

UELAC Vancouver Branch Phillip E M Leith UE Memorial Award

The 2023 Phillip E. M. Leith Memorial Award

[The 2023 Phillip E.M. Leith UE Memorial Award was presented at the UELAC Annual Conference & AGM, *Where the Sea Meets the Sky*, June 1-4, 2023, in Richmond, B.C.]



Two recipients: Sandy Farynuk UE, President of the Thompson-Okanagan Branch and Wendy Clapp of the Victoria Branch were presented their awards at the “*Where the Sea Meets the Sky*” UELAC Conference Friday evening Banquet June 02. (Wendy was not in attendance and her Award was presented at a later date in Victoria, BC.)

RECIPIENT #1:

Sandy Farynuk UE

(President Thompson-Okanagan Branch)

Biographical sketch for the nomination of

Just as we celebrate large active branches of the UELAC it is important that we remember the hard work and dedication that goes into keeping the smaller branches, which serve spread-out communities, active. The Thompson-Okanagan Branch (T-O) was chartered on the 23rd of April 1995. This branch stretches for about 250 kilometres, from Osoyoos on the Canadian/American border, continuing north and west and encompassing Princeton, Penticton, Summerland, Peachland, Kelowna, Lumby, Vernon, Armstrong, Enderby, Salmon Arm, and Kamloops, and all points in between. The branch is wide-reaching indeed.

In 2010 the Thompson-Okanagan Branch played a key role in the UELAC Dominion Conference providing a look at the fascinating pioneer history of British Columbia and the role played by the United Empire Loyalist descendants in its founding. It took place in the beautiful North Okanagan city of Vernon, British Columbia.

Our nominee is determined to see her UELAC Branch continue.

Sandra (Sandy) Farynuk was born in Enderby, British Columbia. She is the sole owner of Marvin's Mechanical Services - a small business in Enderby left to her by her late husband. She is retired from her own career as a librarian after 32 years with the Enderby Branch of the Okanagan Regional Library. But Sandy is not retired from involvement in her community and the things she is passionate about. She coached junior curling for 25 years, one time winning at the BC Provincials.

Her UELAC adventure began in 2009. In 2010 she received her first of thirteen UE certificates at the 2010 conference “Beyond the Mountains”.

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Sandy accepted the position of the UELAC branch President in 2017. The next few years went along smoothly. With the success of past years in her mind Sandy Farynuk UE showed her concern and determination to keep the branch active during the Covid-19 pandemic and until a new wave of memberships increased the strength of the branch. She added the ability for Additional Branch members to join Thompson-Okanagan through the CiviCRM database. She herself joined other Pacific Region branches to keep up with current activity and to ensure contact with other Loyalist friends. Even though she met some reluctance to use Zoom from T-O members she continued to engage them with as much contact as possible. Sandy encourages the Thompson-Okanagan Branch members and friends who attend their Loyalist Day Picnic to come in period clothing adding to the fun of being a member in the Branch.

With the thought of her 6 grandchildren in mind Sandy was willing to be an early adopter of an idea brought forward called Young Loyalists in order to expand the youth emphasis if that had happened.

During the years 2018 – 2019 Sandy was Vice-President of the Enderby and District Museum & Archives Society. In addition to her work on the board she did other volunteer work. The Museum Curator noted in the Spring 2019 newsletter; “Volunteer Sandy Farynuk is learning the ropes of all things Museum. Armed with a quick mind and willing hand she is a wonderful addition to our team.”

Sandy’s goal is to keep the local history of Enderby alive and well. In 2020- 2021 she became the President of the Museum Society.

Sandy’s interest in her Loyalist heritage was evident in her museum activity when she took the opportunity to appear in her Loyalist era clothing. She has also displayed the dolls she creates of the same time period. Talking with others who are interested in the preservation of history invites discussion about our Loyalist ancestors. Sandy takes every opportunity to do this. And opportunities abound. In 2022 she logged 318 volunteer hours at the museum.

Remembrance Day will find Sandy at Enderby Cenotaph Park wearing a sash stating United Empire Loyalists. This is another indication of her willingness to share her UE knowledge and involvement with anyone who asks.

Travelling to promote the UELAC does not faze Sandy. Car-pooling with other T-O members sees her arrive at the Spring or Fall Fleet celebrations and other events in Chilliwack and Vancouver bringing with her the well-designed banner she had prepared for the Branch.

In the days before Zoom meetings and the renewed interest in “Additional Branch memberships” Sandy was able to bring together members from many communities in the Thompson-Okanagan area. Wearing the additional hats of Membership chair and Treasurer Sandy shows determination to keep this smaller yet dedicated Branch active and thriving.

Those of us nominating her feel she deserves the recognition of the 2023 Phillip E. M Leith Memorial Award as a token of our thanks.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine E. Manzer UE
Pacific Region Councillor
United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada (January 14, 2023)

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RECIPIENT #2:

Wendy Clapp

(Victoria Branch)



Biographical sketch for the nomination of

Wendy Clapp joined the Victoria Branch of the UELAC in 2016. Since then, she has been engaged in all activities of the Branch and is enthusiastic in taking on responsibilities that encourage Branch members and members of the public in their awareness of the UELAC and aspects of Canadian history.

Wendy sits on the Executive Committee of the Victoria Branch and holds the position of Social Convener. She has held that

position since 2017.

She has a wonderful appreciation for protocol and great skill at finding the correct approach to addressing complex social issues.

As part of her protocol strategy, Wendy often writes congratulatory or condolence letters or cards to The Royal Family. The responses received are shared at our general meetings and warmly received the membership. These responses then enrich our Branch archives.

Wendy has an excellent sense of membership engagement. At our community engagement events she always participates and brings along props with which she engages the audience. Children are especially drawn to her at these events. She has a positive outgoing personality.

Wendy has also done a great job at finding and maximizing opportunities to raise money for the Victoria association. Two great examples are encouraging members to return their beverage containers to credit our branch account at the local bottle depots and buying their regular groceries through the Fairway Market Community Card program.

Another challenge that emerged with the pandemic was the loss of our meeting space with the Salvation Army. Wendy has performed a great job in finding us new meeting space at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre and has build an excellent working relationship with Oak Bay management. This has allowed the Victoria Branch to be with the leaders of the UELAC branches across Canada in re-establishing in-person meetings.

Wendy also is the event photographer documenting our meetings and community engagement events.

She has proven her excellence at spreading information of our Branch and the UELAC in general to everyone she meets, wherever she goes.

Michael Woodcock UE

President Victoria Branch UELAC (April 16, 2023)