

## SHIRLEY DARGATZ UE

The Vancouver Branch of the UELAC nominates **Shirley Dargatz UE** as the first co-recipient of the newly established Philip E. M. Leith Memorial Award to be awarded to one who "exemplifies volunteerism" within the Pacific Region, at the Branch level, as well as nationally within the United Empire Loyalists' Association at large. Truly, there is no one more deserving of this award than Shirley Dargatz UE.

Shirley (nee Thornton) Dargatz U.E- Loyalist Ancestor - John Thornton; Married to Ken Dargatz for over 52 years and live in Chilliwack, British Columbia. Shirley studied and did her Teacher Training at UBC as well as Post Graduate Studies in Counselling. She also completed Post Graduate Studies in Administration at Simon Fraser University.



Shirley taught Secondary School for 35 years and has been retired from teaching for several years. She began her teaching career at Sardis Secondary in Chilliwack in 1957. After marrying Ken in 1958, they moved to Clinton, where she taught there for 2 years. 1960 found them back in Chilliwack. Here she taught at the Rosedale Junior High School for 1 year, and then returned to Sardis Secondary School, where she taught 32 of 35 years. Subject Areas: English, Social Studies, Physical Education, and Counselling to Grade 12 Students - boys and girls.

Shirley was named Chilliwack's *Woman of the Year* in 1997. In 1993, Shirley was awarded the BCTV Dogwood Award for her work done with the B.C. Summer Games. In June of 2000, The University College of the Fraser Valley awarded Shirley the "Betty Urquhart Award" -" in recognition of her years of volunteer service to her community through a wide range of activities ".

### Community Involvement:

- Community Arts Council
- Club 28 - a Sardis Service Club
- Happy Tappers - now their Mistress of Ceremonies Chilliwack Retired Teacher's - Past President. "Town Decorator "for many events.
- Promontory Heights Historical Committee.
- Church Involvement:  
Carman United Church - grandparents were pioneers in Chilliwack, particularly of the Promontory Heights area to which they came from Ontario in 1891 and, were part of the funding of Carman United Church established in 1898. Shirley is currently as active in her church in many roles: Worship Chair; Trustee; Church Council; Carman Church Cemetery; Carman Archives - Chair; Fundraising Team; Governance Committee; Liturgical Dance Leader; and Lay Leader amongst other responsibilities.

### United Empire Loyalists. Association of Canada:

- Has been a member of the Chilliwack Branch since it chartered in 1990. Chilliwack Branch President since 1994
- Served on Dominion Council of the UELAC - Pacific Regional Vice President and Membership Chair.
- Shirley also does the Memberships for the Branch and the Link-Up Newsletter. Shirley is often referred to as the "Mother" of the Pacific Region: her charm, wit and infectious laugh, has certainly endeared her to all who meet her. She has from the outset been involved in the

Chilliwack Branch, and if you are ever in need of decorations for any event, Shirley is the person to call for advice.

**Planning Committees:**

- Chilliwack Senior Secondary 50th. Reunion - 2005, and Sardis Secondary 50th. Anniversary Celebrations- 2006.
- Planning Committee for Pacific Region's "Beyond the Mountains 2010" AGM & Conference

Shirley says she is, "Delighted to be learning all about her Canadian Heritage, her "Loyalists Roots," and learning about this incredible Country - Canada - all because of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada