

"Providing the window into the past to preserve Langley's heritage for today and tomorrow"

President's Message

The weather was kind to us when the directors toured our properties in October. Thanks to the tenants for the welcome that was extended and for the great care that is being taken of these heritage sites.

The weather also brought out record crowds to the CN Station site during the Cranberry Festival weekend. The Station is closed for the winter, but work continues in preparation for next season. For the volunteers, Helen arranged a guided tour of the well-displayed collection at the BC Farm Museum before we enjoyed lunch in Fort Langley.

The social committee and everyone involved in Douglas Day are to be thanked for the excellent dinner and great speaker, Michael Kluckner, who provided us with a well-researched story of Julie Henshaw.

Again this year, we participated in all four Remembrance Day ceremonies in Langley. The events held at Murrayville Cenotaph have grown in four years from non-existent to 700 people, thanks to the efforts of some of our members.

Sadly, we have lost three Heritage Society supporters who contributed in many ways to the community spirit in Langley. It was my good fortune to know Peter Genberg, Mae Smith and Norman Severide. The Board extends condolences to their friends and families.

I hope 2019 will be kind to you and yours.

Fred Pepin
LHS President

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Thankful for our Volunteers



A big round of thanks goes out to all our volunteers who gave of their time to staff and support the Fort Langley CN Station over the 2018 season.

This year's volunteer appreciation day started at the BC Farm Museum. Volunteers were treated to a guided tour of the largest collection of pioneer and agricultural artifacts in BC followed by a light lunch in the village.

Bays Honoured: BC Medal of Good Citizenship

Bob Blackhall accepted the BC Medal of Good Citizenship on behalf of his late wife Bays (Joan) Blackhall on December 4, 2018. This award "recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the well-being of their communities". As Warren Sommer eloquently wrote:

"The historic village of Fort Langley is regarded as a charming reminder of a gentler age and a slower pace of life, evoking a time when neighbours supported one another and worked

for the common good. That Fort Langley has built and sustained this enviable reputation is largely due to the efforts of a single person, Bays Blackhall. Her devotion to Fort Langley was legendary.



Blackhall was one of a kind. She was visionary, determined, hardworking and caring. She laboured long and hard for many endeavours, not for personal gain, but for the benefit of the community."

Lest We Forget

Thousands of citizens, including veterans, cadets, scouts, guides and choirs, participated in 2018 Remembrance Day ceremonies in the Langleys.

The ceremony at Murrayville has been revived over the last two years, thanks to the efforts of Langley Heritage Society members Rosemary Genberg, Grace Muller, Sylvia Anderson and others.

The Murrayville cenotaph was also restored by the Township of Langley two years ago. It is a twin to the Fort Langley monument, where more than 5,000 people attended this year's ceremony. Some 2,000 people came out for the Aldergrove ceremony, and several thousand stood beside the monument at Langley City's Douglas Park.

This year was especially significant, marking the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice. Langley Heritage Society places wreaths at all four Langley memorial sites each year.



Photos: Murrayville Remembrance Day Ceremony



Share Your Family Photos With Us

We're eager to receive more family images that help tell the story of life in the Langleys.

Please send your photos and story through the Langley Heritage Society Facebook page or email to: info@langleyheritage.ca. Some images will also be shared with the Langley Centennial Museum for their archive collection.



Douglas Day Dinner

A glass was raised in honour of the Father of British Columbia. For on November 19 (160 years ago) James Douglas proclaimed the Mainland Colony of British Columbia right here in Fort Langley.

As Mark Forsythe shared with us, Douglas had a multicultural view of life and was a man of action. He invited Blacks to dig for gold, made alliances with First Nations and signed the first treaties with indigenous peoples. He had many critics, but in the



end we must thank Sir James Douglas for this magnificent land was not swallowed up by the United States.

Dinner was followed with speaker Michael Kluckner talking about his graphic biography, *Julia: The Life & Times of an Extraordinary Woman*. Julia Henshaw was a decorated WWI ambulance driver who had strong expressed views of women's roles, voting rights as well as racial and class issues.



