

Langley Heritage Society

{Winter 2018}

Langley Heritage Society
P.O. Box 982
Fort Langley, B.C.
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"Providing the window into the past to preserve Langley's heritage for today and tomorrow"

President's Message - Winter 2018

{By Fred Pepin}

The Langley Heritage Society has been very active since the end of the summer. Our fall events have attracted a good turnout of members and have been much enjoyed. Speakers have shown great pictures of World War I planes and the celebration of Vimy, plus an interesting story of a house restoration in Vancouver. We learned what an amazing history can be lost when a heritage house is destroyed. Fortunately, the house described and restored by John Atkins was preserved.

We held an open house at the 1910 Harrower in Murrayville in October. Our tenants of nineteen years have purchased a home in Summerland, and we now have a new caretaker. Joe and Becky and family were appreciated, as all our caretakers are, for their great care of the buildings and surroundings. We wish them health and happiness in their future.

Mark and the students from Brookwood Secondary are continuing to produce videos for our website. Recently, we enjoyed the participation of members of the Latimer family who came over from Vancouver Island to see the restoration of the house.

Our annual Douglas Day dinner was a great success, and I wish to thank those who assisted in the preparation of the event as well as the donation of door prizes.

Fred Pepin
LHS President

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Want to Know More?

Langley Heritage Society
is online and updated!

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

Toots Tucker Receives Canada 150 Award

Long-time Langley Heritage Society volunteer and former board member Gertrude "Toots" Tucker has been honoured with a *Canada 150 Community Award*. Cloverdale-Langley City MP, John Aldag, presented the award to Toots and 19 other volunteers and advocates. Toots has given her time and energy to numerous organizations since 1953, including: Langley Lodge, Langley Seniors Centre, Canadian Cancer Society, Langley Centennial Museum, Fields Naturalists and other community groups. We're really proud of you, Toots!



Vimy Flight: Birth of a Nation {By Mark Forsythe}

Allan Snowie (R) and Al French (L) recounted their remarkable *Vimy Flight: Birth of a Nation* tour during October's Speaker Night. They were instrumental in organizing the 100th anniversary commemoration that saw replica bi-planes soar above the Vimy monument. (The aircrafts were then flown back across Canada.) Al Snowie also carried some aviation history with him: he's holding a flying cap and gloves originally worn by WWI flying ace, Joseph Fall of Cobble Hill, B.C. Al wore the cap and gloves during his flight over the monument. Captain Fall's family recently donated them to Langley's *Canadian Museum of Flight*. His son Mike recounted Joe Fall's accomplishments during a talk at the museum in 2015:

By December 1917, he had brought down 36 enemy aircraft and two observation balloons. He was awarded the DSC 2 more times making him the only pilot in history to hold the DSC with 2 bars for

gallantry in the air. The unofficial title of "ACE" was given to pilots who claimed 5 confirmed victories in the air. Excluding time spent as a bomber pilot and other duties, on April 23rd 1917, Joe Fall became an ace in just 21 days. Five days later, on April 28th Raymond Collishaw of Nanaimo claimed his fifth victory and, on the very same day, a young German Lieutenant, one Herman Goring also became an ace in the Vimy area. Joe Fall exhibited amazing flying and marksmanship skills and scored an incredible 36 victories in just 9 months of a five-year war.

For more information and videos about Vimy Flight: Birth of a Nation, visit www.vimyflight.ca/



Royal Engineer to Reeve Exhibit At Langley Centennial Museum

Explore the life of Philip Jackman, a Royal Engineer who came to British Columbia in 1859 and later became Reeve of Langley. Jackman opted for a life of adventure and opportunity, leaving his small farming village of Northlew, Devon, England to endure a six-month voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to British Columbia. He and other engineers quickly engaged in laying out the infrastructure for the new colony; building the provincial capital of New Westminster, surveying and constructing towns and roads, and altering rivers for safer passage. On display until February 25, 2018.

Harrower House Open House {By Mark Forsythe}



After 19 years, the tenants living at Harrower House in Murrayville have moved on to a new home. This provided an opportunity for Langley Heritage Society members and others to have a peak inside this home restored by the Society. Fred Pepin had made some minor repairs and added new carpet, and Dave Hockin painted inside before the open house. The doors were opened for an afternoon, with snacks served up by Donna Buckley and Rosemary Genberg.

Visitors at the open house included a young couple from Pitt Meadows who were planning to restore an 1880s house on their family's farm. They quizzed Fred on the finer points of restoration - as did another man with similar plans near Aldergrove. Langley Heritage Society members were also pleased to see how well Harrower House has been maintained since it was restored in 1998.



