

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSN. OF CANADA – VANCOUVER BRANCH
The PACIFIC LOYALIST FALL 2002 EDITION

An opening note from your Editorial Team

Welcome to our first edition of "THE PACIFIC LOYALIST". We're all excited about our new publication and hope you will feel the same way. As we travel through the year our editorial team will make every effort to bring you interesting and informative news from United Empire Loyalist branches in BC and throughout Canada.

The Pacific Loyalist will publish on a regular basis, three times a year - Spring, Summer and Fall. It is our intent to bring you a number of feature columns that may vary from issue to issue, but will be aimed at reaching goals set by the membership and the Dominion Council of the UELCA.

One of our regular columns, under an educational byline, will highlight United Empire Loyalists that have made a significant contribution to British Columbia's history. Our first edition tells the story of Simon Fraser UE, and his epic journey down the river that bears his name. This column coincides with a report on New Westminster's Hyack Festival, which this year celebrated Simon Fraser's 226th Birthday. Our regular October meeting includes a talk by Historian Archie Miller, from "Sense of History" describing, in his dramatic terms, Fraser's 520 mile canoe trip from Fort George to the Pacific.

Future columns might feature Sir Alexander Mackenzie, or the "Overlanders" or possibly Pauline Johnson? Again, we solicit your ideas and suggestions. If you have a historic figure that would make an interesting article please give us a call.

Another feature column will highlight "UEL Mileposts in BC". Our first issue pictures the monument at Fort Alexandria, named for Alexander Mackenzie UE, with a few paragraphs describing the monument. As we build a library of monuments or "mileposts" along our present day highways, it will be possible to follow the adventures of pioneer explorers through this Province and view some of the terrain they had to overcome. Our UELAC members in Eastern Canada may be encouraged to visit these sites with the same interest that we have when we journey to the old battlegrounds and graveyards of the Eastern Provinces? On a recent trip to Prince George we located three monuments of significance with no UEL recognition. We'll have to do something about that!

If we are to increase UELAC membership we have to take every opportunity to attract attention to the importance United Empire Loyalists played in building this Province. It won't happen over night but it can be done, and our newsletter can be a tool to meet that goal.

As time unfolds new columns will appear, likely a "Cooking Corner" featuring old-time recipes. Travel adventures like our often-talked about trip to Mackenzie's Rock or Inter-branch news from across Canada. There are unlimited subjects for future articles. Getting items into the computer and meeting the deadline is our major problem. But we're going to do it!

Your Editorial Team

**The United Empire Loyalists'
Association of Canada
Vancouver Branch**

Vision Statement

To enrich the lives of Canadians through fostering public awareness of our national history, and, in particular, of the United Empire Loyalists and their contributions to Canada, while also celebrating their memory and perpetuating their heritage as an integral part of the Canadian identity.

UELAC, Dominion Council

VANCOUVER BRANCH DIRECTORY 2002

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MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE - 2002

The Vancouver Branch, UELAC holds regular meetings eight times annually on the third Tuesday of the month from 0730h to 1030h. Coffee and refreshments are served.

The remaining months are as follows:

May.....TBA.....May Luncheon
June/July.....Summer Recess
December.....TBA.....Christmas Luncheon

The meetings are held on the 2nd floor of the
BONSOR RECREATION COMPLEX
6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, BC
V5H 2G8

Bonsor Recreation Complex is located directly behind and south of the Hudson's Bay Department Store in Burnaby's Metrotown Mall at Kingsway and Nelson. The Complex is easily reached by car, bus or Skytrain. A large parking lot is available to members and an elevator provides easy access to the 2nd Floor meeting room.

The **Pacific Loyalist Newsletter** is published three times annually by the Vancouver Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada and is distributed to its members and various UELAC branches across Canada.

We encourage participation in the newsletter by branch members and welcome your submissions and comments.

