

Langley Heritage Society

{winter 2024}

PO Box 982 Stn Fort Langley
Langley, BC V1M 2S3

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

As the grass greens and the spring flowers appear, we can be pleased that our sites and tenants have very little inconveniences from the winter. Warmer dry weather will move our projects along quickly.

We took part in two heritage workshops. The first was the with representative from the Royal BC Museum in Victoria. They are seeking advice on how to move forward with displaying their wonderful collections. The second workshop was hosted by our MP John Aldag who is concerned about the problems that the heritage community is facing in Langley and Surrey.

A Travel Lemming article on *21 Best Day Trips from Vancouver* mentions a tour to Fort Langley and includes a special mention of our CN Station. See: <https://travellemming.com/day-trips-from-vancouver/>
The directors wish to thank Helen and our volunteers for the dedication and enthusiasm that earned this recognition.

I hope to see many of you at our Speakers Series at Milner and at the AGM.

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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Heritage Tea & Social



Plourde (pictured above) from the Living Arts Society, and Helen Williams, manager at the Fort Langley CNR Station.

Highlights included plans to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the McMillan Expedition to the future site of Fort Langley by the Surrey Historical

It was a little like speed dating. LHS members gathered at the Fort Langley National Historic Site for the first Heritage Week Tea and Social since before the pandemic. We were joined by heritage partners who were each allotted five minutes to share news about their organization.

After LHS President Fred Pepin kicked things off we then heard from Surrey Historical Society's Evelyn Wedley, Syd Pickerell from the BC Farm Museum, Bruce Freisen from the Canadian Museum of Flight, Lindsey Fryett Jerke & Michelle Postulka representing Metro Parks, Alder Grove Heritage Society's Tami Quiring, Pierce Smith from the National Historic Site (also a LHS board member), Joanne



Lineup of local heritage partners during the 2024 Heritage Tea & Social.



Thank you to Dave and Donna Buckley for arranging the edible treats, to Pierce and the National Historic Site for hosting us, and Glenn Disney and Jim Foulkes for sharing these photos.

Above photo Right to Left: Dave Buckley, Fred Pepin, Donna Buckley, Pierce Smith, and Helen Williams.

Society. The Living Arts Society is also working towards a December event for this anniversary at Michaud House. The BC Farm Museum is making room for what could be the world's largest anvil, weighing in at 14,000 pounds! A new CNR Station exhibit is in the works that will highlight the role of Black porters on Canada's railways.

Many organizations are still picking up speed after the pandemic, and some noted an increase in young people and families visiting their sites. We encourage you to learn more about each of these community-based organizations and to pay them a visit.

Barn Restoration To Begin

The barn at Murrayville's Old Yale Park has now been fenced off in preparation for major restoration work by the Langley Heritage Society.

