



Langley Heritage Society

{MAY 2015}

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 {MAY 2015}

Our Annual General Meeting and Dinner, which was held at the Fort Langley Community Hall on April 24, was beautifully decorated with green and white table settings which gave a gala atmosphere. We had nearly 80 attendees thanks to the social committee members who sold tickets for the dinner and helped make it such a special evening.

Thanks also to Sharon for redoing our display panels. One display shows the 100 year history of the CN Station and reminds everyone of the enormous effort of the society's members over the years to preserve this site for the benefit of our community and visitors. The other display shows most of the buildings that the Society has helped to restore during our thirty-five history. We appreciate the vision and dedication of our past and present members for the many projects that have been completed over the years.

Thanks to Linda who organized the door prizes, which had been donated by Jane Watt and Harry Van Gendoron. These were much appreciated, with Karl getting a whistle for his birthday and several others choosing one of the books available.

Syd organized the election of directors for 2015. We thank Ted Lightfoot and Nick Bilouzenko, who did not stand for re-election. They are dedicated supporters who have found the demands on their time too difficult. We welcome two new directors, Tom Annandale and Mark Forsythe, who were elected to join the continuing directors — Fred Pepin, Mike Frost, Kay McComish, Lotte Elias, Carol Briner, Toots Tucker, Sharon Johnson, Bob Armstrong, Ellen Worrell, and Dave Buckley.

We hope to see many of our members and friends at the station during June 20 and 21 when we celebrate the anniversary of the station and also at Canada Day celebration at the Langley Centennial Museum. Don't forget the Pepin picnic on August 23.

Fred Pepin
LHS President

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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

“THE LANGLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY’S UPDATED MISSION AND MANDATE”

The Board of Directors have worked hard to improve the mission, mandate and vision of the society.

Mission:

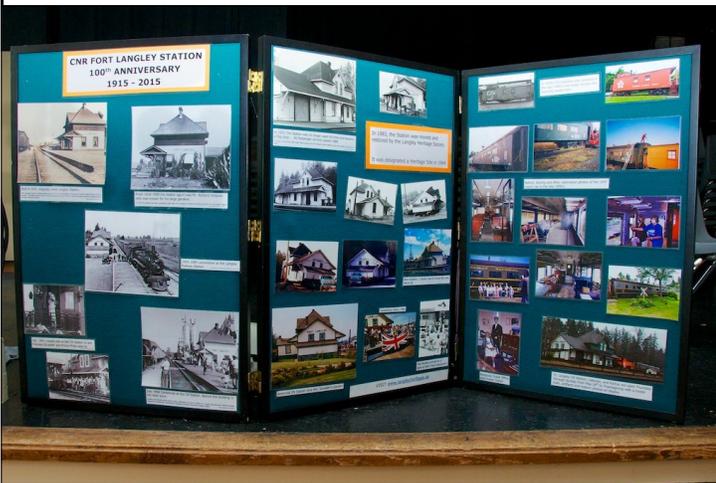
The Langley Heritage Society’s mission is to preserve and foster conservation of Langley’s heritage resources for present and future generations.

Mandate:

The Langley Heritage Society provides stewardship for Langley’s heritage through acquisition, conservation, restoration, education and appreciation. We inform our members and the general public about all aspects of our rich cultural history.

“AGM 2015”

The AGM this year was wonderfully organized, catered and attended. Elections for the society’s Board of Director’s went smoothly; please welcome the LHS directors for the upcoming year: Fred Pepin, Mike Frost, Lotte Elias, Ellen Worrell, Kay McComish, Toots Tucker, Carol Briner, Sharon Johnson, Bob Armstrong, Dave Buckley, with two new directors: Mark Forsythe and Tom Annandale. Below are a few photographs of the event courtesy of photographer, Glenn Disney.



“CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LIGHTFOOTS” {BY MAUREEN PEPIN}

Congratulations to Langley Heritage Society members Lynda and Ted Lightfoot for winning the John and Muriel Arnason Award presented to them at the recent Volunteer Dinner hosted by the Township of Langley. The award is presented to two people who are advocates of literacy, culture, and who work together as a team to make the Township a better place.

Ted was born in Langley, where he grew up on a chicken farm and graduated from LSS before attending UBC to obtain his BSc. He taught science for five years at Steveston Sr. High before becoming a full-time builder. Lynda was born in Kingston and grew up in Ontario and Quebec. She attended McGill and later UBC, studying microbiology. She is a certified ESL teacher, and sold real estate in Abbotsford for fifteen years. She also lobbied to get French Immersion in the Abbotsford schools.

After marrying, they lived in Vancouver where Lynda worked in the research labs at the Red Cross. They spent one summer motoring around the United Kingdom which began a love of history, antiques, and heritage.

In 1972, they started their life-long career of finding houses that needed rescuing. Their first project was a rancher, which was sitting on a lot slated for development. They had 30 days to find a lot, hire house movers, cut the roof off, and barge the two sections to Ladner where they restored the building and lived in it for two years. Their next project was a church in Rosedale, which they renovated, incorporating the arched windows plus some glass windows from the Birks building. They left the steeple intact and then lived there for another two years. Their next big project involved the purchase of five acres in Bradner where they built a home where they lived for the next 31 years while they raised their family of two children and multiple dogs. They kept on restoring as part of Ted's construction business, including one rancher which had to be cut in three and moved to its new site.

