

GAVIN K. WATT UE

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT UELAC - 2000

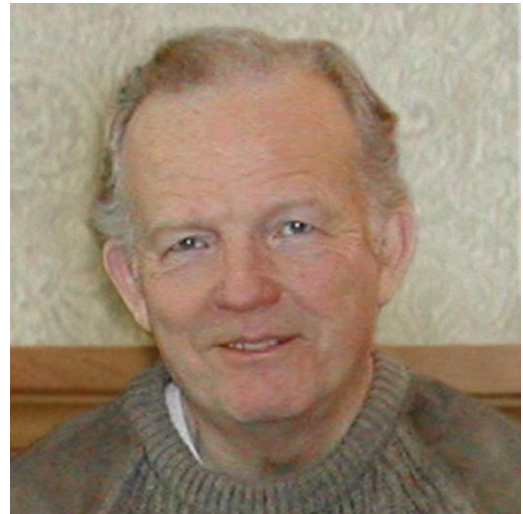
For his considerable contribution to the development of the knowledge of the United Empire Loyalist epoch, Gavin Watt was declared an Honorary Vice-President of UELAC in the AGM of the “Defending the Empire” Conference held at the Renaissance Hotel Fallsview, Niagara Falls, Ontario in 2000.

He continues to serve the UELAC as a valued resource for the KRNNY, Loyalist operations in the American Revolution and Loyalist heritage.

BIOGRAPHY

Gavin is a retired Sales and Marketing executive with a BASc degree from the University of Toronto in Engineering and Business. He was born in Toronto in 1937 and grew up at the north end’s City Limits. He met his wife Gill in Sunday school when they were eight and they were married fourteen years later. He has a family of three – two daughters and a son who are devoted historians.

After ten years in the paints and plastics industries, he joined a flexible packaging company and, in 1989, was part way through an MBA equivalent when he was flushed out of a 19-year career. So, he decided to pursue his post-retirement plan to write Canadian military history – albeit a bit sooner than expected.



Gavin Watt as Brigadier of the Northern Brigade

This was not as illogical as it might appear. In the midst of fathering a family, leading a sales force, heading a shooting club and a reenactment regiment, in 1984, he republished Ernest Cruikshank’s regimental history of the King’s Royal Regiment of New York to which he had added a detailed master roll of the 1,500 men who had served and several images of related artifacts.

To get that first book off the ground, there had been many, many weekend visits to the Metro Toronto Research Library and Archives Ontario and some pilgrimages to Library and Archives Canada. He read a great many books and quickly developed a wide network of amateur and professional historian friends who were pleased to share their findings. His personal library and collection of documents grew and grew.

One of the wonderful benefits from reenacting was his acquaintance with American historians who were every bit as passionate about their Revolution as Gavin was about their rebellion. With his concentration on British and Canadian source materials, his books might have exhibited the jingoistic style of so many American accounts; however, his friends' contributions to his research enabled him to write evenhandedly, which has been very well received by most readers.

His engineering and business training and years of writing sales and marketing reports paid off. Research continued apace which led to a series of books. These have been acknowledged as well-researched and easy to read.

Currently, he is working on his next book – a study of the North Americans who supported John Burgoyne's expedition of 1777.

EDUCATION:

- University of Toronto Engineering – graduated BSc – 1960
- Professional Engineer – 1960-95

AVOCATION:

- President, Ontario Arms Collectors Association – 1965 & 66
- Founder, President, Director, Service Rifle Shooting Association – 1965-97
- Civilian Guest Lecturer – History of Small Arms -- Infantry Platoon, Combat Arms School, CFB Borden & Gagetown – 1969-83
- Founder, Officer Commanding, the recreated King's Royal Yorkers – 1975-2006
- Founder, President, the Museum of Applied Military History – 1977-2007
- Founder, the recreated Perth Regiment – 1990
- Founder, the Burning of the Valleys Military Assoc., Mohawk & Schoharie Valleys, NY – 1990

WRITER:

- Editor, Publisher & Contributing Author – *"The King's Royal Regiment of New York with the Additions of an Index, Appendices and a Master Muster Roll"* – 1984
- Editor & Contributing Author – *"The History and Master Roll of the King's Royal Regiment of New York"* – Revised Edition, Global Heritage Press – 2006
- Author, *"The Burning of the Valleys, Daring Raids Against the New York Frontier in the Fall of 1780"* – 1997 – Revised edition, Dundurn Group – 2005
- Contributing Editor – Stan Scislawski's *"Not All of Us Were Brave" – Perth Regiment, 11th Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Armoured Division* – 1998
- Co-author, Publisher – *"The British Campaign of 1777 – The St. Leger Expedition – The Forces of the Crown and Congress"* – 2001. Revised edition, Global Heritage Press Inc. – 2003
- Author/Publisher – *"The Flockey – 13 August 1777 – The Defeat of the Tory uprising in the Schoharie Valley"* – 2002
- Author – *"Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley – The St. Leger Expedition of 1777"* – 2002
Selected by Books on Canada 2003 for History as an example of "best writing and research"
- Author – "A Loyalist Overview," Stone Fort souvenir booklet, Schoharie County Historical Association, 1778, The Price of Freedom, 2003

- Author – *“A dirty, trifling piece of business – Volume I: The Revolutionary War as Waged from Canada in 1781”* – 2009
- Author – *“I am heartily ashamed – Volume II: The Revolutionary War’s Final Campaign as Waged From Canada in 1782”* – 2010
- Author, King’s Royal Yorkers’ website articles (<http://royalyorkers.ca>)
 - Granddad’s History of Canadian Reenacting, 2004
 - A: Clothing of Provincials in the Canadian Department, 2007
 - B: Small Arms in the Canadian Department, 2007
 - C: More Information Regarding the Colours of the KRR, 2007
 - D: In Pursuit of a British Establishment, 2007
- Perth Regiment website articles (<http://www.perthregiment.org>)
 - Contributing author, The Reenactor Guide, 2008
 - Contributing editor, The Master Roll, 2009
- Author, “Bandoleers, Helmets, Digging Tools, Clasp Knives, Camouflage Veils, Rifles, Bren, Sten, Thompson” 2009

AWARDS:

- 1979 - Companion, Order of Meritorious Heritage, Heritage Branch, United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada
- 1984 - Province of Ontario Bicentennial Medal
- 1985 - The Ontario Historical Society ‘Janet Carnochan’ Award for 1985 – "outstanding contributions to the understanding of our history & heritage"
- 1994 - Toronto Historical Board Commendation – "extraordinary effort in perpetuating Canada's Military Heritage"
- 1998 - Winner of Service Publication's 'General Sir William Otter Award' – "promotion and preservation of Canadian military heritage"
- 2000 - Honorary Vice-President, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada