

Langley Heritage Society

{spring 2025}

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 @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

The AGM was well attended and the opportunity to visit with our members and enjoy a great meal was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to all that participated in the set up and the cleanup for these events.

The Old Yale Barn project is nearing completion and four of our sites will be receiving regular maintenance this summer. The caboose and passenger car now shine with new paint at the Fort Langley CNR Station. We thank everyone who assisted—David Hockin who came out of retirement to donate his expertise and providing a professional paint job. We extend many thanks to David who has done much of our painting and many other heritage and wooden buildings in the community.

We thank the Township of Langley for continuing to honour the pioneers of Langley. This year's pioneer luncheon was at the Langley Events Centre on June 7, 2025.

Please plan to attend the LHS Annual Pepin Picnic on Sunday, August 17.

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 }

Haldi House Restoration

May Day Entry

{ page 3 }

Fort Langley's Chestnut
Blossoms

Long-awaited Pepin Picnic

{ page 4 }

AGM Connects Friends

{ page 5 }

Old Yale Barn Project Nears
Completion

{ page 6 }

Down by the Langley Station

{ page 7 }

Local Exhibit, Chief Dan George

Langley City's
James Douglas Signage

{ page 8 }

Society News

Youth Jazz to Return to
the Railway Garden

Haldi House Renovations Move Ahead

Courtesy, *Fraser Valley Current*

Changes to Fort Langley's waterfront are inching ahead, starting with demolitions and renovations to Haldi House.

Last week, Langley Township council approved the heritage alteration permit that would allow the township to move Haldi House from its current location and reposition it on the property.

The changes were first put forward last April, when council approved a \$4 million project to move and renovate the heritage house. The project would see the house positioned closer to the road, and rotated 45 degrees to be closer to the railway.

Details presented in the heritage alteration permit approved on Monday, May 12 show that the house would be set on top of a new foundation which would eventually become underground parking. (The plan is to use it for storage while the rest of the Fort Langley waterfront is changed.)

The interior of Haldi House will have two single-occupant bathrooms and a large meeting space on the first floor, two smaller meeting rooms on the second floor, and another single-occupant bathroom and two meeting rooms on the third floor.

In order to move Haldi House, additions that were made while the building was a restaurant will be demolished.

Although the heritage alteration permit was approved by council—with Coun. Kim Richter opposed and Mayor Eric Woodward absent because he had a financial stake in the property—construction won't begin right away. It is possible work could begin this summer, but staff said it could still take several months for the rest of the needed permits to move their way through the system.

As Langley Township is the applicant for the construction project, it will be paying development cost charges, application fees, and building permit administration fees to itself. The entire Haldi House project is expected to cost between \$3 million and \$4 million.



May Day Parade

The Langley Heritage Society entry in Fort Langley's May Day Parade. Mr. Heritage pulls the society display with one of the BC Farm Museum's tractors.

Still Standing

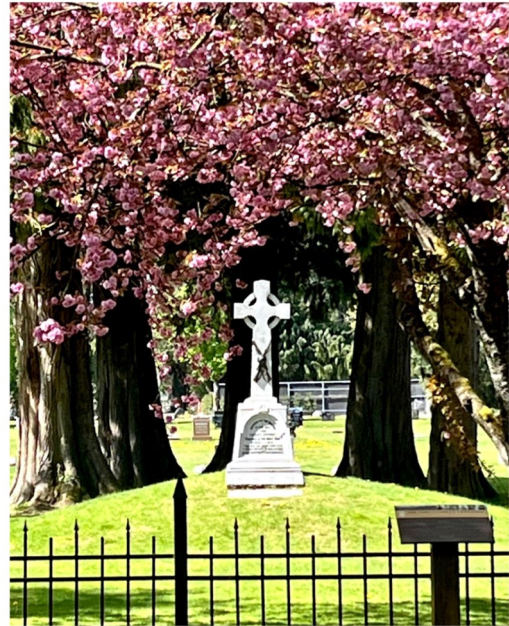
A row of beautiful chestnut trees honour Langley area soldiers who never returned home from World War I. They were planted beside the Fort Langley Cemetery by veterans Captain Dr. Benjamin Marr and Major Archie Payne.



