



Langley Heritage Society

{ Winter 2023 }

PO Box 982 Stn Fort Langley
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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

We were very fortunate that the CNR Station site was free of snow for our Heritage Week Event. Helen and a group of volunteers have prepared a site tour with artifacts and informational posters that highlight the vital role the railway played in people's lives. Although the model railway was not running, the models and the striking murals painted by Lyle Longstaff were admired by all.

As we move into 2023, your directors are preparing a work plan for properties we manage. We are anticipating taking part in the restoration of a publicly owned barn on Old Yale Road in Murrayville. We do not have an exact date of construction of this dairy barn, but its design and proximity to the Great Northern Railway Line indicates approximately 1920. This building by the community gardens could be a useful park feature and provide an interpretive centre where early Murrayville settlement can be explained.

We are sure that you are tired of this inconvenient winter weather and welcome a return to normal activities as pandemic restrictions passed.

I personally thank everyone who has expressed condolences to me over Maureen's passing.

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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Next Great Save

The Hope Station House (built by Canadian Northern Railway in 1916) is the third prize winner in the National Trust for Canada's "Next Great Save" Competition.

The station was destined for demolition, but a grassroots campaign eventually saw ownership transferred from the municipality to the Sunshine Valley Tashme Museum. More than 8,000 Japanese Canadians stepped off the train at Hope on their way to internment camps during the Second World War.

The Station House will be moved to a more central location to become a museum and visitor information centre. The \$5,000 prize money will help kickstart restoration work. Duncan Train Station (1912) was awarded the \$50,000 first prize which will be used to make the structure more energy efficient.



Photo courtesy: Hope Station House Society

Happy 90th Toots

Many will recognize Toots as she volunteers at Langley events like school heritage fairs, blood donor clinics, and attractions such as the Langley historic train station, Langley Centennial Museum, Campbell Valley Nature House, and many others.

Toots began volunteering in her community after her husband passed in 2004. Prior to this, she cared for him for 21 years after he suffered a stroke at 55.

Join us in thanking Toots and wishing her a wonderful celebration (with lots of hugs). Without her, and countless others, Langley's attractions relying on volunteers to operate couldn't be open or offer as many events and programs.



Toots is pictured above visiting with CNR volunteer Juli-Anne Patterson at the Langley train station's 2023 Open House during BC Heritage Week. You'll find Toots volunteering in the station on Saturdays once the season opens on Victoria Day. Photo: Mark Forsythe

Wheels of Time

If you missed our whimsical story that highlights Langley's people and events between 1910 and 1969, with a focus on the heritage CNR Station during the Fort Langley Film Festival, you can watch it anytime on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gDJsVK5y8A>

Maureen Pepin's Passing

Our hearts and thoughts extend to Fred Pepin and family after the passing of Maureen Pepin. She left an incredible legacy through her family, work and heritage-related volunteer efforts. Born in Vancouver in 1934, she earned a BA and teaching certificate at the University of British Columbia, and a Masters at Western Washington University. She taught in Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, serving many years as vice-principal at Aldergrove Secondary and Langley Secondary.

After retirement in 1991 she remained active with the Langley Teachers Association and chaired the Langley Scholarship Committee for 33 years. Scholarships were important to her and assisted Maureen on her own journey. She also loved horses — whether riding in the Hunt Club or volunteering with the Valley Therapeutic Association. She also shared a passion for local history and was a volunteer docent at the Langley Centennial Museum for 24 years. She edited *The Place Between*, an important history of the Aldergrove area, and crafted *Roads and Other Place Names in Langley*, and the *History of Langley Schools*, with Norm Sherritt and Harry McTaggart.

Maureen was always up for Langley Heritage Society events. A personal highlight was helping Fred host the annual LHS picnic at their beautiful farm where you see her in the photo above leading a tour of the family garden.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking people to donate to the **Pepin Family Scholarship**, Langley Foundation, Langley School Board office at 4875 222nd Street, Langley, BC V3A 3Z7.



