

DECEMBER 2020 Newsletter



UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Calgary Branch

Editor: Linda McClelland

President's Message:

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hopefully you can optimize your celebrations, connect with someone and remain healthy. We are continuing to support anyone who wants assistance in applying for a Loyalist Certificate. I know there are a number who have started and need to put some finishing touches on an application. A Brochure has been created this fall for our Calgary Branch. Please use it for communication with anyone who may have an interest in Loyalist history. As you renew or create your membership, please consider including your phone number as well as your other information. We do not plan to use it often, but another form of communication is helpful. See below for details on how to access the membership database.

We are planning a virtual meeting for the afternoon of Sunday, March 7, 2021. A presentation has not been finalized yet so we will keep you informed.

Renewing Memberships

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2021. We have less than 50% renewed so far. Since we are not meeting in person this will have to be done online. Also some of our 2019 members have not continued their memberships. Fees are \$50 for an individual membership and \$70 for a family membership. Please see below for information on how to do that. If you have problems or questions please can contact me at s_e_davidson@hotmail.com. A mail in option is available if you wish. The form is attached.

All UELAC memberships are now online. A dedicated website was formed separate from the main information website. The website is uelac.ca

There is also a link on the Membership page of the main Dominion website uelac.org. The Calgary Branch website is uelac.org/Calgary/ There is a link on the Membership page on our site also

All members from last year (2019) and this year are entered on the member's website with the email that we have previously used to communicate with you.

Instructions for accessing the Membership website are below and on the website, uelac.ca

Sign in

- 1) Access website uelac.ca
- 2) On the **Welcome** page there are instructions near the bottom if you need to refer to them. The login is also near the bottom.
- 3) If it is your first time use the 'click HERE' button or the 'Member Login' button if you have a password.
- 4) The 'click HERE' button will go to a sign-in page where you can request a password. A password will be sent to the email address that you provided.
- 5) Use the password from the email to complete the sign-in.

- 6) After a successful sign-in you will see the Member's section title page. It has links to 'Your UELAC Member Account', to 'Renew Membership' and to access the recent Loyalist Gazettes.
- 7) The 'Member Account' page will show your current information that is on file. This can be changed by using 'Edit Profile'.
- 8) Through the 'Renew Membership' button you can pay for the next year's membership. You must choose a branch at the bottom of the page and then a membership type. A method of payment must also be selected. The options to use a credit card or Pay Pal are listed. Also if you wish to write a cheque or pay by interac, that is also an option which will need to be completed outside of the membership website.
- 9) The address to send a cheque to is David Hongisto 3743 36 Ave SW, Calgary T3E 1C3. If you wish to make an e-transfer please contact me or David for the address. Our branch has set up an email address to receive payments.

Next Meeting

We are planning for a virtual meeting on Sunday, March 7, 2021. This will be our Annual General Meeting for 2021. If you are able to assist in auditing our financial statements please contact me, Suzanne at s_e_davidson@hotmail.com. This year's audit should be simple. We are looking at having a presentation on the transfer of Native land to Upper Canada prior to the Loyalists settling. This will be confirmed closer to the meeting.

New Board Members

At our Branch meeting on 1 November and our executive meeting on 6 December we welcomed new executive members.

Additions to the Calgary Branch Executive are **William (Bill) Simpson** (immediately below), **Ian McIlreath** and **Karen Stevenson**. Some information about Bill and Karen is shown below. **Bill** will be in charge of **membership**, **Ian** will be the liaison with the **scholarship** committee at the University of Calgary for our Department of History award, and **Karen is a member-at-large**. Ian's background will follow in the next Newsletter. Sharon Terary has resigned from the board. We thank her for her years of service.



Bill Simpson was born and raised in Leamington, Ontario. After high school he was employed by the H.J. Heinz Company for a short time. In January 1969 he was sworn into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in London, Ontario. He immediately left Ontario for Regina, Saskatchewan to attend the RCMP Academy and later transferred to Penhold, Alberta for part two of training.

