

15 September 2015

BC HERITAGE FAIR
UELAC VANCOUVER BRANCH AWARD PRESENTATION

First I would like to Welcome each and every one of you here this evening; especially the parents and families of the students for allowing them to come and give their presentations to our UELAC Vancouver Branch members.

I would also like to introduce our Special Guests this evening....Janet and John Morley. For those who do not know Janet and her husband John, Janet is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Vancouver School District BC Heritage Fairs each year.

I know that the students will know Janet and I'm wondering if any of them could tell us possibly what Janet does in the schools to prepare the students for the BC Heritage Fair each year.

A_N_Y_O_N_E ?????

Thank you Janet and John for all that you do to promote and perpetuate this wonderful programme in the schools of Vancouver.

Now, for a brief lesson on WHO we ARE... You have heard me mention the UELAC. Well, the UELAC stands for the UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada has 27 (now 28 as of October 24 2015) local chapters across Canada; four of which are located in British Columbia. We are the Vancouver Branch and our sister branches are located in Victoria, Chilliwack and Thompson-Okanagan.

As part of our Educational Visionary mandate, the Outreach & Education Program is most important to our Association thereby allowing us, to further our Canadian heritage and history goals.

The UELAC Vancouver Branch Loyalist Award is presented to a student "in recognition of outstanding achievement in highlighting the history of the settlement and growth of Canada prior to Confederation (1867), in particular the United Empire Loyalists or their descendants and their contribution to the development of Canada."

We, the members of UELAC are the direct descendants of the First Refugees to Canada in 1783. We are the "stewards of our Canadian loyalist history." Each year, the Vancouver Branch UELAC is very pleased to participate in the adjudicating and presentation of prizes (BC Heritage Fairs) to worthy students who have studied, and researched their Canadian History and Heritage.

The United Empire Loyalists were those people who had settled in the thirteen colonies (USA) at the outbreak of the American Revolution, who remained Loyal to the Crown of England and took up the Royal Standard, and who settled in what is now Canada at the end of the American War of Independence. Many loyalists migrated from many European countries before coming to what is now USA. During the Revolutionary War, loyalists swore an "Oath of Allegiance" to the British Crown. At that time, they lived in the New England Colonies in the mid to late 1700s. Our ancestors lost their homes, their lands, everything and were forced to leave New York as refugees. They were placed on ships and sailed into unknown territory. Many left with the

15 September 2015

BC HERITAGE FAIR
UELAC VANCOUVER BRANCH AWARD PRESENTATION

promise from the British King George III for FREE land and provisions. While many came on ships others, trudged their way by land into what is now CANADA.

It was their tenacity and willingness to overcome hardship when they left the 13 colonies at the end of the American Revolution in 1783. The loyalists struggled through much hardship to start over and have contributed much to what is now this great country of Canada.

As the loyalist's direct descendants, we cherish their contributions and honour their great sacrifices.

As members of Vancouver Branch UELAC, we sometimes appear at many special community events in our period clothing (the mid-to late 1700's time period) so that we can teach and illustrate how our ancestors dressed and lived.

- Carl Stymiest UE & Gwen Dumfries UE
Co-Presidents