

Mayor Val Van Den Broek
Langley City Hall
20399 Douglas Crescent
Langley, BC, V3A 4B3

February 7, 2020

Grade Crescent: A Heritage Road

Dear Mayor Van Den Broek and Councilors:

I am writing this letter with respect to my presentation to you and Council on September 30th in regards to designating Grade Crescent a Heritage Road which was part of the Great Northern Railway's Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway (GNR) in 1915 (see Figure 1).

I have been in contact with the Township of Langley Heritage Committee, Fraser Valley Heritage Research Services, Fraser Valley Historical Railway Society, Langley Heritage Society, BC Heritage Legacy Fund Program as well as my neighbours.

There is an interest in designating Grade Crescent a "Heritage Road" which also encompasses other streets such as Colebrook Road, 50 Ave to 200 Street and 47 Ave, all of which was part of the GNR (see Figures 2 & 3). There is a unique history to these streets to increase public awareness of the heritage value of the streets and why they are there.

I would propose that the City of Langley design and install historical interpretative signs at designated locations such as Conder Park, Sendal Gardens, Iris Moony Park (see Figure 4) which would inform passers-by of the history of that designated street which was the former rail network. Informing people of the local history especially, in their neighbourhood, is a way to connect with heritage, environment and culture. This also supports the walking paths that are prevalent within the City of Langley. This could be incorporated into the upgrade of Grade Crescent.

I was invited by the Heritage Committee of the Township of Langley to give a presentation on railway – historical roads (February 5, 2020).

I have engaged the BC Heritage Legacy Fund with respect to funding this initiative. The City will need to submit an application in February, 2020. I would help with this application.

The City does not appear to have a Heritage Committee with which to deal with such items. In my research, I contacted the City Operations Department which provided me a map showing the location of various “heritage road signs” (see Figures 5 & 6). The consent and origin of these signs appears to be unknown. I would be willing to be involved with a Heritage Committee if the City deems it to be of importance.

I have attached some pictures showing possible signage types (Pictures 1 to 3).

I am looking for support from you and councilors for this initiative.

I look forward to your reply and I am available to meet with you to move this project forward.

Yours truly,

“Bruce Downing”

Bruce Downing, MSc, PGeo, FGC, FEC(hon)
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[604 427 4009] email: bwdowning@shaw.ca

Cc Rick Bomhof, Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment
Kimberlee Hilton, Director of Recreation, Culture, & Community
Services

From: Mervyn Pepin's Roads & other place names in Langley available at the Langley Library

Gabriel Lane east of highway to
Albion Ferry;
on McMillan Island

The road was named for Chief Alfred Gabriel (1899-1968) who was a well known person in the Fort Langley area. He was both a fisherman and dairy farmer and belonged to the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association. His wife was Mary M. Sepase, daughter of Chief Bill Sepase from Sashin. Alfred Gabriel's Halq'emeyem name was Stakwau, and this name is now shared by the present Gabriel family, many of whom live on Gabriel Lane. Alfred Gabriel's granddaughter, Marilyn Gabriel, is now Chief of the Kwantlen band, and her councillors are Tamsia Glado and Les Antoine.



Chief Alfred Gabriel, a sketch by Rudy Weber (Courtesy Helen (Gabriel) Carr).

Glover Road Langley Prairie to
Fort Langley

The Langley Trunk Road from Langley Prairie to Fort Langley was renamed Glover Road following WWI after Lieut. F.W. Glover, who had been Langley's Municipal Engineer before he enlisted. He is listed on the Fort Langley Cenotaph as having died after the WWI Armistice, presumably from injuries received during the war. Several members of his family were also war veterans, according to *Langley Heritage*, p. 115. The Trunk Road bisected the Hudson Bay farmland which was subdivided in 1877.