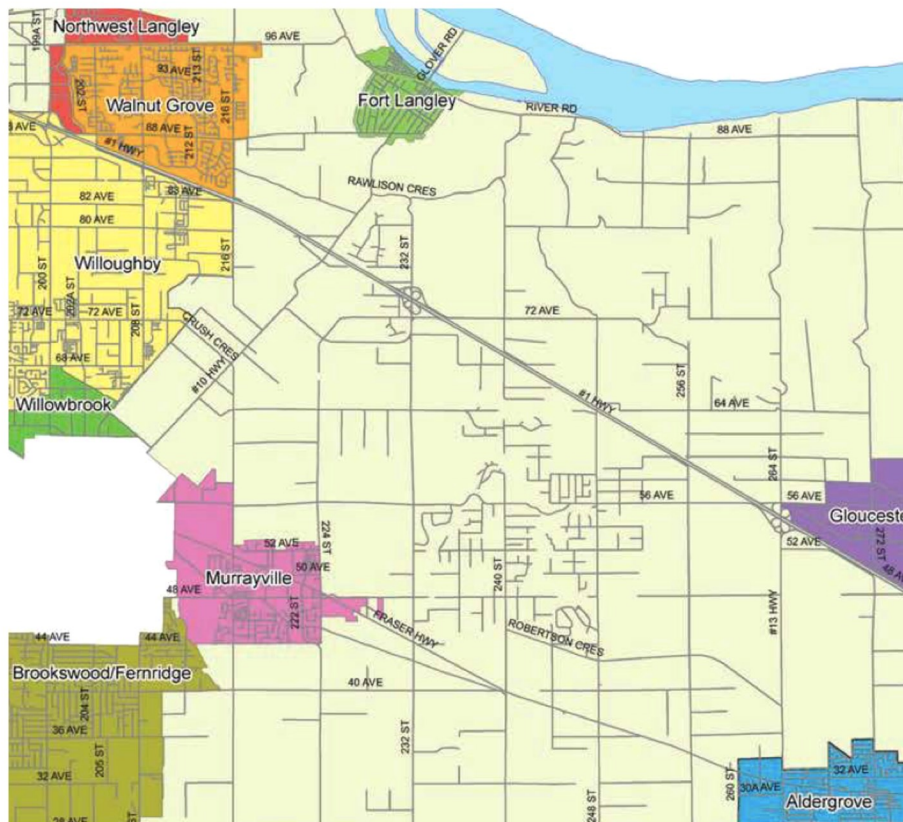
First things first: repairs to the roof substructure are required so that it can then be re-shingled with a long-lasting recycled rubber as used on the CNR Station roof in Fort Langley in 2020.

The old siding will be replaced with a durable Hardie-board, extending the life of this classic hip-roofed barn (circa 1915) that also serves as important owl habitat. When completed, the barn will be managed by Township of Langley Parks. Old Yale Park also features a community garden and off-leash dog area. We'll keep you posted on the progress!



Work to begin soon. Photo: Mark Forsythe

What's in a Name?



Map image from Township of Langley.

Kwantlen translates as Tireless Runner in the hənqəmiñəm language.

Langley was named after Thomas Langley, a director with the Hudson's Bay Company that established the fur trading post in 1827.

Murrayville, originally called Murray's Corners, got its name from Paul & Lucy Murray, first settlers in the area.

Aldergrove was named after the great stands of alder trees on rolling hills near the Bruskey farm.

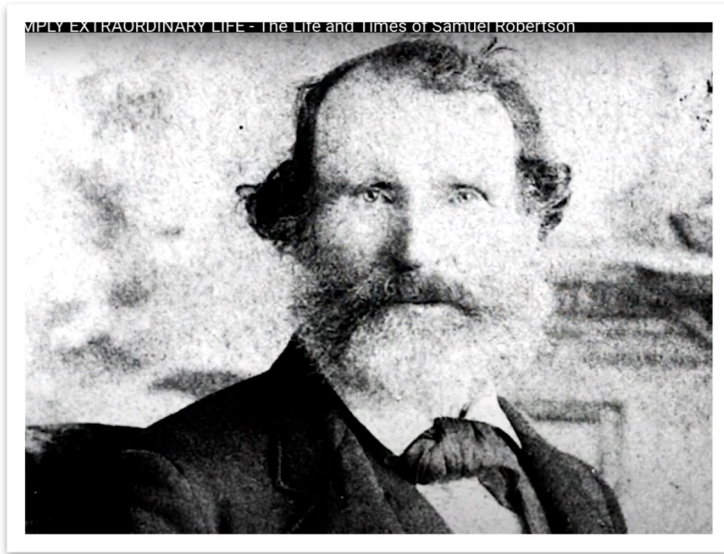
Otter was named after Colonel William Otter, commander of the Canadian contingent in the Boer War.

Matsqui translates as Easy Portage in Halq'eméylem.

“A Simply Extraordinary Life”

The BC Farm Museum commissioned Bruce Coughlan of Tiller's Folly to share the fascinating story of Sam Robertson. Born in the Orkneys, Sam worked for the Hudson's Bay Company and eventually landed in Fort Langley in 1847 where he was a boat builder and carpenter and married Julia Casimir, daughter of a Kwantlen chief.

