

Langley Heritage Society

{spring 2024}

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

Despite a challenging winter building season our dedicated contractors were able to install a new recycled rubber roof on the barn project in Old Yale Park. This is the third building that we have used this product on. It provides the appearance of a historic wooden roof for durability and environmental advantages. We will restore the interior as labour and funds are available.

One wall of the homesteader's cabin is now in storage until the opportunity to display it presents itself.

The AGM was well attended and the speaker and dinner were excellent.

The joint Canada Day event that included the CNR Station, the BC Farm Museum, and the Fort Langley National Historic Site brought a large number of visitors to Fort Langley.

I hope to see you at the picnic on Sunday, August 18, 2024.

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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What's May Day Without Tractors



LHS president and farmer Fred Pepin drives the Society's entry in the Fort Langley 2024 May Day Parade. Fred is as comfortable in a tractor's seat as he is repairing a heritage building. Photo Mark Forsythe



Another Successful AGM

Thank you to LHS member Glenn Disney for once again documenting our AGM Dinner at the Fort Langley Community Hall. Good friends, a delicious dinner, a review of society business, jazz grooves from Dave Quinn & Doug Louie, followed by guest speaker, Maurice Guibord, who shared the rich Francophone history of Langley.

As always, we especially appreciate the efforts of Dave and Donna Buckley who organize our social events. Thank you to the directors who will comprise the board of directors in the year ahead: Fred Pepin, Lotte Elias, Tom Annandale, Chad Turpin, Ellie Bosch, Carol Briner, Dave Buckley, Jim Foulkes, Brigitte Wieronski, Shawn Feddes, Pierce Smith and Mark Forsythe.



Thank you to LHS director, Pierce Smith (pictured above between Ellen Edwards and another member) for securing and coordinating the speakers for the LHS Speaker Series and dinner events.



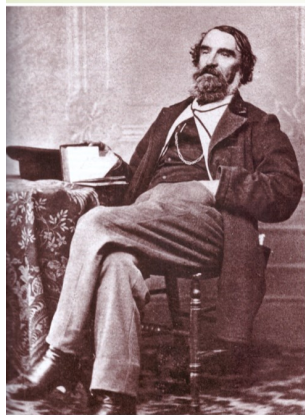
Langley's Francophone Roots

Historian Maurice Guibord was guest speaker at our spring AGM. He enlightened the key role of Francophones in the development of Langley, from the fur trade era forward. This excerpt below describes the life of John Ovid Allard, who is buried beside his wife, T'seeyiya, in the Fort Langley Cemetery. Allard Crescent is named after John Ovid's grandson, Eugene, killed at Ypres during the First World War.

"John Ovid was one of the most important Francophone figures in the fur trade in BC. I must note that any Francophone bearing that name would have spelled it OVIDE, so the name was undoubtedly anglicized on the west coast. He was born in Montreal in 1817 and died in 1874 at Fort Langley. He was articling for a notary's office in Lachine QC when he joined the HBC in 1834 and immediately went west, spending his first five years at Fort Hall in Idaho. Then he went with the party that established Fort Boise in today's Idaho, where he was second in command. It is there that he acquired much experience with Indigenous customs and languages.



Maurice Guibord. Photo: Glenn Disney



**OVID
ALLARD**

BC Archives



**MATHILDE / MATILDA ALLARD,
daughter of Ovid Allard and T'seeyi
(baptized Justine Cowichan)**

Fort Langley National Historic Site

Five years later, he was transferred to Fort Vancouver and from there, to Fort Langley, where he was also known by the name Chatelain. When the fort burned down on April 11 1840, he helped with its rebuilding on the same site. He also served there as the trader with the First Nations and as supervisor. Factor James Murray Yale praised his worth as interpreter and being a smart fellow, but there proved to be a general antipathy between the two men.

When Oregon politics and colonization drove out the HBC northward in 1846, Allard worked on the new brigade route linking Fort Kamloops to Fort Langley. He was also with the team of six men sent to build Fort Yale, where he was in charge of the store. His courage and resources when dealing with Indigenous men was noted.

Two years later, he was of the party that built Fort Hope, where he was again given charge of the store. By 1850 he was back at Fort Langley as "Indian trader" and supervisor. But in 1852, Yale became furious with Allard for shooting his favourite – though vicious – dog, and for having provided barrels to a non-HBC trader, so much so that Allard took off to Fort Victoria by canoe with his family where he planned to resign. But Governor Douglas instead sent him off as supervisor for outside work at Nanaimo to exploit the HBC's coal deposits, which he did for four years. He was recognized for his strict surveillance of the Indigenous labourers.

