

HISTORY OF THE EDMONTON BRANCH UELAC

The first Branch of the United Empire Loyalists in Edmonton was organized November 6, 1912. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. B. J. Saunders who eventually became the first President. Later in November 1912, Miss Anne Merrill was elected to the position of Secretary Treasurer.

Some of the founding members were:

Mrs. B.J. Saunders
Miss Jean Sherman
Miss Jean Haight
Mrs. Eva Carpenter
Miss Beatrice Saunders
Lieut. Col. Carstairs
Mr. J. Fred Carman
Miss Anne Merrill

Mrs. George Powell Bate
Mrs. A. Madeline Haight
Miss Louise A. de W. Moore
Miss Marjorie M.B. Saunders
Mrs. S.A.G. Barnes
Mr. Clarry
Mr. Richard Secord

On November 7, 1912, the above group met to discuss organization. It was stated that apparently it was impossible to organize because the papers, such as the constitution, either through "failure on the part of His Majesty's mails, or oversight at the head office must have been responsible for their non-arrival". Upon a decision of the meeting, those present enrolled themselves in this way: "*We the undersigned. Desire to join an association of the United Empire Loyalists to be organized in Edmonton providing we are able to prove our direct descendance from one of the original United Empire Loyalists*" And so, they became a Branch that was soon after approved by Dominion office in Toronto. In fact, Edmonton became the first Branch west of Toronto.

The Edmonton Journal in those years printed write-ups of the activities of this Branch. Here are some:

Edmonton Journal – January 7, 1913

"U.E. Loyalists Trace Ancestry"

The first meeting of the year was held in the assembly hall at McKay Ave. School. Mrs. De Ray Williams, wife of Colonel Williams of Strathcona and Mr. S. G. Chamberlaine presented records giving "clear proof they were directly descended from original U.E. Loyalists."

Edmonton Journal – February 3, 1913

"U.E. Loyalists Meet"

An open meeting of the U.E., Loyalists' association will be held this evening in the McKay Avenue School at 8 o'clock, when, besides a musical program, L.F. Clarry, Deputy Attorney General will give an address. Anyone interested will be welcomed at this meeting.

Edmonton Journal – May 20, 1913

"United Empire Loyalists Hear Good Addresses"

"Local organization Gathers to Commemorate Landing of Forefathers on Canadian Soil"

Lieutenant-Governor George Bulyea and Mayor Short were in attendance and gave speeches, as did Mr. L. F. Clary. A. H. Williams represented the St. George Society, and a detachment of the 101 Fusiliers was in attendance. Mrs. Saunders was still President of the U.E. group.

The Branch had only been in existence for a brief two to three years when World War I intervened. Branch activities began to wane and soon the Branch "closed its doors" and would not appear again until 1933.

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1934 Branch

It was known as the Fort Edmonton branch, organized by 17 prominent lawyers and doctors, indicated in Minutes that they "should follow the same plan or organization as in the other Provinces with the lady members of the organization having a Vice President and a Convenor of a "Ladies Committee".

At this time, the President was Dr. O. J. Baker. The main interest dealt with:

- 1) commemoration in schools, Province wide and at a Canadian Club, of the arrival of the Loyalists.
- 2) the collection of Loyalist books to be made available to the members.
- 3) concentrating on activities which would further the War effort.
- 4) appointment of a genealogist for the Branch.
- 5) encouraging school authorities to take a stronger stand against children who refused to salute the flag. This became a concern when some children refused to salute the flag in the classroom. The problem was eventually settled by authority.

