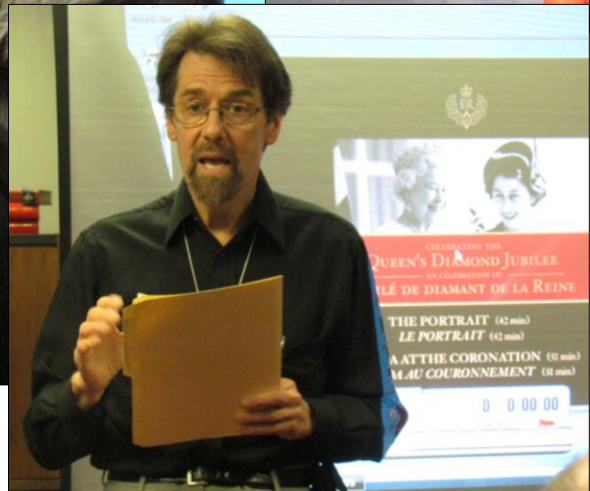


## Trip to the Toronto Branch, Wednesday, 17 April 2013

On Wednesday, 17 April 2013, Toronto Branch held a meeting in Suite 300 at 40 Scollard Street, beginning at 8:00 p.m. My wife, Grietje McBride UE, and I arrived just as the guest speaker, Philip Richards, made his way into this comfortable accomodation for the Toronto Branch. After bringing greeting from the Association, I was



pleased to join Martha Hemphill UE in presenting the UEL certificate to Edwin Verle Greenfield UE in honour of his Loyalist ancestor, Geronimus Crysler UE.

Our guest speaker for the evening, Philip Richards, was introduced to the members of the Branch by his brother-in-law, Christopher Moffit UE, a member of Toronto Branch.



Philip Richards is the Canadian portrait artist chosen by her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, to take on the mammoth task of painting the eleven-foot high portrait, now gracing the ball room at Rideau Hall. Both Grietje and I, along with ten other UEL guests, were present at Rideau Hall when the commissioned portrait was unveiled by the Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston.



Philip introduced the National Film Board's documentary, *The Portrait*, that details the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity experienced by this famous Canadian painter. Inspired by 15<sup>th</sup> century Italian painters, Phil tries to develop three dimensional perspectives in his art, layering figures and objects to create depth. His aim is to portray the symbol and position as well as the person within.

For him the real joy and the reality are in the making of this significant creation. After the film, we enjoyed a discussion in which Phil answered questions and showed the members his collection of models and portfolios that detail the thousands of hours he put into his portrait of the Queen.



Philip Richards was thanked by Toronto Branch Secretary, Susan Ellsworth UE. Delightful treats and hospitality were provided by Social Convenor, Diane Reid UE.

Toronto Branch has collected an impressive library of early Loyalist history and artefacts housed in an adjoining room and available for use by contacting Martha Hemphill UE at [torontoUEL@bellnet.ca](mailto:torontoUEL@bellnet.ca).

Teamwork at Toronto Branch certainly encourages and rewards active members. This definitely was an evening to remember!

Sincerely and loyally yours,

Robert C. McBride UE,

UELAC Dominion President 2011 – 2013.