

Trip to Heritage Branch Charter Dinner, Montreal, Quebec: 24 October 2012

On 24 October 2012, my wife, Grietje, and I attended the Annual Charter Banquet of Heritage Branch. A highlight of the year, members from nearby Sir John Johnson Branch joined invited guests to listen to the guest speaker, John Kirwan Martin, who described,



in scholarly detail, the life of Laura Secord. In our age of rapid and ready news, it is much easier than in the not-too-distant-past to find information about this once

forgotten heroine of the War of 1812. Our federal government has supported commemorative events that took place during this significant period in our Canadian history and there were countless re-enactments and displays that took place in cities along the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes as well as in numerous other cities across our nation.

All were on hand to congratulate Heritage Branch President, Robert Wilkins UE, upon his receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. He and Maura, his wife, in turn laid a diamond jubilee volunteer pin before each guest as a tribute to our collective efforts to restore or preserve monuments and historical information.

It was indeed a pleasure to meet the Heritage Branch Genealogist, Mark Gallop UE, who has become very enthusiastic about helping members research their Loyalist past. Networking with other genealogists increases both sharing of facts and team building. That evening Sandra Carson Hannaford UE received her UELAC certification as the descendant of the Loyalist, Mahlon Knight UE.



My focus, as Dominion President, has been to promote team building as I visit branches all across Canada. It was thus indeed a real pleasure to bring greetings from the Association at the Annual Charter Banquet of Heritage Branch.

Sincerely and loyally,
Robert C. McBride UE
UELAC Dominion President 2011 – 2013.

