

Langley Heritage Society

{spring 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

It was very encouraging to see our members fill the hall for the AGM. The directors wish to thank everyone for their support and to welcome Pierce Smith as a member of the board.

The opening day in May was a great success. A large "thank you" to Helen and her volunteers and everyone else that contributed to planning, gardening, interpretation, cleaning, and everything else that makes this site such a welcoming asset to our community. Thank you to Gerry for operating the model railway in the caboose. It is a great crowd pleaser. It was a pleasure to participate in the May Day Parade this year.

We are now planning for the resumption of school programs and the opening of salishan Place by the River.

With the new salishan Place, the expansion of the BC Farm Museum, the National Historic Site, and the CNR Station all attracting large numbers of visitors we should be stopping commercial and residential development of public lands and keep these spaces green.

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

May Day Parade

Fred Pepin was at the helm of the lead tractor in the 101st Fort Langley May Day Parade.

Great job Mr. President! Also, thanks to CNR Station volunteer Kimberley Perkins and family/friends who came up the rear with candies and dressed in vintage costume. We'll be buying more candies for next year as the girls ran out too soon.



All Photos: Mark Forsythe



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet volunteer Aedan Smyth, a grade 12 student at Brookwood Secondary School. Asked about his favourite artifact in the CNR freight room, he grabbed the stumping powder box.

This was vital to railways and farmers to hasten the removal of trees and stumps. Aedan has a keen interest in railway history and his plans include pursuing a history degree at Simon Fraser University. We wish him well and thank him for volunteering at the Fort Langley heritage CNR Station.

We're always eager to welcome new volunteers. Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/u58f7un5>



CNR Volunteer, Aedan Smyth. Photo: Mark Forsythe

Members RSVP for the Heritage Society Summer Picnic at Pepin Farm

DATE: Sunday, August 20, 2023

PLACE: 25323 - 12th Avenue (off 256), Aldergrove

TIME: AFTER 3 pm until 8 pm

What to BRING: Something to barbecue and something to share (appetizer, salad, casserole, dessert, buns, pickles, wine or ?). Casual clothes, a bathing suit (if you're swimming), and lawn chair.

PROVIDED: We will provide cutlery, napkins, punch, butter, condiments, plates, cups, coffee, tea, sugar, and cremo.

RSVP: Call or email Maureen's daughter Jane to say if you are, or are not, coming AND also tell us what you're bringing to share.

Telephone: 604-219-7681 or **Email:** m-fPepin@hotmail.com

New Fort Waterfront Consultations

In recent years there have been three different proposals for the Fort Langley waterfront in the Marina Park and Haldi House area. Consultation is beginning to pick up steam again.

In addition to a Township of Langley survey, the **Fort Langley Community Association** wants to know what you'd like to see happen in this area (the Langley Heritage Society is part of this consultation process and eager to see restoration of Haldi House and retention of green space). To complete the Township's survey, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/bdcu7ebx>

To take the Fort Langley Community Association survey, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yaxcudta> Each requires just a few minutes of your time.



April AGM

It's been much too long between public gatherings, so the Langley Heritage Society was pleased to host its AGM Dinner at the Fort Langley Community Hall. More than 75 people gathered to catch up with friends, enjoy a hearty meal, and usher in a **new board** that includes Pierce Smith, curator at the Fort Langley National Historic Site. Langley Township's Manager of Heritage Planning, Stephen Mikicich, was the **keynote speaker** who shared his personal connection to the heritage sector, why local heritage matters, and what individuals can do to strengthen it. President Fred Pepin also spoke about a **LHS proposal to restore the Old Yale Barn** in Murrayville that's currently before Township Council. A special thank you to Dave Buckley for his organizational skills, along with Donna Buckley, Rosemary Genberg, Ellie Bosch, Tom Annandale — and other volunteers who made the event a success. We plan to relaunch the **Speaker Series** this fall at the Milner Chapel and look forward to more regular contact with our members.



Alder **Grove** Heritage Society's Tami Quiring and LHS member **Petrina** Arnason. Photo: Mark Forsythe

Old Yale Barn Project Proposal

The Old Yale Barn (circa 1915) in Murrayville is a hip-roofed structure that served as a dairy barn for decades. It reflects the story of the development of farming, which continues to be an important underpinning of the local economy. The barn sits inside the Township's Old Yale Park, directly beside a community garden, walking trail and off-leash dog area. It is in serious need of repair, with portions of the roof and siding missing, the structure is open to the elements and needs prompt attention.

People in the surrounding community have told our Society they want to see the barn saved and put to good use. Langley Heritage Society proposes to replace the roof and siding, at our expense.

The barn would continue to be managed by the Township of Langley's Recreation, Culture & Parks Department. There could be multiple uses for this restored barn – park and community events, improved garden storage, new park interpretation, and critical barn owl habitat. The Great Northway Railway laid its track through this area, Old Yale Road is an historic transportation route, and some of Langley's earliest farms were established in the immediate area. It's rich in possibilities for historical interpretation and fits directly into themes outlined in the Township's 'Our Shared History' document.

The Langley Heritage Society has saved and preserved heritage structures in Langley Township for more than 40 years. Some of these buildings have received official Township heritage site designation, including the Fort Langley CNR Station and Dixon House & Barn project and they also appear on the register of Canada's Historic Places. We are proud of this record of heritage preservation and restoration.



Yale dairy barn in Old Yale Park needs some TLC. Photo: Mark Forsythe



CN 2522 with its distinctive "Canadian Cab" is on the point of an intermodal train as it passes the Fort Langley CNR Station.

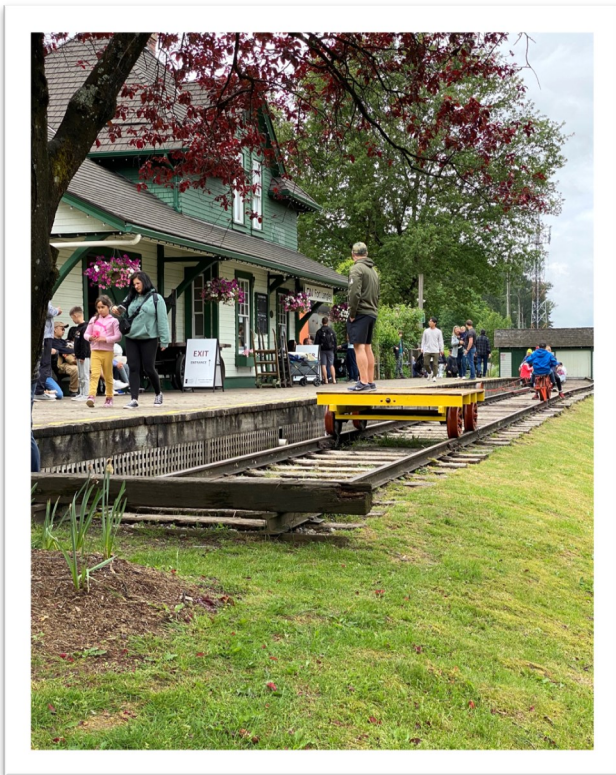
Photo courtesy of CNR volunteer, and rail enthusiast, Adam Bouwman of TriCity Photos.

Down By The Langley Station

Opening day at the Fort Langley CNR Station was busy with new and returning visitors. Over 450 people stopped by after the village May Day Parade.

We're grateful for the station's interpretive signs to be printed on professional backing, and Kobi Howard for rearranging the new display in the freight room.

Thank you to Your Local Community for continually cutting back the blackberries on the site and along Mavis Avenue.



The Langley Heritage Society continually seeks volunteers to keep the station, caboose, and passenger car open. Throughout the year there are many repairs and ongoing projects happening behind the scenes. Come join us.

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



Local artist Lyle Longstaff has joined our team of volunteers. Lyle is sharing his enthusiasm for trains and, by volunteering his time, is helping keep the station open for the public to enjoy.



