

The Passing of Past President Doreen Thompson

It is with deep sadness that I wish to inform you that one of our Kawartha Branch UELAC Past Presidents, **Doreen M. Thompson**, UE, passed away November 3, 2023.

Our mother, Doreen M. Thompson (nee Lott) (9 November 1935-3 November 2023), passed away peacefully at St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa on 3 November 2023, just shy of her 88th birthday, after living with dementia and Parkinson's.

Our mother, as we knew and loved her, has been gone for some time due to the extent of her disease.

For those who knew her throughout her life, these next thoughts may be familiar, but for those who got to know her later, here are a few things she would want you to know.

She was an honoured mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She will be missed by her daughters Anne Redish (Adair) and Karen Little (Randy), grandchildren, Patrick, Robert, Tristan, and Kayleigh.

Her greatest joy was her great grandchildren Finley aged 5 and Soren 3. She was so happy when she could spend time with her family.

Born in a family home on Highway 7 near the Lockwood farm, Doreen was always busy with activities, 4H, Junior Farmers, music lessons, school, and, of course, chores on the Lott family farm. As one of three Lott children [Allan (Phyllis), Joyce Foster (Lawrence) and Doreen], she grew up with a strong female role model, her mother Florence.

Doreen loved her parents Ross Lott and Florence Lockwood greatly as well as her Uncle Grant Lott. She never forgot the kind and generous spirit of her family.

Doreen became deeply involved in researching family history starting in the 1970s and became the keeper of the stories told about our Loyalist connections.

Doreen was a proud member of the United Empire Loyalists (UELAC) and served as president (Kawartha Branch) and held other roles in the Bay of Quinte Branch, most recently.

Doreen was a member of Beta Sigma Phi (BSP), where she connected with many friends over the years as she moved from Peterborough to Madoc, back to Peterborough, and then Belleville, and she was most recently a member of Kappa Zeta.

As a dedicated member of the United Church Women (UCW) both in Peterborough and then at Eastminster in Belleville, she contributed her skills in sewing and craft talents to the annual fund-raising efforts.

Doreen loved to share stories of her childhood and wrote down several over the years to preserve them for future generations. She was the family historian and could be found at any of the family picnics sharing information or gathering the names of new family additions for the family tree.

From early in her life, Doreen learned to be independent and seldom asked for help. She would cut her own grass, clean the eavestroughs, and then quickly throw together a very tasty supper for anyone who wanted to share.

She loved to travel and enjoyed sharing her many photos. Having played piano from early on and entertained us with "*Suzie Snowflake*", among others. Doreen loved music and could be frequently found tapping her feet to the beat.

She retained her quick wit and sense of humour with all the staff at St. Patrick's where she was well liked and well cared for in her final years. To the staff of St. Patrick's and the numerous helpers there, please accept our sincere appreciation for your patience and everything you did daily for our mom.

Internment to be held at Victoria Cemetery, Bronk Road, Thurlow Twp. at a date yet to be determined.



Doreen was our Kawartha Branch President from 2011 to 2013.

I recall, when I was Dominion President, that we went to Ottawa in 2012 and met with the Governor General, David Johnston, and Doreen came with us, pointing out her homestead on our way back home.



Robert and Grietje McBride and Doreen Thompson attended the unveiling of the Diamond Jubilee portrait of Queen Elizabeth at Rideau Hall.

During her presidency, she revived the Branch newsletter, which I resumed publishing in 2014, contributed recipes to our first [Kawartha Branch Cookbook](#), arranged special events such as banquets and visits to heritage sites where we set up our display booth.

Displays were presented at Trent University, Settlers Village, Bobcaygeon, and Heritage Day in Lindsay. Members visited various schools promoting the Loyalists. With one hundred and ninety-one members, Kawartha Branch was in the top spot on the UELAC Membership chart by averaging 129% increase. Our Branch took part in the Victoria County Historical Society Summer Fair and attended the Adolphustown picnic lunch.

Doreen also set up a display in the Peterborough Public Library which helped the visibility of our Branch and brought in new Members.

She was a vibrant Member of Kawartha Branch for many years and, while she was here, never missed a Remembrance Day service.



For parades, she created black and white sashes with our Branch name on them that we continue to proudly wear to this day:





She earned the good will of all our Branch Members who would do anything for her.
Rest in peace, our good friend, Doreen M. Thompson UE. You will be sorely missed!



Joan Lucas UE, a Charter Member, Past Kawartha Branch President,
and Branch Genealogist for many years, writes:

Doreen was an excellent President and Member of Kawartha Branch. I remember helping Doreen organize her proofs for her first UE certificate and later for others that she proved, a total of seven Loyalists who settled in the Bay of Quinte area. Doreen also initiated a President's Manual for Kawartha Branch to assist later Branch Presidents. She encouraged us to have and wear Loyalist costumes. A beautiful seamstress, Doreen made costumes for others and encouraged the men to wear their Tricorn hats. We will continue to miss her.

Joan

Sincerely and loyally,

Bob McBride, UE

Kawartha Branch UELAC Publications Chair