest Speaker to Follow.

Location: Fort Langley Community Hall

Guest Speaker: Historian John Atkin will talk about his 1890s Vancouver heritage home, built by the foreman of the BC Electric's powerhouse, the original home of the Venice Bakery and once a Chinese gambling operation (while owned by the mayor of Burnaby).

Dinner: This dinner will be catered to by the Langley Seniors Resource Society. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and will not be sold at the door. The fabulous menu includes Salads, Baron of Beef, Boneless Chicken Breast, Roasted Cod, vegetables, Chocolate Strawberry Mouse, Mocha & Mandarin Orange Cheesecake, and fresh fruit.

For more information contact: info@langleyheritage.ca

Down By The Station

{By Bays Blackhall}

We who spend so much time at our Society CN Station site are proud of the site and its success in the community. This year, not withstanding heat and other difficulties sent to try us, we have hosted over 7500 visitors from all over the world including our local families who return again and again. And there are more to come!

FLAG artists keep the “baggage room” gallery open on the weekends and are visited by many who also enjoy a Station visit. The artists are most helpful directing people through to the office and waiting room if there are no volunteers available.

This season we have been a major destination for several summer camp groups sponsored by Brae Island and the Langley Museum. We enjoyed describing the value and advantages of rail transport of people and goods in most of the countries of the world. Thanks to Gerry Landsman, the model RR village is fascinating in the amount of realistic detail showing life in the fifties and railroad history.

Our volunteers are most important to our success and thanks to them the site has been open from Thursday to Sunday. These include, among others, Raydeen Fuge, Holly French, Diane Simpson and Lena Loro, as well as some of our directors, such as Mark, Hannah, and Kay. Especially important is the work done by Sharon, Mark, Kay, Fred and the Board in the rejuvenation and upgrading of our out-of-date signage and for the major contribution to the website, brochures and display panels.

For staff this season employed university students Emily and Angela Seggie, and Sahara Brown. They have been most efficient in opening and closing the site, and keeping the attendance figures.

In closing I would like to express our sympathy to long time FLAG organizer, Margo Harrison, who recently lost her husband and also to retired volunteer member Peter Littleboy, on the death of his wife, our friend and volunteer Bernice.

The site will remain open until Thanksgiving in October.

Supporters & Suppliers

The Langley Heritage Society wishes to express our gratitude to supporters who contribute to our projects. We endorse the following businesses:

Clark Drilling Services (604-534-9941), Bob McPherson, electrician (604-530-8715), Terry Tokiwa, plumber (604-533-1983), Robertson Plastics (604-533-4055), A-1 Glass, Aldergrove (604-856-6550), Charlie Ness, plumbing/renovation (604-626-2911), Dave at DJ Hockin Painting and Decorating (604-850-8520), Nufloors (604-533-4231).

Upcoming Lectures at the Langley Centennial Museum

The Edge Family Project

Join the Maple Ridge Family History Group as it shares its ongoing research on the Edge Family Legacy Project. The Edges were well-known citizens of Maple Ridge and Langley and were heavily involved in farming, politics, and helping where they could throughout the community. Over time, the family has disappeared from history and all that remains are a namesake road in downtown Maple Ridge and a fantastic peak in Golden Ears Provincial Park. This discussion will unravel the mysteries of this long-forgotten local family. (14+yrs / \$17.50)

Saturday, November 19 from 3:00-5:00pm / Registration Number: 506781

The Gold Rush of 1858

Join Archaeologist Brian Pegg as he tells stories of the 1858 Gold Rush and introduces archaeological tools and artifacts found in the Fraser Canyon. (14+yrs / \$17.50)

Saturday, November 26 from 3:00-5:00pm / Registration Number: 506782

Langley Community Day 2016

For those who don't recall, Saturday, June 18th was a particularly rainy and cold day in Langley. It was also Community Day in Douglas Park and the community groups, performers, activity booths and food vendors made the most of it. The Langley Heritage Society was there and our volunteers talked with many participants that had braved the weather. Conversations were struck up with people finding shelter under our tents and hot coffee was passed around. Those that stopped to chat enjoyed the artifact boards, picked up a new LHS pamphlet and pursued our new signage and displays. Hopefully next year the weather will co-operate!



2016 Langley Heritage Fair

{By Rosemary Genberg and Ellen Edwards}

Sponsors for Heritage Fair 2016: Langley School District 35, The Centennial Museum, and the Langley Heritage Society.

Langley Elementary Schools Participating: Richard Bulpitt, James Kennedy, Dorothy Peacock.

How It Worked: Each student's display was judged twice. The 12 judges asked questions of 100 students over 4 days of the Heritage Fair, and then graded them on prepared score charts.

The Judges all felt really privileged to be asked on behalf of the sponsors to judge the Heritage Fair. The wealth of information and hard work the students put into their projects was truly overwhelming. We were so impressed with the designs of the stand-up displays, with the photos and text, the headings, and the research involved. Most students provided a written essay with illustrations and resource list. We enjoyed the models and actual items used to further explain the topic; the excellent manners of the students; their obvious interest, motivation and knowledge of their topic. The training provided by their teachers was obvious and much appreciated.

Rosemary was especially interested in the Langley Heritage Award for Best Presentation winner, Adam Scarborough. She writes, "After meeting Adam's grandfather at the judging, I was really interested in following his story about working on the Sopwith Camel at the Langley Flight Museum. There I interviewed some men working on the Sopwith Pup that will hopefully be used in the celebration of Vimy Ridge for the 100th anniversary on June 11, 2017. Working with the Canadian Government, The Air Force, and Transportation Ottawa, they hope to have this plane taken overseas to the monument of Vimy Ridge. The monument area is owned by Canada, but the Canadian Air Force will get permission from France to fly this plane during the ceremonies. Our Mayor Jack Froese and his wife announced at the awards that they will be attending the ceremonies next year at Vimy."

Langley Heritage Fair Award Winners

Most original topic: Jasmine Marcotte for "The Famous Five"

Artistic achievement: Derek Little for "Vimy Ridge"

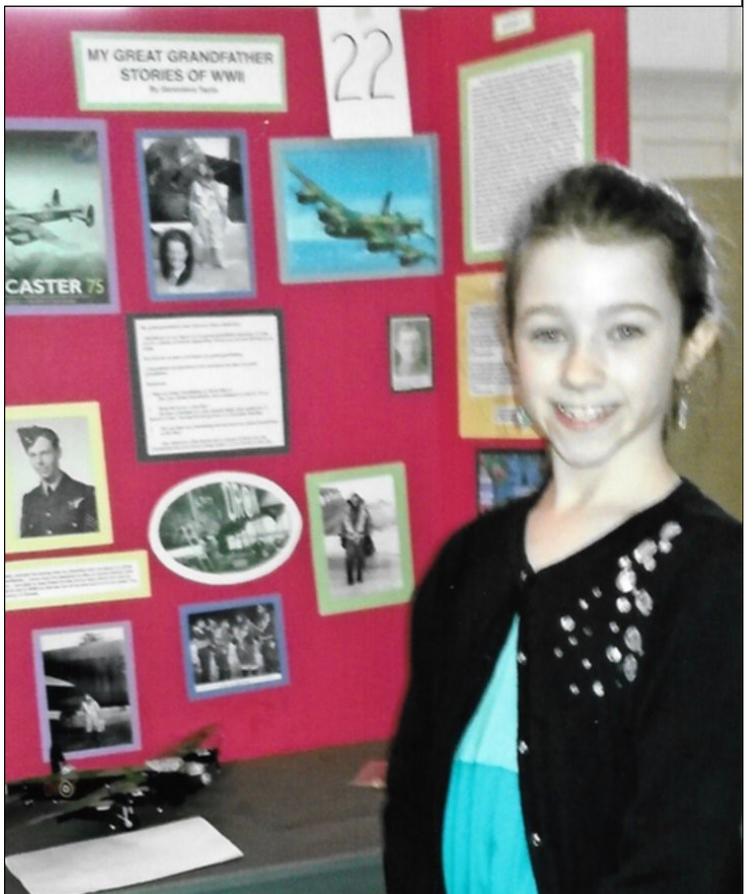
Educator's award of excellence: Kylene Bruce for "Residential Schools"

LCM Docent award: Ashlyn Holloway for "Canada's Home Children"

Curator's choice award: Caitlyn Kirk for "Delta Police Department"

Langley Heritage Award for Best Presentation: Adam Scarborough for "Sopwith Pups – Vimy Ridge"

Want to be a Judge next year? Inquire at info@langleyheritage.ca



Langley Heritage Society 2016-2017 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 27, 2016

Jason Beck

BC Sports Hall of Fame
1954 Summer Games

October 25, 2016

Rick Blacklaws

In The Footsteps Of
Alexander Mackenzie

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Douglas Day Potluck

Fort Langley Community Hall
John Atkin

1890s Heritage House History

January 24, 2017

Brian Antonson

Whistle Post West: Railway Tales
From BC, Alberta, and the Yukon

February 28, 2017

Susan McCaslin

Han Shan Poetry Initiative to save
Blaauw Eco Forest in Glen Valley

March 28, 2017

Jane Lempke

Chilliwack History

April 2017

Annual General Meeting

Upcoming Programs

{September 27, 2016}

Jason Beck & the 1954 Summer Games

The 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Vancouver changed both the city and the sport world forever. Join Jason Beck, Curator and Facility Director of the BC Sports Hall of Fame, as he shares stories from the games, including the famous "Miracle Mile," the much anticipated showdown between the first two men to break the four-minute barrier, England's Roger Bannister and Australia's John Landy. Beck will also share numerous Langley connections, including the stories of Dave Stafford, a long jumper from Murrayville, and Tommy Paonessa, a Canadian boxing coach, who lived in Langley until the age of 103! Jason's book, *The Miracle Mile*, will be available for purchase for \$30.

STORIES OF THE 1954 BRITISH EMPIRE AND COMMONWEALTH GAMES

