



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE {MARCH 2015}

We would like to thank the staff at the Langley Centennial Museum for their involvement in Heritage Week this past February. The tour of the Artifact Display and the bus tour of Murrayville were well attended, and we had the bonus of a lovely spring day. Emilie Colbourne also enjoyed the great weather for her group of people doing a walking tour of Fort Langley.

Planning is proceeding for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of our railway station. Special events will be held on Fathers' Day on June 20 and a larger event on the August 15-16 weekend. We will also participate in the Fort Langley May Day Parade.

The future of the Old Yale Road from Langley City to Murrayville is being discussed by the Township. Engineers, planners, and consultants will be considering ways to manage this unique piece of our history. This historic concrete road with its many trees follows a scenic route through our finest farm land, but it has a number of challenges. I hope you will all think about how this pleasant route can maintain its calming appeal into the future. There will be opportunities to express your thoughts in the near future.

Fred Pepin
LHS President

PROHIBITION IN BC TALK

Subject: Prohibition in BC: Battle of the Wets and Drys
Venue: Clearbrook Library
Date: Saturday, March 14th
Time: 2:30 – 3:30 pm
Registration Appreciated - Please call 604-859-7814 to register

Did you know that every province in Canada, except Quebec, banned the sale and consumption of alcohol during World War One? Alcohol was prohibited in BC from 1917 – 1921. Illegal drinking, speakeasies, white lightning, bootlegging, criminals and corruption were the consequences of the failed social experiment. Join popular BC historian John Mitchell, for an entertaining look at this chapter in the province's history. Registration not required, but greatly appreciated.

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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

FORT LANGLEY'S DR. MARR & WW1 {BY KAY MCCOMISH}

A very interesting and moving video about Fort Langley's Dr. Marr and the men who did not return from WWI has been made by Emilie Colbourne's Grade 5 Class at the Langley Fine Arts School in Fort Langley. This 8 minute mini-movie is called "Honouring Our Own" and can be found online at Blue Dog Press. This project was created around Remembrance Day, 2014.

Dr. Benjamin Butler Marr, Langley's first doctor, joined up and was stationed in England during WWI. Before they had left Langley, Dr. Marr and fellow officer Archie Payne made a pact that if they returned they would do something to honour the men who did not make it back from the war. Upon his return Dr. Marr raised funds for the creation of the Fort Langley Cenotaph and was instrumental in having the Memorial chestnut trees planted around the cemetery on Glover Road. In addition, many of the main roads in Langley were renamed to honour the local men who did not come home. Dr. Marr's son, Bill Marr, 97, has been a long standing member of the Langley Heritage Society.

Emilie Colbourne, who was a Director of the Langley Heritage Society, teaches at the Langley Fine Arts School. Emilie also works at the Langley Centennial Museum from time to time doing the "Walking Tour of Fort Langley". If you ever get a chance to go on this tour with Emilie, you should do so as it is quite interesting and entertaining. Dressed in period costume and armed with her trusty umbrella in case of rain or shine, Emilie conducts the tour and carries a selection of photos to further illustrate the people or places on the tour.

I highly encourage you to take a few moments to look at "Honouring Our Own". The easiest way to see the iMovie is to go to Blue Dog Press, then click on 'Elementary'. Scroll down, and it is the third item.

This Grade 5 Class should be congratulated for creating such an excellent mini-movie about Dr. Marr and his contributions to the Village of Fort Langley.

"NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING"

Date: Friday, April 24, 2015

Place: Fort Langley Community Hall, Fort Langley

Time: Meet & Greet at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm, AGM to follow at 7:00 pm

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. For more info: info@langleyheritage.ca

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. Ticket holders will also be eligible for the raffle for Jane Watt's donation of historical books. **TICKETS WILL NOT BE FOR SALE AT THE DOOR AND MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. TICKET DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20TH.**



Above: Dr. Marr. Photograph courtesy of the Langley Centennial Museum.

“LOOKING AT LANGLEY HISTORY: THE HALL FAMILY- ONE OF THE FEW IRISH FAMILIES IN ALDERGROVE IN THE EARLY DAYS” {WITH MAUREEN PEPIN}

Robert Hall was born in Sligo, Ireland, on April 19, 1930, one of four children. He left Ireland at the age of 24 and soon found a horse-related job with Dr. Sargent in Southlands, Vancouver. Later he got a job with the Gormley family where he galloped and trained horses.