Photo: Mark Forsythe



Empty Your Closets and Help Langley's Stray Cats

C.A.R.E.S. Cat Shelter is in search of new and gently used household items, as well as gift cards, to include in their **2023 Spring Online Auction**.

A non-profit, no kill shelter located in the outbuildings at the historic Moir House site in Langley, C.A.R.E.S. runs 100% on donations and a team of dedicated volunteers. The funds raised from this auction will help with vet bills, food, and all the necessities needed to house and feed their many cats while they are here waiting to find their fur-ever homes.

Please email: caresauction@gmail.com for donation arrangements. Donations accepted up until March 31st.

Heritage Partners' News

BC Farm Museum: Excited About the Year Ahead!

We were surprised to have been voted the #1 Museum in the Township of Langley by community voters in the Langley Advance Times Readers Choice Awards! THANK YOU to the Community for the support you give the Farm Museum. The Farm Museum is owned and operated solely by volunteers.

Volunteers have been busy refreshing many exhibits! Exhibits range from great grandma's spinning wheel to a 1919 Nichols and Shepard traction steam engine - and over 6000 other items shown in two buildings in Fort Langley. Both buildings are filled to the rafters and up the walls – literally! Many of the items have been restored or repaired to operating condition by volunteers in the Museum woodworking and mechanical shops.

This allows for fascinating demonstrations for school groups and other visitors. Help make some rope, saw a log, or have your picture taken in a carriage. Children enjoy the scavenger hunt – and the little prize they get when completed.

An exciting event is our recent purchase of the property next to our current buildings. Discussions are happening on the design and content of a third museum building we plan to build there – once funds are raised to do so.



New exhibit all about tobacco.
Photo: BC Farm Museum

Alder Grove Heritage Society

Alder Grove Heritage Society is looking forward to a busy 2023. We ended 2022 by recognizing the 80th anniversary of Aldergrove's fire department and started this year with two museum tours for 21 Langley Boy Scouts and then 84 Grade 2 students from Parkside Centennial Elementary.

Three local community groups are celebrating significant milestones: Aldergrove Elks turn 100, #1922 Royal Westminster Regiment Army Cadets Aldergrove turn 80 and our Royal Canadian Legion Branch 265 is 60. We have been busy gathering historic information for these groups to help recognize their achievements. Community Heritage Day 2023 will be held Saturday 19 August at our museum, with some great additions planned for this year.

Part 1 of our project to digitize microfilms of the Aldergrove Star and its predecessors (1957-1991) is almost complete, and we're happy to announce that our grant application to digitize the 1992-2000 papers was successful so Part 2 will begin in the spring. Many thanks go to BCHDP and UBC for this opportunity.

Our building is open for the season every Sunday 12-4pm, and we invite you to stop in to see our treasures and the wealth of family history documents we have in our museum and archives.

Fort Langley National Historic Site

~ Join us for Spring Break! ~

The event is all about the “B’s” of nature—birds, beavers, bees, butterflies, bears, bats, etc. Our staff are history buffs, so every day from 10am to 2pm, an expert from a local organization will be educating visitors in our theatre.

Groups include: Langley Field Naturalists Society, Critter Care Wildlife Society, Orphaned Wildlife Rescue Society, Birds Canada, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society, Little Campbell Watershed Society, and many more!

Check our Facebook page for each day’s visiting group. Throughout spring break, you can also check out our peat pot planting station and take home a pollinator helping plant to grow in your garden!

Langley’s Sister Station

This 1913 Class 3 station (pictured to the right) is located at Meeting Creek, Alberta where it served the defunct Canadian Northern Railway." (Photo: Barry Moon)



Canadian Northern Railway opened the Langley station at Fort Langley in 1915.

Four years later, the elegant Beaux-Arts Pacific Central Station was unveiled as the western terminus of the new, Canadian National Railway.