Continued on next page

When the Fraser Gold Rush began in 1858, Gov. Douglas sent Allard to reopen Fort Yale, which had been abandoned after the opening of Fort Hope. Allard remained there until 1864, then was sent back to Fort Langley, where he was to “take charge”. He remained there for a decade, looking after the farm and trading, but he never achieved a rank higher than that of clerk, perhaps due to his lack of education. He is indeed said to have been “in charge” at Fort Langley, and the title Chief Trader appears in some of the writings associated with him. He did admit to not understanding the principles of accounting, which could not have helped his professional situation. What he excelled at, assisted by his crew of First Nations labourers, was the management of the fort’s farming lands and cattle herds which until the early 1870s maintained the HBC’s trading monopoly of food on the Pacific coast. Then, the cheaper prices of American products put an end to agriculture at the fort.

Ovid’s family life was complex. He had potentially two wives and 7-8 children. At Fort Hall, he married an unnamed indigenous woman with whom he had daughter, Sennie. While at Fort Langley with second wife T’seeiya (baptized Justine Cowichan), who was the sister of a Quw’utsun (Cowichan) confederacy chief T’Soshia, Jason’s wife T’seeiya became jealous of Ovid’s doting on the girl, and gave the baby away to a passing Scottish trader, though she claimed that the baby had fallen overboard from a canoe and drowned. However, the girl returned years later, now a young adult named Marie, and started a family of her own. In 1853, Allard formalized his marriage to T’seeiya. Their children were Lucie, Jason, Ovide, Mathilde, Sara and Joseph. While at Fort Langley, a young daughter drank poison, died and was buried by Ovid in a coffin made from their floorboards. Some sources suggest that both wives were indeed the same person.

Allard was also active in the community, serving as chairman of the school board in the 1870s and as postmaster in 1870-71. He was still at the fort when he died in 1874, having spent much of his 40-year career at Fort Langley."

Take the A-Train

Rain or shine, jazz has been in the air at the CNR Station. Our society co-sponsored an 8 concert series highlighting young and emerging artists.

Fort Langley businessman Tony Quo Vadis stepped forward to sponsor this series produced by the Fort Langley Jazz & Arts Festival, which means professional quality sound and staging system, videos of the bands, and payment to the artists.

The quality of performances has been inspiring; at times it also means competing with the CNR mainline. Bands have a railway tune (like the Ellington classic) in their repertoire to salute the trains as they rumble by. Local artists were also on site and recently included King Richard Brodeaur, the former Vancouver Canucks goalie, who is a very talented painter. The series concluded July 14th, to be followed by performances at the Community Hall during the annual Jazz Festival from July 25 - 28th, 2024. For more information, www.fortlangleyjazzfest.com



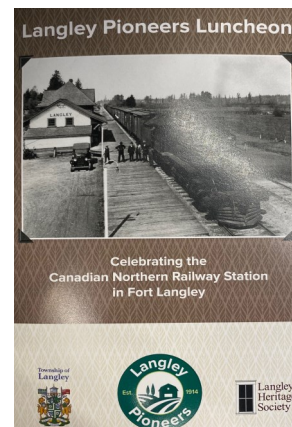
Seraphina Crema-Black performs with her jazz quartet. Photo Mark Forsythe

Pioneers Luncheon



This year's theme for the Township's Langley Pioneers Luncheon was the Fort Langley CNR Station. Thank you to the Langley Pioneer Committee for selecting the station and highlighting its importance in the development of Langley.

Station manager Helen Williams set up a display and introduced the LHS video, *CN Station Memories* produced by Brookwood Secondary School students under the guidance of LHS director, Mark Forsythe in 2019. See, langleyheritage.ca/videos



Giant Anvil Big Hit at Farm Museum

What's likely the world's largest sculpted anvil is now in place at the BC Farm Museum. It won't be moving anytime soon. The 14,000 pound (6,350 kilogram) anvil was created by artist Maskull Lasserre for the Vancouver Biennale public art exhibition in 2018, and forged at George Third & Son. The Museum was happy to acquire it as a donation from the steel fabrication company and it now dominates the entranceway to the museum which is home to 6,000 farming artifacts. The anvil also features a fret-hole that allowed ocean sound to be played within — a marriage of art, whimsy and craftsmanship.

A bronze plaque on the anvil reads: "This acoustic Anvil is a symbol of courage, strength and refinement... qualities of blacksmiths, farriers and our early pioneers."



The giant anvil with its fresh coat of black paint is 25 feet (7.6 metres) long and 13 feet (4 metres) tall.
Photo Mark Forsythe

salishan Place by the River: Opening?

It was expected to open in 2023, but salishan Place by the River in Fort Langley has yet to greet a visitor. The Langley Heritage Society has long supported school visits to the former Langley Centennial Museum and is sponsoring classroom spaces at the new facility through a \$60,000 donation. It now appears that Fall 2024 could see the doors open.

We asked Ryan Schmidt, Manager of Arts and Culture for the Township of Langley, for an update.

1. What are the main reasons for the one year delay in opening? (e.g. Deficiencies in construction? Programming delays? How likely is a Fall 2024 opening?)

