

HISTORY OF THE CALGARY BRANCH U.E.L.A.C.

By Dorothy Hall, April 18, 2005

The Calgary Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association was organized in 1928. It's Honourary President was Lieutenant-General Sir. A.C. McDonald, R.C.B., G.M.C., D.S.O., and its first President was Mr. Clifford Jones, K.C.

Among its Charter Members were Bishop Ralph Sherman, Honourable R.B. Bennett, K.C., M.P., Judge Tom Tweedie, Dr. G.W. Kerby, L.F. Clarry, K.C., Isaac F. Fitch, Hugh Farthing, L.U. Fowler, Mrs. M.L. Bowen, Mrs. A.E. Freeland, Mrs. A.P. Patrick, Mrs. A.R. Dauncey, Mrs. J.W. Bullough, Mrs. H.D. Marr, Arthur Maybee.

In 1934 the Association furnished a room #224 Ward A.3. in the Colonel Belcher Veterans' Hospital in honour of Edith May Allison, an overseas nurse, who was Matron-in-Charge of the hospital from 1919 to 1933

In 1963 the Association requested the local School Board to promote an Essay Contest throughout the schools, "on the part played by the United Empire Loyalists in the History of Canada" and offered a substantial prize for the winning contestant.

As its Centennial project to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of Canada, the Association established an Annual Scholarship at the University of Calgary "to be awarded to the student receiving the highest marks in a course in Canadian History." This Scholarship continues and is awarded annually and is one of the earliest endowed scholarships at the University of Calgary.

Our records detail the following individuals as Presidents of the Calgary Branch and while incomplete as some records have been lost through the intervening decades, it is appropriate to put this record forth for posterity.

Clifford Jones, K.C. 1928	Dr. R. Guy Williams 1972-75
Dr. J.W. Richardson	Col. J.H.R. Thomson 1974-75
L.F. Clarry, K.C.	J. Michael Robison 1975-85
Mr. J.T. North	Barrie St. L. Robison – 1983
Mr. M.W. Brock	Ron Atkins - 1984
Mrs. Ray Farquharson 1950-51	Mrs. Lois Cummings 1985-88
Willard Cummings 1951-52	Phillip Thorpe 1988-89
F.C. Colborne, M.L.A. 1952-55	William Thompson 1989-91
Col. J.E.A. Tidswell 1957-58-59-62	R. Douglas Hall 1992-94
Mrs. Helen Robinson	Bruce Miller 1995-96
Mrs. M.L. Bowen	Gordon Perry 1997-2000
Barrie Robison 1966-67	P.S. "Scotty" Grant 2001-2003
Douglas Fitch	Wayne R. Hovdestad 2004-05
Col. J.H.R. Thomson 1969-71	

What is a Loyalist without mention of what we have said and heard? Following is the details of our Speaker's Corner 1974-1980.

1974	Past President Douglas Fitch spoke on "Canadians First Class, Second Class"
1976	Stanley Schumacher spoke on "The Monarchy or the Presidency?"
1978	Philosopher – writer John Ralston Saul – later to become the husband of our Governor-General – spoke on "Quebec and Confederation"
1979	The Speaker was Dominion President Dr. Stuart Gilmore
1980	Historian Dr. Frank MacKinnon spoke on "The Loyalists and Contemporary Society"

HIGHLIGHTS & TRIVIA OF THE CALGARY BRANCH 1980-2005

Our Branch History is really a History of People and their efforts, similar to the People's History of Canada presented by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Highlights and Trivia tells of individual efforts and contributions and our actions as we saw them at the time and as we and our predecessors felt worth recording.

At the time of Dr. MacKinnon's address in 1979, dinner price was a whole \$10 and memberships were all of \$7 and Treasurer Evelyn Peterson submitted a report showing the bank balance was \$132. 57 and in 1981 Michael Robison was President.

In 1982, dinner was \$15 and held in the Commerce Club. Local author Ernest Watkin's topic was "Was This What You Expected?" In 1983, Guest Speaker Kifle Yitbarak's topic was "The British Connection" and he spoke on Great Britain's contribution to democracy, human dignity and freedom. The bad news came from Evelyn Peterson, who reported the Branch was in a deficit position of \$6.65!

1984 – The winner of History Prize was Mrs. Ida Johan Kushner (awarded 1983) and happily, Evelyn Person reported that the Branch was once again solvent and had \$310 in the treasury.

