

**UELAC Honorary Vice-President, Brigadier General William John Patterson OMM, CD, UE,
MA, Kingston, Ontario**

William John Patterson was born and educated in Kingston, Ontario. He is a graduate of Queen's University with an MA in history. Retired in 1987, he was active in the field of historical museums for twenty five years. Beginning as a member of the Fort Henry Guard, Patterson went on to become the Superintendent of Historic Sites for the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, responsible for Old Fort Henry, Upper Canada College and Fairfield Historical Park.

Simultaneously, Patterson served thirty-two years in the regular and reserve Canadian Armed Forces. He began his service in the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment in 1948 as a bandsman, was commissioned in 1952 and promoted to Lieutenant in 1955. Transferring to the Regular Force, he served for ten years as an officer in The Regiment of Canadian Guards in Canada, Germany and England. Returning to the Militia, he joined the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders in 1965. After commanding the unit, Patterson was appointed Commander of the Ottawa Militia District (1975 – 1978). Appointed Deputy Commander of the Central Militia Area in 1978, he was promoted to Brigadier General in 1980 and appointed Commander, responsible for the Militia in Ontario. He retired in 1982. In 1999, he completed ten year's service as an honorary appointment to the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Military Merit in 1978.



Patterson is the author of five published books: Joyful is Our Praise: The History of Trinity (Bishop Strachan Memorial) Church, Cornwall (1984); Lilacs and Limestone: The Illustrated History of Pittsburgh Township (1989), Courage, Faith and Love: The History of St. Mark's Church, Barriefield, Ontario (1993), Portland, My Home: An Illustrated History of Portland Township (1994) and A Regiment Worthy of Its Hire: The Canadian Guards, 1953 – 1970 (1997). He is also part author of two books: Up The Glens: Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, 1783 – 1994 (1995) and An Illustrated Guide to Monuments, Memorials & Markers in the Kingston Area (2000). He is the author of the unpublished work *Outside the Walls: The Story of Quarrying and Farming at Kingston Penitentiary, 1833 – 1963* (1992) that was condensed and published in *Historic Kingston*, Volume 45 (January 1997).

He is involved with a number of community organizations: President of the Kingston Heritage Tattoo Society and the Probus Club of Kingston; Chair of the Archives Advisory Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Ontario; Treasurer of St. Mark's Church, Barriefield; a working member of the Pittsburgh Historical Society and Kingston Historical Society; and an Honorary Vice-President of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

One of his great grandfathers was John Canniff Ruttan, son of Joseph Brant Ruttan, a son of Captain Peter Ruttan UE, New Jersey Volunteers, who settled in Adolphustown in 1784. John Canniff Ruttan's wife was Sarah Baillie who was a daughter of Ann Parlow, a fellow-resident of Carleton Island in 1783 and friend of Molly Brant's children. Ann married John Lyon Baillie, a cousin of William Lyon Mackenzie, on 4 December 1792 in St. George's Church, Kingston. One of Brigadier General William J. Patterson's third great grandfathers was Thomas Milton UE, a Treasury Loyalist who settled in Pittsburgh Township in 1792.

Brigadier General William J. Patterson's involvement with the UELAC began in 1976 when he became a member. Subsequently he was involved with the St. Lawrence Branch and became Branch President before moving from Cornwall to Kingston in 1987.

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