



# The Ottawa Loyalist

Volume 31 Issue Number 2 Summer 2015

## Conference 2015 on Vancouver Island

*By Sylvia Powers*

As I was packing for my trip to the West, I decided to check on the weather for Victoria since it was so cold in Ontario on May 22nd. The temperature was going to be 12 degrees there so I had to take out most of my summer clothes and had to pack and replace them with some warmer clothes and wear my winter coat. The weather on Vancouver Island was chilly but the sun shone every afternoon and by the conference on the 28th I was able to replace my winter coat with my Loyalist windbreaker.

As a visit to my daughter and her family coincided with a trip to the conference, she and I came together to the same events. She enjoyed herself immensely and after meeting so many Loyalists from Vancouver and Victoria has stated her wish to take part in some Victoria Branch Activities. After registration when we were given a bountiful package of materials and gifts, we visited the hospitality suite on Thursday. There members of the four branches (Vancouver, Victoria, Chilliwack, and Thompson-Okanagan) sponsoring the event greeted us and offered wine, soft drinks, and tea and coffee as well as a great selection of snacks in a suite overlooking the harbour in Victoria.

At about 4:30 pm we took off on one of the buses to the Government House, the home of the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lt. Governor of BC. (BC takes equality rights seriously with a female mayor of Victoria, a female premier, and the Lt. Governor). We lined up to shake hands with her honour, Aurelie Stirling, President of Victoria Branch, and Bonnie Schepers, President of UELAC. The setting of Government House is on one of the highest hills in Victoria giving a magnificent view of the city. It was originally a Fort and it is in its third incarnation after some fires. The reception rooms were gracefully and lavishly appointed with many pictures of the Queen and Prince Philips painted at various stages of their lives, pictures of former Lt. Governors and a whole wall of their chatelaines. A small band played for our entrance into the ballroom; various canapés and other finger foods as well as any drinks we wished were available. Before we left a proclamation was read announcing July 22nd as officially BC Loyalist Day to be celebrated annually. This date was when Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the son of a Loyalist, arrived on the Pacific Westcoast. Then Albert Schepers stood on the balcony high above our heads to take a group picture.

On Friday we got on another bus to travel to the Ross Bay Cemetery and then to tour the gardens of Government House. The cemetery looks very different from those I have seen in Ontario. Each plot is surrounded with a small wall of concrete. The tops of these structures are covered with grass, concrete, or ceramic tiles. Apparently, mowing is not much of a problem since July and August are usually so dry that the grass turns brown. Our guide, while born in Ontario, grew up beside the cemetery and became very familiar with its 27 acres or more. He is now a volunteer for the cemetery association. Through many obituaries and other sources he was able to find many Loyalist descendants and showed us several of their graves. We also saw the tombstone for Emily Carr and learned where Billy Barker, after whom Barkerville, the gold rush town, was named was buried. He died penniless in a home for poor people. Our next stop was the gardens of Government House. Wildlife must be considered when planning their gardens. Deer wander everywhere and love to nibble on beautiful flowers. The roses are enclosed in metal fences with gates which must be kept closed. Nevertheless, there were many trees with opulent blooms and flowers of all colours which don't appear to be tasty for deer. A herb garden is arranged

in the traditional English way with symmetrical paths and herbs arranged just so. In the pond were two ducklings swimming. Something must have taken the mother since they seemed lonely and wanted to follow us. Another problem with so much wildlife freely coming is that predators come looking for easy food. In Victoria plants including trees grow very large so that it seems tropical. Visitors are free to access the gardens during the day.

Back at Harbourside Hotel we got into our period costumes and dress outfits for the Meet and Greet before the Loyalist Fare Dinner. Drinks served were similar to ones served in the 1700's and food was served on platters. Johnny Cake, rebel chickens, tory roast beef, bread pudding, and mixed vegetables were the items on the menu. Special consideration was given to those with dietary needs. With so many people present, the waiters were kept busy. Following the meal, we heard from John Adams, who does ghost walks in town, and has worked in the BC museum for years. He spoke of the controversy surrounding whether Victoria or Westminster should be the capital of BC when Vancouver Island joined with the mainland. The host branches passed out new certificates to members and gave recognition to one of their volunteers.