La Bonte Road, 1997

Grade Crescent between 200 & 208

Grade Crescent is part of the original route of the Vancouver Victoria & Eastern Railway. Grade Crescent lies between 200 and 208, just above the Nicomekl flats, but actually continues west of 200 to the Surrey border. The cut through High Knoll Park is the old railway grade in Surrey. The present road immediately west of 200 has been re-aligned from the original grade. The cost of purchase was \$240 in 1934.

Hitching Post Crescent see Martingle
Crescent

La Bonte off Glover Road west
from Trinity
College

This road was named for two brothers who were early settlers on the west side of Glover.

Logan Avenue north of Fraser
Highway, west of
Glover

Mary & John Logan owned land at Old Yale and 56 (as shown on the 1910 map), probably bought from Adam Innes in 1898 after the Logans moved from New Westminster following the 1898 fire. John came from County Antrim, Ireland, and married Mary Elliot who was born in B.C. Although John had been in the coal trucking business in New Westminster, the family took up farming in Langley. They had 12 children. One son, William "Bill" Logan, was born in 1910 and later married Iris Wilson who was born in Fort Langley in 1918. The entry into their farm is now Duncan Way. Their son Bob now farms in Fort Langley. Another of John Logan's sons, Hugh, married Vi Prichard. They owned the Logan Drive In and Casa Loma Restaurant in Langley, and their only son Ron is presently on the City Council. John Logan's cousin, Charlie Logan, and his wife Margaret Lawrence farmed on the Langley Prairie property which today houses Save on Foods and Gabby's (*Langley Advance* column by M. Borwyk, December 13, 1996). Charlie Logan was a councillor of Ward 4 in Langley. Logan Creek was also named after the family.

Lynch Road 203 off Fraser
Highway in
Langley City

This road, which went past the Gibson's Auction barn, was a road to Bill Lynch's acreage. He was killed in an auto accident.



Glover Road winds from Fort Langley, through the Hudson Bay Farm to Old Yale Road in Langley City.