March 29, 1934

Thirteen men of the Fort Edmonton Branch met in the office of Dr. J. O. Baker to discuss further the formation of a Branch of the UEL. Charter members attending the initial meeting were:

Dr. J. O. Baker	H. G. Baker
S.A. G. Barnes	Dr. M. R. Bow
Edward Brice	A.L. Burrows
Col. W.F.W. Carstairs	P.S. Bailey
Charles H. Grant K.C.	Dr. Morton Hall
Const. Joseph Lee, RCMP	B.C. McMillan
Dr. E.L. Pope	W.G. Stuart
Dr. Emerson Smith	C.E. Shaver
Geo. H. Van Allan K.C.	J. McLeod

May 16, 1934

P.S. Bailey advised the General Secretary of the UEL Association that preliminary organization had elected Dr. J. O. Baker as President and Lt. Col. W.F.W. Carstairs Vice President, and P.S. Bailey, Secretary.

May 18, 1934

The Branch held its first Anniversary Dinner at the MacDonald Hotel.

Nothing further could be found about the activities of this Branch until March 7, 1938 when the members talked about safeguarding Rights as for instance that of the Grand Jury which recently had been surrendered by Manitoba. Note: The Grand Jury system did not continue in Canada after this time.

May 10, 1940

The Charter was received and officers elected. 29 members were accepted.

June 1, 1940

Officers elected are as follows:

Hon. President	W.F.W. Carstairs
President	Dr. J.O. Baker, M.D.
Vice-President	M.R. Bow, M.D.
Secretary Treasurer	P.S. Bailey

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Charter Members were:

W.R.W. Carstairs	Dr. J. O. Baker
Dr. E. Smith	Dr. M.R. Bow
G.S. Carlyle	C.H. Grant
Dr. E.L. Pope	H.G. Baker
Edward Brice	W.G. Stuart
E.C. Shaver	P.S. Bailey
Mrs. Alva E. Bell (former member of Toronto Branch)	

The Charter members acting as a genealogical committee approved the following as full members:

Simon C. McMillan	Edna Elizabeth Rowe
S.A. Gordon Barnes	John Duncan Bower
Joseph Lee	Lucy Alvina Hoover Palmer
Edward G. Conger	Francis Stacy McCall
Henriette Evelyn Bush	Margaret Elaine Austin
Nicholas A. Lee	Lena C. Ower

May 10, 1940

41 members of the Branch held a meeting in the MacDonald Hotel. Of importance was an agreement that definite action should be taken on works for sons of U.E.L. Plans will be completed at the November meeting.

No information could be found as to what action the Branch took relative to those sons on active service.

New Membership Committee consists of John Lee, Edward Brice, Dr. W. Whiteside, Miss Eva Sangster and Mrs. W. G. Stuart. Program, Publicity and Social Committee is made up of Mrs. Lefroy, Mrs. R. M. Dingwall, Mrs. Stuart, Miss Sangster and S.A.G. Barnes.

November 21, 1940

Members of the Fort Edmonton Branch of the U.E.L. gathered for a business and social evening at the home of Dr. and Mrs. J. O. Baker.

No other records could be found to describe what this Branch's activities consisted of following the November 1940 meeting. It can only be assumed that the intervention of World War II caused the cessation of the Branch.

THE 1987 BRANCH TO PRESENT

During the 1980's, the Calgary Branch had a number of members from Edmonton. Calgary President Lois Cummings U.E. was of the opinion that Edmonton should form its own Branch. She contacted Paul Robison of Edmonton and advised that she would provide all the assistance necessary to get the Edmonton Branch started. Following a banquet and meeting on May 11, 1987 at the University of Alberta Faculty Club, the Branch became a reality. Participants included the President of the Dominion Association, Dr. Vera Vanderlip U.E. and President Lois Cummings Calgary Branch. A four person Executive was elected and they were President Paul Robison; Vice President Barbara Roth U.E.; Secretary Treasurer Bob Dorland and Genealogist Louise Croft U.E.

