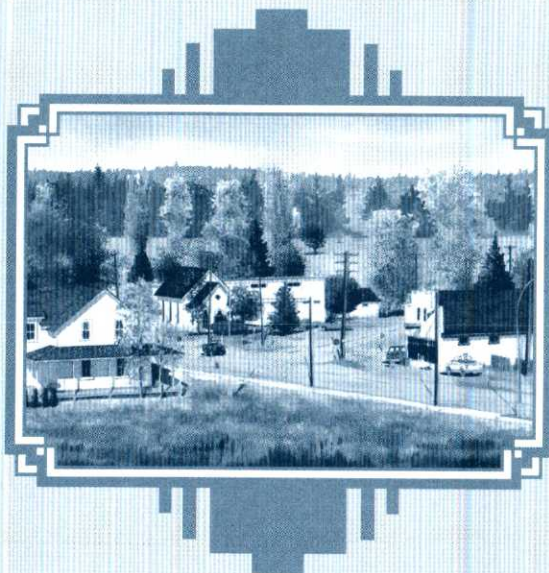# Langley Heritage Society

Murrayville Walking Tour

1. Murrayville – *Front Cover*

Murrayville takes its name from the first settlers to the area, Paul and Lucy Murray and their three sons John, Billy and Alex. In 1875, the father and all three sons received Crown grants for 160 acre homesteads on each of the four corners of what is now the intersection of 48 Avenue and 216 Street. "Murray's Corners" was renamed Murrayville in 1911.

2. Hagerty Residence

21542 – 48 Ave

Built circa 1910 by Charlie and Hugh Hagerty, the house was restored by Coward and Harper, realtors. The house is a foursquare structure, with an open front verandah and a central entry between two symmetrical bay windows. Recent owners have added a new wing on the west side.

3. Murrayville Garage

21502/21488 Old Yale Rd

Built in the early 1900s for the Monahan family, the garage was taken over by Arthur Anderson in 1912. Arthur shoed horses and his son Benny operated a service station in the new addition built in 1922.

4. J. W. Berry Residence & Barn

(Belmont Dairy Farm)
21151 Old Yale Rd

This large farmhouse and dairy barn were built circa 1901-2 by J.W. Berry, a prominent Langley resident (local and provincial governments, F.V.M.P.A.)

5. Langley Municipal Airport and The Cdn Museum of Flight

5333 – 216 St

The airport was established during WW II as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. The Municipality purchased it in 1967 and now operates it as a municipal airport. It is home to the Canadian Museum of Flight.

6. Sharon United Church

21562 Old Yale Rd

Originally called Langley Prairie Presbyterian, this church was built in 1890 and named from the Song of Solomon, Chapter 2, Verse 1: "I am the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys." The pews from Royal City Mills in New Westminster were hauled across the frozen Fraser River on sleds. In 2004, a new sanctuary was built to the north of the heritage church and hall.

7. Pumphouse

21500 Old Yale Rd

Originally, Rod Cummings pumped water, using a hydraulic ram for pressure, from his artesian well to the school and Municipal Hall at the top of the hill. An electric pump was installed in the newly built pumphouse in 1928. The overflow was collected in a cement tank, which supplied water to passing horses and cattle. The pump was shut off in 1982 when the school joined the Municipal Water System. It is located on the right of way and is currently owned by the Township of Langley.

8. Bishop House

21500 Old Yale Rd

The Mathews family operated a store on the southeast corner of Five Corners in the 1920s, but in 1935 built a new store, the Murrayville Cash Grocery, on the southwest corner. They lived in the back and delivered groceries in the area. In 1950, the Bishop family bought the store and renovated the building.

9. Porter's General Store

21611 – 48 Ave

This is the third store built on the northeast corner of Old Yale and Townline (216) Roads. The first (1889) was operated by Hugh Davidson and Robert Riddell, who sold to John Berry and David Coulter in 1897. P.Y. Porter purchased the business in 1916, and with his Ford delivery truck supplied the entire area around Murrayville. The present building, facing 48 Avenue, was built in 1939. When P.Y. died in 1988, the store was taken over by his son Eldon, who had worked in the post office since 1961. Since Eldy's death in 1997, his daughter and her husband have refurbished the store and now operate a coffee and tea house.

10. P.Y. Porter Residence

4786 – 217A St

The Porter family home has recently been renovated and moved to the corner of 48 Avenue and 217A Street.

11. Travellers' Hotel

21628 – 48 Ave

The Travellers' Hotel was built in 1887 by Billy Murray. The hotel had a large annex, a bar, a restaurant and a horse barn at the back. The hotel accommodated about 20 people. The property is now leased from the Township by Wally and Sharon Martin, who have restored the building and run it as a bed and breakfast.

12. James Harrower Residence

4880 – 216 St

This house, with its wraparound verandah with open screen work, baluster and a projecting semi-octagonal bay on the south façade, was built in 1912 by James Harrower, brother-in-law to David Lamb.

13. Presbyterian Manse

4822 – 216 St

Built circa 1906, this house was transferred to the "Continuing Presbyterians" after unification in 1925.

14. Archibald McCrimmon Residence

21640 – 48 Ave

This house, built circa 1889 for the McCrimmon family, was used over the years as a boarding house, post office, rental house and various offices.

15. Murrayville Community Hall

21667 – 48 Ave

The original hall was a two-storey structure with a large open hall above and shops below, including Art Johnston's General Store, Mrs. Johnston's hat shop and Gosling's Toy Factory. The building was destroyed in the fire of 1924 and a new hall was built in 1928.