Figure 1 Grade Crescent historical fact

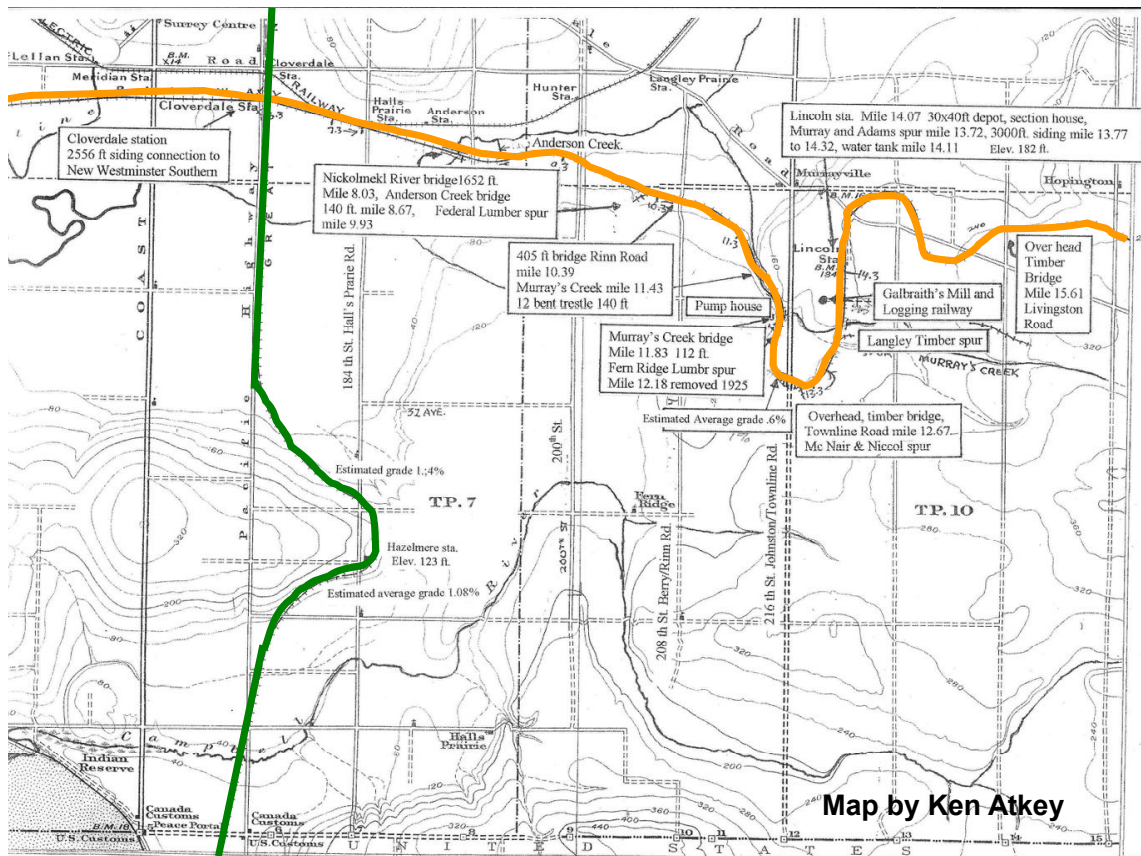


Figure 2 Map showing Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern Railway line (orange) which encompasses Colebrook Road, 50th Ave, Grade Crescent, 47th Ave and parts of Murrayville to Aldergrove. The VV&E rail was part of the Great Northern Railway system.

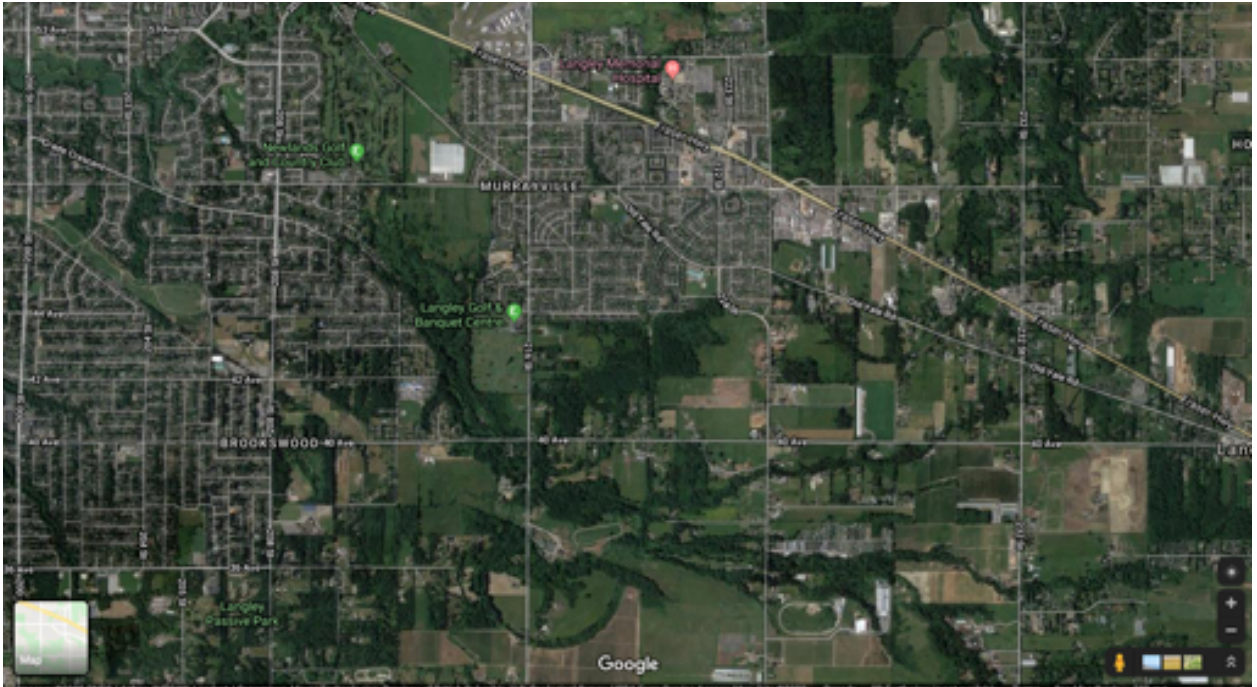


Figure 3 Google Earth Map showing outline of Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern Rail Line as per Figure 2. See outline in orange below....