WEBPAGE

Contact: **Peter Robertson** - (604) 684-7150
Email - uel-vancouver-branch@shaw.ca
and/or

<http://members.shaw.ca/uel-vancouver-branch>

>>TREASURER'S REQUEST<<

MEMBERSHIP DUES - 2003

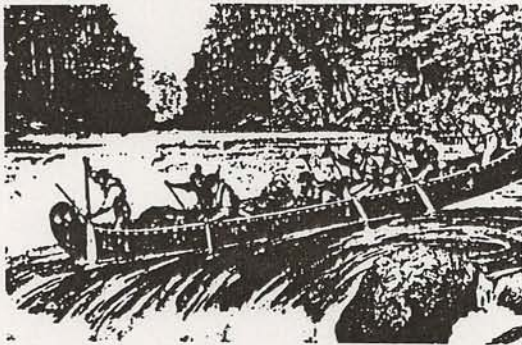
Reminder: UELAC membership fees are due in December. The treasurer must send dues to Dominion Headquarters by year-end to insure that each member receives a copy of the Loyalist Gazette. Only enough copies are printed to cover paid membership. Please get your dues to Rebecca Fraser before the deadline. Thanks!

UELAC Annual Membership fee	\$35.00
Vancouver Branch fees	10.00
Total	\$45.00

Rebecca Fraser - Treasurer

HYACK FESTIVAL highlights SIMON FRASER'S BIRTHDAY!

The Hyack Festival is acknowledged as one of Greater Vancouver's Top Ten Events, with close to 300,000 people attending over 60 events and activities this year.



This summer's festivities included a party to celebrate Simon Fraser's 226th birthday. A Cake decorated with 226 candles was shared among all the visitors to the event. The party host, Fraser River Discovery Centre, located in their modern new display building on the wharf at Westminster Quay, records the history of the Fraser River, emphasizing the importance of keeping this beautiful river environmentally safe and sound. Their exhibits and displays are well worth a visit to the Centre as you review stories of the river and the history of the communities that located along her banks as British Columbia came of age.

The Vancouver Branch of the UELAC has information leaflets on display at the Discovery Centre brochure rack. Our Public Relations manager, Joyce Tiplady, and Dolly Hannah mingled with the guests to answer inquiries regarding United Empire Loyalists.

My visit was prompted by Dominion President Bill Terry's challenge to get some

UELAC recognition inscribed on the Simon Fraser monument on the wharf alongside the Discovery Centre.

The highlight of the day was an outdoor talk given on the steps of the Centre by Archie Miller, well-known historian for the surrounding countryside. The crowd listened as Miller in his clear soft-spoken voice, enthusiastically described the adventures of Simon Fraser and his men as they paddled 520 miles through the rapid-filled canyons of the Fraser from Fort George to the Pacific Ocean at Musqueam. His description of Fraser's men cling precariously to the sheer rock bluffs above the treacherous Fraser Canyon and their fears as they encountered Indian bands encamped along the river added to the drama of the presentation.

A week or two later I met with Archie for a cup of coffee at the Quay and asked if he would repeat his talk at our monthly meeting. He graciously agreed to join us for our October event.

Any one interested in the life of Simon Fraser, UE, or his historic trip down the river that bears his name should not miss October's meeting. Why not bring a friend or relative and enjoy an interesting evening!

By the way, I'll keep working on the UEL emblem for Simon's monument!

DOUG JACKSON FALL 2002

Do not miss this Talk!
You can contact Archie Miller,
New Westminster's Historian at
"Sense of History" (604) 526- 6113

A LOYALIST MILEPOST in British Columbia

FORT ALEXANDRIA, BC



~ Inscription on Monument ~

<FORT ALEXANDRIA>

In 1821 the North West Company built a post here as the northern terminus of their Pacific Brigade Trail. Goods which had been brought up the Columbia from the Okanagan were sent overland to this point then distributed by water to posts in New Caledonia. The post was named for Alexander Mackenzie who had explored the upper Fraser in 1793. After the union of the two companies in 1821, Fort Alexandria was retained by the Hudson's Bay Company and played a key role in the logistics of the trade until road transportation supplanted the Brigade in the 1860s.

