

PHILLIP E. M. LEITH MEMORIAL AWARD 2017

MARLENE DANCE UE has been a Godsend to the Chilliwack Branch of the UELAC!

Marlene is the Vice President, Genealogist, and Link-Up Newsletter Editor for the UELAC Chilliwack Branch. She has served the Branch and the Association as Pacific Regional Councilor and recently has been appointed a UELAC Dominion Trustee.

Marlene's interests in history and genealogy began many years ago. She learned to love the smell and touch of old papers and to piece together various family stories – finding the truth, or not in them. She enjoyed the challenges to separate the facts from the stories and organizing the information chronologically, so it made sense.

In 1973, she went to England with her parents. Here she met many cousins who further sparked her budding interests and shared family histories. Obviously, the foundation of her compassion was in the making.

In 1997, Marlene and husband Wayne, retired to Chilliwack. Here she immersed herself in the community working , volunteering and participating in the- Chilliwack Hospital Service League, the Happy Tappers, Chilliwack Probus Club; a local Golf Club and continued serving on the Board of Directors for the BC Golf Association. Her additional community commitments include Chair at Elder College and is involved in both the Administration and Program Committees.

President of Chilliwack Branch, Shirley Dargatz said, "Fortunately for us, Marlene found her way to our Chilliwack Branch and in 2012 took over the reins as Branch Genealogist. Marlene also publishes a fantastic edition of the Chilliwack Branch "Link-Up" newsletter.

Marlene has wonderful skills at the computer! Her abilities to seek out information, locating primary documentation, and facilitating UE applications are remarkable. Not all proven certificates are necessarily presented at our branch functions, and in order to facilitate members receiving their certificates, she may create an "At Home" venue to accommodate families and individuals. A much appreciated service!

Marlene is often a speaker at the Chilliwack Branch Events. Her presentations- complete with audio / visuals highlighting the theme for that day. Some of her presentation Titles include: *Finding Your Loyalist Ancestor*, Origins of the American Revolution, *Finding Your Loyalist Proofs*, Completing Your Loyalist Application, *A Barnardo Boy in Alberta* – to mention just a few.

Going further afield, Marlene frequently is invited to be the Guest Speaker at other Pacific Regional Branches, Community Service Groups, Genealogy and Heritage Organizations, Senior's Gatherings, and LDS Family History Seminars (Finding You Roots).

Marlene teaches courses on Genealogy at the Elder College, does Library Workshops and holds a Friendship Book Club (Kitchen Table Genealogy) at her

home. She is a great ambassador for the “Loyalist Cause”. Not only does she share the news of our Loyalist Legacy, she inspires folks to become Branch Members.

Marlene is a published author- writing articles for The Loyalist Gazette, and "Who Do You Think You Are." (A UK Magazine in October 2014).

In Retirement, Marlene is doing what she loves! Genealogy!

Her “true calling” gives her joy and happiness! It is this work she loves to do, and we of the UELAC, are the beneficiaries!

It is with the greatest of pleasure for the Vancouver branch to Honour Marlene Dance, Chilliwack Branch with the 2017 Phillip E. M. Leith Volunteer Award.

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