

# BC Farm MUSEUM Association

## Newsletter

October 2016

### Important Notice

**BC Farm Museum Association Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday, November 26, 2016**

**at 1:00 pm in the Historic Milner Chapel Hall**

Agenda packages will be sent to you in advance of the meeting. Due to timing issues this year the financial statements will be distributed at the meeting and can be picked up any Monday at the Museum office after that.

A reminder that membership dues for the 2016/2017 year must be paid in advance of (or at) the meeting to be eligible to vote.



#### **First Prize for Farm Museum's May Day Parade Entry in Fort Langley**

The Honorable Mr. William J. Stacey and his lovely wife Bernice rode in the Victoria Carriage pulled by a team of Friesian horses driven by Mr. Henk Vanderkooi to lead the Farm Museum's 11 vehicle entry in the May Day Parade in Fort Langley.

Vintage trucks and tractors pulling various antique wagons or farming equipment followed behind with the 50th anniversary float bringing up the rear. A well deserved first prize entry!

#### **Canada Day Celebrations in Fort Langley**

With nine partners planning special events around the village it was exciting to have approximately 14,000 people attend the Canada Day Celebrations on King Street!

The Farm Museum experienced a record number of visitors. All indoor demonstrations were operating. The Valley Antique Engine Club had the log lathe going. The Cool Balloon Guy and Aldor Acres Petting Zoo once again were a hit with children. A new very popular activity with families this year was the Hayride around the village.



#### **Rain day in Langley City!**

A group of dedicated volunteers attended the City Community Day celebration on June 18th. Unfortunately, we had to bail out (literally!)





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### BC Farm Museum Celebrates 50 years

50 years ago on November 19th the BC Farm Museum was opened by the Right Honorable Lord Mayor of London, Mr. Robert Bellinger, accompanied by Lieutenant Governor Pearkes, Premier W.A.C. Bennett, and Reeve Poppy. It was the fulfillment of many years of planning and fund raising by many local industry leaders and UBC professors. *We have acquired a video of the occasion!!*

Reading over 50 years of Directors' Meetings minutes we discovered there have been the same four challenging issues consistently and repeatedly discussed and needing action from the beginning. 1) Lack of exhibit space 2) Lack of funds 3) Acquisition and deaccession policy 4) Leaky roof

In 1990 Federal funding dried up for paid staff and the museum changed to total volunteer management and operation. The predictions of its demise or dissolution were frequent. Yet today the museum still operates - - and thrives. ***Today's successes are built on the shoulders of those who faithfully volunteered before us!***

**Volunteers built a parade float** to publicize our anniversary this year. It attended a number of community events. Souvenir mugs and pins are for sale in the museum gift shop. Anniversary pens are a gift to anyone who donates "cash" to the *butter churn!* Garnet Farm has allowed us to place a covered wagon in their pasture at the approach to Fort Langley. An exhibit showing the high lights of each decade of the Museum's existence will be on display in the museum.

A ***Dinner Celebration*** with entertainment and silent auction will be the finale to this year's celebrations. This happens on *Saturday, November 12th* at the Fort Langley Community Hall! Get your tickets early as there is limited seating.

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### Many Years Ago in Fort Langley

In Honour of the 50th Anniversary of the BC Farm Museum in Fort Langley  
1966 - 2016



#### Imagining .....

It has been a pleasant and busy spring day. Catherine has finished the supper dishes, hung the last washing on the line and is off to her favourite spot overlooking the Fraser river. Her husband Samuel is determined to plow the south east field and will then still need to tend to more farm chores, including repairing any of the tools and implements that need some attention. He has been building up quite a collection of farm machinery and is often called on to be the handy man for farmers in the area.

Also, still at work are Harry and his friend Theo. They are sawing down a large douglas fir on Harry's newly acquired property which is just west of Samuel and Catherine's land. They are using a two man saw and have become quite adept at the back and forth action of the saw and are able to bring down a tree relatively quickly. Harry has big plans for his property and wants to build a house, start a general store and find a wife, but not necessarily in that order!

The property to the west of Harry's is owned by Charles and Clara, who have created a lovely home which they often open to their friends, family and neighbours. They entertain so many guests, some people have jokingly referred to their home as being like a community hall! Charles and Clara take the warm hearted teasing in stride and are making plans for the next community dinner.

Debbie Cazander

Harry Vangenderen has made arrangements to have a one of a kind 2 man saw painted (in acrylics) by B.C. artist Debbie Cazander as a silent auction item (current bid of \$200, with bidding ending 6:55pm Sat. Nov. 12, 2016 at our fall dinner.)



**Vancouver Foundation  
Endowment Fund**

***Who knew?? Who remembers??***

In 1985 the Farm Museum Board of Directors established an Endowment Fund with the Vancouver Foundation. Raising funds for museum operation has always been a challenge. The Directors of the day wisely thought to establish an Endowment Fund which would generate yearly interest income to go towards museum operating expenses. They raised \$10,000 for this purpose which became the initial capital in the fund.

Over the years Mr. Don Merkley, a past president, added a total of \$3000 to that fund. He donated \$250 to the fund in memoriam of his friends and fellow volunteers whenever one passed away. The fund now stand at \$13,000.

According to past Directors' Meeting minutes the Directors at that time had planned to add \$25,000 to the fund each of the following three years. They were unable to accomplish this.