After the fur trade had peaked, he became a successful pioneer farmer across the river at Albion, and in 1864 spent a season digging for gold in the Cariboo. He was quite successful, and with his gold dust poke, bought more land to plant fruit trees and to farm on.



Hear more of the story and watch the Tiller's Folly song dedicated to Sam in this just-released.

<https://tinyurl.com/mrsvcace>

"A Simply Extraordinary Life" features some fine production values from Creative Compass Society.

Early Version of the Internet: Telegraph Trail

This marker stands near the intersection of Glover Road and Telegraph Trail and commemorates the first telegraph line built in the west in 1865 by Collins Overland, in partnership with Western Union and the California State Telegraph Company.

They were in a race to link North America with Europe from Los Angeles, through British Columbia to Alaska, across the Bering Strait, and through Russia. They lost the race after a line was laid on the ocean floor between Ireland and Newfoundland in that same year. For a while, Telegraph Trail was an important transportation route in the Langley region.

The line made it as far as Alaska, but was mostly abandoned, except in parts of southern BC. The telegraph line was eventually moved to Old Yale Road; there was a telegraph office in the Shortreed Store west of Aldergrove.



Photo Mark Forsythe

Knights of the Sky

Monday, April 1, 2024
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Canadian Museum of Flight

**Celebrates 100 Years
of the RCAF**



- Engine Start Ups
- Tours
- Period Costumes

Air Cadet Colour Ceremony at Noon

RCAF Veterans' Reception at 3:00 p.m.

Free admission for RCAF Veterans and serving Members.



Hangar 3, 5333 - 216 Street, Langley, BC V2Y 2N3
P: 604.532.0035 E: info@canadianflight.org
W: canadianflight.org

Some 22,800 Canadians served with the British Royal Air Force during the Great War because this country did not have an air force in 1914.

More than 13,000 were aircrew and became some of the most feared flying aces of the war. Nanaimo's Ray Collishaw was credited with 60 victories -- second highest among Canadians. (The Nanaimo Airport Terminal is named in his honour.) Vancouver Millionaire hockey player Art Duncan had 13 victories, and Roderick MacLaren, who left a fur trading post in the Peace River region to join up, had 48 kills.

It wasn't until the end of the war in 1918 that the Canadian Air Force was established under the legendary pilot and Victoria Cross winner Billy Bishop (72 victories). On April 1, 1924 the Royal Canadian Air Force was officially named and organized with 62 officers and 262 airmen, commanded by another ace, William Barker.

Over 1,388 Canadian airmen gave their lives in the Great War. By the end of WWII Canada boasted the fourth largest air force in the world, had built thousands of aircraft, and trained more than 167,000 aircrew through the British Commonwealth Air Training Program. This is an impressive legacy to acknowledge during this centennial year with the Canadian Museum of Flight.

Still Standing - Barely

This apple tree was planted in the 1850s is thought to be the oldest on the Metro Parks' Fort-to-Fort Trail.

The Houston and Edge families farmed in this area, near the location where the original Fort Langley was established in 1827. The HBC Fort moved to its present site by 1840.

Photo: Mark Forsythe



Down by the Langley Station

Youth Jazz Showcase at the CNR Station

Langley Heritage Society is excited to be co-sponsoring a **free Youth Concert Series** this spring and summer at the Fort Langley CNR Station.

High school and post-secondary jazz bands will be performing in the heritage gardens on Sunday afternoons between 1 - 3 pm, from May 26th until July 14th.

The jazz ensemble from the Langley Fine Arts School will kick off the series, sponsored the Tony Quo Vadis Foundation and Langley Heritage Society.

Bring along a picnic lunch, lawn chair or blanket, and we'll see you at the CNR station where local artists will also be featured onsite.

