

MARY ANNE BETHUNE UE

Mary Anne Bethune UE has been a member since 1998 and has served the Vancouver Branch of the UELAC and the national Association consistently and effectively during those 12 years.

She has been a member of the branch executive almost from the time she joined. Her leadership and insightful manner motivates us at a local and national level. At the branch level, she has acted as Secretary, Vice-President, President, Past President, Co-Editor of the newsletter as well as chairing many committees and sub-committees of the organization.

Her dedication to the UELAC is evident by her presence at almost all of our branch level activities. You can find her dressed in her loyalist period clothing participating in all facets of the Outreach and Education programmes that our branch offers to the public including marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parades, attending the Tri-Stakes workshops and genealogy seminars; signing up new members who visit our displays by Simon Fraser's statue during Multicultural Days and the B.C. Highland Games, painting 150 loyalist soldiers for our *Beyond the Mountains 2010*; and most recently undertaking education workshops called "Dressing a Loyalist" for 90 young school children across the Vancouver School District during the BC Heritage Fairs. These are just some of the most visible of our activities what you don't see is the work involved in planning these events as well many of our behind-the-scenes activities like day to day operations of running a branch.



On the national scene, Mary Anne was also instrumental in motivating the branch by raising funds for three Dominion fund-raisers; namely, "Let Loose the Library," the "St. Paul's Anglican Church Stained Glass Windows Project" in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, and the "Four Directions Youth Project".

She currently serves as Pacific Regional Councillor representing the four branches of the UELAC at Dominion Council.

Mary Anne is a proven descendant of Rev. John Bethune who was the Chaplain of the 84th Regiment eventually settling in Williamstown, Ontario where he established several churches and served his parishioners faithfully. Mary Anne honours her ancestor with a similar tradition of service I am sure he would be proud of. She is a pillar of strength and wisdom our branch could not do without. She motivates, inspires and brings mirth and laughter to all tasks. She is a class act and well deserving of this award – which is small compensation for her great contribution.

To me, Mary Anne is an example of where words fail to explain what her presence and quiet stoic determination clearly demonstrate – a constant willingness to try to do justice to the memory of our ancestors and the role they played in establishing what we feel is a nation to be proud of. I know she loves this country. She faithfully soldiers on doing whatever she can to help the UELAC reclaim a part of our history who's story is yet unfolding. It is an honourable endeavour. The Phillip E M Leith award is but a small token of our thanks.

Wendy Cosby UE
 Past President, Vancouver Branch UELAC
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