16. Saint Nicholas Cdn. Orthodox Church

4828 – 216A (Church St)

During the unification movement in 1925, Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalist churches amalgamated as the United Church of Canada. Some members of the Sharon Presbyterian parish broke away to form their own congregation and built this new building which is now used as an Orthodox Church.

17. Murrayville Elementary/ Belmont School

21812 – 48 Ave

Built in 1911, this building served as the local school, Langley High School and the Murrayville Public School. The oak trees in the front of the school were planted in 1911.

18. Robert Harrower Residence

21860 Old Yale Rd

Built in 1908–10 by Robert and Mary Harrower, the house is two storeys high with a side gable roof and an entry porch on the east side. When it was restored by the Langley Heritage Society, a service addition was added at the rear.

19. Lamb/Stirling Residence

21864 Old Yale Rd

Built 1908-10 by David Lamb, the house was sold to the Stirling family in 1922. The house features an open front verandah and large upper floor, which is reached by stairs from the west side of the house. The house was relocated to this site from 48 Avenue by a developer and restored by the Langley Heritage Society.
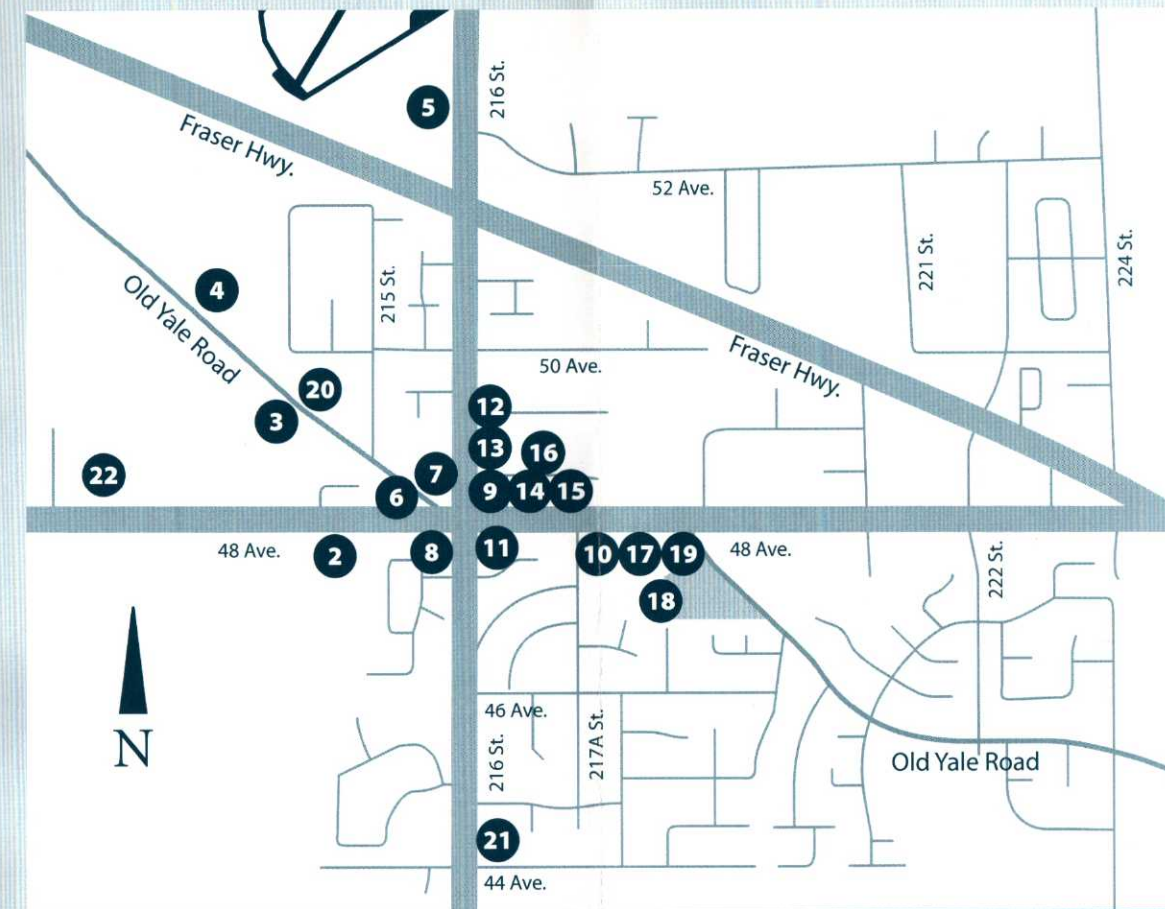
20. Old Yale Road

This road, named for Hudson Bay Factor James Murray Yale, was built in 1872. The two-mile section between Murrayville and Langley Prairie was cemented in 1922. It was part of the Trans Canada Highway in the 1930s, but Murrayville was by-passed in 1933 when the highway went up the Hospital Hill. It is now part of the Five Corners intersection.

21. Johnston/Townline Road/216 St

Originally, 216 St was called Townline because in the survey of the Township, a Townline Road existed every six miles. It was renamed Johnston/Townline Road after WW I in honour of Art Johnston, who was killed in 1916. Johnston/Townline is the north/south portion of Five Corners.

22. Isaacson/Trigg/ Simonds/McDonald/

48 Ave

The west/east road through Five Corners has had many names over the years, reflecting the names of pioneer farmers (Trigg, Isaacson) and soldiers killed in WW I (Hazelette Simonds, Gordon McDonald and Jim McDonald).

Map Legend