

Leith Award 2018- Aurelie Stirling UE (Victoria Branch)

Aurelie became involved with the Victoria Branch after she moved to Victoria in 1976. She had already initiated the quest for her father's "UE" designation while living in Alberta through the Calgary Branch, as Edmonton did not have an active branch at that time. In 1979, Aurelie acquired both her father's and her own "UE" designations. For several years after that Aurelie served on the Executive in the capacity of Secretary.

It was about that time in which Aurelie took a break from the Association to raise her family and later became active again as a branch member for a number of years. In 2014 Aurelie was elected President of the Victoria Branch for a two year term. It was during that time that our branch undertook several major events. The first which had been begun before my term was the unveiling of a new Commemorative Stone in Beacon Hill Park to replace a previous one placed in 1939 to celebrate the Royal Visit by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Victoria. A maple tree had been planted at that time and is still thriving there. The BC Lt Gov. Judith Guichon, at that time, presided at the new stone unveiling.

The second major event was the restoration of two Loyalist Rose bushes at the Victoria Inner Harbour. Two Maiden's Blush rose bushes had originally been planted in 2007, but had been removed due to failure to thrive. Unfortunately, the branch had not been informed. When the oversight was discovered, efforts were made to have them replanted in a better location at the Belleville entrance to the Inner Harbour. In addition to this, we were very fortunate to attain permission for the instalment of a bronze plaque which had originally been cast in 1994 by the BC branches to commemorate the establishment of the UELAC and to mark the first

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National Conference of the organization in BC. This plaque had been created over 20 years previously, but had never been mounted until Oct 15, 2015.

The third major event of Aurelie's term was the Victoria Branch hosting with the Pacific Regional Branch the 2014 UELAC Annual Conference when she acted as one of the three Conference Co-Coordiators with Bob Ferguson UE and Carl Stymiest UE. Aurelie says, "It was an honour and a pleasure to be involved in this event."

Aurelie remains on the Victoria Branch Executive as Past President, Director and Acting Secretary since that time.

Aurelie's Loyalist Ancestor is Capt Garrett Miller who enlisted with the Queen's Loyal Rangers at Crown Point in 1776, was wounded at the battle of Bennington and taken prisoner in Albany for two years. He escaped to Sorel Quebec in 1779. Here, he received an Honorable Discharge in 1781 and moved his family to the Bay of Quinte area in 1796.

Beside her own and her father's certificates Aurelie has assisted her two daughters, her three grandsons and her brother to attain their U.E designations.

It is our Great Honour to Present the 2018 Phillip Eric Meric Memorial Volunteer Award to Past President of the Victoria Branch, Aurelie Stirling UE.