And don't forget to visit the station house, caboose, and passenger car. For more information about the annual Fort Langley Jazz & Arts Festival, visit www.fortlangleyjazzfest.com



2024 Youth Concert Showcase

Name the Railway Engineer

Another new addition to the station is this handsome fellow pictured to the right. He's a railway engineer.

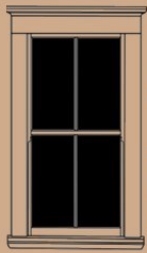
During the era of steam engines, the engineer was responsible for controlling the train's starting, stopping, and speed while the fireman in the locomotive maintained the fire, regulated steam pressure, and monitored boiler and tender water levels.

Watch for the upcoming contest on the Langley Heritage Society Facebook page.



Created by talented seamstress and volunteer, Kimberley Perkins, our railway engineer needs a name before the station opens on May 20, 2024.

Get Your Tickets for the AGM



**Langley
Heritage
Society**

**Friday May 10, 2024
Langley Heritage Society's
Annual General Meeting**

**Location: Fort Langley Community
Hall 5:30 PM**



Guest Speaker

**Maurice Guibord, Directeur général
Société historique francophone
de la Colombie-Britannique**

Purchase your buffet dinner tickets at the
Heritage Tea event in February.

You can also reserve your tickets through
LHS Director, Dave Buckley.

dalwyneb@telus.net | 604-888-7596

Cost: \$25.00 per person.

Maurice Guibord est le Directeur général de la Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique. Il oeuvre dans les secteurs de l'histoire et du patrimoine depuis plus de 40 ans. Il a travaillé dans les domaines de la conservation et des programmes au musée Glenbow de Calgary et au Burnaby Village Museum, et s'est aussi manifesté dans les organismes culturels, patrimoniaux et muséaux en Alberta et en C.-B. Il est conseiller fondateur de la société Heritage Vancouver, et est chroniqueur historique à Radio-Canada. Il détient une Maîtrise en Histoire de l'université Simon Fraser.

Maurice Guibord is the Executive Director of the Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique. He has been involved in history and heritage for over 40 years. His museum experience in the curatorial and programming areas in Calgary's Glenbow Museum and the Burnaby Village Museum matches his involvement in heritage, cultural and museum organizations in Alberta and B.C. He is also a founding director of the Heritage Vancouver Society, and is a historical chronicler with Radio-Canada. He holds a Masters in History from Simon Fraser University.

Upcoming Events

Members' speaker series meetings occur on the fourth Tuesday of September, October, January, and March at 7:30pm at **historic Milner Chapel**, located at 6716 - 216th Street.

Speaker Series

Tuesday, **March 19, 2024**

Speaker: Alexander Globe

Book: "Gold, Grit, Guns"

Of the few surviving 1858 miner's journals, Globe brings the miners' distinctive voices, personalities, and experiences back to life in his book.

Annual General Meeting

Friday, **May 10, 2024**

Speaker: Maurice Guibord

Location: Fort Langley
Community Hall

Reserve your dinner tickets
through Dave Buckley:

E: dalwyneb@telus.net

C: 604-888-7596

Connect With Your Roots

Alder Grove Heritage Society can help you begin a genealogy search with loads of stories, books, documents, and photos.

To learn more, contact

learn@aldergroveheritage.ca

Volunteers Have Fun

With volunteers Julie and Les Fullerton moving, the station volunteer team has suffered a huge loss.

If you, or anyone you know, like talking with people around the world and sharing the history of Fort Langley and the stories of a once working railway, apply online at,
www.langleyheritage.ca/volunteer-information/



Station volunteer Juli-anne Paterson's favourite visitors are children and stamping little hands. Photo Helen Williams



Station volunteers 2023 yearend appreciation event included a tour and lunch at Surrey's Stewart Farmhouse. Photo Jim Foulkes

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

Go With The Flow Plumbing & Heating, 604-803-7951

Wisteria Guest House in the Fort, 604-888-4912

Genesis Alarms, 604-588-1313

Nufloors, 604-533-4231

Robertson Plastics, 604-533-4055