


Langley Heritage Society

{Spring 2022}

PO Box 982 Stn Fort Langley
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www.langleyheritage.ca

 @LangleyHeritageSociety

 langleyheritagesociety

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

President's Message

I wish to thank everyone who attended and those who contributed by selling tickets, setting up, donating books, and the many other details that make a successful Annual General Meeting. We all enjoyed being able to visit with our friends in person again.

The continuing threat of illness is of great concern to your executive. The possibility of a new wave and new variants has caused the cancellation of our annual summer picnic and a delay in planning our usual Douglas Day event in November.

Helen and the station committee and a group of enthusiastic volunteers are providing visitors a great experience at the station. Fewer mosquitoes would make life in Fort Langley more pleasant.

We are having discussions with the Township regarding a new project.

Our caretakers have some great gardens that you can see from your car. Your visitors may enjoy a drive to view some Langley heritage sites.

I hope you enjoy good health and have a great summer.

Fred Pepin

LHS President

"The Langley Heritage Society is located on the traditional and unceded lands of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo peoples. We respect this land and its original occupants."

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Society News

Together Again: AGM A Success

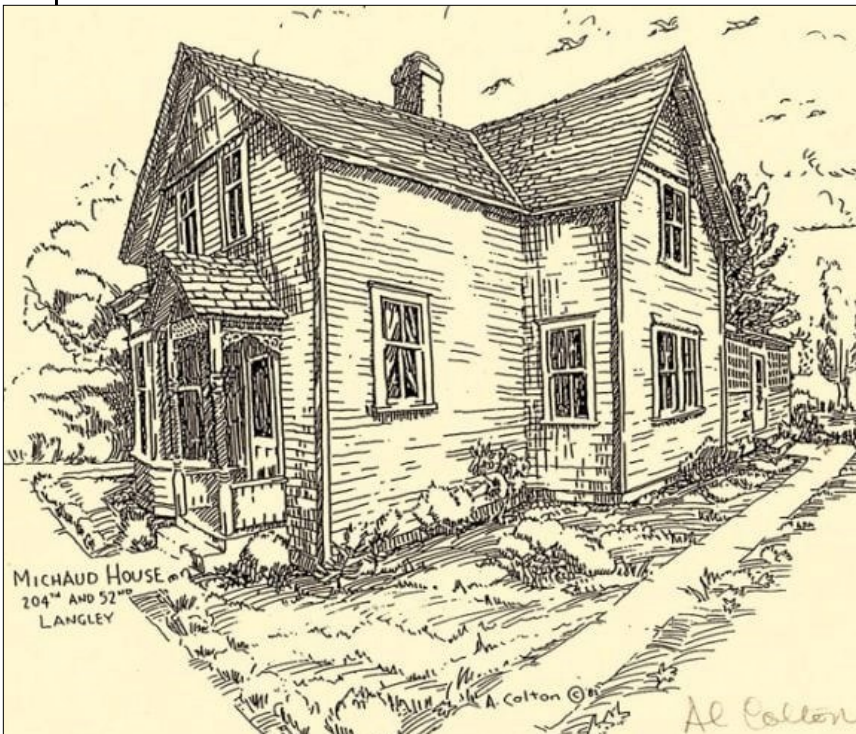
After two years of pandemic isolation, members of the Langley Heritage Society gathered on May 13th for the 2022 AGM Dinner at the Fort Langley Community Hall. It was a fun evening, with live music performed by Tom Hammel, a screening of the new *Wheels of Time* production, and a book draw.

A new board of directors was voted in, and it was great to renew old friendships again. Thanks to Dave Buckley for all of his work behind the scenes. We hope to launch the popular speaker series again this fall.

Members can now renew memberships via PayPal at: <https://www.langleyheritage.ca/membership/>



Hannah Bennett with LHS Director Shawn Feddes. Photo: Helen Williams



Flood Damage at Michaud House

During last fall's extreme flooding that devastated parts of the Fraser Valley and Southern Interior, the historic Michaud House in Langley City also suffered damage. Flood waters from the nearby Nicomekl River entered the basement, destroying the furnace and water heater. Langley Heritage Society undertook repairs and applied to the City of Langley Community Grant Program for assistance. Langley City Council awarded a Community Grant of \$6,200 to help cover replacement costs. Thank you!

Michaud House was built in 1888 by Joseph and Georgiana Michaud, the first French Canadian family to live and farm in Langley. Learn more about the history of the house and watch our video here: <https://www.langleyheritage.ca/michaud-house/>

Wheels of Time Debut

A film version of *Wheels of Time* was shown for the first time at Langley Heritage Society's AGM in May. It's a whimsical story that highlights Langley's people and events between 1910 and 1969, with a focus on the heritage CNR Station.

