

Langley Heritage Society

{summer 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

Our annual picnic was fortunate to have a sunny afternoon with great food and a large number of members.

After summer break to catch up on farm work, we have resumed work on the Old Yale Barn restoration. People walking by the site are very supportive and interested in having interpretive signage to view. There also many activities being suggested for the barn. Deteriorated wall framing is now being replaced with new lumber and plywood and it will be protected with hardiboard.

It is a relief to see the now designated Haldi House preparing for its new life in Fort Langley. The old firehall in Aldergrove has also been recognized.

Plans have been made for celebrating the 200th anniversary of the MacMillan Expedition that lead to the establishment of Derby and Fort Langley.

I thank you for your support and wish to see you all at Douglas Day Dinner.

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."

Inside This Issue

{ page 2 }

Pepin Picnic

Douglas Day Dinner:
Tickets for Sale

{ page 3 }

November Speaker

{ page 4 and 5 }

Heritage BC's Industrial
Heritage Map

Re-roofing Karr-Mercer Barn
Youth Concert Series Wraps Up

{ page 6 and 7 }

Langley City Railway Signs

Bear Named

Old Yale Barn Update
Down by the Langley Station

{ page 8 }

Society News

Annual Pepin Picnic

Thanks to Fred and family for hosting the annual Pepin Picnic. LHS members gathered for conversation, food and fun on a beautiful August afternoon.



Douglas Day Dinner: Get Your Ticket!

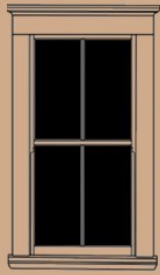


Join us at the **Fort Langley Lions Hall** for the annual Douglas Day Dinner on Friday November 22nd at 7 pm.

Sir James Douglas was a man of mixed heritage who became a fur trader and colonial governor; a key figure during chaotic times, he has been called ,“The Father of British Columbia”.

We'll explore his legacy, and gather with friends for a delicious meal.

Tickets are available for \$25 from Dave Buckley via email at dalwyneb@telus.net or call 778-899-2209.



Langley
Heritage
Society

October 22, 2024
Langley Heritage Society's
Speaker Series

Location: Milner Chapel, 7:00 pm



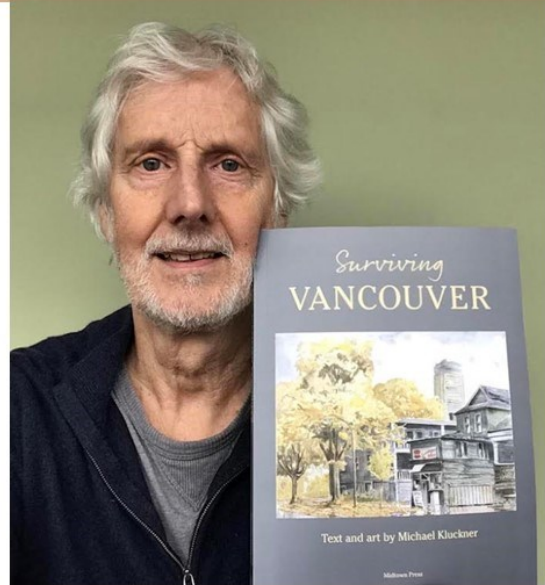
INTRODU

Artwork from the book

October Speaker Series
Tuesday, October 22, 2024
7:00 pm at
Milner Chapel

Featured speaker:

Micheal Kluckner
Surviving Vancouver



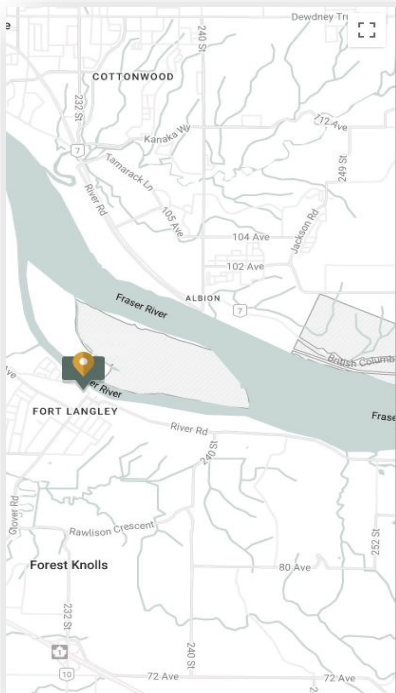
The book asks and attempts to answer two questions: What's survived in Vancouver? And, how do you survive within Vancouver, or without it? From historic neighbourhoods under threat from land speculation to the debates about densifying and making room, I explore the contested space of Metro Vancouver, using some watercolour images from about 25 years ago as well as new art with a more political edge.

CNR Station on the Map

Heritage BC's Industrial Heritage Places Map is launched. "From power plants to pulp mills, this map uncovers the stories behind the industries that shaped our province", says Heritage BC.

"Together, the sites help show the impacts of industry, both positive and negative, on changes within a growing province, and show the changing values of the communities they impacted."

