

# UELAC

## CALGARY BRANCH FALL NEWSLETTER: 2023

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Special Contributor: David Hongisto



## UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

*Calgary Branch*

History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if it offends you, even better. Because then you are less likely to repeat it. It's not yours to erase. It belongs to all of us!

Quote from our Fall presentation

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our key accomplishment this year was the establishment of a History Prize at the University of Lethbridge. After much consideration, we used most of the remaining money that we received through Evelyn deMille's will to supply the seed money for a History Prize with a value of \$2000. This value was reached by the university matching our donation.

As people interested in History we need to keep in mind the quote included on the title page. Without recording History how will we be able to not repeat the unsavory past. Burying History does not solve problems.

The website <https://uelac.org/calgary> has now been updated with additions to the Events, Newsletters and Memorials pages. A new page for the University of Lethbridge History Prize has been added. We are waiting for an update from the University of Calgary on who received our History Award this year. There are periodic updates on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CalgaryBranchUELAC/>

We had two meetings this year, one enlightening us about the flood mitigation actions by Memorial Drive and other places. The other (Fall) meeting topic was the Boer Wars and other actions at the turn of the nineteenth century.

January 1 is the beginning of a new membership year so it is time to renew your membership. Details for renewing memberships are at the end of this newsletter and were sent earlier.

If you have any suggestions for topics for our future meetings please contact me by email [s\\_e\\_davidson@hotmail.com](mailto:s_e_davidson@hotmail.com). For any concerns or suggestions please also contact me.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We can offer assistance if you are interested in applying for a Loyalist certificate.

Hope all have a Merry Christmas and are able to gather with family.

Happy and Safe New Year.

Suzanne

## REMEMBRANCE DAY NOVEMBER 11, SERVICE AT THE MILITARY MUSEUMS

Our UELAC Calgary Branch wreath was placed at the eternal flame in front of the Military Museums after the Remembrance Day Service by Suzanne Davidson and Rory Cory with assistance from a cadet with the Navy League of Canada Captain Jackson unit.



## UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE HISTORY AWARD.

The arrangements for our Prize in History at the University of Lethbridge were finalized in July and our portion of the funds were deposited then. The university matched our funds to give a prize value of \$2000. This will be awarded to the part time or full time student who achieved the best academic performance in the course HIST 2710 on Canada to 1867 during the previous academic year.

The money which Evelyn deMille designated to us in her will was used for our portion of the endowment.

The plan was to travel to the University of Lethbridge for a formal presentation of a cheque for the Prize. Unfortunately due to our storm of October 24/5 that trip was cancelled. To have an official photo presenting the cheque, previous snapshots were merged with the cheque.



Photograph thanks to David Hongisto

Front Row: Suzanne Davidson, Beatrice Aucoin, Karen Stevenson

Middle Row: Linda McClelland, Pat Sadler Brown, Barbara Hongisto, Ivy Trumpour

Back Row: David Hongisto, Ian McIlreath, Bill Simpson



## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY HISTORY AWARD

The recipient of our award at the University of Calgary this year is Alexandria Goreham. The value of the award this year was \$700. She has two years left of her concurrent history and education degree. After that she plans on continuing to a Masters degree. Through her travel and field opportunities she has become interested in participating in ensuring that museums and public history are available to everyone.



## LOYALIST CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION



Gord Miller was officially presented with his Loyalist certificate at the Fall meeting by Suzanne.

Gordon's Loyalist ancestor was Melancthon Thorne.

Melancthon Thorne, my 5x great grandfather, was born at Glen Cove, Long Island, New York Colony in 1758. He, his wife Hannah Butler, two young sons and Hannah's father Michael sailed from New York on the "Mercury" as part of the "fall fleet" arriving at what was to become Saint John on October 17, 1783. Before leaving New York though, he and more than 600 other Loyalists signed the "New York Loyalists Memorial", a petition decrying the proposed granting of 275,000 acres of the most desirable lands in the colony of Nova Scotia to a mere 55 persons "most of them in easy Circumstances and with some exceptions more distinguished by the repeated favors of Government than by either the greatness of their sufferings or the importance of their services". On August 14, 1784 he drew (or more likely was assigned) lot #1186 in Parr Town (now what is referred to as the "south end" of Saint John). Not seeing great potential for a farmer in an urban setting, on January 24, 1785 he and his father in law along Page 6 of 6 with 16 others petitioned for land near the township of Conway. While this land near the Nerepis River must have been more to his liking, he and his family were on the move again in 1796, when his family and sixteen others founded the community of New Canaan in south central New Brunswick. It was at New Canaan that his daughter Phebe (my 4x great grandmother) was born in 1797. Another of his 11 children, the Reverend Charles Nelson Horatio Thorne was also a 4x great grandparent as one of his sons (Samuel J. 3x great grandfather) married Phebe's daughter (Hannah Patterson 3x great grandmother). As there was a hold on land petitions from 1790 to 1807 in New Brunswick because of requests for land outstripping available surveyed lots, they didn't get around to formally petitioning for the New Canaan until September 22, 1809. As the lots he was granted were largely unsuitable for cultivation, he sold these in 1810 and moved to the southeast shore of the Washademoak Lake in central New Brunswick, where he lived and farmed until his death in January 1842.

## **MINUTES ....UELAC CALGARY BRANCH FALL MEETING... ..SEPT. 30, 2023**

PRESENT: Suzanne Davidson, Barbara Hongisto, David Hongisto, Wayne Hovdestad, Lorna Laughton, Norman Leach, Charlie Lund, Linda McClelland, Ian McIlreath, Jacquie McGowan, Gord Miller, Gene Peters, Elaine Rewcastle, Bill Simpson, Roy Smith, Karen Stevenson, Sharon Terray,

ON ZOOM: Pat Brown, Ivy Trumpour, Liz Adair

WELCOME:

Suzanne welcomed us all and had us tell the group who our Loyalist ancestor was.