1985 – Guest Speaker was Sheila Daly, volunteer Historian of the Glenbow Museum. Also in 1983, Lois Cummings became President and the recipient of our History Prize at the University of Calgary was Michael John O'Brien.

1986 – Sandra Leslie Champagne won the History Prize and Dominion President Gwendolyn Smith was guest speaker at our annual dinner.

1987 – The Annual General Meeting was held at the Calgary Winter Club and longtime Treasurer Evelyn Peterson bid farewell as she was leaving for Victoria. But first she submitted her final report, showing a healthy balance of \$1083.88 at the meeting. Guest Speaker was our valued genealogist, Kathleen Hymas.

1988 (May 6) – The price of the dinner at Ranchman's Hall, Heritage Park, jumped to \$20 but fortunately that included cocktails! Winner of our History Prize was Christopher Swazey. Our

Speaker was Dr. Herman Ganzevoott of the University of Calgary. And Joan Magee of Windsor kindly donated thirty copies of her book *The Loyalist Mosaic* to our Branch. All sales proceeds will go to our scholarship fund.

September 1988 – A Friendship Lunch was enjoyed at the home of Kathleen Hymas. In January 1989, President Lois Cummings resigned as her husband had accepted a position with the Government of Libya.

May 6, 1989 – The Annual General Meeting was held at the Carriage House Inn with Dr. Donald Smith as guest speaker. His topic was “The Indian Side of the Loyalist Settlement”. Kay Hymas’ years of dedicated service were recognized with a Life Membership. Branch President was William Thompson with Phillip Thorpe First Vice-President and Pat Jones Second Vice-President. November 12, 1989 – Phillip Thorpe resigned after accepting a position in Holland.

May 4, 1990 – Branch President Bill Thompson presided at a meeting at which Brenda Fauth showed slides of her journey to Brazil on behalf of World Vision. The meeting was held at the Old Timers’ Hut, 3625-4th St. S.W. and Dr. R. G. (“Bud”) Williams accepted the office of Secretary-Treasurer. May 12, 1991 – Our Guest Speaker was the fascinating and entertaining Dr. Grant MacEwan.

September 1992 – A fall tea was held at the home of the President R. Douglas Hall and Mrs. Hall. The other officers were Evelyn deMille, Secretary-Treasurer, Dominique Wilson, Corresponding Secretary, and Genealogist Kathleen Hymas. The Branch mourned the loss of Dr. Thomas Richardson, a longtime member. The History Prize was won by Siobhan Janet McNaught. April 5, 1993 – Guest Speaker was Dr. Roy Smith, a fellow Loyalist.

May 6, 1994 – Our Branch hosted about seventy Loyalists from Central, Eastern and Atlantic Canada, who were en route to the Dominion Annual Meeting in Vancouver. This delightful evening was held in the Blue Room of the University of Calgary, and our speaker was the distinguished author and historian, Max Foran, who spoke on Calgary’s early history. Grace was said by Col. The Honourable John Matheson of Gananoque, Ontario, Honorary President. Okill Stewart, Dominion President-Elect, was presented with a Calgary white hat by Pat Jones. R. Douglas Hall presided at the occasion. Jodi-Lyn Marie T. Newnham won our History Prize for that year.

Sunday, September 28, 1994 was the day of our Fall Tea, held at the home of Patricia and Gordon Weir. In March 1995, Corresponding Secretary Dominique Wilson sent out a Membership Alert entreating members to keep our history alive. Membership had increased in 1993-94.

September 1995 saw a change in officers, with Bruce Miller as president, his wife Morgan Miller as Corresponding Secretary and genealogist Penny Colter. Dr. Evelyn deMille continued as Secretary-Treasurer. On May 24, 1996 James Black, Professor of English at the University of Calgary was Guest Speaker. On September 1997, Bruce Miller resigned as President and Gordon Perry was acclaimed as the new President. Dr. Margaret (“Marmie”) Hess was elected Vice-President. On October 19, 1997 the Fall Tea was held at the home of James and Lorna Stewart.

June 19, 1998 – Nancy Millar, author of *Once Upon A Tombstone* was enthusiastically received as Guest Speaker at the annual dinner held at the Glencoe Club. Moments of silence were observed for our departed members Pat Jones and Dr. A.D. Tompkins. Dave Embury was confirmed as Secretary-Treasurer. Calgary Branch voted to honor Edmonton Branch's request for \$200 for a "coffee break" at the general meeting in Edmonton in 1999. This commitment was fulfilled by Dr. Evelyn deMille.