The delay in opening salishan Place by the River can be attributed to a prolonged construction schedule due to construction-related delays, and the project team endeavouring to ensure that every aspect of the facility meets our standards. With the support of Council and the dedicated efforts of the project team, we are on track to meet our targeted gradual opening in October 2024. However, this is contingent on the receipt of occupancy from the contractor, a milestone that will kickstart the activity of bringing salishan Place by the River to life.

2. How far along is development of exhibit space?

High level concepts, ideas and approximate timelines have been developed for the initial temporary exhibits in salishan's gallery spaces. More focused interpretive planning is anticipated, including the development of a content matrix to inform the second and subsequent iterations of the gallery spaces. This work will build on past community engagement and stakeholder consultation processes.

3. Are local First Nations on board with exhibit planning? Example of what's being created?

Conversations have started and will continue with Kwantlen, Katzie, Matsqui and Semiahmoo First Nations. This important dialogue is a necessary prerequisite to the creation of gallery exhibits and other art displays at salishan. To date, the Township has engaged with six different local land based Indigenous artists, with representation from all Nations, on specific artistic elements that will be featured at salishan including copper house posts, two-dimensional line art, etc.

4. When do you expect the library to move into its space?

As you are likely aware, the library has already moved out of its previous location and is currently operating a successful pop-up service at the entrance of the closed Langley Centennial Museum. With the new library within salishan Place by the River having its own exterior entrance, our priority is to facilitate its relocation and opening as soon as possible after building occupancy is achieved. This process will be independent of the larger building opening and estimated to last 2 - 4 weeks after occupancy.

For more information, follow salishan Place by the River on Instagram or visit, tol.ca/en/salishanplace.aspx



Photo Mark Forsythe

Barn Restoration Continues

Langley Heritage Society is currently restoring a historic barn in Old Yale Park that is a reminder of the huge role that agriculture has played in this part of the Fraser Valley. Contractors reinforced the roof substructure under the direction of Fred Pepin, and then a new roof made from recycled rubber tires was laid on top. This roofing material has also been used at the CNR Station and Wark/Dumais House.

Sheeting comes next, and then new siding that we expect will extend the life of the barn for another 100 years. The Langley Heritage Society is funding this project, with support from the Langley Heritage Trust. When completed, the barn will be operated by the Township of Langley in this popular park that includes trails, dog-walking area and community garden. Many people living in the area have expressed how happy they are to see this structure being restored. The owls living near the peak are too.



The 1915 era barn now has a new roof made from recycled tires. Photo Mark Forsythe

Down by the Langley Station



Season Opening: May Day

A huge thank you to returning volunteers pictured above (L to R) Margot McKenzie, Adam Bouwman, Juli-anne Paterson, Kimberley Perkins, and Gerry Landsman & his son-in-law Dan (not pictured but running the model railway in the caboose).

Kimberley taught visitors to dance the may pole in the garden throughout the day.



Canada Day 2024

Station manager Helen Williams and Kimberley Perkins were dressed in period costume. Writing with a quill pen and sealing a letter written by the station agent (with your monogrammed initial) in hot wax made for a fun heritage activity.



Welcoming Visitors

In July, LHS director Shawn Feddes and Hannah Bennett (past director) with their children stopped by for a tour.

It's staggering how many international visitors we meet. We ask them to place a pin on a world map in the passenger car to show us where they've travelled from.

RSVP for the Annual Pepin Picnic

Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024

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

Time: After 3 pm until 8 pm

Provided: cutlery, napkins, punch,
butter, condiments, plates, cups, coffee,
tea, sugar, Cremo

Bring: Something to barbecue and
something to share (appetizer, salad,
casserole, dessert, buns, pickles, wine
or ?). Casual attire, a bathing suit (if you
want to swim) and lawn chair.

RSVP

Call/Text or Email Helen

T: 604-866-1925

E: williams@telus.net

Let us know if you're coming AND what
you are bringing to share.

Congratulations Mr. Heritage-Fred Pepin!

Heritage BC awarded Fred an
Honourable Mention in the Ruby Nobbs
Distinguished Service Award for 2024.
This recognizes volunteers who have
made, "a lifelong commitment, and who
have, shaped heritage in their
communities through significant
contributions and leadership." The award
was presented in Nelson, BC during
Heritage BC's annual conference. As our
members know, Fred has been a driving
force behind the Langley Heritage
Society for more than 40 years, leading
the volunteer organization in saving and
restoring multiple buildings in Langley.

\$1,000 Bays Blackhall Memorial Scholarship

Dear Lotte Elias,

I am beyond grateful for this
opportunity to pursue my dream
career with a lesser financial
burden. Thank you so much!
I am planning to go to UBC
for a Bachelor's of Applied
Sciences to become an engineer.
My specialization is going to be
biomedical or chemical
engineering. Since I have a
heavy course load starting my
first year, this scholarship will
allow to focus more on my
classes and work less!

- Grace Lee
Walnut Grove Second-
Grad of 2024 ary

295 scholarships benefitting ... 245 graduating Langley School
District students. With a grand total of ... \$256,280 in awards for
the 2024 graduating year!

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