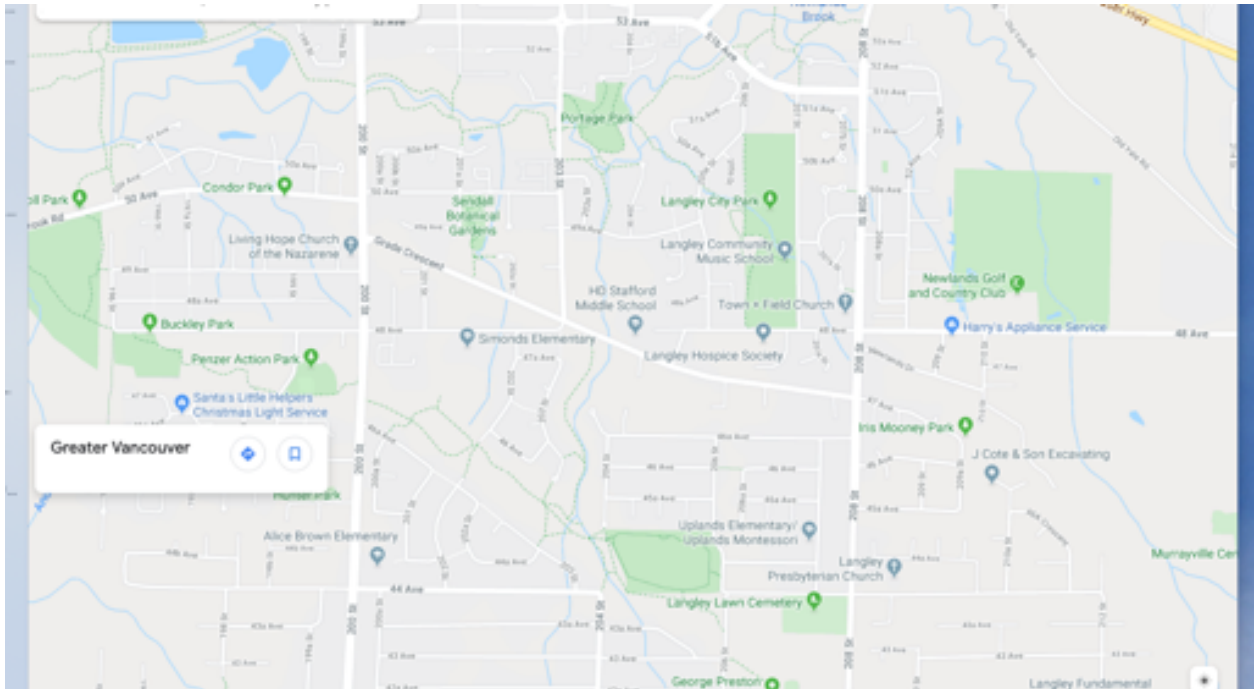


Figure 4 Map showing possible locations of signage.
Conder Park (50th Street)
Sendal Gardens entrance (Grade Crescent)
Pleasantvale Creek entrance trail - opposite H D Stafford School
Iris Moony Park (47 Ave)



Figure 5 City of Langley Heritage Street Sign Map

From: **BRUCE DOWNING** bwdowning@shaw.ca
Subject: Pic
Date: November 22, 2019 at 9:00 AM
To: Bruce Downing bwdowning@shaw.ca

BD



Figure 6 Heritage Street Sign. Note that this sign does not tell about the history of the road name.



Picture 1 Interpretative Signage (ref Fort Langley)



Picture 2 Interpretative Signage (ref Steveston)



Picture 3 Interpretative Signage (ref 6856 256 Street, Langley)