

FEBRUARY 2014

Volume 3 - Issue 1

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Web site:

<http://www.uelac.org/Chilliwack/>

Link Up



Photo by M.L. Dance UE

A Message from our Branch President

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

'Tis the season to renew our UELAC Memberships. If you have not already submitted yours, would you be so kind as to forward it to our Treasurer, Judy Scholz, at your earliest convenience. (Form page 5)

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION of CANADA is celebrating 100 YEARS! 1914 – 2014

The Centennial Conference will be held in Toronto, June 5 – 8

A Challenge! Let's set a goal to have 100 members in our Chilliwack Branch for our centenary year! Some years ago, we set this goal and we not only reached our target, but also surpassed it by 24. If **ALL** of our members in the past 2 - 3 years renewed their memberships, we would have no difficulty in meeting this challenge. Let's do it!

Our Chilliwack Branch Project for our Centennial will be the placing of a plaque at city hall to honour our Loyalist Pioneers who settled in the Chilliwack Valley. (see item page 3)

Heritage Week is February 17 – 23. Our next meeting is February 22. We will celebrate the theme "Heritage Afloat". (see page 2)

Well now, we can create many scenarios with this theme; Fleets of Ships, Staying Afloat, Member Ships – the ideas are endless. I am going to take license and capitalize on this theme. So many of our Loyalist Ancestors found their way to Canada in ships. Our UELAC Branches are our current Member Ships striving through our support to keep our Loyalist Heritage and the History of Canada afloat and alive.

Looking ahead, we are counting on our Chilliwack Branch and those members from across our great land to take a voyage on a B.C. Ferry through the picturesque Gulf Islands to attend the 2015 Conference in Victoria (May 26 – 31).

Our invitation: "**Loyalists Come West**".

From Coast to Coast; From Sea to Sea, we have covered the full East to West expanse of our beautiful Canada.

Loyally yours,
Shirley Dargatz UE



**United Empire
Loyalists' Association
of Canada**

Chilliwack Branch

Your Executive 2014

President: Shirley Dargatz UE

Vice Pres: Marlene Dance UE

Secretary: Margaret Strocel

Treasurer: Judy Scholz UE

Genealogists: Marlene Dance UE
Mildred Hall UE

Social Convener : Jan Oulellet

Web Mistress: Vicky Heibner UE
Newsletter: Marlene Dance UE

Director: Marian Reid UE
Director: Irving Reid UE
Director: Gordon Vance UE

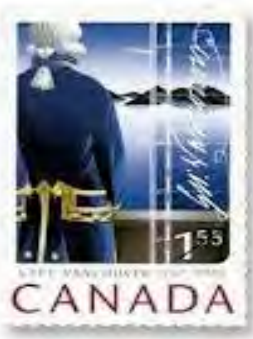
Flag Bearer: Alan Reid UE

Pacific Regional VP:
Diane Faris UE
Pacific Regional Councillor:
Marlene Dance UE



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Pacific Region Events:

Fall Fleet Celebrations
hosted by Vancouver Branch
October 5, 2014

Centennial Pavilion in Queens Park,
New Westminster, BC

Special Guest: Bonnie Schepers UELAC President

2014 Dominion Conference to be held June 5-8th.
Toronto, Ontario celebrating the 100th
anniversary of the founding of the UELAC.

2015 Dominion Conference

May 28 - 31st

@ the Coast Harbourside Hotel
146 Kingston St. Victoria, BC

More information will be published
later in the year.



**Mount Johnson,
Vault of Loyalist Sir John Johnson**
Painting by Richard Henry S. Bunnett, 1885
@ McCord Museum



Sir John Johnson (1742-1830) was an extraordinary loyalist. A soldier who fought many a battle and who rescued many other loyalists from the Mohawk Valley. He organized and helped supervise the resettlement in 1784 of Loyalists on the upper St. Lawrence and Bay of Quinte and by doing so became a founder of the province of Ontario. He was buried beside his wife and four of his children, in the family vault (seen above) located on what is now called Mont Saint-Gregoire.

About 50 years ago this site was accidentally bulldozed but is now being reclaimed and is undergoing restoration. Branch member Jeff Curtis UE, a descendant of Sir John, provided us with an update on the progress to date. For Sir John's amazing story together with news of the destruction and restoration of the burial vault, please go to:

<http://www.uelac.org/SirJohnJohnson/vault/2011/03/>

When you leave Abbotsford and drive east on Hwy 1 over the Vedder Canal on into Chilliwack you cannot help but notice the beautiful mountains straight ahead of you. In June of 2012 a picture of these mountains was adopted as our logo for this newsletter. We felt it reflected our farming heritage and the spectacular setting our UE ancestors chose when they moved west and settled in the Fraser Valley.



Heritage Week Meeting

Theme: **HERITAGE AFLOAT!**

Saturday, February 22, 2014

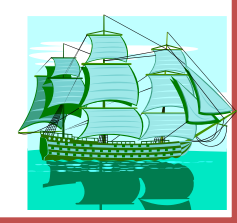
At Carman United Church Hall
7258 Vedder Rd. Chilliwack BC
11:45 am Trooping the Colours

12:00 Lunch

12:45 Program

Members are asked to bring sandwiches and sweets

Looking forward to seeing everyone!