With today's interest rates this fund currently generates between \$600 and \$700 yearly to the museum coffers.

***Imagine*** - how we could increase the capital in the fund if we again started the practice of "donating in memoriam"!

***Imagine*** - how we could increase the capital in the fund by encouraging people to *make donations* to this fund!

***Imagine*** - how we could increase the capital in the fund by holding a *fund raising drive*!

***Imagine*** - how we could increase the capital in this fund by encouraging people to name the museum *in their will*!

***Imagine*** - *whatever we can imagine!!!!!!*



### Mural Project



Allen Wylie at work in his studio preparing one of our mural panels.....

*It has been a busy time researching images to guide the artists and then going over sketches submitted to make sure the finished mural will be as accurate as possible.*

*There is often more to a pioneer scene than meets the eye. When one attempts to capture that scene in a mural, we wanted to 'get it right' so that our more senior visitors, when viewing the finished work, would be taken back to earlier times and say "yes, I remember that".*

*Our artists will be painting on very expensive Crezon© panels and most of these panels have been picked up or delivered to their respective studios so they can work in comfort and in familiar surroundings. Some of the painting is now underway and this will continue through the fall of 2016.*

*Our volunteers at the Farm Museum will be preparing the mounting materials at the site of each mural so when the artists are finished we can get the panels back and start installing them. This will take place during our 'closed period' this winter.*

*We will keep you posted on plans for a grand unveiling late next spring/early summer of 2017 of the completed work.*

*This artwork, by these outstanding artists, will add that 'extra touch' to our museum and will be reason enough to bring your out-of town guests visit our wonderful Farm Museum over and over again.*

Thanks to everyone that came to help on BC Day. We had a great day and made lots of new friends! Everyone enjoyed the trains provided by Duane Rose and friends. We had a good display outside with our float, tractor, display wagon, ModelT, and the Fraser Valley Antique Engines out front and all of our active displays running inside. Some of the guests took advantage of our new IDP system and commented favourably. Our donations and volunteer support compare well with Canada Day, so it was a definitely a success!

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### Westham Island “A Day At The Farm”



Trophy awarded to RA Coleman for Plowing Competition won with the “Coleman Plow”

### Langley City Hall Display



### Country celebration



We have made an agreement with the Fraser valley Quilters Guild to display this panel quilt for the 2017 season



Gulf of Georgia Cannery  
“Women on the Homefront” display

Donation from the BC Farm and Ranch Realty  
for our 50th Anniversary Celebration

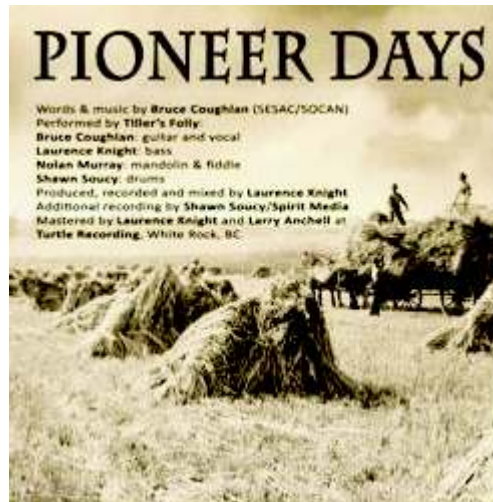


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Box 279, 9131 King St.  
Fort Langley, B.C.  
V1M 2R6  
604-888-2273  
bcfm@telus.net

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvIL4aMF5cM>

Pioneer Days was written by Tiller's Folly guitarist Bruce Coughlan and was inspired by a visit to the BC Farm Museum. Tiller's Folly will be our featured entertainment at the 50th Anniversary celebration in November.



BC Chicken Growers  
ASSOCIATION



The Jackman Foundation

The Chris Spencer Foundation

Topi and Amanda Hakkarainen

The Alan and Gwendoline Pyatt Foundation



The membership gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors.....

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## Hold The Presses!!

Here's the latest.....



.....Filming the new Stephen King movie "1922"

The **Interactive Display Program** is coming along albeit somewhat slowly. The projected media is being regularly displayed by some members and there are several active QR code signs for guests to make use of. The media server and wireless routers are stable and active. We have finally be able to contract a web designer to help set up the content management system and the initial work will be completed by the end of October. This will give a base media content load, templates and basic training on how to grow our program. Once this work is done, we can start using the kiosk terminals. At some point next year, we will be able to explore setting up the Supersign monitor network, as well. This is an extensive system that will have to be phased in and grown over time, as volunteer resources allow. Once it is all active, we will have the most unique multi-media presentation system around, with the ability to support future ideas as they come up.

### **Basement Shops Renovation**



The BC Farm Museum is cooperating with the Centennial Museum and the Langley Arts Council in the first **Christmas on King Street Market**. A Seasonal One Day Event featuring a Made-in-Canada Market Place with local designers, artists and vendors. Loads of fun: children's activities, music, Christmas Tree Sales Lot, and more. Saturday December 10th, 2016 from 11am - 8pm. King Street in Fort Langley, between Mary and Mavis, in front of the BC Farm Museum and Langley Centennial Museum. The street will be closed for the duration of the event.

The covered wagon has been removed from the Grant family farm on Glover Road and has been loaned to Aldor Acres again.

The Oyster Shell Crusher that has been on loan to the White Rock Museum will be returned Oct.12.