Langley Heritage Society

{Fall 2019}

Langley Heritage Society
PO Box 982
Fort Langley, BC
V1M 2S3

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

President's Message

On November 19 at the annual Langley Township Douglas Day observance we were thrilled to have Alice Johnson named a Freeman of the Township. Alice's persistent determination to preserve the spirit and history of Willoughby has left a great legacy to the district. We congratulate Alice and thank her to her leadership and friendship.

Our celebration of James Douglas was well attended with an excellent dinner. Jim Foulkes presented an interesting ancestry search that has uncovered and secured a piece of Surrey history. I thank Jim and everyone who helped with the event.

A fresh coat of paint has been applied to the Moir House. Thank you, Dave. A new roof will be installed on the CNR Station when weather permits.

We are celebrating our 40th anniversary with a photo contest with prizes to be awarded at the May Day celebrations. Plans are being made for my annual Murrayville Bus Tour. For tickets, please call the museum at 604 532-3536.

I wish everyone the best for the holiday season and the new year.

Fred Pepin
LHS President

Inside This Issue

{ Page 2 }
We Remember

{ Page 3 }
Douglas Day Dinner

{ Page 4 and 5}
Down By The Station

{ Page 6}
C.A.R.E.S. Celebrates 25 Years

{ Page 7 }
Juniata, Saskatchewan
by Diane Simpson

Alice Johnson Presented
Freedom of the Township

{ Page 8 }
Upcoming Programs
and Events

Remembrance Day 2019: Lest We Forget

In memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, we remember the brave men and women who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict, and peace. The Langley Heritage Society placed wreaths at the Fort Langley, Murrayville, Langley City, and Aldergrove cenotaphs.

Rosemary Genberg (Murrayville). Photo: Glenn Disney.

Veteran, Ken Smith at Fort Langley Remembrance Day Service. Photo: Mark Forsythe.

The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them.
Laurence Binyon, *For The Fallen*

Fort Langley cenotaph where 6,500 people attended the service. Photo: Mark Forsythe.

Celebrating James Douglas: Father of British Columbia

At the annual Douglas Day Dinner, guest speaker (and LHS member) Jim Foulkes talked about researching the Henry Houston Scott family, former US slaves, who made a home in Cloverdale.

Thanks to the efforts of the Surrey Historical Society, a park has been named in the Scott's honour, largely due to Jim's research, at the family's homestead on 64th Ave.

Head Table (left to right): Jim and Marcia Foulkes, Maureen and Fred Pepin, Mark Forsythe, and Ellen Worrell.

Jim Foulkes in the buffet line with Karen and Ellen Worrell.

During Mark Forsythe's toast to James Douglas, we were reminded of Douglas' family background of mixed race and his accomplishments to establish trade, industry, and settlement on the West Coast including several hundred US Black families moving to the colony.

Photo (seated left to right): David Hockin, June Speedie, Mike Frost, Sylvia Mountain, Lottie Elias, Ted & Lynda Lightfoot, and Diane Simpson. **All photos courtesy of Glenn Disney.**

Down By the Station

During opening hours, the historic CNR Station welcomed 13,000 visitors in the 2019 season. This is an increase of 3,000 over last year. Our **CNR volunteers** not only made it possible for the site to remain open, but also engaged with visitors—talking about railway history, punching train tickets, and stamping young'uns hands and tickets with our new steam engine stamps.

Visitors during September and October thoroughly enjoyed watching the Saturday performance, *Wheels of Time*. With four shows a day, and 30 to 40 seats available, there was a **minimum of 120 people per day** in the audience.

Sometimes there were more, like on our last day. The 3pm show alone had 96 people in the audience!

Thanks again to Mark Forsythe (script writer), Tom Hammel (musical score creator), the community actors, and Creative Compass Society for directing the Langley Heritage Society production. Bravo all!

Visiting children having fun with the theatrical props between *Wheels of Time* performances on the station platform.

Father and son railfans experience what it would have been like to be a station agent talking with the CNR dispatch office.

