



## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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### More than 20 Regional Students win History Project Awards!

Abbotsford, BC – More than 120 students in grades 4 to 10 from across the Fraser Valley participated in the **2019 Fraser Valley Heritage Fair (FVRHF)** coordinated by The Reach Gallery Museum at the University of the Fraser Valley in early May. The regional participating students were selected from school and community heritage fairs held earlier this year.

“This history event actively involves Canadian youth, schools, business and community groups in a showcase of our diverse cultural histories and a celebration of student learning,” says Kris Foulds, coordinator of FVRHF, and The Reach’s Curator of Historical Collections. “When students are encouraged to look outside of the classroom for their learning activities, they discover the wealth of information available from local resources.”

A group of volunteers adjudicated projects at the regional level recognizing more than 20 students for their outstanding work. The winning projects were announced at a reception on Friday May 10. Awards and certificates were generously sponsored by community groups, individuals, national and provincial organizations.

The 12 regional awards and recipients included:

- The Stó:lō Research & Resource Management Centre – Stó:lō Nation’s **Aboriginal Culture Award** - Emily Jones-Mitchell for her project *Gladys*
- Fraser Valley Regional Library’s **Art, Literature/Music Award**- Sia Gulati for *Lucy Maud Montgomery*
- Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce’s **Business History Award** - Avneet Sidhu for *Canadian Labour History*
- Fraser Valley Indo-Canadian Business Association’s **Canada and the World Award** - Geena Sandhu for *The Fur Trade*
- The DeLair Family’s **Community Stories Award** - Michaela Victor for *Justice for Grassy Narrows Survivors of Mercury Poisoning*
- Christine & Chuck Wiebe’s **Family History Award** - Maggie Dueck-Crosbie for *Francoeur Family History*
- Mennonite Historical Society of BC’s **Immigration and Multiculturalism Award** - Muskan Brar for *Student Influx*
- **Abbotsford Community Foundation’s (ACF) Occupations Award** - Alissa Ahrens for *Chris Hadfield*
- **ACF’s Outstanding People and Events Award** - Harshdeep Singh for *Howie Mandel*
- **Reimer Hardwoods Ltd.’s Provincial Stories Award** - Ethan Holzle for *Spirit Bears*
- **Sports Abbotsford’s Sports History Award** - Slade Gibbs for *Special Olympics*
- Teacher’s Learning Store’s **Symbols and Celebrations Award** - Kirandeep Dhillon for *Bluenose*

Participating students also voted for the **Students' Choice Award** received by Madelyn Cavin – *Hell's Gate*, and guests voted for **People's Choice Award** which went to Cheyanne Leguerrier for her *Daniel David Palmer* project.

Three regional ambassadors will travel to Victoria in early-July to participate in the BC Provincial Heritage Fair. They are: **Hayden McDonald-Kempinski, Grade 5, James Kennedy Elementary School, Langley with project: *Phil Nuytten***; Mika Takasaki, Grade 7, Alouette Elementary Cyberschool, Maple Ridge with her *Japanese Internment*; and Russ Sandhu, Grade 6, Dasmesh Punjabi School, Abbotsford with his *Mr. Dalip Singh Gill: A Man with a Plan*.

Another five students received provincial/national awards:

- **Historic Places Award** – Kenton Gilbert for *Walhachan Ranch*
- **Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC Award** – Jaden Drummond for *Canadian Pacific Railway*
- **The Rich Culture/Other Voices Award** – Mika Takasaki for *Japanese Internment*
- **The United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada Award** – Jack Smeed for *How was a distant relative of mine part of the curse of Oak Island in 1632?*
- **Parks Canada National History Award** – Sukhveer Buttar for *One Syringe, Big Difference*.

The annual Heritage Fair truly brings students together to research and share important events, people, and places in Canadian history, and is made possible through generous funding support from Abbotsford School District #34, the Rotary Club of Abbotsford-Sumas, BC Heritage Fairs Society, and the many awards donors and sponsors.

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Image: Students with their projects at the 2019 Fraser Valley Regional Heritage Fair

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