

Langley Heritage Society

{summer 2023}

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www.langleyheritage.ca

 @LangleyHeritageSociety

 [langleyheritagesociety](https://www.instagram.com/langleyheritagesociety)

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

President's Message

Thank you for making the return of our annual picnic such a success. The executive is energized by the large turnout and support. I am looking forward to resuming most activities now that my health problem has been addressed.

It has been rewarding to participate at the station and support Helen and our volunteers who are providing a rewarding and educational experience to the visitors to the station and Fort Langley. The society can be very proud of the CNR station and its contribution it makes to Langley.

We hope to soon begin work in restoring the barn in Old Yale Park to make it useable and a much-needed heritage interpretation centre.

We have supported all past attempts to revitalize the interurban line in the Fraser Valley with little success. As we see Highway 1 becoming overwhelmed by traffic everyday, it is becoming apparent to the politicians that an alternative needs to be found. I am very pleased to see Langley council asking the provincial government to reactivate the interurban rail corridor.

We will enjoy your presence at the Milner Chapel as we resume our speakers' program.

Fred Pepin
LHS President

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Society News: Get Your Douglas Day Dinner Tickets

"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."

Return of Pepin Picnic a Hit!

Thanks to our members for joining us at the annual Pepin Picnic on Fred Pepin's farm — our first since the pandemic, and a great opportunity to see old friends and reconnect.



Here's an assortment of photos from the afternoon gathering.



Photos Helen Williams

Volunteer Spotlight: Saying Goodbye to Bill

Bill Wiseman touched the lives of everyone he met. Those fortunate to know him, are saddened by his sudden passing. From the Langley Heritage Society and his fellow volunteers at the Fort Langley CNR Station, we miss his laugh, his smile, his hugs, and his incredibly kind nature.

Always eager to pitch in, Bill rode the velocipede (pictured below) for filming "Wheels of Time" and fixed countless items at the railway station over the last six years with station manager Helen Williams.



Station volunteers gathered in the passenger car to celebrate Bill's life on September 15, 2023.

We were delighted that Bill's two sons and his daughter-in-law joined us. They enjoyed seeing where Bill volunteered and the many projects that their father undertook. Unfortunately Bill's daughter could not attend but will visit another day.

(Below) Bill having fun in the quad car at Surrey's Heritage Rail during a volunteer appreciation event.

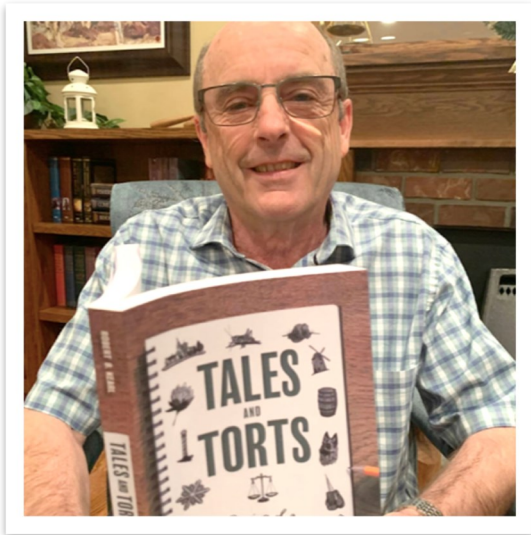
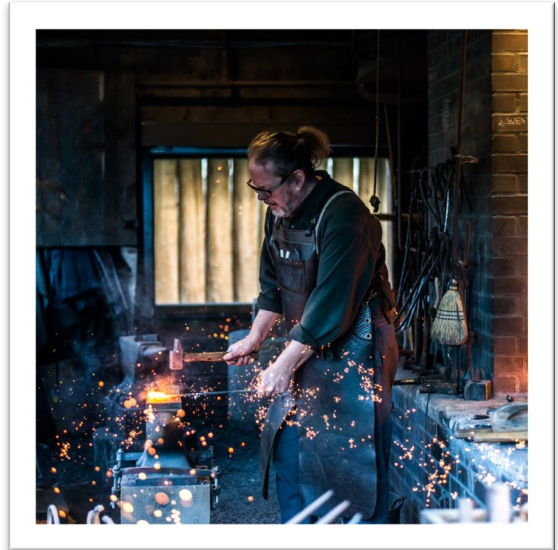


(Above) Jason Wiseman, Bill's eldest son on the left, speaking with volunteer and railfan Adam Bouwman. Photos Helen Williams

Speaker Series Relaunch

The talented and entertaining blacksmith at the Fort Langley National Historic Site, Danny Cram kicked off the popular Speaker Series this September with fascinating stories and an infectious passion for the magic of blacksmithing in Langley — from the Hudson’s Bay Company era to today.

Our next speaker series is Tuesday, October 17th at 7 pm in Milner Chapel (6716 216 Street, Langley).



Tales and Torts: Stories of a Country Lawyer - From Langley shoot-outs to assorted swindlers and thieves, retired lawyer Robert Kearl has seen it all in his 40 year career. As he says, “sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction.” Copies of his book will be available for sale at \$25.00.

Coffee, tea, and cookies follow the presentation so you can speak to the author and mingle with members. And don’t forget to update your Langley Heritage Society membership, and buy a ticket for the annual Douglas Day dinner on November 17th.

