

Long after the humour is forgotten, the memory of laughter will linger as a key to the success of *Beyond the Mountains 2010*, the UELAC Conference hosted by the Pacific Region. From the selection of entertaining and challenging speakers, unique western venues and a vibrant hospitality suite for those in need of afterhours relaxation, the committee from Victoria, Vancouver, Chilliwack and Thompson-Okanagan ensured that everyone had a great time. Indeed it was this western hospitality that encouraged our UK members, Malcolm and Kathy Newman to express appreciation for being so warmly welcomed into the UELAC family a second time.

Immediately after registration on Thursday, with a goody bag that gives new meaning to treats and treasures, participants were swept into the Aberdeen Salon to “Stake a Claim”. The Gold Rush theme continued with a special presentation from local historian and broadcaster Mike Roberts, producer and host of CHBC’s documentary series *Gold Trails and Ghost Towns*. Branch Genealogists, or their reps, met with Joan Lucas in the Okanagan Room while the rest set out exploring the conference centre looking for old friends. That night, the official welcome reception was led by Sally Harrison, President of the Thompson-Okanagan Branch who called on David Snyder for a fascinating review of Oriskany and Loyalist Lore.

Friday’s activities included the Brigade Trail Winery Tour, while the majority of conference participants were entertained by three amazing presentations. In the *Lure of Gold*, presented by Dave Sayer, the story of John ‘Cariboo’ Cameron was brought to life. (In recognition of the connection “Cariboo Cameron” received a Loyalist rose from Alvin Huffman, Past President of the Victoria Branch.) Our programme said” Christine Pilgrim presents *The Overlanders*, the story of the hardships endured by the migrants who came with Thomas McMicking, UE, through the wild Rocky Mountains, from Canada, in a Red River cart in 1862.” The statement definitely did not indicate the depth of humour used to tell the story of Catherine Schubert and her “smiling Jimmy”.



Catherine Schubert instructs her children, Mary Anne, Gus and Smiling Jimmie



Peter Moogk, recipient of the 2008 [Philip E. M. Leith Memorial Award](#), closed out the morning with an excellent presentation of the Loyalist descendants who helped shape British Columbia.

Then we were off to Davison's Orchards for a tour, talk and lunch.



Afternoon showers did not dampen our enthusiasm at the O’Keefe Ranch where we toured the mansion and the ranch grounds, witnessed the black powder demo or experienced the hard work of panning for a few flakes of gold.



PAY DIRT: Back, Roy Lewis and David Hill Morrison; front Bonnie Schepers, Jim McKenzie, Fred Hayward

As he was invited to a Cowboy Dinner Show with *Rob Dinwoodie and Friends*, Lt. Gov. Steven L. Point acquired a cowboy outfit complete with toe pinching boots just for the occasion. For those receiving Certificates of Loyalist Lineage, the two of us made a very unusual pairing in the photo ops. O’Keefe Ranch Curator and author, Ken Mather, also entertained with a few of his unique poetic stories. He has promised to share one of them in a later LT.



Sally Harrison welcomes B.C. Lt. Gov. Steven L. Point to O’Keefe Ranch



Rob Dinwiddie announces dinner, Cowboy Style



Kathryn Kolber, President, Lt. Gov. Steven L. Point



Shirley's student from Sardis did very well indeed



John Hammill learns how to rope a calf

Saturday was largely taken up by the AGM and Dominion Council Meeting.



Parliamentarian, Roy Lewis; President Fred Hayward; Secretary Diane Reid, Treasurer Jim Bruce



The Gala Banquet, beginning with the traditional Period Parade, was conducted by David Snyder as MC. Once again Christine Pilgrim kept us entertained with her “Journey of a Loyalist to the West”. Leaning heavily on old chestnuts such as “Old MacDonald had a..” and “Low and Behold”, Ms. Pilgrim created an amusing account of Isabella Grant Fraser, mother of SUE and explorer of the West, Simon Fraser. In addition to seeing the head table all wearing pig snouts, the audience developed a greater appreciation of the role of pioneer women as modelled by Jim Bruce, UELAC Treasurer and member of Little Little Forks



President Fred, Sally Harrison, David Snyder, Margaret Hayward, Mary Anne Bethune, Joan Clement



Did Pioneer Women have that many aprons?

Sally Harrison received her first *Certificate of Loyalist Lineage*, thus granting her the rights of a Regular Member such as voting at the AGM. Her Thompson-Okanagan Branch also received a certificate in recognition of Bathia Ross Fortune who, along side her husband, helped in the development of the area.



Sally Harrison receives her Membership Pin from Pat Kelderman

Gerry Adair, VP for the Prairie Region and Chairman of the Volunteer Recognition Committee announced UELAC Archivist and Historian, Elizabeth Richardson as recipient of the 2010 UELAC Dorchester Award for Volunteer Excellence and Participation. Upon receiving the engraved Nova Scotia crystal plate and certificate, she spoke briefly of her pride in Canadian heritage and ended her comments by having everyone stand and hold hands high as symbolic of our unity. She then passed the hat for donations to ensure the future strength of UELAC.



Rebecca Fraser, Elizabeth Richardson, David Snyder, Gerry Adair

Maintaining the link between conferences, Shirley Dargatz, President of Chilliwack Branch handed over the Loyalist Flag to Roy Lewis of the Col. Edward Jessup Branch. Roy in turn promoted the plans of the organizing committee and urged everyone to **GO EAST** for “CATCH THE SPIRIT” in 2011 in Brockville.

Shirley Dargatz, VP for the Pacific Region and Membership Chair, heroically conducted a Church Meeting in the Ellison Salon early Sunday morning. Worshippers, largely in period clothing sang traditional hymns such as “O God Our Help in Ages Past”, “All Things Bright and Beautiful”, “Faith of our Fathers”, and “Blest be the Tie that Binds” but the room really rocked with “Old Time Religion”. Shirley had chosen *Celebrating Our Christian Link* as her theme, with references to Rev. John Stuart (Anglican), Rev. John Bethune (Presbyterian), Rev. Johan Samuel Swerdtfeger (Lutheran), and Phillip Embury (Methodist), all ancestors of UELAC members present that morning. With the assistance of David Kanowakeron Hill Morrison, a descendant of Joseph Brant, Shirley lead us in the *Litany of the Four Directions* and ended the service with “A Camp Meeting Farewell”.



Yes, everyone agreed that it was a great Conference. But you had to be there!

As I said in the welcome, “ the efforts of the four Branches of the Pacific Region in overcoming geographic distances, organizational frustrations and personal challenges to give us a conference ...to remember” is greatly appreciated. Nothing succeeds like success.

*Photographs have been supplied by Ray Cummins of Hamilton Branch and Albert Schepers of Bicentennial
Thank you.*