Photos Mark Forsythe

Township of Langley staff recently reported there are fractures in the cenotaph; a restoration plan, or full replacement (with a plaza) are being considered as future options. May the integrity of this historic cenotaph and its solemn setting receive highest priority.

Today they are in full blossom on Glover Road — named in memory of veteran and former chief of police Frank Wesley Glover. Dr. Marr and Major Payne also led the campaign to build a cenotaph in the cemetery that was unveiled in 1921.



Summer Picnic



Members, mark your calendars! Fred Pepin will be hosting the annual summer picnic at his family farm August 17, 2025. Watch our Facebook page and our website www.langleyheritage.ca for details.

Meeting of the Clan

More than 70 LHS members gathered for the AGM Dinner at the historic Fort Langley Community Hall on May 2nd. It's always a wonderful opportunity to catch up on society news, renew friendships and learn something new. The food is always excellent too! This year's keynote presentation was about the new cultural facility, salishan Place by the River.

We heard about exhibit planning and programming from Ryan Schmidt, Manager of Arts & Culture for the Township, and Heritage Curator, Kobi Christian. CNR Station Manager Helen Williams also updated members on improvements in interpretation at the station as we prepare to roll into a new season on May Day Monday.

Volunteers are always welcome. Visit: <https://langleyheritage.ca/volunteer-information/>



Thanks to LHS member Glenn Disney for capturing the event through his camera lens.

Barn Restoration Nearly Complete

The Old Yale Barn in Murrayville restoration project continues. A new roof made of recycled rubber, new support beams and improved framing are now complete and the installation of windows and siding has begun. Darwin Construction has been conducting the work under Fred Pepin's guidance — Fred has also cut new beams on his home sawmill for the project.

This century-old dairy barn reflects the rich agricultural history in this region and sits inside Old Yale Park directly beside a community garden. An old railway right-of-way also skirts the edge of the park, and there are plans to broaden interpretive signage at the park. The barn owls living in the hay loft have remained in their nest throughout the restoration.



Photos Mark Forsythe

Down by the Langley Station



David Hockin, **painter**, volunteer, and friend. Photo Helen Williams

The caboose and passenger car roofs were power washed, all walls scrubbed by hand, and unsightly wear and tear filled and sanded before lovingly repainted to original colours by member and volunteer David Hockin. David came out of retirement, briefly, and did all this work for the society in the month of May.

The station opened to the song and dance of the May Pole on Victoria Day. Already, thousands of local, national, and international guests have stopped by the site.

Station manager Helen Williams visited Montreal's ExpoRail, Canada's

largest railway museum. She also met with Michael Goodchild, executive director of Sidney Museum.

For railfans, pictured to the right is the original stove from **V&S Railway Station** on First Street, beside Sidney Hotel. Purchased in the 1960s by Clem and Mildred Penson, the Penson's gave the stove to their daughter and son-in-law Maxine and Bob Martelli. They took it to Shawnigan Lake. Years later, the Martelli's moved back to Saanich, bringing the stove back with them! Learning about the Sidney Museum's railway display, they offered the stove to the museum.



When visiting Vancouver Island be sure to stop by the **Sidney Museum** to explore the area's history.



The gang back together for Opening Day in the passenger car. R to L: Juli-anne Paterson, Adam Bouwman, Helen Williams, and Fred Pepin who stopped by after May Day Parade. Photo Andy Zhang. Andy is the husband of our newest volunteer, Ivy Wang. Thank you both for volunteering your time.

Join us at the station and in the railcars as we celebrate Canada's 158th birthday in the Birthplace of BC on **Tuesday, July 1, 2025. Hours: 10am to 4pm.** Returning again is a **scavenger hunt** with the historic CNR Station, BC Farm Museum, and Fort Langley National Historic Site. Visit each of the three Fort Langley attractions for your chance to win a gift basket. There are live performances and demos on King Street thanks to the BC Farm Museum and more to be found at the Fort.

Chief Dan George Exhibition

Fort Langley National Historic Site is proud to present Chief Dan George – Actor and Activist, a powerful touring exhibition created by MONOVA: Museum and Archives of North Vancouver from May 28th until September 14th.

