

Langley
Heritage
Society

{Fall 2022}

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 @LangleyHeritageSociety



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

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



Seasons Greetings!

Thanks to our volunteers and
members for their wonderful
support. We'll meet you at the
CNR Station in 2023!

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



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"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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Christmas Telegram: A Fantasy

Click. Clack. The telegraph jumped to life, catching Richard Simpson snoozing in his chair. He reached for the pencil tucked behind his ear and began transcribing.

“On my way...need hot rum.”

Agent Simpson chuckled as he rolled a fresh sheet of Canadian National Telegram paper into the typewriter. “Frank’s coming home.”



The station house shuddered as another blast of wind swept in from the north. A skim of snow was creeping under the freight room door. Agent Simpson shivered at the thought of delivering a message on such a night.

Frank Forster chased work wherever it was to be found. Earlier that fall he had journeyed to the Thompson Valley for a logging job deep in the bush, but a big part of him was still at home, 350 miles away as the crow flies. Each day he marked an X on the calendar pinned beside his bunk, and penned a letter to Rose every Sunday. Now the short break for Christmas was finally here.

It was a painfully slow drive down the icy logging roads to the nearest Canadian National station at Valemount. After buying a ticket he quickly composed the telegram. He imagined those words racing ahead of him, leaping from pole to pole, singing down the wire, eventually to land at Agent Simpson’s desk.

The train steamed into the twilight. Flickering lights hinted at farms and ranches tucked into the folds of the valley. So vast. After Kamloops, clouds of snow whipped the windows as the iron horse raced southward. He could just make out the walls and tunnels of the Fraser Canyon, and caught glimpses of the river where it narrowed and boiled through Hells Gate. Down, down, below the fish ladders, to Alexandra Bridge, Sailor's Bar and Hope, where the river calmed before its final sweeping run to the sea.

It wouldn't be long now.

Richard Simpson turned the key in the old Ford truck. The engine groaned against the cold; after three tries it ignited with a roar. He pointed it down the old Trunk Road, now renamed after municipal engineer, Lieutenant F.W. Glover. He coaxed the truck through drifting snow. Bare branches of young chestnut trees were in silhouette beside the cemetery. Planted by Dr Marr and Archie Payne for those boys who didn't make it home. Richard Simpson nodded as he gripped the wheel.

He crossed over the Salmon River, half-frozen and creeping into the flood plain. He gunned the motor for the climb up to Telegraph Trail, made the turn, and found the Forster's driveway. A dog barked as he crunched up the steps and knocked on the door.

"Hello Rose. A little message for you."

As she slowly scanned the telegram, first came relief, then a broad smile with a dance of light in her eyes. Agent Simpson tugged at his flat cap, "Merry Christmas, Rose. "

The truck was still running. Gusts of wind tossed snow across the headlights. As he turned from the door, he heard the faint sound of a newborn's cry, and a mother's delight.

Wheels of Time Online ... Anytime

If you missed the film debut of our grassroots production—Wheels of Time, at the Langley Heritage Society 2022 AGM, you can watch it online. Please share it with your friends and family: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8m8x8j>

Wheels of Time actor, and LHS member, Barbara Coulter is narrator of the whimsical story. The film highlights Langley's people and events between 1910 and 1969, with a focus on the community's comings and going at the CNR train station built in 1915.



Hope Station Transferred to Tashme Historical Society

Tashme Society is taking a “short breath” before starting the next steps for the Station House. After a long battle to save it from demolition, ownership of the Station House is officially transferred to the Tashme Historical Society.

And they’re thanking everyone who made this purchase possible.



Japanese Canadian citizens being transferred into waiting trucks outside Hope Station House. NNMCC L2021-2-1-004. Photo: Courtesy of the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre

“[The Tashme Society] is so humbled, grateful, with this amazing responsibility of the Station House,” says Ryan Ellan the founder and curator of Tashme Society. “We felt it was very important to thank everyone who has been involved, especially the Coalition for the preservation of the Hope Station House. And Christian and Erica Ward. Those individuals — that entire group — were sort of the trailblazers for us to get involved.”