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The following persons became the Founding Members:

John Best	Margaret Best
Barbara Roth	Frances E. Losie
Bessie Losie	Grace Walker
Leslie Walker	Louise Croft
Marie Ryerson	Robert E. Dorland
Paul Robison	Mary McSparron
William McSparron	Margaret Rolf
David Rolf	Charles Grant
Anne Grant	Allen Grant
Beatrice Rolf	Cathy Grant
Enid Fitzsimmonds	Jack Fitzsimmonds

Honoured Guests: Louise Cummings – President Calgary Branch
Dr. Vera Vanderlip U.E. – Dominion President

On May 9, 1987, the first Executive of the Edmonton Branch received written notice from Dr. Vera Vanderlip U.E., Dominion Council that the Charter approval was received at Council May 2, 1987 and that official notice will follow.

Meetings were held at various locations through the 1980's and into the 1990's. The thrust was toward research and courses were held to assist members in the process of tracing their ancestors. The instructor was Louise Croft U.E. who has a great deal of experience in genealogy research. As a result of the courses, a number of members proved their lineage to a Loyalist and received their Certificates.

Other activities included guest speakers at the Regular meetings; social events which were always popular; efforts towards increasing memberships and the always existing problems of where to hold the meetings for these events. Fortunately, the Branch was able to utilize a school and some churches and Executive members held meetings in their respective homes.

In 1994, The Branch received a letter from Dominion asking if Edmonton would host the National Conference June 3 to 6, 1999. Following much discussion at meetings, it was decided that Edmonton would be pleased to host the Conference and forwarded a letter of application to Dominion. It subsequently became official. Plans now had to be put in place.

The Conference was 5 years in the future, and as the time approached, committees were formed to attend to the myriad of details. The Committees consisted of:

President Fran Losie U.E. to be the Convenor
Pam Robillard U.E. to handle the registration process and binders
Lois Cummings U.E. looked after the Annual General Meeting.
Louise Croft U.E. responsible for display tables
Cal Chisholm U.E. and Tex Yerex handled transportation
Robert Rogers U.E. was the Publicity Chairman
The late Vera Chisholm was assigned Costuming and Archives Tour
Betty Fladager U.E. responsible for greeting the delegates
Earle Fladager was Treasurer
Cheryl Donnachie was Secretary
Ivy Trumpour attended to Decorations

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The Theme for the Conference was: "Loyalist Heritage from East to West"

All Conference activities excepting tours and church attendance were held at the Coast Terrace Inn which was the Conference Centre.

The Gala Banquet was in the hotel and many people wore their period costumes which were a great addition to the conference. Dominion President Ed Scott U.E. and others from Dominion Committees were also present and the Guest Speaker was popular local historian, Alex Mair, who spoke of the early Edmonton Loyalists and their contribution to the development of the Edmonton area.

A number of members received their U.E. Certificates at the Banquet, one of which was Rev. Dr. Lloyd Fourney U.E. from Edmonton branch. Rev. Fourney conducted the Conference Sunday services at First Presbyterian Church in Edmonton.

It was the late Vera Chisholm who encouraged members to make the period costumes of their choice and as she said "no sewing machines - use needle and thread only". She provided patterns, had members to her home where they worked on the costumes and gave assistance when needed. Many costumes were made.

One of the highlights was the tour of the Ukrainian Cultural Village east of Edmonton. This historic site exhibited the Ukrainian way of life many years ago. Old homes, schools, churches, grain elevators and more have been restored and moved onto the site. It was also an opportunity to enjoy the Ukrainian food.

The Conference was a huge success and much credit goes to President Fran Losie U.E, and her committees for all of the tireless hours voluntarily committed.

The Founder's Day Banquet held at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club on May 29, 2000 was a most exciting one. An invitation had been accepted by the late Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole (also known as the "lady of Hugs") She spoke about her family roots and it was most interesting. She was a much loved lady.

The Prairie Regional Conference was held in Edmonton and it coincided with the Founder's Day Banquet on May 10 & 11, 2002 at the Royal Glenora Club. Dominion President William Terry U.E. was the Guest Speaker and he also presented Certificates to some Edmonton Members. A costume fashion show was requested so Vera Chisholm arranged and narrated it. Many members modelled their costumes and Vera described what they were, when they would have been worn and what for.