Canadian Northern had grand plans for its cross-country rail network, steamships and future resorts, but went broke during the Great War period. It was absorbed by the government-owned CNR. Pacific Central Station still stands as an important Vancouver landmark and transportation hub near False Creek and is today owned by VIA Rail Canada.



Photo: Canadian Northern Railway Station under construction in 1918. City of Vancouver Archives

Down By The Langley Station

Designing displays and crafting new signage to highlight the importance that the railway played to Langley's development takes months of research, planning, and writing.

Prior to season opening, Helen Williams (with the help of hundreds of volunteer hours from LHS directors and volunteers) spends her time repairing and maintaining equipment and artifacts, connecting and working with heritage partners near and far, refurbishing built heritage



Armed with cleaning products and rags, Vivianne Harskamp and Juli-Anne Paterson teamed up to clean all the suitcases in the passenger car.

where funds permit, endless cleaning, upgrading the grounds, arranging volunteer events, and cutting back invasive blackberries.

It's a wide array of skills needed to keep the station open to the public, and we continually seek volunteers throughout the year. Come join us.

Visit: <https://www.langleyheritage.ca/volunteer-information/>



Sharon Johnson's sense of humour and get-it-done attitude is a great combination as she and station manager Helen Williams create the site's new displays.



Last minute touch up by LHS director Jim Foulkes before the station open house. All Photos: Helen Williams

Celebrating Heritage Week Station Open House

During BC's Heritage Week, we hope you took the time to celebrate the culture and heritage of the communities that make up the place you call home.

This year to celebrate, the society held an Open House at the Langley railway station. Members and the public explored the waiting room's new CNR vintage posters, marveled at Lyle Longstaff's murals surrounding the model railway in the CNR caboose, and glimpsed into what it was like traveling inside a passenger car.



The team of CNR volunteers (L to R) who staffed the station open house. Kimberley Perkins (in her homemade vintage costume), Juli-Anne Paterson (hiding in the back row), Margot McKenzie, Morgan Wilks (back row), Adam Bouwman (front), and station manager Helen Williams (back).

We're working on a number of additional displays including a tour exploring the site and its original gardens. Come visit during the summer months and bring the kids—we have a **scavenger hunt** for preschoolers and primary grades. Opening day is Victoria Day on May 22, 2023.

Historic CNR Train Station, Fort Langley



Explore Langley's rail
history brought to life in a
**1915 Canadian Northern
Railway station**



New this year for the Langley Heritage Society is a brochure dedicated to advertising the Fort Langley CNR Station.

Created by Helen and Sharon, we thank the LHS station committee, Mark Forsythe, and Helen's colleague Graeme Roy (from the Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario) for their valuable input.

Photo is courtesy of our very own Adam Bouwman of **TriCity Photos** —a CNR volunteer and avid railfan.

Mark Your Calendar

Langley Heritage Society 2023 AGM

Save the date, we're back in person to mingle, eat, and hear a new speaker at the society's upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Date: Friday, April 21, 2023

Time: 5:30pm Reception, 6:00pm Dinner

Location: Fort Langley Community Hall

Dinner Details: Tickets are \$25.

Valley Catering will be back again this year with two meats, vegetables, salads, buns, beverages, and desserts. Delish!

Tickets are available from LHS director, Dave Buckley. Email or call/text Dave at:

E: dalwyneb@telus.net

C: 778-899-2209

Brigade Day Picnic May 13

Voyageurs & Cie and Langley Heritage Society's Sandra Reams are in need of volunteers for the 2023 Brigade Days picnic held at historic Michaud House in Langley City.

The event features guest historians, music, and costumes in celebration of the 1824 James McMillan Expedition.

Please contact Sandra at 604-534-4435 if you can to lend a hand or would like to buy a ticket.



Courtesy of Maple Ridge Museum. Crossing the river, before the Albion Ferry 1949.

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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Barbara Bryson @ **Wisteria Guest House in the Fort**
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