Remembrance Day 2017

{By Mark Forsythe}

Remembrance Day took on added significance in 2017 with the restoration of Murrayville's cenotaph by the Township of Langley and the introduction of a formal ceremony by local Langley Heritage Society members Rosemary Genberg and Grace Muller. Rosemary was motivated by a personal connection: "My grandfather is buried in Murrayville. He was a WWI veteran. It has bothered me that there has not been a service at the Murrayville Cenotaph... so this year I decided to do something about it." The community response was overwhelming, with more than 300 people attending. The restored cenotaph is a twin to the one erected in Fort Langley in 1921; more than 500 veterans are buried at the two cemeteries. Langley Heritage Society members also laid wreaths at services in Langley City, Aldergrove and Fort Langley. *Photographs by Glenn Disney.*



LHS Heritage Social Lunch

You are invited to our LHS Heritage Social Lunch on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at Milner Chapel.

HERITAGE WEEK UPDATES from 11:30pm to 12:45pm

February 19 - 25 is Heritage Week, and the Committee is working on arranging some of our local heritage partners to provide a short update on their plans.

HERITAGE SOCIAL LUNCH from 12:45pm to 1:45pm

Following the speakers, a light lunch will be served. This will be a time to visit and socialize with fellow members. This lunch is complimentary, but we would appreciate an RSVP to info@langleyheritage.ca if you plan to attend.

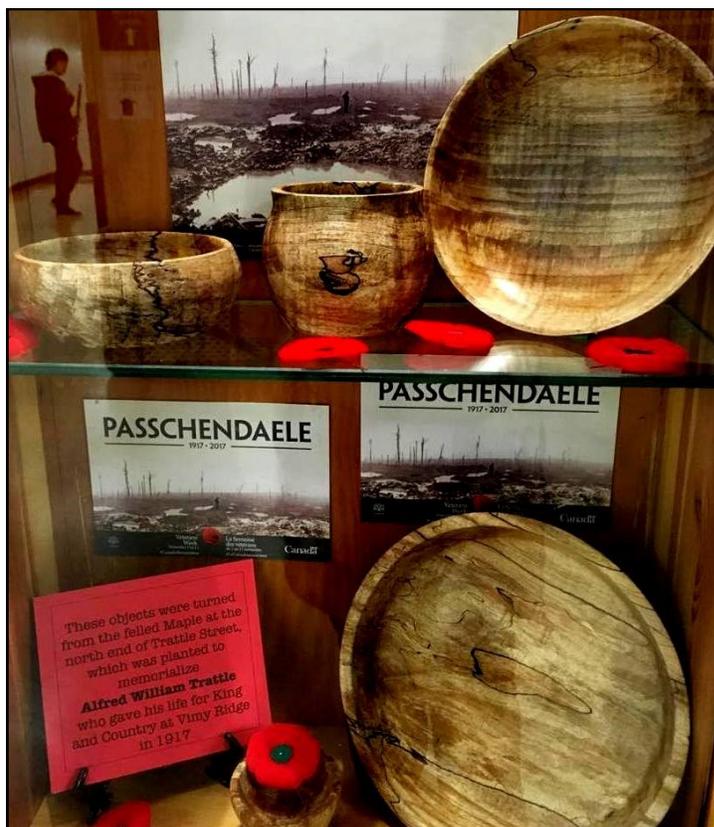
There will be more information about this at our next Speaker presentation on Tuesday, January 23rd, at Milner Chapel. Questions? Please email us at: info@langleyheritage.ca.

Inspired Commemoration: Students Honor WW1 Soldier

{By Mark Forsythe}

The Great War claimed almost 61,000 Canadian lives, including dozens of soldiers from Langley. After the war, veterans Archie Payne and Dr. Benjamin Marr led a campaign to honour those lost by planting maple trees and renaming local streets. Alfred William Trattle was one of those remembered. He served with the 47th Battalion and was killed by an enemy shell near Vimy on May 27th, 1917. The street in Fort Langley still bears his name, but the maple tree planted in his memory died from disease; a sugar maple sapling was recently planted to replace it. Students at Langley Fine Arts School, which is located on Trattle Street, have salvaged wood from the fallen tree to craft beautiful bowls to once again honour Alfred Trattle, one hundred years after his death. They're on display at the school, with photos of Alfred, the muddy battle fields and the original maple tree planted at the corner of Trattle and 96th (Brenda Alberts Way).

Congratulations to the students for their inspired commemoration. Just one street to the west is Wright Street, named after the brother of Alfred Trattle's wife, Jesse Wright. He was killed during the Vimy Ridge battle one month earlier. Lest we forget.



Thank you, Dave!



