

Plaque Dedication Ceremony



Mountain View Cemetery Lethbridge, Alberta

8 September, 2019
1:00 pm

Dominion Patron
Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette,
CC, CMM, COM, CQ, CD
Governor General of Canada

Patricia Sadler Brown UE : Master of Ceremonies, organizer of the making of today's plaque and of this ceremony, and Director at Large of the Calgary Branch of the UELAC



Pat welcomed guests and introduced special guests:

Lethbridge MP Rachael Harder
Lethbridge East MLA Nathan Neudorf
Lethbridge Mayor Chris Spearman

Lethbridge Chief of Police Robert A. Davis
Jim Mulock, Lethbridge Monumental, maker of the plaque
Warrant Officer (Ret'd) Glenn Miller CD
Belinda Crowson, President Lethbridge Historical Society
Executive members of the Calgary Branch of the UELAC: Suzanne Davidson UE, President; David
Hongisto UE, Past President; Barbara Hongisto UE, Secretary; Linda McClelland UE, News Letter Editor



Left to right: MLA Nathan Neudorf, Patricia Sadler
Brown UE, Jim Mulock, MP Rachael Harder



Lethbridge Mayor Chris Spearman



Lethbridge Police Chief Robert A. Davis

The Royal Anthem, God Save the Queen, was sung.

Linda McClelland UE, gave some **historical background** leading up to the American Revolution, explained who the Loyalists were and talked about the Loyalist descendants travelling to Alberta and setting up the Calgary Branch of the UELAC 91 years ago.



Dignitary Speeches were made by Suzanne Davidson UE, President of the Calgary Branch of the UELAC, MP Rachael Harder, MLA Nathan Neudorf, Mayor Chris Spearman, and Police Chief Robert A. Davis.

An Introduction of the Loyalist Ancestor of Dr. Jesse Bigelow buried in Mountain View Cemetery was made by Suzanne Davidson UE (below left) That was followed by Wendy Stremlaw UE, (below right) who talked about the Hughsons and Thompsons, who are buried in Mountain View Cemetery. Belinda Crowson (below centre) described the beloved Lethbridge Doctor, Dr. Jesse Bigelow whose grave site would soon be visited.





Sean Robison (below left) played a **lament on the bagpipes**. Barbara Hongisto UE, (below right) presented the **Loyalist Homage**.



The unveiling of the black granite plaque was performed by Pat Sadler Brown UE and Police Chief R.A. Davis. The Mountain View Cemetery had donated a slanted podium for the plaque. The plaque itself was created by Jim Mulock of sandblasted black granite with Roman style font.



The unveiling was followed by **a gun salute** under the command of Jon Hurdman.



Singing of the National Anthem ended the first part of the program.

The **Grave Visitation Tour** to graves of **Dr. Jesse Bigelow**, and the **four Hughson and Thompson** grave sites was next. The Cemetery had provided fresh roses to be placed at each site along with a small Loyalist flag and a Canadian flag.







Hughson/Thompson Family: from the left, Joan Hughson, LeRoy and Pat Hughson, Barbara (Hughson) Clark, Darlene (Thompson) Carlson, Jeannine and Don Thompson, Patricia Sadler Brown UE, Wendy Stremlaw UE (daughter of Pat Sadler Brown UE)

Lunch followed at the Italian Table in the Signature Sandman Lodge, Lethbridge.

A video was taken of the proceedings by Chris Oakes. This was funded by Hugh McClelland.

Photos are by Chris Oaks and Linda McClelland.

The video link will be available for viewing for three weeks on line.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kqd54nxvuatcxgc/AADHnoKN5BU1UGRJB0IT1opba?dl=0>

Lethbridge Herald coverage is at <https://lethbridgeherald.com/news/lethbridge-news/2019/09/08/new-plaque-honours-loyalists/>

CTV Lethbridge coverage is at <https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/lethbridge/video?clipId=1776226> about **12 minutes in**

Signed greetings (shown next) for this unveiling event were sent from Honourable Jason Kenny, Premier of Alberta; (left) Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour, the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell (right) and Lethbridge Mayor, Chris Spearman (below). A note about the Last Post Fund is also included since Glenn Miller assisted us in the organization of the dedication.




MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to send greetings to the Calgary Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada as you gather to dedicate the Mountain View Cemetery commemorative plaque in Lethbridge.

Many Albertans have a deep personal connection to this period of Canadian history. The arrival of the Loyalists changed our country forever, their courage and enterprise helped create the great nation we know today. This plaque is a fitting tribute to them and their descendants, and I commend the Calgary Branch of the UELAC for helping to preserve this fascinating part of our heritage for future generations.

Congratulations on this achievement, and best wishes for continued success.


Hon Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta

Message from the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



As Her Majesty the Queen's representative in Alberta, it's my pleasure to recognize all members of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada, Calgary Branch. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to celebrating the legacy of those who played an important role in shaping the early chapters of our Canadian history.

I would also like to acknowledge your leadership in erecting a plaque at Lethbridge Mountain View Cemetery to commemorate those who descended from United Empire Loyalists, a first such initiative for Alberta. I trust that this will inspire Albertans to learn more about the essential contributions of the original Loyalists. I also hope that it will lead to similar tributes in cemeteries throughout the province.

Thank you all for your continued service and citizenship and best wishes for continued success.

Her Honour, the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



CITY OF Lethbridge



On behalf of Lethbridge City Council I am pleased to recognize, acknowledge and celebrate the signage in our Mountain View Cemetery noting with distinction the fact that descendants of the United Empire Loyalists are buried here.

The contribution of the original Loyalists to the development of our Country was great. We appreciate the fact that the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada; Calgary Branch is continuing this educational information and highlighting another segment of our Canadian History.

Chris Spearman
Mayor



The Last Post Fund's mission is to ensure that no Veteran is denied a dignified funeral and burial, as well as a military gravestone, due to insufficient funds at time of death. Its primary mandate is to deliver the Veterans Affairs Canada Funeral and Burial Program which provides funeral, burial and grave marking benefits for eligible Canadian and Allied Veterans.

The Last Post Fund's vision is to ensure that the sacrifices and service of Canada's veterans are honoured, commemorated and remembered.

For more information call 1 800 465 7113 or for more information visit www.lastpostfund.ca

Authors: Linda McClelland UE and Suzanne Davidson UE