



Langley Heritage Society

{winter 2025}

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"Providing the window into the past to preserve Langley's heritage for today and tomorrow"

President's Message

As we near our AGM, I will reflect on the past year.

Our greatest exposure to the public is at the railway station site. Here visitors have experienced, for many years, the early challenges facing our pioneers. Our station manager Helen had a group of dedicated volunteers entertain and guide visitors and residents with an important history lesson at no charge. Visitors are also directed to our other community heritage attractions. Our lawn and gardens provide a central place for festivals (including the Fort Langley Jazz Festival) and other community heritage attractions and a place to pause for a snack. We are providing a real opportunity for new residents to learn about our history and become proud members of our community.

Your directors were very impressed with the caretakers' maintenance of the properties that we visited on our annual tour. We are also excited to have the new museum open and look forward to be able to sponsor the attendance of school children again.

I hope to see you 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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**KEEP
CALM
AND
BUY
CANADIAN**

Mr. Heritage Receives King's Coronation Medal

Congratulations to LHS president Fred Pepin for receiving the King's Coronation Medal! Twenty-one local recipients were honoured with them by Langley-Aldergrove MP Tako van Popta. Each of them has made a significant contribution to Canada or to a particular province, territory, region or community of Canada, or has made an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada. Fred has been dedicated to heritage preservation for more than 45 years and we're so fortunate to have his guidance and knowledge.



Photos Helen Williams



On the Trail

Langley boasts a rich network of walking and cycling trails, including **Derby Reach Regional Park** which parallels the Fraser River and Allard Crescent. Pause to take in spectacular views and soak up some local history along the way. A marker near Muench Bar tells the story of the Muench family that farmed here beginning in 1868.



Photo Mark Forsythe

"After the death of her first husband, a young Sto:lo widow named Catherine, or Shenade, was staying with her sister Tselatsetenate across the river at Whonnock. Tselatsetenate was married to boatman Robert Robertson, a man who made his living ferrying people and freight between communities. The sisters spoke Halq'eméylem. Catherine met German-born Edward Muench. He came here via New York looking for adventure and good farmland. They married and raised nine children in a community made rich with many languages and traditions. Muench descendants fished and farmed here for almost 130 years."

Stories in Stone

The Murrayville Cemetery was established by Cloverdale's Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1891 on land donated by the pioneer Murray family. The first person to be buried there was homesteader John Jackson, killed by a tree that he was falling on Christmas Day 1892.

Notice that the letter "N" in John's name is engraved backwards; historian and author Warren Sommer suggests in his book, "Frail Memorials: The Cemeteries of Langley", that an apprentice may have done this. He also points out that the "ominous text" at the bottom of the marble stone was common on markers in eastern Canada where John Jackson was born. It reads:

Remember now as you pass by
As you are now so once was I
As I am now you soon shall be
So now prepare to follow me



Photo Mark Forsythe

The Odd Fellows sold the cemetery to the Township of Langley in 1904 and it remains a beautiful final resting place with mountain views to the north and surrounding forest. The cemetery includes a cenotaph with a Celtic Cross (a duplicate to the one erected at the Fort Langley Cemetery) and in recent years Remembrance Day ceremonies have been revitalized by local community members, including Langley Heritage Society's Rosemary Genberg and Grace Muller.



Photo <https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/bc/langley>

Spring Break

From March 15 to 30, 2025 Fort Langley National Historic Site's **Wild Wonders: Discover Nature & Animals This Spring Break** is full of hands-on learning.

Follow the clues, explore hidden corners, and collect awesome prizes along the way as you find Parka the Beaver. Meet Nature Helpers from local nature and conservation groups and learn how to

help care for the land and animals. See History Come to Life and watch costumed interpreters demonstrate traditional heritage skills. Join special daily programs, such as "Fort Talk" and demonstrations at 11 am, 12 pm, and from 1 pm to 3 pm. For more information <https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/bc/langley>

Gathering of the Heritage Clan

To close out BC Heritage Week, and to learn about heritage partners' plans for the coming year, we hosted our Annual Heritage Tea and Social. This event provides members an opportunity to reconnect. Thanks to all for attending!



Alex Alex Arboleda, curator of Educational Programs at the new salishan Place by the River cultural centre in Fort Langley. LHS sponsors school visits and classroom space at this new facility.

With more Canadians staying home, this is the perfect time to get the word out about our unique local heritage sites and museums.