The museum officially signed the purchase agreement last Friday (Nov. 4), making them the new and proud owners of the historic building. The new ownership comes a few weeks after the previous council, in a now declassified meeting that took place on Oct. 19 in camera, authorized, “the Chief Administrative Officer to finalize and execute the Station House Relocation and Purchase Agreement between the District of Hope and the Tashme Historical Society regarding

the transfer of ownership of the Station House and operations on District land located at 919 Water Avenue.

“It’s surreal right now,” says Ellan. “We’re taking a short breath before the real work starts. It’s been, definitely a long journey. With the Tashme Historical Society, we’ve been involved for a year and a half now. Again not as long as some other individuals in Hope.”

Part of the agreement, says Ellan, is to move the Station House from its current location to Water Avenue, by the Hope Visitor Centre. Aside from the relocation, future plans for the Station House includes making it part of the Sunshine Valley Tashme Museum, so that the people can better understand how it played a role in the history of Japanese-Canadian internment camps.

“The next step is to create a Hope Station House community advisory committee,” says Ellan. “So, of course, a team would be made up of very open minded, team-oriented, individuals who all work together...But I think we all have seen the Station House to be that historical hub. And that would include the Tashme museum, the Hope museum, the visitor center, and additional flex space to have special events for the future.”

The issue of preserving the Station House has been an ongoing battle for many years that reached a head in 2020 when the District indicated their plans to demolish it.

Following their announcement, a dedicated group of Hope’s citizens protested the decision and began to spearhead the movement to “save” the Station House.

At this time, the Tashme Society saw the significance of the Station House, due to the history that the Japanese-Canadian community has with it, and offered to work with the District to buy and relocate it.

“When the Japanese-Canadian community was forcibly relocated throughout the province, most of the Japanese-Canadians were from Hastings park,” says Ellan. “The time they spent in Hastings park were in the livestock buildings. Left the livestock buildings, boarded on trains. And then the Hope Station House was sort of a hub. There were nearly 9000 Japanese-Canadians that got off trains at the Hope Station House...to be transferred to the other internment camps throughout BC. Or off the train, at Hope Station House, to the waiting trucks to make the 14 mile trek to Tashme.”

Source: Kemone Moodley, Nov. 11, 2022 9:45 am LOCAL NEWS



Photo: Helen Williams

Say Cheese! Heritage Week 2023

In lieu of our Annual Heritage Tea during BC’s Heritage Week (with concerns over covid and flu viruses) the Langley Heritage Society invites members to the historic train station in Fort Langley on Saturday, February 25, 2023.

Come for a tour, get a warm drink and snack, and take a photo or two. We’ll have railway equipment positioned for that ideal backdrop and volunteers on hand to gladly take your picture (with your camera phone).

Down By The Langley Station

Thousands of new visitors from Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, and overseas were delighted to step back in time and learn why the latest news, gossip, and travel was found at local railway station.

Our station volunteers told stories like Margot McKenzie is doing in the picture to the right. Margot demonstrates how agents used a wooden rod to “deliver” a message to a locomotive as it travelled past the station ... without stopping!

Volunteers explained why station agents planted flower gardens beside railway stations and



Visitors were intrigued to see how messages were passed to trains. Photo: Helen Williams



Photo: Lou Fasullo

vegetables on right-of-ways during times of war. Examples of the type of freight and parcels in the freight room brought back memories for some and bewilderment for younger audiences.

Some found it hard to believe that, long before ordering online and today's couriers, CN Express provided Eaton's and other department stores with door-to-door catalogue orders up to the 1980s!

Exterior water bibbs were replaced and a leak in a crawlspace pipe repaired during the summer months. With the station closed till next season, research into new displays is well underway as are a variety of repairs like:

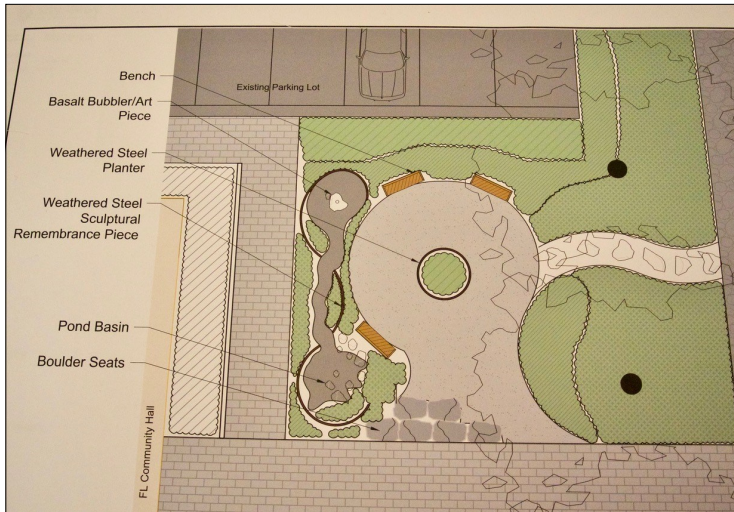
- Topping up gravel pathways
- Emptying the septic tank
- Upgrading electrical outlets
- Replacing rotten platform fence posts

To join our volunteer team next year, visit: www.langleyheritage.ca/volunteer-information/



The station's new lights generously donated by Your Local Community in 2021 now turn on and off with sunset and sunrise. Many thanks to electrician and LHS member Bob McPherson for sourcing a reliable timer. Photo: Mark Forsythe

Community Spotlight



Fort Langley Community Hall, operated by the Fort Langley Community Improvement Society, is rolling out plans and drawings for a memory garden at the north end of the site.

Funded through a Canadian Heritage grant, the garden will be a place to pause and reflect in honour of all the people who have helped sustain this cherished heritage building over the decades since it was built in 1931. A gazebo will provide shelter from the elements, and serve as performance space. The Society hopes to complete the project by spring 2023.

Coming Together: A Kwantlen Community Art Mural

A **Kwantlen youth-led art mural** has found a permanent home. The collaborative 'paint by number' art mural, a centrepiece of the 2022 Odum Brown Fort Langley Jazz & Arts Festival, is now displayed at Foundry Langley, which provides supports and services to youth. Watch a short video here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ks36vd2>

Salishan Place Update

They'll soon be unpacking boxes and beginning exhibit design at the new Salishan Place Cultural Centre. A project of the Township of Langley and the Kwantlen, Katzie, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo peoples, the three-storey facility replaces the Langley Centennial Museum built in 1958. Township Director of Arts, Culture and Community Initiatives, Peter Tulumello, calls it, "an all inclusive, single museum" that will share stories from multiple cultural communi-



Photo: Courtesy of Township of Langley

ties in the Langley region. The Langley Heritage Society will continue to fund school programs and sponsor student spaces. A soft opening is planned for the end of the summer.

Langley Hospital's Heritage Committee Needs You

In 1993, the Heritage Committee was formed with the purpose of publishing "The Hospital on The Hill," a compendium packed with information about the doctors, nurses, and staff who had walked the corridors of Langley Memorial Hospital over its 50 years of existence.

There were 15 initial members including the founders, Iris Mooney and Grace Carter. Among the others were Val Dirks, Shirley McGonigal and Gloria Mout, and Doris Riedweg who was responsible for editing the publication.

The committee later transitioned into the LMH Archival Museum Committee. In 2016, when the committee began a search for place to house the medical memorabilia, the Langley Heritage Society stepped up and offered the parlour of Michaud House, itself a heritage building at the foot of 204th Street, in the City of Langley.

Michaud House itself is rich with history, having been built in 1882. It is packed with 100s of pieces of memorabilia, all donated by former employees and their families, and people in the community. The pieces include nurses' uniforms and caps, a wooden reclining wheelchair, letters, photographs, and instruments that today might look positively intimidating to lay people.

The committee raises money for the Langley Memorial Hospital Foundation by holding a spring tea every year, and a wine and cheese reception in the autumn.

Experience working in a hospital setting is not a requirement. If interested, contact Norma Leith at:
grandmacat2@gmail.com

Membership Renewal Got Easier

When renewing your annual membership, payment options now include **e-Transfer** via **info@langleyheritage.ca** in addition to cheque. Visit <https://www.langleyheritage.ca/membership/> for more details



The graphic features a clock face on the left with the hands pointing to approximately 10:10. To the right of the clock is a window icon with the text "Langley Heritage Society" next to it. Below the window, the text reads: "Time to renew!", "Your annual membership is important to us!", "Mail a \$15.00 cheque to:", and "Langley Heritage Society PO Box 982 Stn Fort Langley Langley BC V1M 2S3".

Supporters & Suppliers

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

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