Born Geswanouth Slahoot and raised on the Burrard Indian Reserve #3, Chief Dan George was the son of hereditary chief George Slaholt. He spent much of his early life working as a longshoreman and logger before rising to international fame in the 1960s and 70s as an actor, musician, and public speaker. Dan George appeared in many television, movie and stage productions in which he worked to promote a better understanding of First Nations people.



Chief Dan George's words and actions still resonate strongly today. This exhibition connects the past to the present, telling the history of Chief Dan George and Indigenous rights. Through his story, visitors will also gain insight into key moments in the First Nations rights movement in British Columbia and across Canada. Entry to the exhibition is included in general admission at the National Historic Site.

Man Behind the Name

Over time, names associated with streets, parks and landmarks can lose their relevance unless we carry their stories forward. Indeed, some streets and community names (e.g. Trutch, Queen Charlotte City) have been eliminated, or changed, as our understanding of the impact of colonization evolves. This has generated much debate among the general public and academics.

Douglas Park: The Man Behind the Name
Douglas Park honours one of British Columbia's most important figures. Sir James Douglas (1803 – 1877) was a fur trader and colonial governor who faced immense challenges during chaotic times. He has been called the "Father of British Columbia".

Mixed Heritage: Scottish & Creole
In 1803, Douglas was born the son of a sugar planter-merchant from Scotland and a "free coloured" Creole woman from Barbados living in Demerara, British Guiana [Guyana].
Educated in Scotland and England, sixteen-year-old James sailed for Quebec to apprentice with the North West Company in 1819. It soon merged with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821; Douglas worked his way westward and upward in Hudson's Bay Company ranks. Intelligent and strong, he was a clerk when he arrived at Fort St James in 1826.
He married Amelia, the daughter of the fort's Chief Factor, William Connolly and a Cree woman named Miyo-Niply in 1828. Amelia and James raised 6 children to adulthood (she gave birth to 13). They would become the first multicultural family in Victoria.

Change in the Wind
By 1839 Douglas was Chief Factor at Fort Vancouver (Washington) near the mouth of the Columbia River.
The Oregon Treaty meant a new international border would be drawn at the 49th parallel in 1846. In advance of this Douglas chose Fort Victoria as the new Hudson's Bay Company headquarters in 1843.
He was appointed Governor of the Colony of Vancouver Island in 1851 and signed 14 treaties with First Nations.



Sir James Douglas was certainly one of BC's most significant figures during the transition from fur trade territory to British colony. He also forged relationships with the original Indigenous inhabitants and signed BC's first treaties. Langley Heritage Society assisted in developing content for new signs in **Langley City's Douglas Park** that remind us of his contributions and multicultural background. One of the three signs that can be seen at the park is to the left. Our society continues to acknowledge the contributions of Sir James during the annual Douglas Day Dinner in November.

Youth Concert Showcase Series Returns!

The historic CNR Station is once again collaborating with the Fort Langley Jazz and Arts Festival to the present free concerts on the lawn in July. As we saw last year, the calibre of performances by these young musicians is outstanding.

This year we'll feature concerts on the two Sundays prior to the annual festival, and for two days during the festival itself. Thanks to the Tony Quo Vadis Foundation for sponsoring the Showcase Series, and to Karen Zukas and Dave Quinn, the inspiration behind the annual festival that invigorates the village of Fort Langley.

Mark Your Calendar Speaker Series Dates

Fall Speaker Series Begins

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025

NOTE: new day of the week

Where: Milner Chapel
6716 216th St, Langley

Time: 7 pm

Douglas Day Dinner

Date: Friday, November 21, 2025

Where: Fort Langley Community Hall
9167 Glover Road, Fort Langley

Time: 5 pm doors open



YOUTH CONCERT SHOWCASE SERIES!

CHECK OUT OUR YOUTH CONCERT SERIES KICK-OFF AND MAIN EVENTS!

**JULY 13
JULY 20
JULY 26
JULY 27**

AT THE FORT LANGLEY HERITAGE CNR STATION GARDENS

**23245 MAVIS AVE
FORT LANGLEY**

Fort Langley jazz & arts festival 2025

Langley Heritage Society

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

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CNR Station in the setting sun.

Courtesy of local photographer Lou Fasullo Photography