

2024 Phillip E. M Leith memorial Award

Donna Barraclough-Little, UE & Kirra Little, UE



It is my pleasure to nominate Donna and her adult daughter Kirra (as a team) for the Leith Award for 2024. Their unwavering commitment to the activities of the Vancouver Branch began in 2009.



Donna accepted the position of Branch Secretary in 2018 when Diane Faris was Branch President. Working through Internet access challenges she continued to work in that role through 2021 while Christine Manzer was Branch President.

For many years both women would be available as early as possible at in-person meetings at the Bonsor Centre to set up the display table, hand out nametags and ensure the attendance book was signed. They did not have to be asked to pack up and tidy the area at the end of the meeting. Picnic setup and site decoration each Loyalist Day was another one of their on going tasks done with enthusiasm.

So much gets accomplished when they see a need and get it done.

Donna is an active volunteer on Find A Grave®. Through her account she adds UE Loyalist details to memorial records she manages. She has also worked with UELAC

members to create a grouping of memorials called a Virtual Cemetery - a collection of memorials found on Find a Grave grouped for a specific reason.

The Branch was introduced to **Kirra** when she showcased her *BC Heritage Fairs Program* research project to a Branch meeting when Wendy Cosby was Branch President. Kirra became our First recipient of the Heritage Fairs Society's Vancouver Branch UELAC Award. Her creative component at the time was a diary written from the standpoint of a young loyalist girl. In fact I believe, she wrote it as the daughter of her loyalist, Samuel Aitkens. The Adjudicators at that time Nominated Kirra's diary-work to be considered as a candidate for the BC Heritage Fair's Lt Gov of BC's Creative Writing Award. She received an Honourable Mention.

This work by Kirra is an example Donna's determination to encourage her children to learn about their Loyalist heritage.

As Kirra's poetry interest blossomed the Branch Executive named her as our Canada150 Poet/Poetess Laureate in Residence in April 2017. A role she continues. Most recently Donna and Kirra assisted at the UELAC Dominion Conference by keeping watch over the Dominion Promotions table at the 2023 conference in Richmond BC.

Both Donna and Kirra serve as members of the Leith Award Committee.

I know that others would agree that together they deserves the recognition of the 2024 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 5, 2024