

Trip to the Maritimes: 09 – 13 September 2012



This was the first opportunity that I have had to visit the UELAC branches in the Maritimes. Thanks to the combined efforts of Regional Vice-President, Jim McKenzie UE, and the three Branch Presidents, we were able to co-ordinate our schedules so that I was able to meet all three branches while I was in the East Coast.

In spite of a threatening backlash from Hurricane Leslie, we met with rain only on the first day in Halifax. Don Lordly UE, Vice-President of the Halifax/Dartmouth



Branch, met our group in the Olde Burying Ground and we had a tour of some of the notable gravesites. Since one of our mandates is to preserve the memory of our Loyalist ancestors, the efforts of the Halifax/Dartmouth Branch in this regard are commendable. During our branch meeting we spent some time brainstorming ideas for membership and projects followed by a fascinating tour of the Georgian-style St. Paul's Anglican Church founded in 1749, the oldest Protestant place of worship in Canada.



On Tuesday, 11 September, we met with the Abegweit Branch in Prince Edward Island. This Branch is in the beginning planning stages for hosting the Dominion Conference in 2016. Our host, Branch President Peter Van Iderstine UE, took us on a tour of *Anne's country* in Cavendish on our way to Charlottetown to see the provincial parliament buildings. That evening we met in a large modern boardroom owned by the Bedeque Historical Society. In partnership with this group who share the same goals as our Association, Abegweit Branch is in the process of setting up a Loyalist history museum. This is a fabulous use of space and teamwork to complete a worthy project for 2014. The Branch also wants to order historic burial site plaques from Grand River Branch to mark cemeteries that hold at least one Loyalist



burial. Abewit Branch is certainly on the way to making a big impact visually on this lovely island.

Wednesday, 12 September, saw us out early again in the morning as we drove the four-hour trip from Summerside in Prince

Edward Island to Saint John, New Brunswick. This is Jim McKenzie's home Branch and it was a delight to meet the members at Trinity Anglican Church. While touring the old market square we saw a stone commemorating the



bicentennial of the landing of the Loyalists who founded the city of Saint John and the province of New Brunswick. It had been placed there by the New Brunswick Branch of the UELAC. Our Branches have been choosing projects with good visibility for

many years! Jim McKenzie introduced the idea of placing Loyalist plaques on graveyards with a known Loyalist ancestor interred on its grounds as there are a number of old burying grounds in the New Brunswick.



It was very gratifying to see and encourage teamwork among the Branches in the Maritimes and to make good friendships with the enthusiastic members working to achieve their goals in their Branches.

Sincerely and loyally,

Robert C. McBride UE,
UELAC Dominion President 2011 – 2013.