The AGM on Saturday morning was the last event I came to since I needed to spend my final night with my family there. Bonnie Schepers kept us right on time and all the reports were finished fairly quickly. Our finances are in good order thanks to Jim Bruce, treasurer, and Barb Andrew, Vice-president. Barb Andrew will be the new Dominion president. One new motion took a lot of time. It dealt with the number of proxies each member can bring to the AGM. It was decided not to have a limit on the number. Personally, I think that if members want to vote at the AGM, they should come to the meeting and take part in the discussions so they can understand the pros and cons of a motion.

Great news is that Ottawa will be hosting a conference in 2019. We will need volunteers to help us with the planning. The more volunteers, the less each person would have to be responsible for.



*Maria Powers and her mother Sylvia. Photo by Doug Grant.*



*Marg Hall and Sylvia Powers. Photo by Sylvia Pugh.*

Mark your calendar now for the  
FALL LUNCH AND SOCIAL---Sir Guy Carleton Branch UELAC  
Date; Saturday, 14 November 2015  
Location: Macies Best Western Hotel, 1274 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario  
Cash Bar at 11:30; Lunch at 12:00  
Further details to be announced later.

*More about the Conference :*

*by Marg Hall*

Two workshops were held on Friday morning. The first, "A Day in the Life of a Fur Trader" led by Gord MacIntosh, detailed the clothing, equipment, and activities of a fur trapper (mostly beaver) in the 18th century. It was very interesting, and because there was a great deal of material to touch and look at it, was quite memorable.

That lecture was followed by Diane Rogers with a most interesting presentation about adding DNA to your genealogy and Family History Tools. DNA is the tool of the future to prove difficult connections.

The evening saw us enjoying a "Loyalist meal" consisting (for those not limited by food sensitivities) Johnny cake, vegetable (mostly potato) soup, rebel chicken and Loyalist beef, plentiful vegetables along with roasted potatoes, and rounded off by a lovely bread pudding with butterscotch sauce. It was a delicious meal.

Saturday of course was the AGM which saw Bonnie Schepers hand over the reins of responsibility to Barb. Andrew. The meeting was very capably run and we finished in good time for a buffet lunch. After an afternoon at leisure, we enjoyed a gala banquet with the singing by the Victoria Police choir of many old favourites. It was a very enjoyable evening.

On Sunday morning we had a brief church service in the historic James Bay United Church, capably led by Shirley Dargatz. After snacks provided by the church ladies a photograph was taken of the group, who were mostly in period attire.

It was a a fine conference in beautiful surroundings and it was wonderful to renew acquaintance with many friends whom we see very rarely.

With sadness we announce the loss of a longtime member of The Sir Guy Carleton Branch.

**GRIFFIN, Ethel Beryl, U.E.L**

**(nee Mavety)**

Born in Plum Hollow, Ontario on January 25, 1920 and died In Ottawa after a brief illness, on Thursday, June 4, 2015. Beloved wife for 63 years of the late John Alexander Griffin. Loving and devoted mother to Patricia Griffin (William Pope) and Donald Griffin. Cherished Nana of Andrew Mosley (Isabelle Pouliot) and Katherine Mosley (Harout Koundakjian). Predeceased by her parents Hazel Pearl Stevens and Ephriam Charles Mavety and siblings Cora Hewitt, Preston Mavety, Gerald Mavety, Hazel Kennedy, Thelma Cutway, Hilton Mavety and Reta Rintoul. Survived by sister Winnifred Finlayson and brother-in-law Robert Griffin. Will be fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. The memorial service was held at St. David & St. Martin Presbyterian Church, 444

St. Laurent Boulevard, K1K 2Z6 (at Dunbarton

Ct) on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. The family wishes to thank the members of the Women's Association and the larger community of the "Saints" church who were Beryl's friends and social network for the past 40 years. Special thanks to family physician Dr. Jessica Strike for her exceptional care and compassion and to the nurses at the Elisabeth-Bruyere Residence who cared for Beryl in her final days. In Beryl's memory, memorial donations to St. David & St. Martin Presbyterian Church, Elisabeth-Bruyere Continuing Care or the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

Beryl and her husband were long-time members of the Sir Guy Carleton branch of the UELAC.