Following training he was posted to Ponoka, Coronation, Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House, Lethbridge, Valleyview and Calgary. Bill's duties varied from General Duty Policing, Federal Policing, and Major Crimes. In 2000

he was transferred to a newly formed DNA unit acting as the DNA Coordinator for southern Alberta. He was in this position until 2009 at which time he retired from the RCMP

In 2009, Bill and his wife, Judith, moved to south-western Ontario but returned to Alberta in 2012 for family reasons. Once again, he went to work as the front office supervisor for the Federal Policing Building in Calgary under a private contractor where he is still employed.

Bill enjoys doing genealogical research using several DNA and associated websites. He believes that his UEL ancestor (6X ggf) was Jacob Smith Sr. (1739-1821) but that is still to be proven.

Bill is also a licensed pilot flying several different aircraft.

Karen Stevenson and Gordon Miller came to Calgary from the Maritimes and have been absorbed in the history of their families and their Country for many years. **Gordon** has recently retired after 40 years in the parts business and is now enjoying reading, puzzles of all kinds, sports, photography, and working on his classic 1974 Roadrunner. He is working on getting his UEL certificate(s) for Melancton Thorne and is working on the family trees of related families (Kierstead, Akerley, Hendry, Butler, Snyder, Currie, and Miller). All are from New Brunswick.

Karen has Prince Edward Island roots that include the Loyalist families; Younker, Bernard, and Muttard. All of these families are outlined in an *Island Refuge* and certificates are still to be obtained. Karen is about to retire and will be enjoying reading, puzzles, gardening, cooking, and doing historical research.

Gordon and Karen's son, David, is married to **Sarah Grieg** who has a UEL certification for James Stewart Sr.. They have two beautiful children.

Certificates

The certificates for Elaine Rewcastle, Bruce Pitts and Linda Collier were acknowledged at the Fall General meeting on 1 November. Elaine received certificates for Philip Eamer, Benjamin Baker and Henry Gallinger. Bruce's certificates were for Jacob Phillips and Norris Briscoe. Linda's certificate was for Stats Overholt

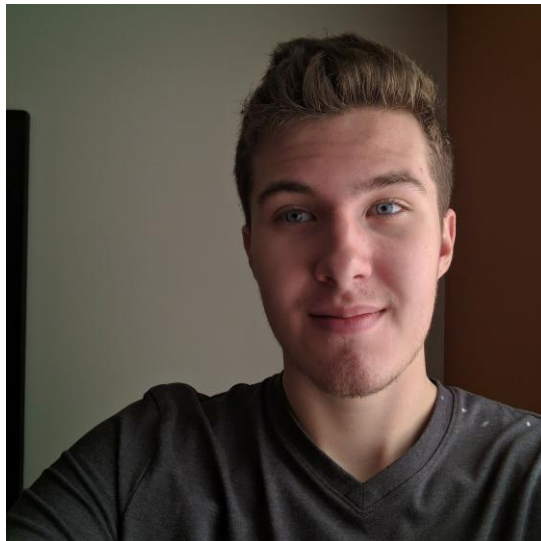
The two certificates to **Fiona Audy**, the daughter of **Helen Backhouse** were presented in person in the fall. These were for ancestors, **John Pickle** and **George Schryver** (John's son-in-law). John was a private with the King's Royal Regiment in New York and settled in Fredericksburg, Upper Canada. George, also a private, settled in Fredericksburg. The photo below shows Suzanne Davidson on the left along with Fiona Audy and Helen Backhouse. Helen's daughter Frances also has certificates but she is not able to travel due to the pandemic.



Suzanne Fiona and Helen

U of C UELAC History Award

University of Calgary UELAC Calgary Branch Department of History award: This year's recipient is Jacob Storek. He is in fourth year of the Law and Society program. Ian McIlreath will be our official liaison with the university now. There is a yearly department acknowledgement reception in the fall. This of course was not held this year.