Down By the Station

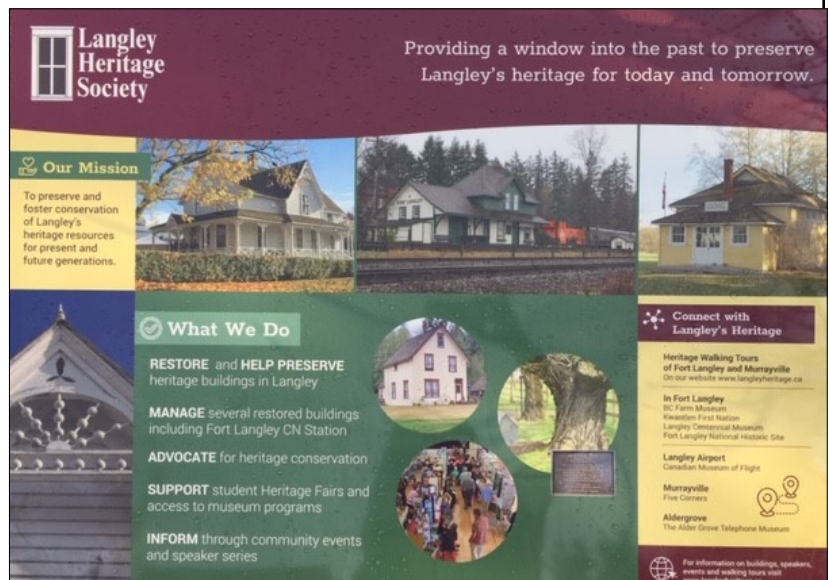
Since the closure of the CN Station to the public in October, CN Station Manager Helen Williams and Committee members have been working on some site improvements.

In December, two new information signs were installed to replace the existing weathered outdoor signs; one presenting some interesting historical facts on the CN Station site and the other providing information about what the Langley Heritage Society does. We are grateful to Sharon Johnson for her guidance and her time overseeing the sign project from start to finish.

Our painter, Dave Hockin carried out interior painting at the station to spruce things up. Dave, Helen and Gerry Landsman (the architect of our caboose model railway) have been consolidating office equipment in the station master's office to make it more in keeping with the 1920s.

A burst water pipe flooded the crawl space below the station in November resulting in some water damage. President Fred Pepin repaired the pipe and will schedule a full copper pipe replacement next summer. Helen, Dave and Mark Forsythe removed the soaked items from the crawl and coal shed for disposal and Dave bleached the remaining items to prevent rot. This cleanup effort revealed some maintenance issues on site, and the CN Station Committee is investigating measures to improve drainage including gutters and additional venting.

On a positive note, the Township of Langley will be installing a retaining wall to stabilize the slope off the north side of Mavis Avenue east of the existing stairway. This will include a railing and a widening of the sidewalk along the north side of Mavis with an opportunity to install some benches. This work will be done next Spring.



Flag Stop - Story by Diane Simpson

There was no daily passenger train that stopped in Fort Langley in the late 1960s, but it was possible to have the transcontinental flyer stopped for a passenger travelling across Canada—Montreal or points east, for instance. A gentleman came in one day to buy a ticket to Halifax, having arranged for passage on a steamship to Europe where he planned to travel for two or three months. The arrangement was made for him to board in Fort Langley and on departure night, the signals changed to a stop position on the signal pole outside and flag up to stop the train and see that the conductor had the passenger safely on board for the beginning of his long journey.

After the passenger had returned from his European tour, he stormed into the station one day, complaining loudly that the inefficient railroad (not quite his earthy term...) had managed to lose his trunk containing a great number of antiques and artifacts. He had carefully gathered these during his travels, he explained, and the railroad would have to pay, and that was that. Father, in his usual calm way, got the claim forms ready for him to fill out. A long, expensive list was compiled and sent to the authorities to be reviewed and paid.