United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada  
Sir Guy Carleton Branch

Annual General Meeting & Spring Social

April 18, 2015 – Macie's Best Western

Thirty-three Branch members and guests enjoyed another excellent meal supplied by the staff at Macie's Best Western. This year's guest speaker was Brian Tackaberry who spoke on the Loyalist Settlements of Eastern Ontario.

The gathering began with some informal social time before the advancement of the colours by Bill Powers and Barry Gilmore. The singing of God Save the Queen was led by Sylvia Powers and the toasts to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Majesty King George III were given by Ron Richards. Branch President Beth Sweetnam welcomed everyone and asked that all present introduce themselves and where possible state the name or names of their Loyalist ancestors. Grace was given by Marg Hall. After dinner and before the beginning of the formal program, Sylvia Powers brought up the possibility of our Branch hosting the 2019 Dominion Conference. She explained a bit of what would be involved and invited anyone interested to see her after the meeting. Sylvia then introduced Roy Lewis, VP Central East Region. Roy gave an update on Dominion Council and expounded a bit more on the requirements for hosting a conference and what support would be available from UELAC. He also explained a bit more on the Not-for-Profit Corporation Act and its ramifications for our organization.

The AGM began with the review of the minutes of last year's meeting. It was moved by Shirley and seconded by Marg that the minutes be approved as written. Accepted. Bob Adair presented the 2014 Income and Expenses Final Year End Statement for the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014. It was moved by Bob and seconded by Sylvia that the financial statement be accepted as presented. Accepted. Gary Bagley gave the update on Branch membership/genealogy. He stated that there are currently 70 paid up members which puts us ahead of where we were last year. Three certificates have

been presented to date and several are pending. Dorothy Meyerhof reported on the status of the Branch Library. She thanked Ed Kipp and Sherry Ruch for their donations to the collection which now numbers close to 900 items. She reiterated the need for more volunteers to help out at the City of Ottawa Archives. Sylvia Powers led the nominations for the Branch Executive. The only vacant position on the Executive is that of Vice-President. As required, Sylvia called for nominations 3 times. There were no nominations for this position and it remains vacant. The filled elected positions are : President, Beth Sweetnam; Treasurer, Bob Adair; Secretary, Penny Minter. Sylvia moved and Sherry Ruch seconded that the slate of officers be accepted. Accepted.

Our guest speaker Brian Tackaberry was introduced by Sylvia Powers. His talk was on the Loyalist Settlements of Eastern Ontario including the Rideau River Valley. It was a very informative and interesting talk especially for those with roots in Eastern Ontario and included a slide presentation and several anecdotes on early Loyalists of the area. Bob Adair thanked Brian and presented him with a small gift of appreciation. Bob also presented Brian with a Butlers Rangers breastplate which had been donated to the Branch by Frank Cooper. Brian was very appreciative and said that the breastplate will be placed in the Loyalist Museum in Adolphustown. Brian also mentioned the upcoming Glengarry 1812 re-enactment weekend taking place at the UEL Heritage Park & Centre in Adolphustown on May 23,

The following announcements were included in the programme :

1. Conference 2015: Loyalists Come West, May 28-31, Victoria, B.C. Early registration for discounts by April 26th. Go online for registration forms [uelac.org/events/conference](http://uelac.org/events/conference).
2. Ottawa OGS meetings take place at the City of Ottawa Archives on 100 Tallwood Avenue.
3. An objective of the UELAC is to develop a directory of people of the Loyalist era, and to categorize them, especially those who met the qualifications as a United Empire Loyalist. To add your Loyalist ancestor to the directory, contact UELAC at [uelac.org](http://uelac.org).
4. Donations to UELAC can be made by cheque to headquarters or on line with [www.canaahelps.org](http://www.canaahelps.org). Key words "UELAC" will take you to donor page. Canada Helps will issue receipt. To donate to branch, send cheque to headquarters.
5. To advertise in the Loyalist Gazette, send email to Pat Adair at [Gerry.pat@sasktel.net](mailto:Gerry.pat@sasktel.net) People are always need to volunteer to do book reports for the Gazette.
6. Send articles for our Sir Guy Carleton newsletter to Newsletter Editor, Michelle Lawless
7. The Loyalist Gazette is available digitally. If you wish to receive yours that way and access their photos in colour, you can register for this by going to [uelac.org](http://uelac.org).

After the singing of O Canada, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.