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Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada

Today's traveler, driving by Fort Alexandria, would hardly recognize this small roadside truck stop as an historic old fur-trading post on the Pacific Brigade Trail. But from 1821 until the 1860s the North West Company and later the Hudson's Bay Company used this spot to transfer supplies shipped overland from the Okanagan to riverboats on the Fraser River, then return to Fort Kamloops loaded with fur from northern outposts.

Fort Alexandria, named after United Empire Loyalist Sir Alexander Mackenzie, stands at the most southerly point on the Fraser River reached by Mackenzie before he partly retraced his steps and struck out west to reach the Pacific at Bella Coola.

Alongside the Fort Alexandria Restaurant an iron-fenced enclosure houses the large historic monument shown on this page.

The restaurant and truck stop look a little rundown from the outside, but, once inside the clean gingham-covered tables take you back to older times when country kitchens served up real old-fashioned cooking. While I sat there talking to the owner/waitress about the UELAC connection, an old rancher with a large cowboy hat came strolling in for his morning pie and coffee. The warm fresh-baked apple pie came with three large scoops of ice cream. I had one for the road.

Fort Alexandria is located about halfway between Williams Lake and Quesnel on the historic Cariboo Highway. At this point the road follows the route of the Fraser River and is surrounded by cattle ranches and old farm buildings that date back to the very beginnings of cattle ranching in the West. At Marguerite, a few miles down the road, you can cross the river in a small aerial ferry. A ride you'll never forget!

DOUG JACKSON - FALL 2002

SIMON FRASER, UE

Explorer **1776/1862**

A brief look at his life, his Loyalist roots, and his epic journey down the river that bears his name.



Simon Fraser was born May 20, 1776 in the small rural hamlet of Mapleton in Hoosick Township, New York, near Bennington, Vermont. His father, Simon Fraser, senior and his mother, Isabella Grant, had emigrated from Scotland in 1773. Simon, senior, was a Loyalist, whose sympathies led him to join General Burgoyne's forces. Taken prisoner by the American troops at the Battle of Bennington, he died in early 1779 because of harsh treatment he received in Albany Jail.

Even after the peace of 1783, their American neighbours harassed Fraser's family. Consequently in 1784, Isabel Fraser sold the farm in Mapleton, and like thousands of other Loyalists, fled to Canada with her young family. Simon was eight years old. At first the family lived with Isabel's son, William, at

Coteau du Lac. Later she moved the family to St. Andrews West, near Cornwall, Upper Canada, where her second son, Angus, was already farming the family property. About 1790, Simon was sent to stay with his uncle, John Fraser, a prominent judge of Common Court Pleas in Montreal. Under his uncle's care, Simon attended school for two years before joining two of his cousins, Peter and Donald Grant, in the fur trade. In 1792, he became an apprentice clerk in the North West Company of Montreal and was sent to learn his trade in Athabasca in 1793. He became a partner in 1801.

As a partner, Fraser was selected to oversee the extension of the company's activities to the land west of the Rocky Mountains from 1805-1808. His mandate from the North West Company was to cross the Rockies and establish trading relations with the Indians in the interior of British Columbia, but which Fraser called New Caledonia. Here he established Fort McLeod in 1805, Fort St. James and Fort Fraser in 1806 and Fort George in 1807. In the meantime, discovering a trade route to the Pacific had become a priority for the North West Company. Its officials gave Fraser the task of exploring a river believed to be the Columbia to its ocean outlet. It is ironic that this river which he so successfully navigated turned out not to be the Columbia but rather an unknown river which fellow Nor'wester David Thompson would later name the Fraser River. It is to this river that Simon Fraser owes his fame.

