

DONALD WILLIAM DIMINIE UE

Inducted 2009

Don Diminie was born in Belleville, Ontario, son of William Frederick Diminie and Elsie Mary Sager. He attended schools in Belleville, and worked as a police officer. He later moved to Cobourg with his wife Joan and family, and still resides there in his retirement. Don has also been actively involved in several local organizations over the years, and had a special love of Scottish heritage and music, playing bagpipes with the Cobourg Pipe Band.



(photo above: Don Diminie is thanked by Bay of Quinte Branch President Brian Tackaberry at the Branch 50th Anniversary Celebration and Landing, held in Adolphustown, June 2006)

Don became actively involved in genealogy over the years, and served as president of the Lakeshore Genealogical Society from 1988 to 1990. Don has done numerous researches into his Loyalist ancestors as well, and is a descendant of Loyalists George Galloway and Frederick Sager. He was the first person to receive his UE certificate as a descendant of Sarah Kast McGinnis, and was actively involved in the event to mark her grave with a large commemorative stone in September of 1991. On the other side of the Revolution, Don also received certificate from the Sons of the American Revolution as a descendant of Patriot Adam Staring in 2002.

Don joined the executive of the Bay of Quinte Branch UEL in 1996 and served as Branch President from 1997 until September of 2003. Under his leadership, the Branch had several major projects. The first was a joint project with Kingston Branch UELAC to erect Loyalist Plaques at each side of the Glenora Ferry crossing, which were unveiled on June 12th, 1998. He also helped to organize a series of annual Loyalist Landing Re-enactments at the Park in Adolphustown, starting in 1999. The next project was the rebranding of the Loyalist Cultural Centre in Adolphustown to the current name of United Empire Loyalist Heritage Centre and Park. Over his years as president, Don worked quietly but endlessly in negotiating with the Ontario Provincial Government and the St. Lawrence Parks Commission to transfer the full ownership of the UELHCP to the Bay of Quinte Branch UEL. He accomplished that feat in June of 2003, thus ensuring for future generations that this important Loyalist Landing site, cemetery and museum remain protected and available to the general public, and most importantly, in Loyalist hands.

For his efforts to help preserve our Loyalist History, and for his hard work with the Bay of Quinte Branch UEL, Don Diminie was inducted into the Loyalist Hall of Honour on May 8th 2009.