

Trip to Vancouver, British Columbia: 12 – 14 October, 2012

On October 12 my wife, Grietje, and I arrived in Vancouver to be met by Gerry Brown UE who ferried us to our hotel amid rain and low clouds. Vancouver was enjoying welcome rain after a long and unusually dry spell reminiscent to what Ontario has experienced this past summer. We were looking forward to meeting the members of Vancouver Branch the next day.

Saturday 13 October brought continual rain and the contrasting elegant ambiance of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club where, thanks to the generosity of Yacht Club member, Rebecca Fraser UE, the 80th anniversary Founder's Luncheon took place.



Surrounded by large windows, mirrors and the beautiful dark woods of the dining room, Vancouver President, Carl Stymiest UE, presided over this joyful occasion. This Branch meets monthly and certainly recognizes volunteerism with its Phillip E.M. Leith UE Memorial Award and its Membership Early Bird Drive Lottery that pays for one winner of a membership draw to receive free membership

for the next year. Marsha Hansen UE, of Mission, British Columbia, was the winner of this draw. The Phillip E.M. Leith award was established in 2007 and is exclusively awarded to a member of the four Branches in the UELAC Pacific Region. Elizabeth Aberdeen UE, President of the Victoria Branch, introduced this year's first recipient, Robert Ferguson UE, of the Victoria Branch. Carl Stymiest UE introduced the second recipient, Gwen Dumfries UE. Both winners received special certificates and an engraved Phillip



Leith Medallion and trophy.



After I brought greetings on behalf of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, entitled "*Teamwork in the UELAC*", Dr. Peter Moogk UE, the guest speaker of the day, spoke about the War of 1812, his topic being "*Major General Isaac Brock in 1812: Saviour of Canada?*"



The Branch Genealogist, Linda Nygard UE, Vancouver President, Carl Stymiest UE, and I





presented twenty-seven UELAC certificates for Loyalist ancestors to twelve members of the Vancouver Branch. This certainly represents a great deal of dedication and research by the Branch Genealogist and the recipients.

Vancouver Branch definitely epitomizes teamwork in action as members worked together to accomplish this outstanding achievement as well as the luncheon and the variety of interesting events that they have posted or advertised on their website and in their newsletters.

Finally I want to thank the members of Vancouver Branch for the kind reception that they gave to Grietje and me from start to finish. The unique hand-knitted UEL flag, created by Gwen Dumfries UE and presented to me, is a treasure that I will frame and





display with fond memories of this celebration. Carl searched my wife's Loyalist ancestor, Sergeant Gabriel Purdy UE, and gave her a box of Purdy's chocolates made by Purdy's Chocolate Company started by Richard Cameron Purdy of London, Ontario, who went west to Vancouver around the turn of the last century. We had no idea and were thoroughly and pleasantly surprised.

To top it off, I was very pleased to meet my cousins, Robert Collins (Bob) Proctor UE, and his sister, Lynn Ella (nee Proctor) Bokamyer UE, and their spouses, Peter

and Ellen, at the Yacht Club, not having seen Bob since the 1960s and Lynn since 1981 when she visited us in our home in Ontario with Peter and their daughter, Lisa, then eight-years old. It was great to get together with them once again and to join Bob and his wife, Ellen, for dinner on Saturday evening.





Thank you, Vancouver Branch and Pacific Region.



Sincerely and loyally,

Robert C. McBride (Bob) UE,
UELAC Dominion President 2012 – 2013.