On May 28, 1808 Fraser and a company of 23 men set out from Fort George to follow the river to the Pacific. Their harrowing journey, 520 miles in length and 36 days long, revealed both the ruggedness of the British Columbia interior and the courage of those who traversed it. Their expedition culminated in Fraser's arrival at the mouth of the river at Musqueam.

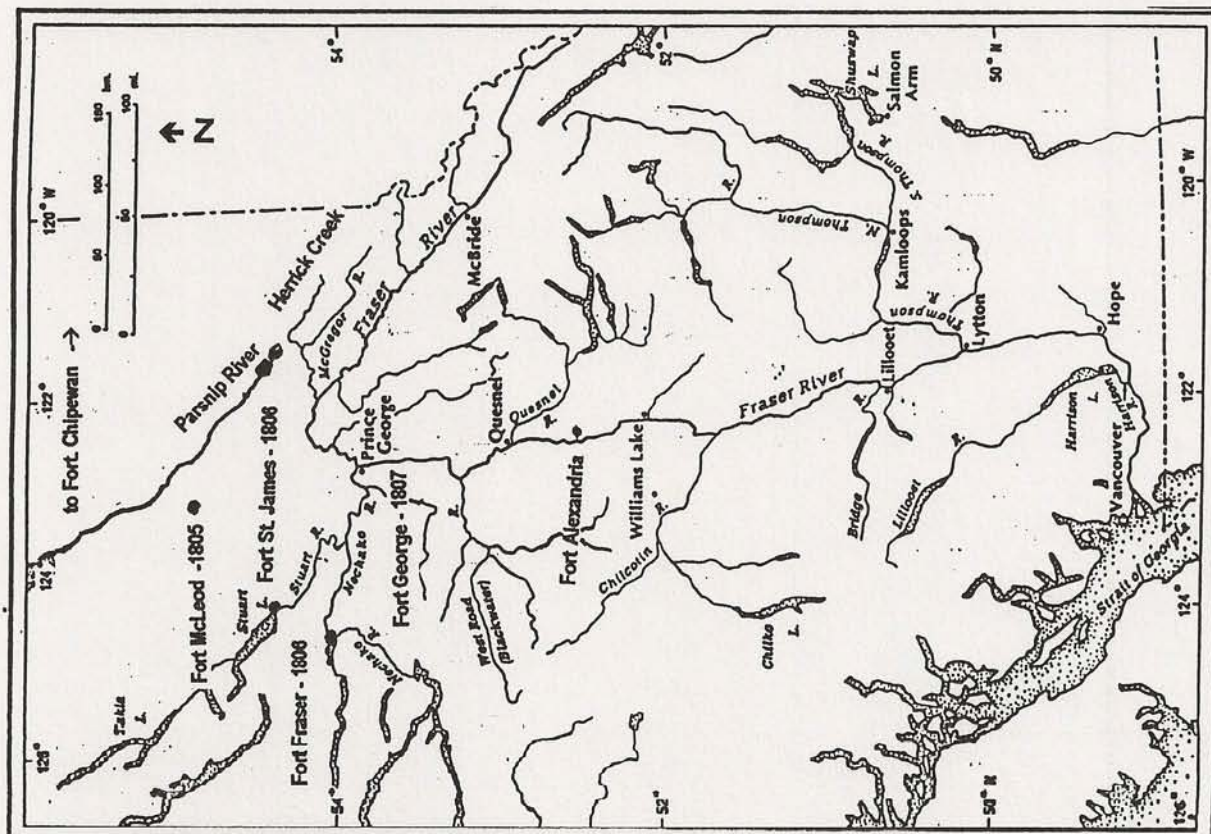
Following his exploration of the "Fraser" river, Simon Fraser returned to the Athabasca department of the North West Company. In 1816, although endeavouring to retire from his life in the fur trade, Fraser found himself embroiled in a conflict between the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company over Lord Selkirk's Red River Settlement, which ended in the Seven Oaks Massacre. As a partner in the North West Company, Fraser was one of several men charged in the affair. However, when the case was tried in 1818, he and the others were acquitted of all charges.