Chilliwack Branch Centennial Project

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. In this regard every branch in Canada has been asked to undertake a project celebrating the event. Here on the west coast we do not have access to all the heritage sites that are an important part of the eastern provinces Loyalist heritage, so we have looked to other ideas to commemorate this event. We are proposing to have a plaque installed at Chilliwack City Hall which will read as follows:

**United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada
1914—2014**

**On the 100th anniversary of the founding of the UELAC
this plaque has been placed to honour the many Pioneers
in Chilliwack of Loyalist descent who found their way to
the Fraser Valley, creating the wonderful oasis we love today.
In opening these new frontiers, they once again exemplified
the true spirit of adventure and individualism expressed
by their forbearers who left their homes beginning in 1783, in
search of a place where the values of freedom were respected.**

**Placed by the UELAC Chilliwack Branch
July 22nd, 2014**



We have written to the Mayor asking for approval of our idea and have suggested that a dedication ceremony could take place on July 22nd, together with the raising of the Loyalist flag for BC Loyalist Day. We are very hopeful of success and will keep you all informed of our progress.

Heirlooms and Memories

The gathering Dec. 7th saw a festive turnout with lovely food, good music, a presentation on family Heirlooms and carol singing to round out the afternoon. Member Jeff Curtis UE gave us an update on the restoration of his ancestors gravesite. (See item on page 2) And member Marlene Dance UE showed a selection of prized items from family in England and Canada that she has been lucky enough to inherit and treasure. Other members shared Christmas stories and told of long ago events they remembered and of a Christmas gift still in use. A special thanks goes to Dale Warr for providing the music for our caroling.





Chilliwack branch is proud to advise that we can add the following proven Loyalists names to our Roster list on the web site:

Caleb Powell
Joseph Merritt
William Siprell
Adam Young

We are presently working with 11 members on other applications, 9 of which are new loyalists names to our branch. While this will keep us busy well into the new year, do not hesitate to contact me for the documents, guidelines and instructions needed to complete your applications.

Lets make 2014 a banner year for certificates.

wmdance@telus.net



HISTORY OF CHILLIWACK BRANCH

The presentation of the Chilliwack Branch Charter was held Oct. 18th, 1990 at Old City Hall (at left), the present Chilliwack Museum and Archives. A gathering of 70 people saw Dominion President Arnold W. Nethercott UE sign the Charter and present it to the 10 UE members who had

petitioned. The first executive sworn in was President Lois Dickinson UE, VP Arthur Keller UE, Secretary Marebil Roos UE, Treasurer Bette Keller and Genealogist Andrew Webb UE. Membership over the years has fluctuated, reaching a high of 124 at one time. But time and age has taken a toll on these numbers and we now average 65 to 70 annually. We are very proud that founding members Arthur and Bette Keller remain active. We have always enjoyed a good core group of youngsters in our membership and presently have approx. 16 members under the age of 18. We have an annual list of events that keep our association in the news.

These include the Spring and Fall Fleet celebrations, BC Loyalist Day, Ft. Langley Fur Brigade Days, Kilby General Store Folk Festival, Canada Day, BC Heritage Week, Abbotsford Heritage Fair, Strawberry Social and Remembrance Day.

Pictures and information from the Branch Archives.



The new year lies before you like a spotless track of snow.
Be careful how you tread on it as every mark will show.

Calendar of Events for 2013

Clip off and save on your calendar



Meetings are held at Carman United Church Hall,
7258 Vedder Road, Chilliwack, BC.

Luncheon with coffee, tea and juice served.

Members are reminded to bring contributions to the food table.

Trooping of the flag will commence at 11:45am - followed immediately by lunch - then a planned program.

For 2014

February 22nd - Heritage Afloat - see details on page 3

May - Spring Fleet Celebration - date to be announced

June - Strawberry Social - date to be announced

July 1st - Canada Day

July 22nd BC Loyalist Day

August 4th - Ft. Langley Fur Brigade Days Picnic with Vancouver branch

Oct 5th - Fall Fleet Celebrations @ Queen's Park, New Westminster, BC hosted by Vancouver Branch

Nov 11th - Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph across from Old City Hall



**United Empire Loyalists'
Association of Canada**

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2014

Dear Members.

Firstly, THANK YOU for renewing your memberships this past year.

It is "time" again for us to renew our Memberships for 2014.

As you have heard me say so many times,

"with your membership, you are doing a very good thing.

You are helping to preserve the history of our country and of the Loyalist era in particular".

The fees are as follows:

Individual Memberships:

\$40.00 (to the UELAC) + \$10.00 (Chilliwack Branch) = \$50.00

Family Membership:

\$55.00 (to the UELAC) + \$10.00 (Chilliwack Branch) = \$65.00

Please make your cheques payable to UELAC – Chilliwack Branch

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Please return this portion with your membership:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code _____

Phone: _____ Email address _____

Loyalist Ancestor: _____

Membership Fees:

Please indicate with a tick:

Individual \$50.00 _____

Family \$65.00 _____

Please send to our Treasurer,

Judy Scholz UE
6100 Arlington Dr.
Chilliwack, BC V2R 2J5

Many thanks for your continued support. Loyally, Shirley Dargatz UE President