

Loyalist Northern Lights

Newsletter of the Edmonton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



Across the rolling prairies, with their quiet lakes and rushing rivers, to the foothills of Northern Alberta; in the shadow of Canada's majestic mountains and beneath dancing Northern Lights; this is the newsletter of the most northern branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, the descendants of those hardy and brave souls that gave up all they had to remain steadfast in their beliefs and loyal to the British Crown in a time of great political upheaval in what would later become the United States. These Loyalists settled in the eastern part of what would become Canada then moved west in succeeding generations.

Vision of the Edmonton Branch:

To enrich the lives of Albertans through fostering public awareness of our national history, and, in particular, of the United Empire Loyalists and their contributions to Canada.



*"N.B. Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard [IN AMERICA] before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their Children, and their Descendants, by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals affixed to their names
U.E.*

*Alluding to their great principle
The Unity of the Empire."*

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President's Remarks:

Well, this has been a very long and disappointing year for the Edmonton Branch. Once again, the pandemic has prevented us from meeting in person and it would appear it is not finished with us yet. To say the obvious, it has been two full years since we had a meeting and I for one am very tired of it. I want to hear from you, the members, if you feel secure enough to have meetings with precautions (masks and social distancing). It is possible but really want to hear from you. There are several things that can be done with the members in such an environment without suggesting everyone attend. **Please e-mail me (president@ueledmonton) with your point of view before the next scheduled meeting on 26 February.** If enough feel it is safe to do so, this meeting will go ahead as planned.



With the 2022 membership now almost complete, we have near the same number as last year and we have three new members as well. There are however, 13 individuals and families representing 18 members that have failed to renew for the current year. At present our membership stands at 58 total committed members compared to 64 last year.



I am unhappy to report that, Dave & Gillian Rolls, have moved back to Ontario to be closer to their grandchildren. While I cannot fault them for their desire, this has created a huge loss for the Branch. Not only did Dave accomplish fine work as our genealogist but he also served in many other Branch positions as well and he will be sorely missed, particularly by myself. Gillian worked with Dorothy on our social events and will also be missed. We are indeed fortunate that Marcia McLean has stepped up into the Genealogist roll and has also taken on the task as our Period Clothing Facilitator. I must also inform you that Betty Fladager has resigned as the Membership Chair after many many years of dedicated service. She will also be missed in this position.

You will notice on the last page that our Executive has shrunk in size yet again and some members are filling several positions. It is time to ask for members to allow their name to stand for office. We are a mature organization and there comes a time when the work just becomes too much and people ask to retire. Remember many hands make light work.

I have recently received the following message from Her Honour The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta:

Dear Mr. Rogers,

Happy New Year to you and all members of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada! While the past two years have been challenging for us all due to the ongoing pandemic, they have also reinforced for me the extraordinary strength, innovation and resilience of my fellow Albertans, including everyone who works to keep your valued organization going strong. I am truly proud to serve as your Honourary Patron.

Although it may be some time yet until we are able to return to fully active community life, I am very much looking forward to meeting with your members and the people you serve. Until then, there are still upcoming milestones to be celebrated, including the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our plans for potential celebrations are currently under development, but I hope that they will offer opportunities to engage with you and we will be in touch with details once they have been finalized.

In the meantime, we will be posting any Platinum Jubilee updates and other office activities via Twitter @LTGovAB. I welcome you to share our Twitter handle with your members should they wish to follow us. I also ask that you share my most heartfelt thanks with everyone who supports The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. I am continually inspired by your deep commitment to service and your dedication to strengthening the well-being and vibrancy of our communities.

Thank you all and stay well!
Honourable Salma Lakhani

Last Post:

ROBISON UE, Paul Athol



It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Paul Athol Robison UE of the Edmonton Branch on 9 January 2022. Loving husband to Donna Robison passed away very suddenly at the age of 86. He is survived by his brother Michael, 3 daughters Cheryl Robison, Elisa Robison and Lisa Mah (Raymond), and was adored by his grandchildren, Tessa, Curtis and Avery. Having recently returned from California after visiting family, he suffered a brain aneurysm on 5 January from which he could not recover. A descendant of William Dougal UEL, he served as the first President of the current formation of the Edmonton Branch from 1987 - 1989. He was a great supporter of the Edmonton Branch and the United Empire Loyalists' Association as a whole and will be sorely missed by the branch. Retired, he was a soldier, a member of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and an educator, a faculty member of the University of Alberta of which he was the Administrator for many years. He enjoyed history, reading, he walked daily and enjoyed all music. Paul will be missed by his friends, family and the love of his life Donna. The Salvation Army was Paul's favorite charity. Our sympathy goes out to his family and close circle of friends.



Branch Activities & Projects:

Centennial Project revisited:



Many of you will recall that we published a book for the UELAC Centennial in 2014 entitled "Loyalists Descendants to Alberta." As we have a number of new members and several did not have an opportunity to contribute stories, it is considered that perhaps it is time to revisit the project and expand the content. The stories already contributed will remain in the new work but will be opened to changes if considered necessary. We will also reach out through the Alberta Genealogical Society to reach others in the various communities of Northern Alberta for further stories related to the Loyalists. If you need help to write the story, please ask and we will find a way to assist you and have your story told. Marcia has agreed to be a facilitator.