Minutes from Fall Zoom Meeting on 1 November

ZOOM ATTENDEES:

Layla Briggs, Pat Brown, Stan Clayton, Suzanne Davidson, Louise Ferris, Barbara Hongisto, David Hongisto, Lorna Laughon, Linda McClelland, Bruce Pitts, Evelyn Pitts, Elaine Rewcastle, Bill Simpson, Patricia Stanice, Karen Stevenson, Ivy Trumpour, Glenda Zamzow.

Royal Anthem

Jim Bruce, office administrator from Toronto, set Zoom up for us and left us in Suzanne's care.

Suzanne welcomed us all on ZOOM.

Our guest speaker, Leslie Bieber from the Memory Project, gave his talk before the business meeting. He related his armed forces life, covering 42 years, both in the Navy and in the Air Force. He travelled all over Canada and the world during his career. In fact, he recommended joining the Armed Forces for a most interesting, satisfying life. We enjoyed hearing his story, from private to warrant officer. Originally from Saskatchewan, he now resides in Comox, BC.

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting of April 14, 2019 were presented.

These were perused. Louise motioned for acceptance of these minutes; Stan seconded, and they were passed.

President's Report

Suzanne mentioned that the website is a work in progress.

Also, for Remembrance Day, we have 2 wreaths. The Military Museums will have a televised ceremony with minimal attendance so we will not be doing an in-person laying of our wreath. Suzanne will check with Rory Cory as to status of our wreath there.

That is all we know to date. We do not know what will happen at the shrine, with our other wreath.

Treasurer's Report

David gave our chequing account balance as \$3130.02. The term deposit sits at \$24867.66, with \$25.28 in common share and \$14.17 as common share dividend with First Calgary.

Lyla moved for acceptance of these minutes; Lorna seconded, and the report was passed.

The audited financial statement for 2019 was presented.

Certificate Presentations

10 certificates were ready: three for Elaine Rewcastle, one for Linda Collier, two for Bruce Pitts and two for each of Helen Backhouse's daughters, Fiona Audy and Frances Backhouse.

Confirmation of Branch Officers

President: Suzanne Davidson

Treasurer: David Hongisto

Secretary: Barbara Hongisto

Membership: Bill Simpson

Newsletter: Linda McClelland

Members at large: Pat Brown, Karen Stevenson, Ivy Trumpour

Membership

Bill Simpson will take over membership with David's assistance.

Since there was no other business, we closed the meeting with O Canada.

We are considering having another virtual meeting in January assuming conditions do not drastically change. (It has been decided to have a meeting on March 7)

Thanks to everyone for attending in this unique way!!

Minutes form Executive Meeting on 6 December

Linda asked Ian, Bill, and Karen to send her a paragraph and photo of themselves, for the newsletter.

Suzanne will send Linda the photo of Helen Backhouse and Fiona getting their certificates, again, for the newsletter.

Ian will send the information re the scholarship recipient, to Linda for the newsletter too. Jacob, the recipient has already given permission for putting this in the newsletter.

Finances

In the chequing account there is still est. \$3000, and, in the term deposit \$24 000.

Memberships

Suzanne will ask for a revision re membership procedure and registration.

Our membership is fairly stable, hovering around 75-80 members, with only a couple dozen out regularly.

In the newsletter, we will ask for those, whose phone number we don't have, to send it.

Scholarship

Ian McIlreath will be the contact person re the scholarship details. This year the person who won the Calgary Branch History Scholarship for \$500.00 at U of C was Jacob Storek, a fourth year student in the Law and Society Program.

Thank-you, Ian.

AGM

The AGM is set for **Sunday, March 7, on Zoom**. Suzanne will contact Jacob to ask if he would introduce himself to the group.

She will also contact Nathan Tidridge, from Grand River re speaking to our AGM.

If he is unavailable, we shall find another speaker.

The next Executive Meeting will be Sunday, February 7, 2021.

Pat shared photos of our Loyalist plaque in the Lethbridge cemetery. The installation has not been undated yet as the cemetery had planned.

The meeting ended with best wishes for Christmas and the NEW YEAR...keeping safe and healthy.

