

Celebrations at Col John Butler and Gov. Simcoe Branches

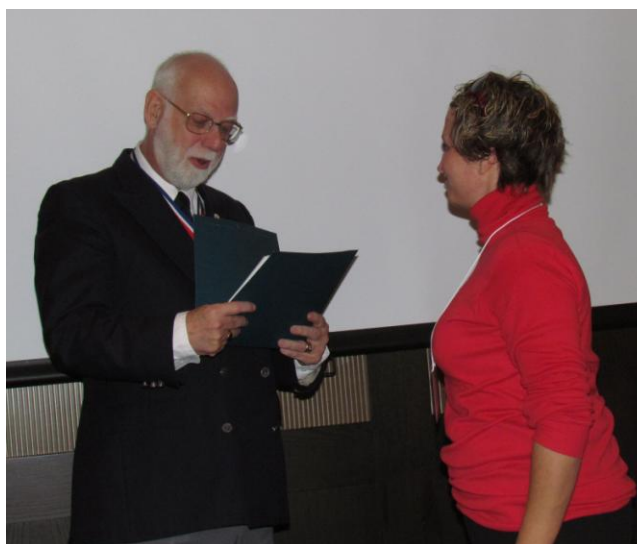
Saturday, December 03, 2011, was the Christmas celebration of the **Colonel John Butler Branch** at Betty's Restaurant in Niagara Falls. At this well attended function three ladies were recognized for their active contribution to the Branch through the years. They were Beverley Craig, Membership Chairperson, Sylvia Bagley, Corresponding Secretary, and Marion Tait, who served as a great recruiter and did the 50-50 draws.



(l-r) Marion, Sylvia and Bev with Branch President, Shirley Lockhart.

Recognizing people for the contributions they make is one of the important functions of our leaders. This is another way to encourage active members.

Among several UELAC members receiving their UELAC certification that day were an obviously proud and delighted father and daughter team, Gordon & Jennie Kinkley UE.



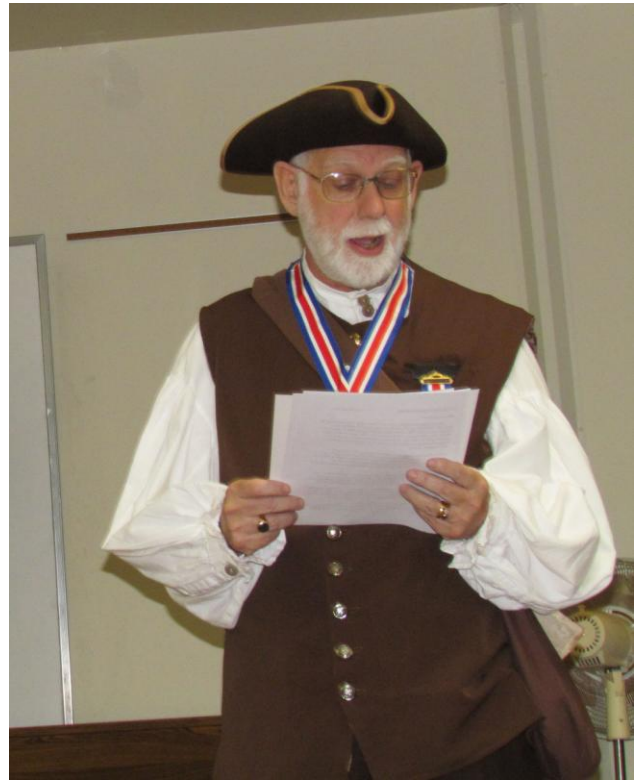
I noted that this Branch has at least two authors doing an excellent job in writing the Loyalist story: Gail Woodruff, whose recently published book was reviewed in the Fall 2011 issue of The Loyalist Gazette, wrote the Loyalists and Early Settlers on the Niagara River Parkway, and Earl Plato, who recently published Loyalist History - Niagara and Fort Erie, and introduced a soon-to-be published book about his own Loyalist ancestor, Christian James Plato UE, and his son, Peter James Plato, entitled About Rangers - Mohawk Blood. The efforts of these writers are celebrated within the Branch and elsewhere.

Such enthusiasm and support encourages active members.



The Executive for 2012 were also sworn in at this luncheon.

On Wednesday, December 07, Grietje and I attended the Christmas meeting for Governor Simcoe Branch, held at 51 Donlands Avenue in Toronto, where I was the guest speaker, talking about Captain John DeCou, eldest son of one of my Loyalist ancestors, Jacob DeCou UE, who fought in the War of 1812, was a founder of the Welland Canal, and established a series of mills at DeCew Falls and Decewsville.



I was quite impressed with the active role that several members played during the evening. Audrey Fox UE received three UELAC certificates.



Doug Grant

Jo Ann Tuskin

Audrey Fox

Bob McBride

Daryl Currie

One member, Sandy McNamara, organized a Donate to Read a Book Drive to raise money for the UELAC Scholarship Fund. This was a creative, easy and effective project taking minimal effort to accomplish with maximum results! Another member, Erin Tanner, sold tickets on donated Christmas goodies with the proceeds of the draw going to the UELAC Scholarship Fund.



Colin Heath

Erin Tanner

Sandy McNamara

Jo Ann Tuskin

The energy and good feelings created by these simple but effective ventures is an example of the kind of action that I mean when I say that Teamwork Encourages Active Members!

Grietje and I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year !!!

Robert C. McBride UE,

UELAC President.