In the 1990s, they were fortunate to be able to purchase the Accountant's House in Clayburn Village, and later the Plant Manager's house, which became the Fraser Valley Home Builders' Renovation Demonstration House for 1996. Their most challenging project was designing and building a typical Norwegian cottage on Thetis Island. It was built at the Fort Langley floatplane base and barged across the strait to Thetis Island.

Their present home, the Leaf house on 272nd in Langley, was purchased in 2004 from the Township, but it was almost derelict (no doors left, few windows, vandalized interior, and crumbling foundation). The Leaf brothers, James and Henry, and their families lived on Jackman Road after they immigrated from Yorkshire, England, Jim's house was sold to Mr. Lee, a watchmaker, and eventually ended up being owned by the Township. The Lightfoots moved it to a new foundation, added a new rear addition, salvaged some of the original flooring, and used reclaimed beams, doors, etc. before it became the comfortable home which won the Heritage Conservation Award. They later restored the Norris Station to become an outer building on the property.

Over the years, the Lightfoots have saved about fifteen homes from the wrecking ball and prevented tons of materials from ending in the land-fill.

They have belonged to the Clayburn Village Society and the New Westminster Heritage Society, and have been members of the Langley Heritage Society since 2005.

Together they spearheaded and worked tirelessly with the Hands on Heritage initiative to challenge the Township's disregard for their own Guidelines for the Heritage Conservation area in Fort Langley.

“DOWN BY THE STATION” {BY BAYS BLACKHALL}

The weather was beautiful on April 8th when the work party was held in Mrs. Simpson’s Garden, although we could not hear ourselves speak as the noise of the hanging of the huge steel beams across the street was so loud all day. However, Barb Bryson, our landscape/gardener, kept us all busy digging out the overgrown weeds and plants and spreading topsoil. Everyone did an outstanding job with so much energy it exhausted me just to work with them but the garden is really shaping up.

There is still repair work to be done on the entrances to the Coach and the Caboose, but we hope all will be in readiness for May 24th.

Now to the plans for the 100th anniversary! Things are well underway guided by Barb Nelson, our Event Planner, and her able assistant, Calla Krause. They will be helping us out with handouts, volunteers and media coverage for the celebration season. We look forward to enjoying the events we plan with all our LHS members. It is an opportunity to work together.

Looking Forward and Backward to Fort Langley May Day

Spring is a wonderful time of year and one our best events in the Township of Langley is the Fort Langley May Day celebration of Queen Victoria’s birthday.

May Day dates back to the Romans, who gaily paid homage to spring with May Pole dancing, parades, fairs and the crowning of the fair young May Queen. Today, we carry on the tradition in Fort Langley but instead of May 1st as the special day, we celebrate on the nearest Monday to the 24th to honour Queen Victoria’s birthday (at her decree, I believe).

As the longest continuous celebration in the province, Fort Langley’s May Day began 93 years ago, when Alex Houston and his wife hosted the party on their property on the river in front of their home (now the restored Houston House in Derby Reach Park) on Allard Crescent. Since those early days, at least in my memory, the Fort Langley Community Hall and the village have been the center of the festivities.

The first event is the Native Daughters Tea, held two weeks before May Day when the May Queen and the Royal Party are elected. A cherished citizen is appointed the “Queen Mother.” The students are chosen from the local schools and the tea is a lovely white table cloth affair combined with a special sale of spring plants and baking.

In the meantime, the elementary schools in the Township have special teachers and volunteers who prepare the children for “dancing around the May Pole”, which is such a part of the traditional May Day.

The BIG day starts with a very special “Queen’s Breakfast” attended by important dignitaries, local

community leaders and the Royal Party. The latter includes the May Queen, the May Queen elect, two Maids of Honour, Miss Canada, several Princesses representing their schools, flower girls and page boys and RCMP escort in serge. The MC plays a valuable role.

In recent years, the public has enjoyed a wonderful pancake breakfast put on by the Fort Langley Lions who now organize the parade that has proven to be a great success with the community. There is a large variety of entries, a Parade Marshall and other dignitaries in special conveyances and beautiful floats, which includes the Royal May Queen's Float with the RCMP escort. The parade ends at the nearby park where there is a Royal procession to the Bandstand, Crowning of the May Queen, the speeches, the jolly young students May Pole Dancing, games, races, rides and fun for all. An historic celebration you shouldn't miss!

“UPCOMING EVENTS — SPRING & SUMMER”

As this is the last newsletter for the program year, please take special note of the below events which will be happening over the spring and summer of 2015. Your next LHS newsletter will arrive in September of 2015.

May 6 - August 9 - “Can't Catch Me: A Look Back at the Langley Speedway” exhibit is on at the Langley Centennial Museum.

May 9 - October 21 - Fort Langley Village Farmer's Market. Saturdays from 10:00am-3:00pm.

May 18 - May Day Parade in Fort Langley. Watch out for the Langley Heritage Society's entry with the CN Station Speeder and banners for the 100th anniversary celebrations.

June 19 & 20 - The highly anticipated 100th anniversary of the CN Station. At 1:00pm the station will be open, with the Camera Club having a special railway exhibit in the Baggage Room.

July 1, 11:00am-3:00pm - Canada Day Exhibit at the Langley Centennial Museum with the society's new and improved display boards. Please note that we are currently looking for volunteers to help with this event.

July 1 - Free admission to the Fort Langley National Historic Site for Canada Day.

July 17 - 19 - The 103rd annual Aldergrove Fair Days.

August 1 - 3 - “Brigade Day” on at the Fort Langley National Historic Site.

August 15 & 16 - CN Station Anniversary.

August 23, 4:00pm-8:00pm - Pepin Picnic.

**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

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