On Sunday, October 18, 1998 the falltea was held on a sunny, warm day at the home of Bob and Susan Ingles. A highlight was the issuance of certificates for four sisters: Kathleen Perry, Jean Noyes, Mildred Coleman and Hazel Litzgus. Their Loyalist ancestry was traced by Genealogist James Stewart.

May 18, 1999 – The annual dinner was held at the Glencoe Club, with the Guest Speaker being Robert McPherson of the Museum of the Regiments. Moments of silence were observed for Cyril Cox and for two Past Presidents, Barry Robison (1983) and R. Douglas Hall (1992-94).

July 1999 – Gordon Perry's Newsletter mentioned our Vice-President Dr. Margaret Hess as being chosen as a Woman of Distinction by the YWCA. President Perry also mentioned the pioneering work of Dr. Evelyn deMille in her generous gift to the University of Calgary Archives. In addition to being our Genealogist, James Stewart is also our Membership Chairman.

October 24, 1997 – The Fall Tea was held at the home of Dave and Sheila Embury. It was noted Kathleen Perry has inherited our archival photograph album. Many of these pictures were taken by Dr. Evelyn deMille.

June 2, 2000 – The Annual General Meeting was held at the Calgary Winter Club. Treasurer Dave Embury reported the bank balance was \$970.45 while James Stewart's report showed there are currently 43 regular members, three associates and three Life Members. Mrs. Lorna Stewart then introduced the Guest Speaker, her husband James Stewart, who gave a fine account of his own – and others – UEL descendency. November 2000 – Gordon Perry's final newsletter mentioned that Dr. Margaret Hess had resigned as Vice President.

May 16 & 17, 2001 – A Prairie Regional Seminar was held at Days Inn, 1818-16th Ave. N.W.. At the annual dinner on May 17, 2001 William Terry, Dominion President, was Guest Speaker. October 2001 – a Wine & Cheese Party was held at Bonavista Estates Club Room. P.S. "Scotty" Grant was introduced as the new Branch President. Jim Stewart presented a UELAC Memorial Crest to Gordon Perry as thanks for several years of excellent service.

November 21, 2001- Cheryl Guyett was introduced to the Executive. She has agreed to serve as our Newsletter Editor. Audrey Wirtzfeld has had promising results on presenting and including UEL information in the Separate School System.

Jim & Lorna Stewart and Audrey Wirtzfeld attended the Prairie Regional Meeting in Edmonton and President Scotty Grant attended the national meeting in Waterloo, Ontario on June 6-9, 2002.

At the time of our annual meeting on May 16, 2002 membership stood at 60. The annual dinner at the Calgary Winter Club featured Mr. Justice Milt Harradence, Q.C. as Guest Speaker. His topic was "The History of the Loyalists". This was a superb address and the Branch has reproduced it in booklet form. October 20, 2002 – our Fall Wine & Cheese party was again held at Bonavista Estates.

Thursday, May 15, 2003 – The annual dinner was again held at the Calgary Winter Club, and the speaker was our Treasurer Dave Embury. His topic was "The Palatine Migration to the New World". Cheryl Guyett reported that we are entering the Information Age now that we have a website

October 19, 2003 – Dr. Evelyn de Mille and Father Greene were given Certificates of Appreciation by Past President Gordon Perry at the annual Wine & Cheese Party.

May 6, 2004 – The Annual General Meeting took place at the Calgary Winter Club with very special Guests Dominion President Myrna Fox, Dominion President-Elect Doug Grant and Regional Councilor Margaret Carter, who graciously consented to be our Guest Speaker for the evening.

Another highlight was that Wayne R. Hovdestad was installed as Branch President on this occasion. Further James Stewart reported membership stood at 53 and Dave Embury reported a bank balance of \$1236.

References:

1. *History of the Calgary Branch* by Miss P. L. Pue, June 27, 1973.
2. *History of the Calgary Branch* by Pat Weir, January 15, 1990
3. Archives and Records of the Calgary Branch.
4. University of Calgary, Student Awards and Financial Aid – *Endowment Statement And Complete List of Recipients for the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada History Prize*, January 19, 2005.