

## **DIANE FARIS UE 2019 PHILLIP E. M. LEITH VOLUNTEER AWARD CANDIDATE**

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Our first recipient this year is Diane Faris UE. Diane was born in Vancouver, lived at Kalamalka Lake near Vernon until Diane was seven years old. Her family moved back to the Vancouver area where Diane still lives; one of a rare breeds that was born and raised in Vancouver. She is the third generation in her family to live in Vancouver. Her father grew up there, and perhaps it was his stories and his pointing out houses where he had grown up that sparked Diane's interest in family history and tying that history to places she came to know.

Diane joined the Vancouver Branch of the UELAC in 2007. She served as Secretary of the Vancouver Branch for a number of years, Branch Sr VP and Branch President and has acted as a liaison with the Community Centre where the branch holds its meetings and attends Community Engagement events in the community. In 2013 she was elected to the position of Pacific Regional Vice-President. Retiring from her Pacific Regional VP position, Past President, Diane remains an integral part of the Vancouver Branch Executive. Diane is a perfect example of what “volunteerism” is all about and she has certainly “gone that extra mile” for our Branches in BC and the Association as a whole.

Diane was nominated by members of the Vancouver branch and has always been interested in history and researching family history. She is most interested in ferreting out the details of ancestors' lives. She also loves to combine travel with family history research, something she has done on trips to Ireland, New Brunswick, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Boston, wherever her roots take her. If there are no cemeteries or local records to search for, she loves just knowing she is in the town where her family once lived. For example, In Dublin, Ireland, she tracked down existing houses where the family had once lived and attended a service in the Presbyterian Church that her great-grandparents attended and where her grandfather was baptised.

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Diane has traced her ancestors in North America back to the Winthrop Fleet that arrived from England in 1630. Diane's Loyalist ancestor, *Ozias Ansley*, was an ensign in the First Battalion of the New Jersey Volunteers, commanded by Lt.-Col. Stephen Delancey. He enlisted in December 1776 and was stationed at Staten Island for most of the Revolutionary War. At the end of the war, he came to New Brunswick aboard the Duke of Richmond. As well as the land grant he received, he purchased several other lots in Saint John and the nearby Kings County, New Brunswick. He also served as a magistrate In the Court of Common Pleas.

Diane's second Loyalist ancestor, *Henry Buchner*, was married to Ozias Ansley's daughter, Joannah. Henry joined the First Battalion of the New Jersey Volunteers in 1778, at the age of 18, and achieved the rank of sergeant. After the war, Henry and Joannah settled in Lyon's Creek, Crowland Township, Lincoln County, in what is now Ontario.

On 02 January 1809, Henry was commissioned as a captain in the Third Regiment of the Lincoln Militia, that later took part in the War of 1812. His son, Ozias, Diane's third great uncle, was commissioned as a lieutenant in the same militia unit on 25 January 1813. The Lincoln Militia evolved over the years into the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, that still exists and, at over 200 years of age, is one of the oldest regiments in the Canadian Forces.

When his wife, Joannah, died in 1820, Henry donated part of his land for the Lyon's Creek cemetery. Henry, who died in 1842, is also buried there. For Diane, the best part of finding the Lyon's Creek Cemetery was to know that she was standing on land that had once belonged to her ancestors. A huge oak tree shades the graves of Joannah and Henry Buchner.

It is our great Honour to bestow this 2019 Phillip Leith Award upon this remarkable woman.