In 2005, The Branch planned a project of planting a tree with a plaque at the base to commemorate the visit of Queen Elizabeth II in celebration of Alberta's centennial 1905-2005. Location of the planting would be the Alberta legislature grounds. Permission from Dominion had to be obtained to use the Loyalist Armorial Bearings on the plaque. With great assistance from Dominion President Doug Grant and the pertaining Committee, permission was given. Further, permission had to be obtained from the Alberta Government to plant a tree on the Legislature property. This too was eventually received. Time had lapsed where it was too late in the year to plant a tree so the event took place on June 17, 2006.

A tall Bur oak tree was selected and it was planted by the staff of the Legislature. The plaque was mounted on a pedestal also by the Legislature staff.

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The wording on the plaque is:

*This Bur Oak Tree commemorates the visit of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
In celebration of Alberta's Centennial 1905-2005
Planted by descendants of United Empire Loyalists of Canada
who are members of the
Edmonton and Calgary Branches*

*The roots of this tree symbolizes the ancestral roots of
Loyalists who fled the Thirteen Colonies
during the American Revolution (1775-1783) and
remained faithful to the British Crown. Oak leaves have long been
held as a symbol of loyalty to the Monarchy since the
time of Charles II. Just as the branches of this tree
grow and spread, similarly many Albertans are
descendants of the original Loyalists.*

Edmonton Branchy members and some from Calgary were present on this very special occasion. President- elect Al Dodd, Co-Chair of Membership Dave Rolls and member Allen Jess did all the work in getting this special event completed.

The Edmonton Branch now enters its 20th anniversary year with much anticipation of the events that have been planned. There is work ahead to maintain and increase the membership. Also, a committee has been formed to make presentations of Loyalist history in Edmonton schools. Success of these programs will be the evidence of the dedication of the Branch members. Now to the future.

*We have a wonderful heritage—Let us be proud of it
Let us preserve it—Today there is just as great a
Need for Loyalty as our Forefathers were called upon to show.
Let us always remain loyal to those traditions established by our
Ancestors and do our utmost to preserve them.*

Acknowledgement

The historical data for the Edmonton Branches of the United Empire Loyalists in the years 1912 and 1933 had been collected by Frances E. Losie U.E. and her able assistants Wilma McKinnon and Susan McKeen. They obtained an old minute book from the 1912 Branch and spent many hours looking through old Edmonton Journals in 1933 and 1934 to find items pertaining to the Branch's activities.

We acknowledge their dedication and efforts to preserving the history of the Edmonton Branch.

This brief history of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Edmonton Branch, was prepared by Mrs. Betty (Chrysler) Fladager U.E. and her husband Earle Fladager, in recognition of the Branch's 20th Anniversary 1987-2007.

Presented to the Branch and members with compliments, May 2007.

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Edmonton Branch Executives

1987

President Paul Robison
Vice-President Barbara Roth
Sec/Treasurer Robert Dorland
Genealogist Louise Croft

1988

President Paul Robison
Vice-President Barbara Roth
Sec/Treasurer Robert Dorland
Genealogist Louise Croft

1989

President Barbara Roth
Past President Paul Robison
Vice-President Margaret Best
Sec/Treasurer Melissa Rose
Genealogist Louise Croft

1990

President Margaret Best
Past President Barbara Roth
Vice-President Mary McSparron
Sec/Treasurer Melisa Rose
Genealogist Rosaline Hupfer

1991

President Mary McSparron
Past President Margaret Best
Vice-President Robert Dorland
Sec/Treasurer Vivian Ety
Genealogist Rosaline Hupfer

1992

President Robert Dorland
Past President Mary McSparron
Vice-President Earle Fladager
Sec/Treasurer Vivian Ety
Genealogist Rosaline Hupfer