Produced by Brigitte Seib and the **Creative Compass Society**, with music by Tom Hammel, the short film touches on the lives of Station Agent Richard Simpson and his wife Mary; Langley's first doctor, Benjamin Marr; builder Billy Brown; butcher Jacob Haldi and his wife Jesse; farmer Hamilton Edge; British war bride Lois Bowling and her husband Ross; and the famous Flood of '48.

Wheels of Time can be viewed at: <https://tinyurl.com/f86cpr7a>



Actors: (left to right) Barb Coulter, Cassidy Flyman, Andrew Keilbart, Barb McLeod, Tom Hammel, Paul Cowhig (seated) Photo: Mark Forsythe

Salishan Place by the River

The new museum, cultural centre and library in Fort Langley remains a work in progress; walls are going up and community consultations continue. Langley Heritage Society sits on the Exhibit Design Advisory Group and is sponsoring classroom spaces through a \$60,000 donation.

An open house was held in early June which included an opportunity for public feedback on gallery design and exhibit spaces. See the floor plans, interpretive goals and exhibit themes here: <https://webfiles.tol.ca/ACCI/Salishan%20Place%20PEP.pdf>

The project is being developed in partnership with ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ (Kwantlen) First Nation, and in collaboration with partners including ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ (Katie) First Nation, Máthekwí (Matsqui) First Nation, and se'mya'me (Semiahmoo) First Nation. The name Salishan Place by the River reflects its physical location within the collective territories of the mainland Coast Salish peoples.



Wrapped in History



Photo: Mark Forsythe.

The Township of Langley and BC Hydro have added more images from local history to power boxes in Fort Langley. This one features St George's Church (built 1901) and is located just a few steps away from the church beside the Canada Post Office. The flip side of the box displays the nearby Morrison-Hadden House (built 1904).

Fifteen power boxes are being given the heritage treatment with coverings that should last for ten years. The Morrison-Hadden House is also part of the Langley Heritage Society self-guided walking tour for Fort Langley.

See both the Murrayville and Fort Langley walking tours here:

<https://www.langleyheritage.ca/walking-tours/> You can also pick up brochures of the tours at the Fort Langley CNR Station, weekends between noon and 4 pm.

Community Event: Historic Church Opens Its Doors

St. George's Anglican Church in Fort Langley is more than a place of worship on Sunday mornings. Built in 1901 in a style called Carpenter Gothic, the site of this church was once part of the Hudson Bay Company's farm, and it was here that several early pioneers were buried.

Every Saturday until October visitors can experience the history of both the Church and the Hudson's Bay Company Cemetery. They have an interesting story to tell.

St. Georges Anglican Church Open Doors
(Heritage Building and Active Church)

Where: 9160 Church Street, Fort Langley, BC

Time: Noon to 2pm | Cost: Free

When: Saturdays, in August, September, and October



Photo from *Sacred Places, British Columbia's Early Churches*, by Barry Downs.

Dr. Marr's Tree Legacy Lives On

A Camperdown (*Ulmus Camperdownii*) Elm Tree is a weeping elm tree with gorgeous twisted branches and dense foliage.

It came into existence in the 1830s when David Taylor (head forester of The Earl of Camperdown) found a mutated offspring of a Wych Elm on the grounds of Camperdown House, in Dundee, Scotland.

Fun Plant Fact: It is a rare example of a plant that cannot reproduce by itself, from its seed. In a way, Camperdown Elms depend on us to survive.

This original tree grows on its own roots. All the other Camperdown Elms that exist today are grafted on Wych Elm trunks. Because of their inability to reproduce, all the Camperdown Elms in the world can be traced to the original tree in Scotland.



Leaves begin popping out along the Elm's branches in spring.



See how these umbrella-like trees with long, twisting limbs have a canopy of leaves growing from the crown down towards the ground. Photos: Helen Williams

The historic Fort Langley CNR Station has three such Elms in its railway garden which Ted Lightfoot secured while on the Station Committee. This coincided with the rejuvenation of Mrs. Simpson's Garden prior to 2015 and the train station's 100th anniversary.

A 100 year-old Camperdown Elm was located beside Dr. Benjamin Marr's residence and sadly destroyed by the developer. Another Camperdown Elm, of the same age - according to Ted Lightfoot - survives in Fort Langley behind the Fort Langley Fire Hall.

We believe this Camperdown Elm was planted by Dr. Marr and/or the Hope family as these families were instrumental in se-

curing plants from the United Kingdom for UBC's Botanical gardens, Essondale (Riverview Hospital and Colony Farm Regional Park in Coquitlam), and for their own properties in Fort Langley.

