

Pacific Loyalist Library Collection

UELAC Vancouver Branch Strikes Joint-Agreement with the BCGS (British Columbia Genealogical Society) to house the first ever Pacific Loyalist Library Collection.

Last evening (16 September 2016) the UELAC Vancouver Branch attended the Dedication Ceremonies at the BCGS-Walter Draycott Library in Surrey, British Columbia. The Vancouver Branch has been seeking a permanent home for its extensive library collection. After 13 months of discussions, contract signing and the transfer of many boxes, the Vancouver Branch Loyalist Library Collection has its new home.

Rob Whitlock, President of the BCGS welcomed all in attendance to the Dedication Ceremonies and introduced Vancouver Branch President, Carl Stymiest UE who gave a history of the collection including the Haldimand Papers (Microfilms) which were presently being catalogued. It is hoped that the Vancouver Branch Members in concert with the BCGS member will eventually transcribe those documents for the library collection.

Carl Stymiest UE, President of the UELAC Vancouver branch in his address said that, *"After 6 years of being stored in boxes, the Vancouver branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is very pleased to see the Loyalist Library Collection once again in circulation."*

To have a specialized Loyalist Library Collection in the Pacific Region is a long-sought dream and accomplishment. Not only will the collection be kept as a separate collection, but will be more readily available to BCGS members and UELAC members alike. The Pacific Loyalist Collection is also available to the General Public and certainly will enhance the availability of our materials for those researching their loyalist ancestors.

Carl further mentioned in his address, *"As President of the UELAC Vancouver Branch and the entire Executive, we want to personally Thank Judith Ueland, Past President of the BCGS and Past Treasurer of the UELAC Vancouver Branch for spear-heading this joint endeavour agreement between the UELAC Vancouver Branch and the BCGS."*

Thanks also goes out to President Rob Whitlock and the Executive of the BCGS for not only accommodating the collection, but for finding a very prominent position, as you can see, within the library. As well, a special Thank You to the joint-committee who helped transfer the entire collection from our UELAC storage facility to its new home, the Walter Draycott Library.

I would be amiss if I did not Thank and mention Christine Manzer UE of the UELAC Vancouver Branch. Christine was instrumental in documenting our Loyalist Collection. A heartfelt Thank You to all who helped in making this a reality."

Following the Opening speeches, Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremonies, Judith Ueland thanked everyone for coming. A social hour followed to commemorate the official Opening of the Pacific Loyalist Collection at the Walter Draycott Library.

Members of both organizations as well as visiting Librarians from Cloverdale Public Library and the Vancouver Public Library were feted to a wonderful array of finger food catered by the British Columbia Genealogical Society in their Board Room.

-UELAC Vancouver branch September 2016
Photos Courtesy of Linda Nygard UE (Vancouver Branch)











