

Central West Regional Meeting London, Ontario - April 21, 2012

B. Schepers UE, Senior VP UELAC

Members and executive who attended the Central West Regional Meeting in London, Ontario on April 21 came home with fresh information, ideas and plans to inspire activity at the branch level. This meeting is always a great forum for communication and sharing among regional members. This year the London and Western Ontario Branch hosted forty-two branch representatives at the London Public Library on Wonderland Road South, for a full day of presentations and an interactive social media workshop.

CWR VP Sue Hines welcomed Dominion President Robert McBride UE who brought the first address of the day. Glenn Stott and Carol Hall transported us to The War of 1812 featuring highlights from their book, *Taken and Destroyed: The War of 1812 Losses and Claims in the London and Western Districts of Upper Canada*. This resource book identifies individuals who served in the War of 1812 and made claims for losses due to their actions in the war. It is not surprising to find a number of well-known UE Loyalist names listed. Glenn has found that by digging into these claims and teasing out information, one can often put together interesting back stories to the events. *Taken and Destroyed* is an essential work for everyone interested in the War of 1812. The book is available online at [Global Genealogy](#) in hardcover, softcover and on CD.



Dominion President Bob McBride
welcomes the group



Carol Hall and Glen Stott describe the War of 1812
in the Western Corridor

In keeping with the focus on the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, Bonnie Schepers presented a live internet introduction to [Event Central - The War of 1812 Bicentennial Calendar](#), a wiki site sponsored by UELAC, Dundurn Press and Northern Blue Publishing. The site was created in response to requests to provide an on-line site of current events and information on all War of 1812 Bicentennial activities. It is an interactive community website open to Canadian and US groups and institutions who wish to publicize commemorative activities. Event Central is the place to search for 1812

commemorative events. As of April 21, 2012, the Ministry of Canadian Heritage has chosen Event Central as its dedicated outlet for all Federal Secretariat War of 1812 event announcements.

Ben Thornton, member of Toronto Branch, introduced a newly adopted Dominion Project - Ontario Loyalist Licence Plates. At the March 10, 2012 meeting, Dominion Council approved this project to help promote our Loyalist Heritage and UELAC itself. The design approved by Council would consist of the UELAC badge as the graphic. Details and sign up information is available on the [Dominion Projects](#) page of the UELAC website. We hope to have the plates manufactured, sold, and distributed ahead of the Association's centennial in 2014. Our objective is to have enough commitments to go to the next step by the end of September 2012. So, don't delay, take that step, send in your request today.

Following lunch, members participated in a lively interactive workshop on *Public History and the Power of Social Media* led by Public History MA graduate student Jennifer Nelson. Everyone learned something new and left with plans to increase the internet presence of UELAC branches using social media tools.

Sue Hines provided a colourful close to the day with a draw for a number of red geraniums. The red geranium has been adopted by the Western Corridor, Bicentennial of the War of 1812 Committee as the flower to commemorate 100 years of peace between two countries. Doris Lemon UE encouraged everyone to plant red geraniums in gardens and at branch memorial sites in remembrance of Loyalists and their sons who fought in the War of 1812. In 2008, Ruth Redmond UE (1902 - 1999) was honoured for the red geranium initiative at Lundy's Lane. The story of [Ruth Redmond UE](#) and the tradition of the red geraniums is available on the UELAC website.

Our sincere thanks is extended to Sue Hines who has agreed to continue as Central West Region Vice President and to David Hill Morrison as CWR Councillor. The 2013 Regional Meeting will take place Saturday, April 13 at the Westmount Library, London, Ontario.



Sue Hines thanking speaker Carol Hall