The Fort Langley CNR Station takes its place among these sites. Explore the map here:
<https://tinyurl.com/5n8vz8xv>



The map shows the Fraser River flowing through Fort Langley. A red pin marks the location of the CNR Station near the intersection of River Rd and 249 St. Other nearby streets include 248 St, 247 St, 246 St, 245 St, 244 St, 243 St, 242 St, 241 St, 240 St, 239 St, 238 St, 237 St, 236 St, 235 St, 234 St, 233 St, 232 St, 231 St, 230 St, 229 St, 228 St, 227 St, 226 St, 225 St, 224 St, 223 St, 222 St, 221 St, 220 St, 219 St, 218 St, 217 St, 216 St, 215 St, 214 St, 213 St, 212 St, 211 St, 210 St, 209 St, 208 St, 207 St, 206 St, 205 St, 204 St, 203 St, 202 St, 201 St, 200 St, 199 St, 198 St, 197 St, 196 St, 195 St, 194 St, 193 St, 192 St, 191 St, 190 St, 189 St, 188 St, 187 St, 186 St, 185 St, 184 St, 183 St, 182 St, 181 St, 180 St, 179 St, 178 St, 177 St, 176 St, 175 St, 174 St, 173 St, 172 St, 171 St, 170 St, 169 St, 168 St, 167 St, 166 St, 165 St, 164 St, 163 St, 162 St, 161 St, 160 St, 159 St, 158 St, 157 St, 156 St, 155 St, 154 St, 153 St, 152 St, 151 St, 150 St, 149 St, 148 St, 147 St, 146 St, 145 St, 144 St, 143 St, 142 St, 141 St, 140 St, 139 St, 138 St, 137 St, 136 St, 135 St, 134 St, 133 St, 132 St, 131 St, 130 St, 129 St, 128 St, 127 St, 126 St, 125 St, 124 St, 123 St, 122 St, 121 St, 120 St, 119 St, 118 St, 117 St, 116 St, 115 St, 114 St, 113 St, 112 St, 111 St, 110 St, 109 St, 108 St, 107 St, 106 St, 105 St, 104 St, 103 St, 102 St, 101 St, 100 St, 99 St, 98 St, 97 St, 96 St, 95 St, 94 St, 93 St, 92 St, 91 St, 90 St, 89 St, 88 St, 87 St, 86 St, 85 St, 84 St, 83 St, 82 St, 81 St, 80 St, 79 St, 78 St, 77 St, 76 St, 75 St, 74 St, 73 St, 72 St, 71 St, 70 St, 69 St, 68 St, 67 St, 66 St, 65 St, 64 St, 63 St, 62 St, 61 St, 60 St, 59 St, 58 St, 57 St, 56 St, 55 St, 54 St, 53 St, 52 St, 51 St, 50 St, 49 St, 48 St, 47 St, 46 St, 45 St, 44 St, 43 St, 42 St, 41 St, 40 St, 39 St, 38 St, 37 St, 36 St, 35 St, 34 St, 33 St, 32 St, 31 St, 30 St, 29 St, 28 St, 27 St, 26 St, 25 St, 24 St, 23 St, 22 St, 21 St, 20 St, 19 St, 18 St, 17 St, 16 St, 15 St, 14 St, 13 St, 12 St, 11 St, 10 St, 9 St, 8 St, 7 St, 6 St, 5 St, 4 St, 3 St, 2 St, 1 St.

Heritage CNR Station

LOCATION
23245 Mavis Street
Fort Langley, BC

WEBSITE
[Visit Website](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
This historic location is within the traditional lands of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Matsqui & Semiahmoo Peoples.



Karr-Mercer Barn Gets New Roof

The Karr-Mercer barn located at the Houston Farm in Derby Reach Regional Park is getting a new cedar shake roof.



[HistoricPlaces.ca](#) provides this [profile of the barn](#):

"The Karr/Mercer Barn is important for its historic significance. It is also an important example of a community-led restoration that combined the resources of the Langley Heritage Society and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

Continued on next page

Originally built in 1876, the barn was one of the earliest hay-drying barns constructed in the Chilliwack area. Although it was relocated to Derby in Langley, it remains one of the oldest extant barns in the Fraser Valley and is an important physical reminder of pioneer farming and building techniques.

It is an excellent example of craftsmanship, having been built for David Karr by Quebecers Cyprien Belleque and Xavier Laderiau. It is also an excellent example of barn construction techniques, having been built using mortise and tenon joints with wood dowels, and long pieces of timber.

Its relocation is not unusual because it was common practice in the farming community to take down and move a barn when necessary. It speaks to the frugal and practical nature of a rural community. Its new location on the Derby farmsite contributes to the overall educational value of the site. The site was originally occupied by the first Hudson's Bay Company Fort in 1827 and later by the Townsite of Derby (1858-60)."

That's a Wrap



The CNR Station hosted an eight-week Youth Concert Showcase Series over the summer.

Co-sponsored by the Tony Quo Vadis Foundation, the free series was presented by the Fort Langley Jazz & Arts Festival.

It provided young musicians an excellent opportunity to showcase their wonderful skills while audience members relaxed in our heritage gardens.

Plans are in the works to continue the series next summer.