Special gratitude to LHS director Pierce Smith for organizing the entire event and arranging the speakers. We thank Ellie Bosch and Donna and Dave Buckley who oversee the table setup and food and beverage at society events.



LHS director Mark Forsythe introduced each heritage partner at the LHS Annual Heritage Tea and Social during BC Heritage Week. We thank LHS member Glenn Disney for capturing the speakers through his camera lens.



David Hobson from the Fraser Valley Heritage Rail. They are excited about riding the BC Electric trams to Sullivan Station again in the new season which begins in May.

Spirit of the Skeena

A classic DC-3 aircraft has been moved to a more visible location at the Langley Airport. "Spirit of Skeena" was built in 1935 and belongs to the Canadian Museum of Flight, and now rests beside the Magnificent Seven mural that celebrates pioneering female pilots at the north end of the building.

A little history of the aircraft from the museum's website: "This Douglas DC-3 in fact, was the first DC-3 to be owned and operated by a "home grown" B.C. airline, -- Queen Charlotte Airlines. She became Pacific Western Airlines first DC-3 and as such was assigned the fleet number of 301. Today, CF-PWH is the oldest surviving DC-3 in Canada." The Canadian Museum of Flight has plans to relocate to Pitt Meadows Airport, a major project that could take up to five years.



Photo Mark Forsythe

Searching Your BC Ancestors



British Columbia Genealogical Society (BCGS) members have been researching, preserving and publishing their own family histories and those of British Columbian families for more than 50 years.

As a Langley Heritage Society member, you have Affiliate access to the BCGS . To take part in the special offerings, you will need the login word for 2025. It is "cherry".

Happy searching to all our family historians at
<https://www.bcgs.ca/>

Down by the Langley Station

To kick off BC Heritage Week, the historic Fort Langley CNR train station opened on February 17, 2025 for Family Day from noon to 4pm. Over 400 visitors braved the cold and remaining snow on the ground to reach the station and railcars. This event could not have happened if it wasn't for a team of committed volunteers.



Julie and Les Fullerton, above, stopped by the station to visit.



Julie volunteered at the Fort Langley station for many years before moving to Mission. During her visit, Adam Bouwman (pictured above in the passenger car) put his lanyard on Julie knowing she missed volunteering with us.



Station volunteers step up to help in all areas; even snow shovelling and spreading salt.

Photos Helen Williams



The station freight room featured the day's activity of sealing a letter written by the station agent with hot wax.

Communicating with wax seals was once a crucial part of a properly constructed letter. The seal proved privacy and the letter's author.

Thank you to Nathalie Zepeda and Louise Davis (pictured at the tables in this picture) who spent the entire day assisting visitors fold and then seal their letter.



We were pleasantly surprised that the day's activity was enjoyed as much, if not more, by adults and youth as it was by children.



Black History Month

When passenger rail travel was a critical part of Canada's transportation system, Black sleeping car porters were essential to its operation.

They were responsible for everything from shining shoes to setting up sleeping berths and even looking after children.

Blacks faced discrimination, and this was one of the few jobs men could find. Wages were low, they had to pay for their own uniforms and supplemented their wages through tips.

A new installation in the passenger car at the historic Fort Langley CNR Station tells their story. Pay a visit during our public season between Victoria Day and Thanksgiving.

Mark Your Calendar Speaker Series Dates

Annual General Meeting & Dinner

The speaker will be Ryan Schmidt from the Township of Langley to highlight salishan Place by the River and LHS involvement in Langley's new museum.

Date: Friday, May 2, 2025

Where: Fort Langley Community Hall

Time: 5 pm doors open

Historic Fort Langley CNR Station

OPENING DAY Monday, May 19, 2025



Learn to dance around the **Maypole** in the **railway garden** with Kimberley on opening day.

The station is open weekends and Statutory Holidays from May Day to Fort Langley's Cranberry Festival.
Hours: noon to 4pm

Douglas Day Dinner

Date: Friday, November 21, 2025

Where: Fort Langley Community Hall

Time: 5 pm doors open



Langley Township mayor Eric Woodward snips the ribbon at the new Fort Langley Library, located inside salishan Place by the River. Photo Mark Forsythe

Get Your AGM Dinner Tickets

Tickets are available for **\$25** from LHS director, Dave Buckley via email or phone: dalwyneb@telus.net | 778-899-2209



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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