Period Clothing



You will notice from the Calendar of Events that we have added an extra three meetings, one about every other month. These are not business meetings but Period Clothing and Genealogy workshops specifically designed to assist our members with Loyalist certificate applications and the creation of your own period clothing. If there is interest, Marcia and I will be on hand to assist with any questions you may have in these two areas as well as general questions on the Association and Branch activities. I believe if the majority of our regular members were to appear at events in period dress, it would go far to accomplish the mission of the Association and the Branch. At present there are few outside events planned however that will change as Covid restrictions are lifted. It would be great if we were able to participate in community activities and parades once again in period clothing.



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Certificates Presented:

After many years of record-breaking certificate applications, this past year has slowed to a crawl with only five applications approved. In addition, the presentation of certificates was placed on hold. Some were presented in person rather than at a meeting because we did not have any. Most certificates have now been delivered and we will find a time to formally present and recognize the effort spent to obtain the certificates. I did manage to present a few certificates to family over the Christmas period. Matthew and Benjamin Furry, and Rebecca and Isabella McIsaac received certificates for Loyalists *Major James Rogers*, *Captain George Henry Playter*, and *Richard Fenton UEL*. Only one seemed unhappy with the presentation but she was small and very tired. I know other members working conscientiously to complete the requirements. This should be a remarkable year for our Branch.



Dominion & Prairie Regional Conferences:

The Dominion Conference this year will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and will be a virtual conference as last year. The dates are 26-29 May, and more details can be found on the National Webpage, in Loyalist Trails and in the Gazette.

The Conference in 2023 will be held in Richmond, British Columbia, and will be a hybrid or joint style of conference as it will offer in-person and on-line events. The dates will be 1-4 June, and more details will be published when known.

Planning is underway for a Prairie Regional Conference to be held on zoom sometime in the fall of this year. Details will be provided by our Regional Vice-President when planning is complete.



We are the Chosen:

In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again. To tell the family story and to feel that somehow, they know and approve.

Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before us cry out to us: Tell our story. So, we do. In finding them, we somehow find ourselves.

How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, "You have a wonderful family; you would be proud of us." How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who I am, and why I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying – I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it.

It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to do. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, they're never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that the fathers fought, and some died to make and keep us a nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us. It is of equal pride and love that our mothers struggled to give us birth, without them we could not exist, and so we love each one, as far back as we can reach. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do. With love and caring and scribbling each fact of their existence, because we are they and they are the sum of who we are.

So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take my place in the long line of family storytellers. That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and restore the memory or greet those who we had never known before.

by Della M. Cummings Wright, Edited and Reworded by Tom Dunn, 1943.

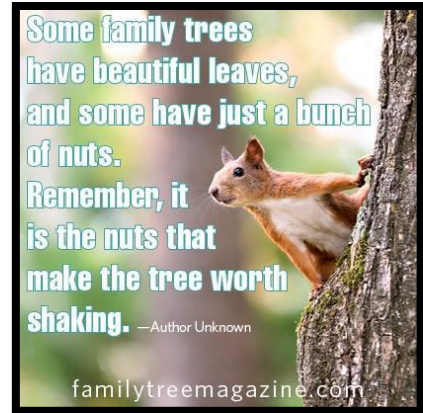
Recommendations:

Brian McConnell UE has revised and lengthened this recent edition of his book "*The United Empire Loyalists & You*" and it is now available in three formats: kindle, paperback, and hardcover. This edition is 103 pages. It discusses the topics

- Why do the Loyalists matter?
- What does the United Empire Loyalists' Association do?
- How do you obtain a Loyalist Descent 'UE' Certificate?

