

## **Myrtle Johnston**

### **2017 UELAC Dorchester Award**

Myrtle was born near the village of Toledo, just north of Brockville Ontario and attended one room schools, graduating from Brockville Collegiate, before graduating from Ottawa Normal School in 1951 to become a teacher. She taught for 3-½ years then left teaching to raise her 5 children. When they were all in school she returned as a supply teacher for the next 30 years.

Her UEL ancestors are Thomas Sherwood and William Buell. She took a genealogy course in Brockville in 1974 and throughout the last 43 years has continued to hone her skills. Joining the Colonel Edward Jessup Branch a few months after they got their Charter in 1968 she assumed her first executive position as Recording Secretary in 1971 and has been on the executive ever since, serving different positions including 10 years as president and 33 years as branch genealogist. She also held the position of Councillor for Central Region East for a number of years.



Myrtle attended Dominion meetings in Toronto for a number of years and is often a guest speaker for other organizations and schools. She and her sister spent many weeks researching for the Jessup Branches 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project, the book *Still They Stand*. She also spent many months helping to restore the Wiltsi Cemetery, another 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project. She was also a member of OGS and the Leeds & Grenville Genealogy Branch holding the position of President while also holding the same position in Jessup Branch. She continues to volunteer once a week at the L&G Archives.

She is the first person to volunteer to help anyone get their certificates or to just find their family's history even if they are not United Empire Loyalists, often driving 25 miles into town to look up information so a new member can send in their application. She has earned her 40 year volunteer pin for work with the OGS and her 35 year pin for the UEL.

She enjoys spending time with her family and 3 grandchildren. When she isn't researching she can be found kayaking, going for walks in the country, reading, or helping family, neighbours or anyone who needs help. She is dedicated to helping educate people, and to promote the UELAC and history awareness in general.