Caitlyn Whitwick (Lois Bowling's granddaughter) is pictured above visiting the station with her husband and two children. Lois was the first war bride to arrive in Fort Langley during 1946 and was featured in a *Wheels of Time* vignette.
All Photos: Helen Williams

Down By the Station

Although the station is closed during fall and winter, there are a great number of projects going on behind the scenes.

Renowned local artist **Lyle Longstaff** is giving of his time to create a new scenic backdrop for the Glen Valley Railway inside our 1920s caboose. Below is the first of seven murals.

Lyle grew up in the steam era and says as a painter this is his real love. You'll find Lyle's art showcased in the local Fort Langley gallery, The Kube, just down from the CNR Station on Marvis Ave.

CNR Station Manager Helen Williams and long time model railway volunteer Gerry Landsman have been working with Lyle to develop a series of new murals that will be to the same scale as the model railway.

More inside improvements include reupholstering the cupola seats and restoring tongue and groove walls.

We're also grateful to Philip Hutton who hopes to have our Fairmont gas speeder operational once again. Philip began work in the summer and is continuing over the winter months.

Just prior to the year end **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch** on October 19, all CNR volunteers were treated to **Parks Canada's Hidden Histories Tour of Fort Langley**.

Tour creator and heritage interpreter, Amandeep Johal took us on a most intriguing stroll through town while explaining the early pioneer stories and how Fort Langley evolved from a Hudson's Bay Company trading post. Thank you again, Aman! Your tour gives us more fascinating stories to share with our visitors.

Mechanic extraordinaire, Philip is volunteering his time to fix the station speeder.

Moir House Outbuildings Provide Cats With Safe Haven

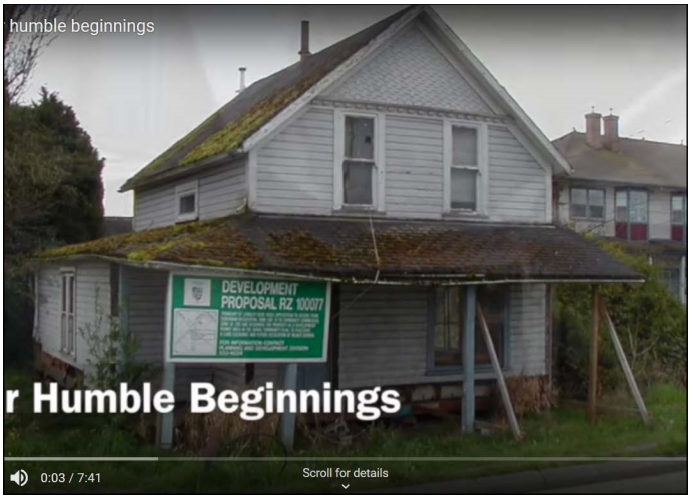
Scottish blacksmith George Robert Moir and wife Christian operated the Milner Blacksmith near their family house.

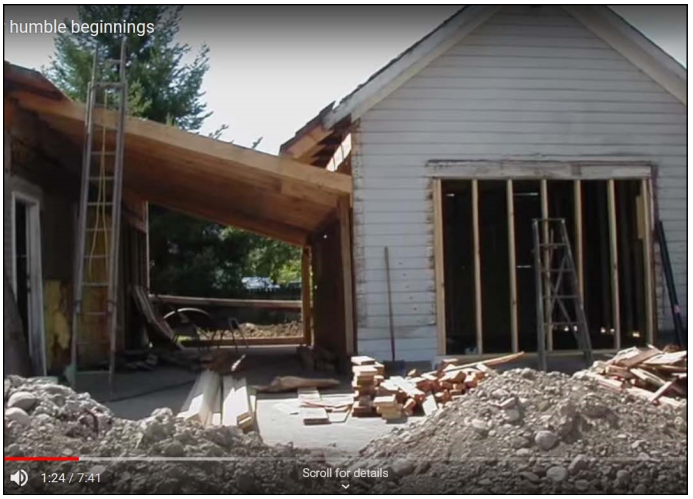
The old board and batten shop is long gone, but the family home built in 1909 survived along with many of George's tools which are in full operation at the BC Farm Museum.