New this year, two scavenger hunts await our young visitors. All Photos: Helen Williams

French Canadian Picnic

A sweet, sunny day greeted visitors to the annual French Canadian Heritage Picnic at Michaud House in early May. Nestled beside the Nicomekl River, the house was built by the first French Canadian family to settle and farm on Langley Prairie in 1888. Joseph and Georgiana Michaud travelled from Quebec with 5 children via train, steamer, riverboat and wagon; they first spent 10 years living in an abandoned stopping house on the Smuggler's Trail (now Glover Road) before building their elegant farm house. It was eventually restored by the Langley Heritage Society and Langley Arts Council.

The picnic was hosted by a reenactors group, Voyageurs & Cie, and tenant Sandra Reams, who has lived at Michaud House for 25 years. Her gift for gardening was a lovely backdrop as speakers from Seattle, Victoria and the Nicola Valley shared stories of French Canadian and Metis history, stretching back to the fur trade era. The 1824 McMillan Expedition came north from Fort Vancouver in search of a new site for a Hudson's Bay Company fort and included Francophones and Metis. (The HBC fort was

built at Derby in 1827.) Their portage to the Salmon River from the Nicomekl River is acknowledged on a plaque at Portage Park, directly beside Michaud House. Congratulations to Joanne Plourde and her volunteers from Voyageurs and Cie for bringing this often overlooked part of our history to life.

Michaud Family Facts

For 20 years the first Roman Catholic masses were conducted in Michaud House. The parlour was re-created at the Langley Centennial Museum, and will be moved to the new salishan Place by the River facility.

Joseph's brother Maximilian Michaud bought the New Brighton Hotel at Hastings in about 1869. "Maxie" was Vancouver's first postmaster, who later bought 600 acres at Langley Prairie on his brother's behalf.

Joseph's uncle, Father Joseph Michaud, arrived in Victoria in 1858 to build BC's first Roman Catholic Cathedral. To-day it serves as the chapel at St Anne's Academy. He was described as an architect, draftsman, wood sculptor, metal worker and a brilliant science teacher who also built churches in Quebec and Vermont.

Joseph's son Max was a crack shot and part of a 1911 posse of 3 hunters from the Fraser Valley that tracked and shot a cougar that had killed deer and goats in Stanley Park. It was said Max could shoot a leaping salmon!

Joseph's grandsons, Al and Lloyd were BC aviation pioneers who served in WW II, ran a charter airline and trained pilots. Lloyd was also a noted local painter whose work is in the museum archives.

Joseph's nephew Albert Dumais came west and purchased the Wark farm at Langley Prairie in 1926. (It now sits inside the campus of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.) Wark/Dumais House was restored by the Langley Heritage Society.

The Bealieu Family later bought the Michaud Farm and raised prize-winning Holsteins. They are featured in a video on our LHS web page at: www.langleyheritage.ca



A little Voyageur fun at the French Canadian Heritage Picnic beside the Nicomekl River.
Photo Mark Forsythe

salishan Place
by the River

Work continues on salishan Place by the River, the new cultural centre for Langley Township which is located directly across the street from the former Langley Centennial Museum. An opening is expected for late 2023. Some have wondered about the lower case spelling of salishan. This explanation comes from the Township of Langley:

"The name, salishan, was gifted to the Township by ᑭᖃᓂᓴᓂ (Kwantlen) First Nation and reflects the facility's physical location within the collective territories of the mainland Coast Salish peoples and its proximity to the Salish Sea. The name acknowledges ᓂᓴᓂᓴᓂᓴᓂ and ᓂᓴᓂᓴᓂᓴᓂ, two Coast Salish language dialects spoken in the area.

Continued

Summer Weekend Hours

Come visit Langley's historic CNR train station on weekends & statutory holidays between **noon to 4pm** till October 7.

Gerry will be operating the model railway in the caboose on Father's Day (June 18) and on long weekends.



There is a long "a" at the beginning and a short "a" at the end in the pronunciation of the word salishan. The lowercase "s" at the beginning of salishan is intentional and follows the protocol shared by the partner First Nations. You would pronounce it "s-ehhhh-lish-in (pause) Place by the River." "



A living roof glows green on the Mavis Street upper entrance at the new salishan Place by the River complex. Photo: Mark Forsythe

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