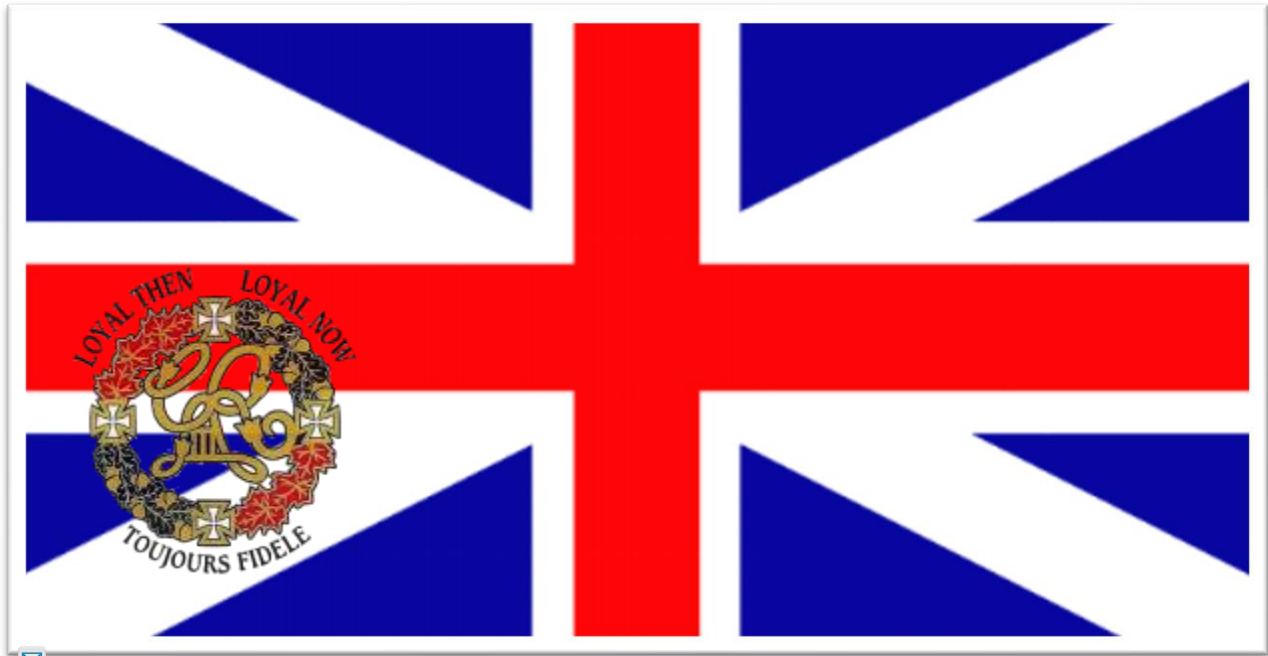
The book is available without cost on Kindle if you have Kindle unlimited. If you do not subscribe to Kindle unlimited it can be downloaded for less than \$5.00 and the app can be downloaded for free. All proceeds from sales of this book will be donated to the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. More details about the book at Amazon:

- [In Canada;](#)
- [In USA.](#)



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<i>Date</i>	<i>Schedule of Events</i>	<i>Location</i>
26 Feb 2022	➤ Branch Annual General Meeting	Church at 6919-83 Street
19 Mar 2022	➤ Branch Workshop (Clothing & Genealogy)	Church at 6919-83 Street
9 Apr 2022	➤ Branch Spring General Meeting	Church at 6919-83 Street
23 Apr 2022	➤ AGS Virtual GenFair	Grande Prairie
1 May 2022	<i>Formation of the King's Rangers ~ 1779</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
4 May 2022	<i>Loyalist Landing 1783 ~ Shelburne, Nova Scotia</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
18 May 2022	<i>Arrival of the Spring Fleet at St. John ~ 1783</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
14 May 2022	➤ Branch Workshop (Clothing & Genealogy)	Church at 6919-83 Street
26-29 May 2022	➤ UELAC Virtual National Conference	Winnipeg, Manitoba
16 Jun 2022	<i>Adolphustown Landings ~ 1783</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
19 Jun 2022	<i>Formation of King's Royal Regiment of New York ~ 1776</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
25 Jun 2022	➤ Loyalist Day Luncheon and Tree Visit	Picnic in the Park
23 Jul 2022	➤ Branch Summer BBQ	Home of President
15 Aug 2022	<i>Formation of the Queen's Rangers ~ 1776</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
15 Sep 2022	<i>Formation of Butler's Rangers ~ 1777</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
17 Sep 2022	➤ Branch Fall General Meeting	Church at 6919-83 Street
20 Sep 2022	<i>Cessation of Hostilities in North America ~ 1783</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
15 Oct 2022	➤ Branch Fall Banquet	Location TBD
16 Oct 2021	<i>Burgoyne Capitulation ~ 1777</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
17 Oct 2022	<i>Arrival of the Fall Fleet at St. John ~ 1783</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
9 Nov 2022	<i>Lord Dorchester's Order in Council ~ 1789</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
11 Nov 2022	➤ Remembrance Day Parade ~ Wreath Laying	Location TBD
19 Nov 2022	➤ Branch Workshop (Clothing & Genealogy)	Church at 6919-83 Street
10 Dec 2021	➤ Branch Christmas Function	Church at 6919-83 Street
1 Jan 2022	➤ New Year's Levee	Government House



**Edmonton Branch Executive
2022**

President: Robert Rogers UE
Vice President: Chris Rogers UE
Secretary : Dorothy Rogers
Newsletter Editor: Robert Rogers UE
Treasurer: Earle Fladager
Genealogist: Marcia McLean UE
Membership Chair: Robert Rogers UE
Period Clothing: Marcia McLean UE
Webmaster: Chris Rogers UE
Social Affairs: Dorothy Rogers
Project Facilitator: Marcia McLean UE

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Edmonton Branch Honourary Patron:

The Honourable Salma Lakhani AOE, B.Sc.
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta

UELAC Region Representation:

Prairie Region VP: Barb Andrews UE
Prairie Region Councillor: Elizabeth Adair UE