Watch a ten minute compilation video here: <https://tinyurl.com/4rvz85br>

Langley City's Rail History

The City of Langley has created new signs describing how railways once connected Langley with the rest of the Lower Mainland. Both the BC Electric Railway and Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern Railway are gone, but hints of them remain on roads like Grade Crescent and pathways like Baldi Creek Trail.

LANGLEY CITY RAILWAY HISTORY

VANCOUVER, VICTORIA AND EASTERN RAILWAY

Grade Crescent is aptly named as it is laid on the original "grade" of the Vancouver, Victoria, and Eastern Railway (V.V.& E.) line.

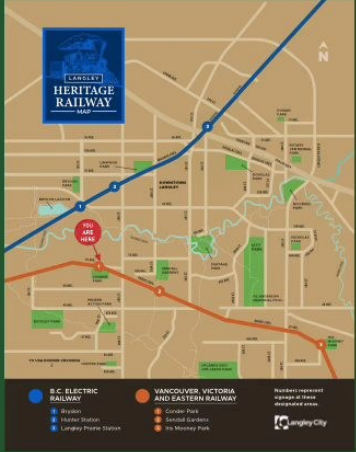
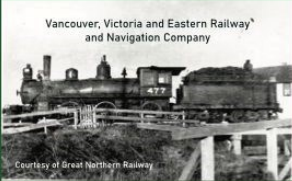
Chartered in 1897, this railway operated between the Lower Mainland and B.C.'s Kootenay-Boundary region. The V.V. & E. operated through Langley from 1908 to 1933. It was a passenger and freight line with an emphasis on long-distance rather than local service and it often transported logs to sawmills. The railway had a limited impact within Langley Prairie as there were no stations located here. The closest V.V. & E. stations were Cloverdale Station and Lincoln Station (Benz Crescent, Township of Langley). The arrival of the BC Electric Railway in 1910 had a more profound impact on Langley Prairie which became Langley City in 1955.

Parts of the V.V. & E. right-of-way were purchased for municipal roads in 1934 at a cost of \$240. The following roads follow the original railbed (with some minor re-alignments).

These include:

- Colebrook Road / 50 Avenue (between 192 Street and 200 Street)
- Grade Crescent
- 47 Avenue east of 208 Street

There was also a spur line on Grade Crescent near 208 Street which was used for housing logs on railcars that supplied the adjacent Federal Lumber Company (1918 – 1924).



Meet Bedford the Bear

We thank Iris (pictured second from left) from North Vancouver for naming our CNR Station's engineer bear. Her entry was selected from the many suggestions received in our summer contest.

Iris' inspiration for the name Bedford was a combined effort with her two big sisters and the name of the nearby channel that they biked by on the Fort-to-Fort Trail. Photo: Pamela Callaghan



Old Yale Barn



Repair work on the dairy barn in Old Yale Park has shifted to the walls before hardboard is installed, and the owl is happily in residence.
Photo: Paul Helms

Down by the Langley Station

Visitors to Fort Langley's historic train station during the 2024 season have enjoyed placing a pin on a world map, showing us where they're visiting from, like this couple from Germany. Iceland, Poland, Peru, Portugal, Africa, the Falkland Islands, and Ireland were a few of the many other countries pinned.

There were endless selfies on the station platform beside the newly created steamer trunk and suitcase display inspired by a photo from Mark Forsythe's travels to Severn Valley Railway.

The model railway in the caboose captivated thousands with new trains, changing streetscapes, and switching of stock throughout the season. We're grateful to Gerry and Dan for volunteering every long weekend and many weekends in between.

The children's reading area filled with train books and the toy train table in the passenger car are inspiring young minds with hands-on activities. Photos Helen Williams



Mark Your Calendar Speaker Series Dates

October Speaker

Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Where: Milner Chapel
6716 216 Street

Time: 7 pm

Artist-author Michael Kluckner will talk about his latest book *Surviving Vancouver*: what's survived of the old buildings and historic places in Metro Vancouver, and how people are surviving in this chaotic metropolis.

A sheep farmer in South Langley from 1993 to 2006, where he lived with his wife, gardener Christine Allen, he will also reflect on the changes he's observed in Langley in recent years. He was president of the Langley Heritage Society for a few years in the 1990s

Douglas Day Dinner

Date: Friday, November 22, 2024

Where: Fort Langley Lions Hall
23022 88 Avenue, Fort Langley

Time: 5 pm (doors open)

Tickets are available for \$25 from Dave Buckley via email at dalwyneb@telus.net or call 778-899-2209.

January Speaker

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Annual Heritage Week Tea

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2025

Heritage Home Spotlight

The Annand/Rowlatt House at Campbell Valley Regional Park is where these two pioneer families farmed in South Langley.



Photo Mark Forsythe

Restoration of the home and barns was a collaboration between the Greater Vancouver Regional District (now Metro Parks) and the Langley Heritage Society.

The farmhouse was built in 1888 by Alexander Annand and is one of the oldest in Langley Township. Our president, Fred Pepin, has Annand ancestors.

Supporters & Suppliers

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

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

Genesis Alarms, 604-588-1313

Nufloors, 604-533-4231

Robertson Plastics, 604-533-4055