

Charter Member of the Thompson-Okanagan UELAC named Woman of the Year!

On April 19, 2012 M. Marie Ablett UE was named “**Woman of the Year**” for the city of Kelowna, BC.



Starting at the back and moving forward: 1. William Adams UE; 2. Pat Kelderman UE; Gail Loughridge UE; Jim Bodkin; 3. Eileen Foster UE; Pat Oliver UE; 4. Lorraine Taylor; Eileen Cook; Darlene Jones UE; President Sally Harrison UE; 5. Marie Ablett UE (sitting);

Vona Smith UE, the Vancouver Branch UELAC genealogist came to the [Kelowna & District Genealogy Society](#), as a speaker for their first seminar in 1985. She billeted with Marie, a founding member of KDGS. Vona was surprised to know that Marie didn't know about her UE connections.

Vona decided to do something about that. She looked up references and hand wrote many letters to Marie, showing her the connections to the Loyst family in the Kingston area. Finally in 1985 through the Vancouver Branch, Marie secured her Certificate of Loyalist Lineage from Andrew Loyst. Marie could proudly add UE to her signature!

Soon after that, the newly formed Chilliwack Branch decided that there should be a UELAC branch in the interior. Marie, a charter member of the [Thompson-Okanagan Branch of the UELAC](#) formed in 1995, was its first vice-president. For quite a few years, Marie has been the genealogist and librarian for this

UELAC branch. While she has many of the UEL reference books in her home, more books are held in the Vernon Family History Society where our monthly meeting take place.

Marie's other interests are varied; historian, photographer and archivist for the Orchard Valley Quilting Guild, since 1986; publishing editor and helpline counselor for the [Kelowna Branch of the Canadian Celiac Association](#); and chairperson for the reunion of the Kelowna High School 1954 class, held each year in August.

As if she isn't busy enough, Marie is also a member of the Kelowna Museum Writers group.