The trial coincided with the end of Fraser's career in the North West Company. In 1818 he moved to St. Andrew West where his brother and sisters already resided. Eventually acquiring 500 acres in Cornwall Township, Simon built a sawmill and a gristmill. Unfortunately both mills proved unprofitable.

His final years at St. Andrew West were, however, not entirely without reward. On June 7, 1820, Simon married Catherine McDonell (of the Scottish Leek family) with whom he had nine children including a daughter who died in infancy. In 1838 Fraser, at the advanced age of 62, took up arms in defense of Canada during the Rebellion. In the dark he fell down a flight of steps seriously injuring his right knee. Now permanently disabled, he was forced to apply for a small pension, which he eventually received in 1841.

Simon Fraser died aged 86 on August 18 1862. Happily united with his wife for over 42 years, the couple were not long separated by death. His wife died the next day. Simon and Catherine were buried in a single grave, which still exists to this day in the Roman Catholic cemetery at St. Andrew West.

Written by James Saunders
 Edited by Barbara Rogers, 28 Dec. 1995
 Source: Simon Fraser University Archives



Quest for new members!

On the other side of this page you'll find a small billboard notice suitable for tacking up on local bulletin boards. Notice boards can be found in neighbourhood shopping malls, office buildings, historical societies, libraries or post offices throughout your area. You can use your imagination to find other locations. It would be interesting to hear about some of the more unusual places these notices could be posted?

Please take the time to place this notice somewhere in your community. Better still, rather than just posting one notice, why not make several copies at your local copy center and place notices in several outlets around your area. Keep the original for future use. If this works, we'll try it again!

The phone number listed is our home number. All inquiries received will be forwarded to the membership committee and a suitable information package will be mailed to the interested party.

Before posting your notice please take the time to "cut along the dotted line" under each phone number so the reader can tear off the number for reference.

Please follow any posting instructions listed by the owner of the notice board. Some owners have rules to follow, i.e. date of notice installation, length of time before notice will be removed, etc. You may want to ask permission before tacking up our small billboard?

We would like to double our membership in 2003. Word of mouth is still the best way to bring in new members! Why not invite a friend with an interest in United Empire Loyalists or Canadian History to join us at one of our next meetings.

You'll be hearing more from us as we expand our membership drive. We're always interested in receiving suggestions for inexpensive ways to attract new members. If you have an idea, please let us know! Our number is on the other side of this page.

The idea for this "Notice Board Campaign" came from Dick Mackey, who has used the idea with some success in the past. I believe we can have some fun with it. Let's get the word out that United Empire Loyalists played an important role in building this beautiful Province of ours!

Let's double our membership in 2003

CHEERS!

Doug Jackson & Dick Mackey, your editorial team



UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSN. OF CANADA - VANCOUVER BRANCH
The PACIFIC LOYALIST FALL 2002 EDITION

SEARCHING FOR YOUR CANADIAN ROOTS?

If the roots of your FAMILY TREE lead back to
ONTARIO, QUEBEC, or the MARITIMES

During the 1700s & 1800s
Maybe you should be talking to us!

Today, one in six Canadians can trace their ancestry to the original 50,000 UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS who, following the American Revolution of 1776, fled their homes in the Atlantic States to avoid persecution. Escaping by water from New York State to the Maritimes or overland by horse or oxcart to Ontario, Quebec, they brought their British lifestyle into what later became our Canada.

For almost 100 years, descendants of the United Empire Loyalists have worked to preserve the memory of these Canadian Pioneers.

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA is a non-profit society with branches in every province of Canada. Our BC Branches are located in VANCOUVER, CHILLIWACK, VICTORIA & KELOWNA.

For a COMPLETE INFORMATION PACKAGE of our Branch activities in BC please call this number:

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