



NEWS RELEASE

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WAR MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS MAP KEEP MEMORIES ALIVE

From trees and street names, to cenotaphs and plaques, the Township of Langley is home to numerous monuments that pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much in times of war.

Now a list of these important memorials has been created, and the public is invited to add to it to put Langley's remembrances on record, educate future generations, and forever honour those who served and died during Canada's war efforts.

Late last year, Heritage BC launched **Get on the Map: War Monuments and Memorials in British Columbia**. In developing the project, Heritage BC asked for public input to help create an interactive online map that features the locations, descriptions, photos, and other information about World War I and II monuments that can be found across the province.

The Township of Langley's Heritage Advisory Committee was eager to contribute, and set about compiling a list of the community's many war monuments.

The result is "an impressive list that includes Langley's memorial trees, plaques, cenotaphs, road and place names that commemorate soldiers killed while serving for Canada," said Mark Forsythe of the Langley Heritage Society. "The Township's list does not claim to be comprehensive, but is a good start to gathering information and photographs."

He noted that, over the years, the Langley Heritage Society and the Township have placed bronze plaques on small cement houses to mark commemorative trees that were planted in memory of Langley residents who lost their lives during World War I.

As well, in 1919, a movement began in Langley to honour the more than 350 local men who served during the First World War by renaming roads after fallen soldiers. More recently, a portion of Fraser Highway was co-named Veteran's Way to honour all those who served during times of war.

There are memorial cenotaphs in the Fort Langley and Murrayville Cemeteries and at the Aldergrove Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, which also features an exterior wall mural depicting scenes from World War I. A stained-glass soldiers' memorial window can be found at St. George's Anglican Church in Fort Langley, and memorial plaques are featured at St. Andrews Anglican Church on Old Yale Road and St. Andrews United Church in Fort Langley.

As well, the Derek Doubleday Arboretum in the 21200 block of Fraser Highway is home to "A Walk to Remember," which features trees and a memorial structure dedicated to the 158 Canadians who died serving their nation in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2014.

“Heritage BC’s **Get on the Map** initiative was a great opportunity for the Township to solidify its own record of monuments and memorials,” said Township Heritage Planner Elaine Horricks. She encourages anyone who knows of any other Langley war memorials that should be added to the list and passed on to Heritage BC for its World Wars Monuments and Memorials Map of BC to contact her at ehorricks@tol.ca or 604.533.6176.

Heritage BC’s map of war memorials around the province can be found at heritagebc.ca/war-memorials-in-bc.

NEW LIFE SPROUTS FOR MEMORIAL TREE

Following World War I, dozens of maple trees were planted throughout the Township of Langley at major intersections to honour the 350 local men who served in the Canadian, British, and French forces.

One such heritage tree will be undergoing a change this spring.

The Big Leaf Maple tree that was planted in Fort Langley at Trattle Street and 96 Avenue in 1923 in honour of Alfred W. Trattle, who was killed in action near Vimy Ridge, France, in 1917, is reaching the end of its life span. Big Leaf Maples typically live 75 – 80 years in an urban setting, and the Trattle tree’s root system is decaying, jeopardizing its stability.

For the sake of public safety, Township arborists will be reducing the height of the declining tree in the near future, to create a five- or six-foot tall trunk - but its legacy will live on in the form of its own offspring. Seeds from the commemorative maple trees were cultivated several years ago, and although the saplings are still young, they are thriving. When they are viable and ready for planting, the saplings will replace the trees that have reached the end of their life.

For more information contact Elaine Horricks, Township of Langley Heritage Planner, at ehorricks@tol.ca or 604.533.6176.