



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE {MAY 2014}

The Heritage Society has always recognized Langley's agricultural history. The Fort on the Fraser River and the Hudson Bay Farm were the real base for the future British Columbia. Water, or the lack of it, was the key to how farming would be practiced.

The Heritage Society manages three pioneer farm homes that are at the southern end of the Hudson Bay farm. They were constructed close to creeks that drained the excellent soil in the winter and provided sub-irrigation for crops and drinking water for livestock in the summer. The Michaud house, the Wark Dumais house and the Dixon house rely on the Nicomekl and its main tributaries for drainage.

Historically, the Nicomekl was a dependable source of drainage; however, the situation is becoming alarming today. The large area that drains toward Milner and Langley City is subject to intense development, and the water run off is becoming a serious concern for infrastructure, homes, and crops. Every roof, driveway, and road adds to the problem. The widening of Glover Road, the railway overpass, and the new car dealerships have created many acres of hard surface. Our houses are becoming dependent on sump pumps because of a lack of planning. Municipalities need to see the problems they are causing and prevent them.

Fred Pepin, LHS President

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“DOWN BY THE STATION” {BY BAYS BLACKHALL}

It is May again and we look forward to opening our historic CN Station. Our committee has been working to get things in order. On May 1st and May 11th FLAG opens the FLAGSTOP gallery in our baggage room and the special show will be part of the Fort Langley Studio Tours. From now on FLAG will be on site with working artists from 12 to 4pm on weekends and holidays. After May Day, the 19th, the Station will be open to the public on weekends from 12 to 4pm and then on Thursdays through Sundays for July and August.

It was a pleasure to visit the site and meet with our caretaker/tenant Gareth Abreo. He and Kaity have been doing a great job of interior decorating and with the help of Gareth's grandparents they have done a lovely job with “Mrs. Simpson's garden”.

Now the season will begin and we will be welcoming families and tourists to visit the history of CN Rail and to wave to large present day trains speeding through the village.

FORT LANGLEY ARTIST'S GROUP {BY MARGO HARRISON}

I will be at the CN Train Station's FLAGSTOP Gallery on May 3rd, 10th and 11th from noon to four o'clock. Drop by for a visit and check out our interpretations of the “Micro / Macro” theme.

There is lots to see in Fort Langley starting May 3rd. Besides our show opening, there is an opening at the Birthplace of BC Gallery, featuring artists Amanda Jones, Perry Haddock and Jack Turpin. My paintings and sculptures are on display there throughout the year.

Furthermore, May 3rd also marks the beginning of the Fort Langley Art Crawl, where the town's galleries and artists feature special events. The Fort Langley Studio Gallery is organizing the “Crawl,” which occurs May 3-4 and May 10-11.

For more information, go to our website www.fortlangleyartistsgroup.com

FARM MUSEUM - VICTORIA CARRIAGE {BY HILARY RUFFINI}

The BC Farm Museum formally launched their beautifully restored Victoria Carriage built by the prestigious Brewster Carriage Co., New York in 1902. Donated by the Nordman Family, the restoration was carried out under the supervision of the Museum's long-time member William Stacey. The official introduction was marked by the unveiling of a plaque which recognizes the



generous financial contribution of the Langley Heritage Society. In celebration, for the first time in many decades, two Friesian horses were hitched and the carriage was driven smartly through the streets of Fort Langley. "I could get used to this life," was the comment by Janice Pickerell who was lucky enough to be the passenger!

SEEDS EXHIBIT OPENING

Thursday, May 1, 2014 saw the opening of the Seeds Exhibit at the BC Farm Museum. Kate Petrusa, the Curator for this exhibit, was very pleased with the large attendance. The guest speakers included Mayor Jack Froese, our own President, Fred Pepin, who congratulated the Farm Museum on their display, and organic farmer, David Catzel, of Glorious Organics Co-Op. David is a very knowledgeable and passionate farmer. He is a huge supporter of seed saving, regularly saving seeds from his own plants and encouraging others to do so. The Langley Heritage Society, among others, donated towards the costs of this exhibit.



THE 2014 HERITAGE FAIR COMPETITION {BY ROSEMARY GENBERG}

Hilary Ruffini, Toots Tucker and myself were very excited for the opportunity to be volunteer judges at the annual Fraser Valley Regional Heritage Fair, held at the Agricultural/Recreational building in Abbotsford on April 23rd, 2014.

