

Trip to London and Western Ontario Branch, London, Ontario: 13 November 2012



My wife, Grietje, and I met June Klassen UE, London Branch President, Herb and Jean Norry UE and Ken Fitchett UE for dinner just before the meeting at the Westmount Library in London, Ontario. Earlier that morning, we visited Past Dominion President, Bernice Wood Flett UE, at the Parkwood Hospital. She is recovering nicely from recent hip surgery and hopes to be home in a week or two.

At the Branch Meeting we were happy to meet Zena Beckstead, a 99-year-old member who will be 100 years old in October 2013. She shared some stories about the Loyalist ancestors of her husband, Herbert Beckstead UE: Conrad Dafoe UE, Lieutenant Henry Hare UE, Joseph Loucks UE, and Jacob Van Allen UE. London Branch also has another member, Clara Tupper UE, who will be 100 years old in April 2013, Clara being the descendant of the Loyalist, James Clement UE. I also had the pleasure of meeting

incoming Branch Vice-President, Jennifer Childs UE. I am sure she will have great ideas for the Branch.



My talk about how the Loyalists brought Freemasonry into this province gave a few branch members a different source to study their Loyalist ancestors and their history in the Lodges around London.

As part of your team, the Association and I are happy to share ideas for searches and to inspire members to participate in Branch and Association activities. Teamwork certainly encourages active members.

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