Down By The Langley Station

Since opening Victoria Day, new and returning volunteers have been welcoming hundreds of visitors from overseas and all across Metro Vancouver on Saturdays, Sundays, and statutory holidays to Fort Langley's historic train station.

The new signage and displays explain the coming of Canada's second transcontinental railway through Langley and a station agent's many duties.

Visitors marvel at how the catalogue business of Eaton's and other department stores relied on CNR Express for door-to-door delivery along with the type of luggage tourists and immigrants to Canada travelled with during the turn of the last century.



Pull the handle of the station's new donation box and it trumpets out a train whistle sound; it can be heard as far away as Billy Brown Road! The team that made this new creation include past LHS member Peter Littleboy who created and donated the bellows and whistle. The cabinet comes from a portion of a desk that was donated. Gerry Landsman's son-in-law Daniel helped with the construction and assembly, and Gerry finished it off with various sundry details.

Many thanks to all our volunteers that staff the station and those working behind the scenes.



Opening day, Station Manager Helen Williams with returning volunteers Margot McKenzie and Juli-Anne Paterson pose before opening the doors. Over 350 people visited the site on Victoria Day.



The railway garden was host to the **Fort Langley Jazz Festival, Youth & Emerging Artists Stage**. Visitors enjoyed a grassy spot in the shade and made good use of the Township's fence railing along Glover Road for additional seating. Photos: Helen Williams

Heritage Home Spotlight: Lamb Stirling House



Lamb/Stirling House was battered and broken-down when the Langley Heritage Society began restoration work on this structure that featured a partly enclosed verandah and decorative arched ornamental trim.

Built between 1908 – 1910 by the David Lamb family, the house was originally located on a farm at 48th Avenue. David is reputed to have walked from Winnipeg to the west coast before the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed in 1886. He was an early resident of Vancouver when the Great Fire of 1886 destroyed most of the newly incorporated city and he helped slash the brush to make Hastings and Granville Streets.

Lamb moved to Murrayville (known then as Murray's Corner) three years later to farm, and eventually had the cottage-style house built. The house was sold by

Lamb to the Hockleys, and in 1922 the house and 80 acres were acquired by Alexander and Harriet Stirling who operated a cattle farm. Their son Sam and his wife Lucy farmed there from 1946 until 1960. The property remained in the family until 1990 when it was rezoned for residential development.

Murrayville is historically significant as the second village centre created in Langley, after Fort Langley. The structure became a Municipally Designated Heritage Site in the mid-1990s, and a local developer helped with moving the house to its present location where it was restored by the Langley Heritage Society.

President Fred Pepin says after the Lamb/Stirling House was fixed up, "You could see the difference down the street, people started cleaning up their houses. In six months the street looked totally different...the impact here is enormous."



There's an English country garden feel to the property that connects with nearby Harrower House, also restored by the society. Photos: LHS

This home is part of our Murrayville Heritage Walking Tour and is an important part of the community's pioneer heritage. More details on tours are found on the LHS website. Visit: <https://www.langleyheritage.ca/walking-tours/>

Mailbag

The Voyageurs & Cie heritage picnic at historic Michaud House during the annual Brigade Days was a big hit. Sandra Reams, tenant at the house, worked closely with organizers to make it a memorable day in the beautiful Michaud House gardens that Sandra lovingly cares for. We received a thank you note after the event:

“Last Sunday my husband and I attended the French event at Maison Michaud. We really enjoyed the location, the ambience, and the friendly people from your team. We appreciated the President talking about his experience working on the house, the hard work of the garden keeper, and the welcoming attitude of the sweet person at reception. The food was delicious; fabulous ice cream, lemonade, and pastries. We admire your dedication and devotion. You provide visitors with a special experience.

Thank you very much.
Nicole Beaulieu and John Brouwer”

Scholarship Winner

Langley Heritage Society offers a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of heritage and conservation advocate — and longtime LHS member — Bays Blackhall. The annual scholarship is open to all high school students in Langley, and acknowledges academic achievement, community service and need.

This year’s recipient is Sarese Dawe, a graduate of Langley Fundamental Middle & Secondary School, who is pursuing a career in nursing at the University of British Columbia Okanagan in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Sarese is looking forward to starting her career in nursing, and hopes to one day work in the Pediatrics Division at BC Children’s Hospital. Langley Heritage Society wishes her much success and happiness.



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WWW.CARESCATSHELTER.COM/EVENTS

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH
AT DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK 12-3



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

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