The students' enthusiasm and knowledge was truly overwhelming. The MSA Museum Society sponsors the Heritage Fair competition and this event continues to grow, as they will host approximately 150 students from Hope, Chilliwack, Mission, Maple Ridge, Langley, Abbotsford and Surrey, as well as Home School students and Private School students who have qualified for their School Heritage Fairs.



The students worked very hard and were excited to be participating in this Regional event to showcase their Historical projects. Five students from this year's Regional competition will move on to represent their school and the Fraser Valley Region at the Provincial Heritage Fair being held in July this summer. One of the students, Austin, was in Grade 5 from Hatzic, and I have captured part of his display along with his story and photographs.



Austin related during our interview, in his own words: "I am connected to firefighting because of my dad. My dad was a volunteer firefighter for the North Fraser Fire Department for 20 years. Now my dad is a fire fighter for the Coquitlam Fire Department. I chose this topic because I wanted to know more about what my dad does. I received my information by interviewing my father and also from the internet, learning that there is only one type of fire hose and lots



of other facts, such as:

- fire fighters used a horse and wagon as transportation to reach the fires;
- the first fire engine was built in the 1900s;
- during that era wooden ladders were used when fighting a fire;
- no protective breathing apparatus was used;
- horse wagons were called fire horses;
- wooden rattles, bells and drums were used to warn people of fires."

*Left: Austin wearing an original antique fire helmet in front of his display.
Above: Judges Rosemary Genberg, Hilary Ruffini, and Toots Tucker.*

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The LHS Board of Directors have created two new committees:

1. **CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND POLICIES:** The original constitution was created in 1979 and is past due for a makeover. Where do you think our Society should be in 5 years? In 10 years? We are looking for people willing to help develop a vision for the future. Even suggestions on what we could be doing better are requested as knowing what our membership wants is an important part of the process.

2. **DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS:** The Langley Heritage Society needs to show, in an exciting way, to the general public what we believe in, the variety of projects we have undertaken, and our ongoing commitment to Langley's heritage.

Please contact the directors if you are interested in helping out with either of these committees or if you have any suggestions. Email the board through info@langleyheritage.ca or write down your suggestions and mail them to The Langley Heritage Society, Box 982, Fort Langley, BC, V1M 2S3.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR: TOOTS TUCKER

Congratulations to our very own Toots Tucker, who has been named "Woman of the Year" by Beta Sigma Phi Langley at their Founder's Day Dinner on Monday, April 28, 2014. Beta Sigma Phi is an international women's organization with several chapters in Langley.

LHS SCHOOL PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP: THANK YOU LETTERS

As many of you know, the Langley Heritage Society sponsors children's classes in Langley to attend programs at the Langley Centennial Museum. These two lovely thank you letters were received via the LHS website from teachers at Parkside Centennial Elementary, Aldergrove, and Shortreed Elementary, Aldergrove, respectively. Names have been removed for privacy.

To Whom It May Concern,

Our Grade one class just attended the program at the Langley Centennial Museum called Fraser Valley Families. In our Social Studies unit we had been learning about and comparing Aboriginal, Pioneer and Contemporary Families. This program was a great way to tie together and solidify what had been learned in class. The docents did an excellent job of presenting the material in an interesting and engaging way. The children enjoyed learning about, looking at and touching Aboriginal and Pioneer artifacts. Their favourite part was playing the games (Slahal and Ring Toss). As a class, we have made a Thank You booklet to the Museum and hope that you may see it, too.

We want to thank you, the Langley Heritage Society, for sponsoring and paying for the program and transportation for us! Many of the families in our class could not afford to go otherwise. One of the students said that this was his first time going to a museum. Another student was counting down the days to the museum field trip like counting down for Christmas. It was a great experience for the children. Thank you, very much!

To the Langley Heritage Society,

I would like to say a big thank you for supporting our class educational experience. Our class had a wonderful time at the Langley Centennial Museum on Thursday, April 24, thanks to your program support. All of the students enjoyed the educational experience. Thank you so much for all your efforts. They are appreciated and the field trip was a success. The students were filled with smiles and laughter and shared the experience with other staff and family members once we returned to the school. The students said "it was awesome". A positive experience for everyone was enjoyed by your generous efforts and funding.