Ann was born in Oregon to parents who travelled the horse racing circuit mostly in the United States, from Seattle to California to New York. Ann's mother, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Sam and Greta Brooks, owner of the Powell River Pulp and Paper Mill. Ann's father, John A. Gormley, trained horses for Austin Taylor. Ann's family moved back to Vancouver in 1940. Ann and Robert met in 1956 and married in 1959 in Port Kells.

Ann and Robert looked all over the Fraser Valley for a suitable property for beef, sheep and horse farming, and finally found Emerald Acres on South Jackman Road. They bought sixty acres from the Loucks family in 1960 and 72 additional acres on the north side in 1963. Emerald Acres had good drainage, rolling hills, trees, lush open pastures, and many springs, but very few buildings. They started out dividing the granary into rooms where they lived with their growing family.

Bob and Ann had six children: Jennifer (Jerry Johnson), Maureen (Robert Robinson), Sandra (Jim Loseth), Dean (Debbie Lucy), Noel, and Philip. Noel was killed in an automobile accident on the Hope Princeton Highway in 1988.

In 1961, George Royal, dark bay son of Dark Hawk, was born in Surrey and came to Emerald Acres when he was weaned. Ernie Hammond of Hammond Furniture and the Halls were partners in this young horse. George Royal's success in racing was legendary, like a fairytale come true. He won \$324,000 by the end of his racing career in 1967. He won the San Juan Capistrano race twice, carrying Johnny Longden on his farewell ride in 1966. It was a very exciting time at Emerald Acres from 1963 until 1967 when George retired to stud at Emerald Acres.

After George Royal's retirement, the Halls changed direction in their farming from sheep and cows to broodmares and stallions. At the height of the operation, they had over 100 head of horses, including ten stallions. They built a new house and hosted the Fraser Valley Hunt at the farm several times a year.

Now the children are all married with children of their own, giving the Halls fourteen grandchildren plus great grandchildren. Most have worked on the original property; the Robinsons have also developed Milsean Shoppes in Aldergrove; Dean is developing a golf course on the north portion of the property; the Loseths are in the horse business; Jennifer worked for the Hunt for many years; and everyone lives somewhere around Aldergrove, near “the house that George built.”

Source: “The Place Between” Volume II, pages 281-2.



“MY LAST SATURDAY NIGHT CN BATH” **{BY DIANE SIMPSON}**

Our family bath night when we lived in Alberta was usually Saturday night, so we could all start the week nice and clean for church and Sunday School the next morning. It was a ritual not deviated from unless there were unexpected guests or we were away.

Dad would fill the reservoir on the stove, and after supper put a pail and kettle on for more water, get out the old square washtub, and draw the door curtain between kitchen and living room. When the water was warm, baths got started in the kitchen beside the stove, in order of youngest to oldest, each getting a shot of hot for the tub. Dad always played the piano in the living room until it was his turn.

My last Saturday night bath in the kitchen in the old washtub started that night as soon as my brother was dried off and in his clean pyjamas. He sat on the piano bench beside Dad and they started a rousing “I’m Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines, I feed my horse on corn and beans,” a real old favourite. Meanwhile, I stuffed myself into the washtub, knees under my chin, and hoped I wasn’t sitting on the washcloth. Suddenly, the back door boomed wide open right beside me and there was the Section Foreman and three Section men standing three feet away in the doorway to the back porch, wishing to talk to Dad! My startled shriek cleared them out of the porch double time, and they went around to the waiting room door where Dad met them. I sure wasn’t going to stand up get out of the tub until they shut the door and vacated that porch. Neither did I join my brother on the piano bench for “Swanee River” OR ANY OTHER SONGS that night.

The next Saturday night, and from then on, I got the pails of hot water, and huffed myself and the remains of my wounded fourteen-year-old dignity up the stairs to the bedroom where Mother and I had a luxurious bath in the washtub in the privacy of her cold but large bedroom. Afterwards, we joined Dad and Brian but, of course, next day the bathwater had to be taken downstairs, some heated for the mop bucket, and the remainder sloshed on the garden – nobody wasted water on the prairies!

The next year Dad slated me for boarding school and my first thought was “oh yay, running water and hot baths in a real tub!” Imagine my dismay at finding a list as long as my arm on the door to the bathtub for Saturday night baths – there were 63 girls on three floors and 2 bathtubs. The best that happened after a two hour wait was three inches of tepid hard water and sometimes a roommate who barged in behind you to share it because she had a date for a movie and needed to get ready in a hurry. There was no justice!

All these years later, I still smile in gratitude when I turn on the tap and a lovely stream of hot, soft water flows of its own volition into a nice long tub for a lovely soak and then out again when you just pull a plug! Ahh, such luxury! Who really needs three bathrooms for one family, complete with jets and shower too?

