



Stewart Michael Woodcock, UE

The UELAC Vancouver Branch is proud to recognize **Stewart Michael Woodcock UE** as the 2026 recipient of the **Phillip E. M. Leith Memorial Volunteer Award** in honour of his exceptional volunteer service, inspired leadership, and unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting Canada's Loyalist heritage.



For many years, Michael has been one of the driving forces behind the success of the Victoria Branch. He has generously served in numerous leadership positions, including vice president, president, membership and community engagement coordinator, and branch webmaster. At the regional level, Michael serves as UELAC Pacific Region Vice President/Director of the UELAC Board of Directors. In every role, he has demonstrated vision, dedication, and an ability to inspire others while strengthening the UELAC for future generations.

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted organizations across the country, Michael embraced the challenge. Collaborating with Frans Compeer, he successfully guided the Victoria Branch into the world of virtual meetings, ensuring that members remained connected during a difficult time. His patience, technical expertise, and willingness to help others allowed the branch not only to endure but also to continue serving its members.

Michael's passion for Loyalist history extends well beyond branch administration. A gifted researcher, historian, and genealogist, he has devoted countless volunteer



hours to documenting the lives of United Empire Loyalists and their descendants throughout British Columbia. His pioneering work at historic Ross Bay Cemetery has identified and profiled Loyalist descendants, led to educational walking tours, and contributed to the installation of historical grave markers that ensure these remarkable men and women will continue to be remembered. Through his work with the Victoria Old Cemeteries Society and the Victoria Genealogical Society, he has shared this history with audiences across the province, helping others discover the enduring Loyalist legacy.

Recognizing the importance of preserving this heritage for future generations, Michael established the Victoria 'Loyal-List' Project, documenting Loyalist descendants on Vancouver Island. His initiative became the foundation for what is now incorporated into the UELAC National's database, creating a lasting genealogical resource that benefits researchers, historians, and families throughout Canada.

Michael is also a gifted writer and communicator. Through articles published in British Columbia newspapers and regular contributions to *Loyalist Trails*, he has brought the stories of Loyalists and their descendants to life, making history accessible, engaging, and relevant for today's readers. His work has earned widespread admiration for both its scholarship and its ability to inspire an appreciation of Canada's Loyalist heritage.

Stewart Michael Woodcock UE exemplifies the very qualities that the Phillip E. M. Leith Memorial Volunteer Award was established to recognize selfless service, visionary leadership, historical stewardship, and a deep commitment to preserving the legacy of the United Empire Loyalists. His many contributions have enriched



the Victoria Branch, strengthened the Pacific Region, and advanced the mission of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

It is with great pleasure and sincere appreciation that we honour **Stewart Michael Woodcock UE** as the 2026 recipient of the **Phillip E. M. Leith Memorial Volunteer Award**. His dedication has left an enduring legacy that will continue to inspire Loyalists and Canadians for many years to come.



Mike Woodcock receives the award

Thank you,

Carl Stymiest UE, President, UELAC Vancouver Branch; Co-Chair, Phillip E.M. Leith Award Committee

Diane Faris UE, Co-Chair, Phillip E.M. Leith Award Committee

Mary Anne Bethune UE, Phillip E.M. Leith Award Committee

Donna Little UE, Phillip E.M. Leith Award Committee

Kirra Little UE, Phillip E.M. Leith Award Committee