1993

President Robert Dorland
Past President Mary McSparron
Vice-President Earle Fladager
Sec/Treasurer Vivian Ety
Genealogist Rosaline Hupfer

1994

President Frances Losie
Past President Robert Dorland
Vice-President Vacant
Sec/Treasurer Betty Fladager
Genealogist Barbara Roth

1995

President Frances Losie
Past President Robert Dorland
Vice-President Vacant
Sec/Treasurer Betty Fladager
Genealogist John Avey

1996

President Frances Losie
Past President Robert Dorland
Vice President Lois Cummings
Sec/Treasurer Wilma McKinnon
Genealogist Susan McKeen

1997

President Lois Cummings
Past President Frances Losie
Vice-President Robert Rogers
Sec/Treasurer Wilma McKinnon
Genealogist Susan Mckeen

1998

President Lois Cummings
Past President Frances Losie
Vice-President Robert Rogers
Secretary Ivy Trumpour
Treasurer Cheryl Donnachie
Genealogist Susan McKeen

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1999

President Robert Rogers
Past President Lois Cummings
Vice-President Hugh Ross
Secretary Wilma McKinnon
Treasurer Cheryl McKinnon
Genealogist Susan McKeen

2001

President Hugh Ross
Past President Robert Rogers
Vice-President Robert Morgan
Secretary Shona Wards
Treasurer Cheryl Donnachie
Genealogist Doreen Dimitroff
Membership Cal & Vera Chisholm

2003

President Robert Morgan
Past President Hugh Ross
Vice-President Vacant
Secretary Shona Wards
Treasurer Cheryl Donnachie
Genealogist Marilyn Lappi
Membership Lloyd Fourney
Dave Rolls
Newsletter Ivy Trumpour

2005

President Shona Wards
Past President Robert Morgan
Vice-President Al Dodd
Secretary Betty Fladager
Treasurer Earle Fladager
Genealogist Marilyn Lappi
Membership Lloyd Fourney
Dave Rolls
Newsletter Dave Rolls

2000

President Robert Rogers
Past President Lois Cummings
Vice-President Hugh Ross
Secretary Ivy Trumpour
Treasurer Cheryl Donnachie
Genealogist Doreen Dimitroff
Membership Cal & Vera Chisholm

2002

President Hugh Ross
Past President Robert Rogers
Vice-President Robert Morgan
Secretary Shona Wards
Treasurer Cheryl Donnachie
Genealogist Doreen Dimitroff
Membership Lloyd Fourney
Dave Rolls
Newsletter Ivy Trumpour

2004

President Robert Morgan
Past President Hugh Ross
Vice-President Shona Wards
Secretary Betty Fladager
Treasurer Earle Fladager
Genealogist Marilyn Lappi
Membership Lloyd Fourney
Dave Rolls
Newsletter Ivy Trumpour

2006

President Shona Wards
Past President Robert Morgan
Vice-President Al Dodd
Secretary Betty Fladager
Treasurer Earle Fladager
Genealogist Marilyn Lappi
Membership Lloyd Fourney
Dave Rolls
Newsletter Dave Rolls

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2007

President Al Dodd
Past President Shona Wards
Vice-President Allen Jess
Secretary Betty Fladager
Treasurer Earle Fladager
Genealogist Marilyn Lappi
Membership Lloyd Fourney
Dave Rolls
Social Comm. Frances Losie
Newsletter Dave Rolls

2008

President Al Dodd
Past President Shona Wards
Vice-President Allen Jess
Secretary Betty Fladager
Treasurer Earle Fladager
Genealogist Marilyn Lappi
Membership Shona Wards
Doreen Dimitroff
Ed. & Program Frances Losie
Newsletter Dave Rolls

21 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

1987	22	1988	23	1989	34	1990	21
1991	32	1992	33	1993	23	1994	24
1995	30	1996	35	1997	50	1998	44
1999	54	2000	67	2001	79	2002	50
2003	61	2004	43	2005	47	2006	44
2007	40	2008	60				