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

100 years ago, in 1915, the Canadian Northern Railway built the Station at Fort Langley, B.C. It cost \$2963.00. The old building has withstood the test of time and is still serving the community and the railroad. It no longer serves as a stop on the great mainland rail line, but serves instead as an active demonstration of railway history.

The site was taken over by the Canadian National Railway in 1918 and the Station was expanded to accommodate larger living quarters for the Station Agent. It is one of the few remaining third class...

...types left in Canada today. CN passenger service was discontinued in 1980 and the stop declared redundant. However, as it had been so valuable to BC and community history, with the help of the CN, the Langley Heritage Society convinced the Township of Langley to designate the Station a Municipal Heritage Building.

This was accomplished in 1983 and, after overcoming many difficulties, Fred Pepin and the Langley Heritage Society volunteers moved the building and restored it at the present site 400 yards east of its former location. It remained facing the mainline and today the engineers can still wave to the people on the platform.

In 1985, there was a Grand Reopening. Important people, like our Chief Justice J. V. Clyne, unveiled the heritage plaque with the help of Mrs. Doris Blair. Mr. W Stevenson represented the CN from Head Office in Winnipeg. Several Provincial and Municipal leaders attended, as well as many guests. The Antique Car Club transported the dignitaries up to the Fort for an 'al fresco' lunch. It was a memorable occasion.

Over the years wonderful people, too many to mention, have donated time and artifacts to the site. Stories are repeated by others related to the various Station Masters and their families. One item in the Waiting Room that brings back memories for many is the trunk donated by the family of Mrs. Bowling, the first war bride to get off the train at the Langley Station to be met by her soldier husband, Mr. Bowling.

Another part of the Station that is of great interest is the Baggage Room, which has housed FLAG, the Fort Langley Artists Group, as tenants for 25 years. Each show has a new theme and the art is excellent. To the east of the Baggage Room is Mrs. Simpson's garden. This was installed and researched by members of the Heritage Society and beautifully maintained for many years by our caretaker/tenant in the station house who was a professional gardener. The new tenants are carrying on also with the help of a local landscape gardener.

Shortly after the revitalization of the actual Station building, the Langley Heritage Society obtained a 1920's Caboose. With the research by one of our early volunteers, Mrs. Evelyn Taylor, the Caboose was refurbished and painted in a 1950's colour scheme. Mrs. Taylor then found friends to install a model railroad on one side. When Gerry Landsman came on board he took over the managing of the Caboose and the model railroad. With Gerry's expertise, this active model railroad display has become a wonderful, fascinating little railway town and draws families to return again and again.

The next acquisition was the 1947 metal coach. It was built in the United States, but spent many years taking workers to the north for BC Rail. After years of disuse it was in very poor condition and it took dedicated volunteers many hours of "dirty work" to bring it back to a useable condition. However, in 1998 the Society rented the coach to the Chamber of Commerce as an information and tourist office with Society volunteers also on site. Today, the volunteers run the site with a Langley Heritage Society CN Station committee, "The Railroaders". The Coach is called the E&E Taylor coach which, recognizes Mrs. Taylor's part in the acquiring and restoration of the 'rolling stock'.

There are also two 'speeders' in the inventory; both are outside. The Velocipede, an 1889 machine lent to the site by the BC Farm Museum, sits in front of the platform where it is a magnet to children who love to sit on it and try to pedal. The other 'speeder' is a 1950s Fairmont gas model, which is housed in a shed with other museum style memorabilia. It is pushed out in good weather and is a natural for family photos and youngsters playing on the speeder and imagining the work of the early railroad workers.

The Langley Heritage Society is proud to be able to display to our families and visitors this excellent demonstration of Canadian and local railway history. It is a privilege that we have been in a position to preserve and conserve this valuable heritage Station and it is thanks to the Directors and members of our Langley Heritage Society and the Railroad volunteers.

**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 24, 2015

Annual General Meeting
Fort Langley Hall

**UPCOMING
MEETINGS & EVENTS**

{March 24, 2015}

Helen Chernoff Freeman & Doukhobors

Helen Chernoff Freeman was born into a Freedomite Doukhobor family in Oliver, BC. After her 8th birthday, she was removed from her home by police and taken to New Denver, forced to live in a residential dormitory as part of the government's forced assimilation. Helen's book, *Girl #85 - A Doukhobor Childhood*, will be available for sale at a cost of \$20.

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

604-533-4055

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