Model Citizen

Kevin McClain has been creating replicas of historic buildings for 20 years. Here are two of our favourites -- Haldi House on the Fort Langley waterfront and Glen Valley's McIver House.



Join the conversation and help shape the next 10 years at Fort Langley National Historic Site!

Fort Langley was first commemorated as a National Historic Site in 1923, making 2023 the centennial of its designation. As we look back and reflect on a century of commemorating history at Fort Langley National Historic Site, Parks Canada is also looking ahead to the next decade with the development of an updated management plan for this special place.

From August 21 to September 30, Parks Canada is inviting the public to contribute ideas through an online platform and meetings that will inform the site's updated management plan.



Anyone with interest in the national historic site is encouraged to get involved and join the conversation. Visit our website at <https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/bc/langley/plan/politique-policy/developpement-development> or <https://www.letstalkparksnadawestcoast.ca/> to learn more about the Parks Canada management planning process and how to participate.

Join the conversation!

Craving Cranberries: 28th Annual Festival Approaches

This grassroots event was supported by the local community and, with its success, has grown to become a much loved annual event, celebrating and recognizing the cranberry's role in our local history going back thousands of years.

While celebrating the region's history and tradition, with the Cranberry Festival, organizers want to create a great day out, support local businesses and vendors, entertain, and bring the community and visitors together in the heart of Fort Langley.

Date: October 7, 2023
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Glover Road, in the historic village of Fort Langley



Photo Mark Forsythe

Down By The Langley Station

It was a fun and busy day on July 1, 2023 celebrating Canada Day with our three village heritage partners. We're grateful to the BC Farm Museum, the National Historic Site, and salishan Place by the River for coordinating with the Langley Heritage Society to create a scavenger hunt that had visitors stop by all four attractions' gardens.



Three Canadian Red Ensign flags flew from the station lower roof. Thanks to our talented volunteer Kimberley Perkins, red and white bunting adorned the station windows and even the caboose!



Paper flags and Canadian maple leaf tattoos were popular with all, along with a visit into the caboose to see the model railway operating.

Children and adults alike planted sweet peas in peat pots to take home.





The youth stage provided visitors shade during July's Fort Langley Jazz Festival. The garden was filled with strollers, chairs, dogs, blankets, and lots of elbow room to enjoy the up-and-coming jazz musicians.

We're grateful to Ian Kennett who repaired and stained the speeder trailer boards. Ian restored the speeder during his spare time many years ago. Julie-anne Paterson painted the wheels and under carriage with the station manager.

Station volunteers had fun at Surrey's Heritage Rail new Heritage Rail Adventure.

We thank all returning and new volunteers that joined us this year. Volunteers are surprised at how much they learn and how interesting talking with tourists from all over the world and neighbouring municipalities can be. Your local knowledge is greatly appreciated by visitors.



New volunteers are welcome year round.

There are always repairs to be done, ongoing research, and hands-on projects happening behind the scenes.

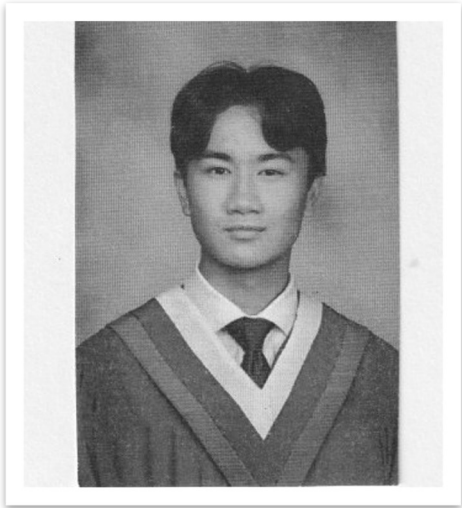


Come check us out, visit:
<https://www.langleyheritage.ca/volunteer-information/>

All photos courtesy of Mark Forsythe and Helen Williams.

Investing in the Future

Congratulations to Ernest Domingo, winner of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Langley Heritage Society, awarded each year in memory of long time volunteer, Bays Blackhall.



Ernest is a graduate of RE Mountain Secondary: "It brings me great happiness and gratitude to receive this scholarship...I plan on studying pharmaceutical sciences at UBC and I thank you greatly for your contributions and help."

The scholarship is open to all high school students in Langley, and acknowledges academic achievement, community service and need. This year 234 students received 283 scholarships administered through the Langley School District Foundation.



LHS Annual Douglas Day Dinner

Valley Catering will be back again this year with two meats, vegetables, salads, buns, beverages, and dessert making for a delicious dinner followed by a new and entertaining speaker.

Tickets will be available at the October speaker meeting from LHS Director, Dave Buckley.

You can also contact Dave by cell or email to purchase your tickets: 778-899-2209 | dalwyneb@telus.net

DATE: Friday, November 17, 2023

PLACE: Fort Langley
Community Hall

TIME:
5pm (doors open)
6pm (dinner)

COST:
\$25 per person



Photo Glenn Disney

Supporters & Suppliers

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

Bob McPherson, Electrician
604-530-8715

Nufloors
604-533-4231

Robertson Plastics
604-533-4055

Ken Wong @ **Genesis Alarms**
604-588-1313

Rod Nicol @ **Go With The Flow Plumbing & Heating**
604-803-7951

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