In 2003, Township asked the Langley Heritage Society to restore the dilapidated Moir residence, and to create a permanent space from the existing outbuildings for the **Canadian Animal Rescue and Extended Shelter (CARES)**.

The construction was funded by the society and on December 13, 2003, CARES moved into the new shelter renovated to fit their needs thanks to Fred Pepin and his crew.

CARES is a **no-kill cat shelter** that rescues, shelters, and finds homes for stray, abandoned, and unwanted cats in Langley. Established in 1998, this year CARES celebrates 25 years of providing a safe haven for homeless cats in the Langley community. Over 7,000 cats have been adopted and given a second chance.





Give Them A Place to Belong

Everyone's dream is of a loving home; cats are no exception.

CARES provides a vital community service and helps stem cat overpopulation through the assistance of dedicated volunteers and private donations. To adopt a cat or to provide a donation, visit: **www.carescatshelter.com** (Thank you.)

Juniata, Saskatchewan (©1942-43)

This is the first station I have clear memories of living in, partly because I began school there, and partly because it was the start of a nefarious career for my little brother of getting into trouble and, unfortunately for him, always getting caught. Such a small town it was; station, one farm and a store.

One evening my curious brother slipped into the office and pulled the wires out of the open battery which was under the desk. It powered the dispatcher's phone - a very vital communication indeed. (There was no electricity in small towns then.)

The dispatcher was responsible for seeing that troop trains and supplies were on time and on track. About an hour and a half later, a freight train stopped and a CNR inspector got off to do a little investigating as to why the dispatcher's phone was out of service on the main line during wartime. The inspector made some very pointed comments about keeping that child behind the office door, but after a good cup of tea and a piece of mom's apple pie, didn't give dad any brownie points. As for my brother, it was the beginning of many more misdemeanors, not the end!

By Diane Simpson

Langley Pioneer Presented Highest Civic Honour

Alice Johnson's community contribution recognized. Photo: Township of Langley

During the Township of Langley's 2019 Douglas Day, long-time resident Alice Johnson was presented the Freedom of the Municipality.

Alice started the Willoughby Women's Community Institute over 25 years ago to better homes and families. She has volunteered her time to celebrating, preserving, and sharing Langley's heritage and history having served on many committees and instrumental in preserving both the Willoughby Community Hall and Willoughby School.

We were fortunate to also have Alice serve as a Langley Heritage Society director as well as on the Township's Heritage Advisory Committee and Langley Centennial Museum History Group.

Congratulations, Alice!

2020 LHS 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 28, 2020
Speaker: Shea Henry
Topic: Renovation of Haney House

February 22, 2020
BC Heritage Week: Feb 17 to 23
2020 Theme: Bringing the Past into the Future

During Heritage Week, join us for our annual Saturday afternoon Heritage Tea at Milner Chapel to hear from a number of our local, heritage partners.

March 24, 2020
Speaker: Ian Brown
Topic: *Hallowed Ground: Stories of the Yale Pioneer Cemetery*

April 17, 2020
Annual General Meeting
Maurice Guibord
Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique
Topic: *The Francophone Pioneers of Vancouver*
Location: Fort Langley Community Hall

Upcoming Programs and Events

Historic Murrayville Bus Tour
Tuesday, Feb 18, 2020

Join heritage expert Fred Pepin and celebrate Heritage Week by visiting historic landmarks found in Langley's heritage community of Murrayville. **Lunch and bus included.**

Pick up available at WC Blair Recreation Centre and Langley Centennial Museum.

Tuesday, Feb 18, 2020 10:00am-3:00pm
Cost: $35 | Course #: 589154
Register online (RecExpress) or call: 604-532-3536

Valley Voices

Wednesdays on **CIVL 101.7 FM at 11 am**
Or follow the links under *What's New* at www.langleyheritage.ca to the podcast.

Supporters & Suppliers

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

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

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

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