David Hockin is one of the skilled trades people we count on to keep Langley Heritage Society buildings in good shape. In just the last year, he has repaired and painted Michaud House in Langley City, the Wark/Dumais Farmhouse at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, the Dixon House on Glover Road, inside the Harrower House in Murrayville, and the CN Station in Fort Langley. The 1920s wooden CN caboose required replacement of rotten boards and some fresh paint. It will also get a repaint of the classic CN logo in the spring. Thank you for all of your fine work, Dave! *Photograph by Hannah Bennett.*

Douglas Day Dinner 2017

{By Tom Hammel}

The Douglas Day Dinner was held at the Fort Langley Community Hall on November 16th. Fred Pepin welcomed approximately 70 people to this annual social dinner, which celebrates Sir James Douglas, the first governor of the Colony of British Columbia. As Fred pointed, Douglas wisely asserted the authority of the British Empire during the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush, in the face of hordes of Americans entering the territory. Ellen Edwards introduced speaker John Atkin, who gave a fascinating presentation on his Vancouver heritage home, built in the 1890s by the foremen of the BC Electric's Powerhouse. John faced many challenges in restoring the home and also spent time researching its history. That history includes its purchase by owners that started the Venice Bakery and the use of the home as a Chinese gambling operation. *Photographs by Glenn Disney.*



LHS Website - Call for Stories

The Langley Heritage Society website has had some wonderful community stories featured on it. Thank you to those who have sent their stories in! It would be great to have more members send us their stories with photos. To share your story, email us at info@langleyheritage.ca.

Looking at Langley History: The Arnold Family

{By Maureen Pepin}

Elmer and Bessie Arnold, and their son, Norris, moved to Trans-Canada Hwy and Coghlan in 1938. Elmer was born in 1895 near Kingston, Ontario, and then moved to Alberta with his family. Bessie was born in Scotland in 1911, and married Elmer in Alberta in 1932. In 1937, they moved to Victoria as they found Alberta too cold. The following year, the family moved to the Fraser Valley where they bought a farm on Otter Road. They had two more children: Bruce (1939) and Shirley (1941).

The Arnolds had dairy cattle and shipped milk to the FVM Producers' Association in cans that were picked up by truck. They also sold chickens and eggs, tended to a large garden, and had a big orchard. The first years were difficult, as Elmer worked in the shipyard in North Vancouver during the war, leaving Bessie to run the farm and look after the children.

The farm changed over the years, growing from a three-room house and lots of stumps to a new house in about 1950. They continued to use horses to pull machinery until 1966, when Elmer and Bessie retired. Elmer died in 1971 and Bessie died in 1987. None of the children stayed on the farm.

Director's Property Tour

{By Mark Forsythe}

Langley Heritage Society directors began the new year with a tour of the properties managed by the society. President Fred Pepin described what it took to save and preserve each of these



buildings, cared for by our tenants. These heritage buildings are very much alive in 2018. Photos include C.A.R.E.S. cat shelter at Moir House property, Lamb-Stirling House, Harrower House and Dixon House. For more information about our properties, visit our website. You can also find walking tours of Fort Langley and Murrayville on our website, which show heritage buildings in those areas.

Langley Heritage Society 2017-2018 Speaker Schedule

Members' meetings occur on the fourth Tuesday of September, October, January, and March at 7:30pm at historic Milner Chapel, located at 6716 - 216th Street. Stay for social time after.

September 26, 2017

Speaker: Brian Pegg

Topic: Indigenous Archaeology

October 24, 2017

Speaker: Allan Snowie

Topic: Canadian Museum of Flight's Vimy Ridge Anniversary

November 16, 2017

Douglas Day Potluck

Speaker: John Atkin

Topic: His 1890s Restored Home

January 23, 2018

Speaker: Chelsea Bailey

Topic: Life and Times of Surrey Photographer, Neville Curtis

March 27, 2018

Speaker: Donald Luxton

Topic: Township of Langley Historic Context and Framework

Friday, April 20, 2018

Annual General Meeting

Location: Fort Langley Community Hall

Speaker: Sharanjit Sandhra

Topic: Sikh Heritage Museum and National Historic Site Gur Sikh Temple

Upcoming Programs and Events

{January 23, 2018}

Chelsea Bailey & Neville Curtis' Photographs

Chelsea Bailey holds a Master of Archival Studies and a Master of Library and Information Studies. Her presentation is on Neville Curtis. His family emigrated to Canada from England around 1911 and then moved to Surrey in the 1920s. His father operated Curtis Dry Goods, a grocery store on Cloverdale's Main Street. Neville free-lanced as a writer and photographer for many Lower Mainland newspapers. He would work as an advertising editor of the Langley Advance from 1959 until his death in May 1969. His photograph collection prominently features the landscapes and community events held in Surrey and Langley during the 50s/60s. Chelsea will bring copies of the recently released *Surrey Stories* book to sell. Written by local author Jane Watt, it will be available for \$25.

{February 24, 2018}

LHS Heritage Social

Please see page four for further details.

Supporters & Suppliers

The Langley Heritage Society wishes to express our gratitude to supporters who contribute to our projects.

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