About a year later, of course, the inevitable happened—the trunk arrived back at the station still locked and untouched. Alas, upon opening the trunk, the extensive list of treasures claimed appeared considerably smaller than originally stated. I was quite amused by this story and of course immediately wanted to know if the fellow ever had to repay what he had claimed, but in spite of my questions, all I ever got out of Dad was a twinkle in his eye and an enigmatic smile.

Heritage Champions



Congratulations to Stephan Schigas, owner of the 1904 Morrison-Hadden House in Fort Langley, as well as Chris Boughen and Mike McManus who restored the 1890 St Alban's Church for use as a community centre in the Otter area.



Both were presented with a Township Heritage Recognition Plaque. Thank you for your commitment to Langley's built heritage! Photos: Township of Langley

CN Committee Visits Port Moody Station Museum

The CN Station Committee journeyed across the Fraser River to the Port Moody Station Museum to learn about its innovative approaches to engaging the public. Executive Director Jim Millar outlined operations at this community museum that tells the Port Moody story and the railway's impact. We gleaned numerous tips on how to apply for grants to help advance the museum's work. Museum Co-ordinator Brienne Egeto detailed their various public programs, volunteer involvement and ongoing maintenance.



The Museum has generated excellent media coverage in recent years about its compelling First World War trench display. Developed with financial assistance from Heritage Canada, Veterans Affairs and local businesses, area students and cadets are also directly involved.

Museum Co-ordinator Marcus Fahrner, wears a WWI uniform to interpret the trenches and does so with knowledge, passion and flair. There is much to learn from creative non-profit organizations like the Port Moody Heritage Society. We thank them for their wonderful hospitality, and for sharing the museum's successes and challenges.

2018 Director's Tour of Properties

On October 14, 2018 President Fred Pepin took our directors and CN Station Manager on a tour of the buildings that the society manages and maintains. This tour is conducted every year to give new directors a better understanding of our operations. This year, directors identified an opportunity to make some kitchen improvements at the Dixon House.

Strategic Planning Starting in January

Your LHS Board is initiating a strategic planning review with the assistance of a facilitator. Board members agreed that now is a good time to review our core mandate, to blue sky our vision and objectives and to identify some specific programs and activities that we should be doing or possibly changing.

Some form of outreach to members about this will likely occur in February. In the meantime, if any members have any thoughts on our mandate and activities, please feel free to contact us at anytime at: info@langleyheritage.ca.

Langley Heritage Society 2019-2020 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.

January 22, 2019

Speaker: Heidi Rampfl

Topic: Multiculturalism at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery through the years.

February 2019

Heritage Week Social

Location: TBA

March 26, 2019

Speaker: Rosslyn Shipp

Topic: Vancouver Police Museum

April 2018

Annual General Meeting

Speaker: TBA

Topic: Changing Tides

Location: Fort Langley

Community Hall

Upcoming Programs and Events

{January 19th – 20th, 2019}

Vives Les Voyageurs Festival

at the Fort Langley National Historic Site

Tap your feet to the beat of French-Canadian music at the annual Vive les Voyageurs Festival. Enliven your senses with the traditional foods, music and culture of the 19th century French-Canadian and Métis fur traders.

A Must Listen - Valley Voices

Our very own Mark Forsythe has interviewed yet another fascinating person connected with Fraser Valley history.

Catch the latest monthly Valley Voices Podcast (produced in conjunction with University of the Fraser Valley's CIVL radio team) on **CIVL Radio 101.7**.

Wednesdays | 11 am

Podcast <https://tinyurl.com/ya3r9uhn>

Supporters & Suppliers

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

Dave Hockin @ **DJ Hockin Painting & Decorating**
604-850-8520

Barbara Bryson @ **Wisteria Guest House in the Fort**
604-888-4912

Bob McPherson, electrician
604-530-8715

Nufloors
604-533-4231

Robertson Plastics
604-533-4055