

## United Empire Loyalist Day – 19 June 2013

The Gardiner Expressway in Toronto in all its crumbling state has taught us that even concrete needs maintenance. When [Bonnie Schepers, UELAC President](#) quoted Carol Shields in her address at the United Empire Loyalist monument in Hamilton, she stated that “Ceremony is society’s cement”. This past week many UELAC branches across Canada maintained a tradition that began with the first Ontario UEL Day in 1998. Here are a few of the ceremonies that have been reported.

Perhaps the **Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch** was the first to mark the 2013 event. On June 15th they celebrated United Empire Loyalist Day in Niagara on the Lake with Lord Mayor David Eke and volunteers from the Fort George Fife and Drum Corps.



It was a lovely sunny day and when the flag was raised, it fluttered in the breeze to the delight of Branch members and tourists alike. We had a good representation of Branch members, many in period clothing. After the ceremony, we enjoyed a tasty lunch at the historic Olde Angel Inn followed by a tour of McFarland House on the Niagara Parkway. – Pres. Shirley Lockhart

Unfortunately, Mother Nature was not as kind to the **Saskatchewan Branch**. They had arranged in advance for a declaration of [UEL Day in Saskatchewan](#) from Kevin Doherty, Minister of Parks, Culture, and Sport and of [UEL Day in Regina](#) from Mayor Michael Fougere but forgot to talk with the weather forecaster.



Following a luncheon at The Chimney Restaurant, the members travelled to the Loyalist Cairn in Wascana Park, near the Legislative Building in Regina. They got rained on again this year. Although it wasn't “pouring”, they stood with umbrellas at the ready and didn't get too wet. The ceremony was observed with presentations of Certificates of Loyalist Lineage and poetry. A 98 year old recipient read one of the poems in the prepared programme. Pretty hardy group!

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**Edmonton Branch** also maintained its traditional marking of UEL Day. Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel once again provided a [proclamation](#) declaring June 15 “United Empire Loyalist Day” in Edmonton. Following a brunch at Buffet Royale Carvery, the members made their annual “visit to the tree”, a bur oak planted in 2006 to commemorate the visit of Queen Elizabeth II during the Alberta centennial. Information on the [tree project](#) can be found here. For pictures and notes on the Edmonton celebration check [this link](#).

**Hamilton Branch** marked its sixteenth *Service of Honour and Remembrance* at the United Empire Loyalist Monument in Prince’s Square, Hamilton. The Colour Party of Frank Rupert and John Lewis welcomed the participation of John Anderson who carried the flag of the [Haudenosaunee](#). They were followed by the Bainbridge brothers, Reg, Steve and Bruce all re-enactors who accompanied former Branch President John Hammill to the flagpole to raise the Queen Anne Union Flag of 1707.



Janis Monture brought greetings from the Woodland Cultural Centre and later placed a wreath at the monument. As he was unable to free himself from previously scheduled appointments, [Mayor Robert Bratina](#) asked that Branch President Pat Blackburn read a message from the City of Hamilton. Following the address by [UELAC President Bonnie Schepers](#), wreaths were placed at the monument by David Woodward for the Hamilton Branch, Claire and Owen Nicholson on

behalf of Young Loyalists, Richard Shaver of the Cdn Military Heritage Museum, Loretta Ray of the Hamilton Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada, John Hawkens of the Sir John A, Macdonald Society and John Anderson for First Nations Loyalists. Also officiating at the service was The Very Reverend Peter Wall of Christ’s Church Cathedral. Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the foyer of the McMaster Continuing Education Centre.



The **Kawartha Branch** attracted the best media attention for their United Empire Loyalist Day ceremony in Peterborough. The article [Descendants Celebrate Loyalist Day](#) by Galen Eagle of the Peterborough Examiner reflects both the history and sense of occasion. Mayor Daryl Bennett, Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal and Peterborough County Warden J. Murray Jones were in attendance as was Harry Danford, the

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former Hastings Peterborough MPP whose Private Member's bill in 1997 led to the establishment of June 19<sup>th</sup> as Ontario's United Empire Loyalist Day.

Mr. Eagle recorded Bill Atkinson, the current president of the Kawartha Branch as saying "it's important to keep the history relevant today. "We need to keep the history alive. It is our ancestry. They founded the country. Nine photographs of the ceremony are included with the link.

**Toronto Branch** and the **Gov. Simcoe Branch** observed United Empire Loyalist Day at Queen's Park.



Lt. Commander Albert Wong, aide de campe, delivers the message from the Lt. Gov of Ontario, David C. Onley



Monte McNaughton, MPP for Lambton - Kent - Middlesex, speaking on behalf of PC Caucus with Myrna Fox, UELAC President 2002-2004

Unfortunately, [Lt. Gov. David C. Onley](#) was unable to be present this year but his message was delivered by his aide de campe, Lt. Commander Albert Wong. Following the service, everyone enjoyed a reception held in the Vice Regal Suite at Queen's Park.

We have benefitted from the gifts of tradition and ceremony once again.

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