We sang the Royal Anthem.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the April 29<sup>th</sup> branch AGM were available and checked. Ian moved and Linda seconded to accept the minutes and all were in favour.

#### WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK UPDATE:

There was no update of these 2 factions.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

We have \$4873.19 in the bank account.

#### MEMBERSHIPS:

We have 53 memberships (individual and family), with 77 people all tolled.

#### UPDATE ON THE HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP AT U OF L.

Ian has worked hard and arranged the scholarship from us to U of L. Ian made a trip to Lethbridge and met some of the contacts, who were very excited about this scholarship. We will be planning a trip to Lethbridge for the photo op of their receiving the \$25 000 from us in October sometime.

#### CERTIFICATION:

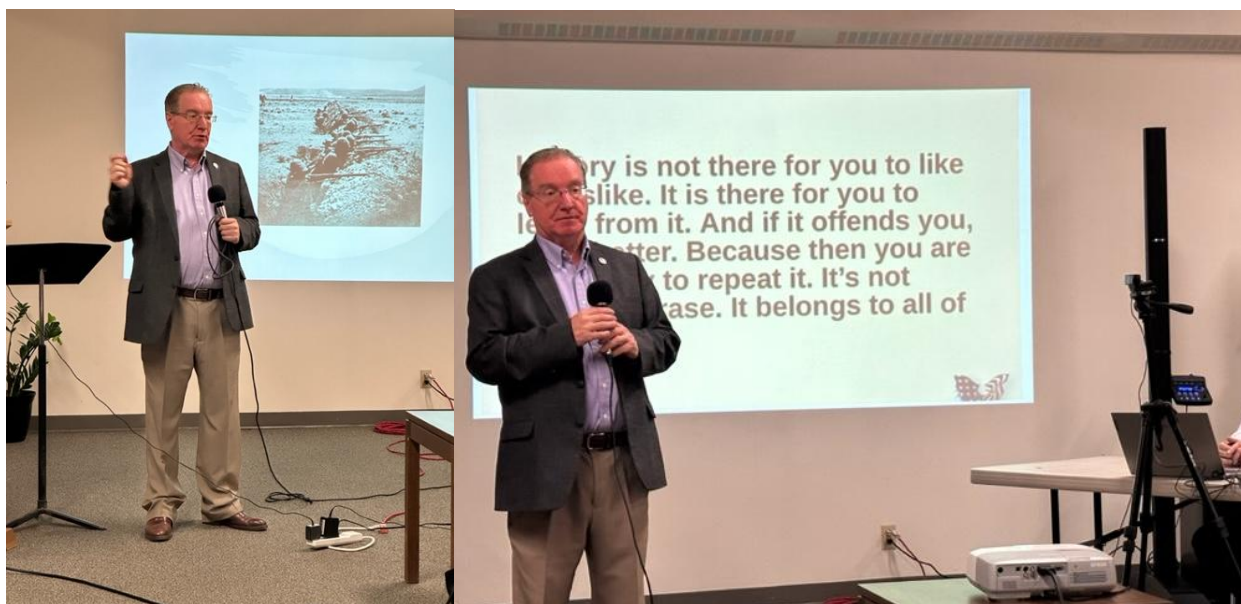
Suzanne formally presented Gord Miller with his Loyalist certificate. Gord gave us a history of his ancestry and his connections that he found.

#### LUNCH:

We had a yummy lunch! It consisted of pulled beef with buns, beans and salad.

#### PRESENTATION:

Norman Leach gave us a wonderful presentation on the Boer Wars and then some. What a history guru! He brought along several of his books, which were readily picked up. We were so glad to hear his detailed historical knowledge.



We ended the afternoon with the singing of O Canada!



# UELAC CALGARY BRANCH MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2024

Our fees are \$50 for individual, \$70 for more than one person at the same address and \$10 for an additional branch membership.

There are 4 ways you can pay your Branch Membership Fees

## 1) By Credit Card or Pay Pal •

- Log in at uelac.ca (if first time logging in and have difficulties logging in send email to: [williamsimpson@live.ca](mailto:williamsimpson@live.ca))
- Go to the Members section
- Near the top, follow the link in "Add/Renew Membership" line to Membership Renewals
  - Read the page
- Follow the link at the bottom to find the Calgary Branch
- Confirm the type of membership
- Credit card information is entered at the bottom of the page.

## 2) By Interac E-transfer

If your bank account is a **Canadian participating financial institution**, you simply log in to your online bank account, navigate to the section for Interac e-Transfers and follow the instructions to add a recipient and start sending the funds.

**Contact:** Name – enter **UEL Calgary Branch**

**E-mail address** = uelcalgarybranch@gmail.com

**Security Question and Answer:** Do not enter anything as none are necessary The Branch will be notified of the transaction – we will then acknowledge receipt of your payment and process your membership renewal.

If you changed your mailing address, email address or phone # in the past year – please advise us by email at [williamsimpson@live.ca](mailto:williamsimpson@live.ca) or update your profile

## 3) By Cheque

Make your cheque payable to: UELAC Calgary Branch

**Send payment to:** Treasurer: David Hongisto

**3743 36 Ave SW**

**Calgary, Alberta T3E 1C3**

**If you changed** your mailing address, email address or phone # in the past year - please include a note with the current information

## 4) By Cash

At a Branch meeting or Branch event –

**DO NOT** send cash payment by mail