

The UELAC Dominion Conference at the Confluence 2012

Hosted by the Manitoba Branch of the UELAC at the Hotel Fort Garry

Winnipeg, MB

June 7th-10th, 2012

For some delegates the “Conference at the Confluence” started on Wednesday, June 6th with a day of pre-conference tours. Several delegates were met at the Hotel Fort Garry by the Manitoba Branch Secretary Mary Steinhoff and were escorted to the Manitoba and Hudson Bay Archives, where they were joined by three additional delegates. A charming and knowledgeable archivist gave us an excellent tour.

The group then proceeded to The Forks for lunch and a brief time to explore The Forks Market.

Next stop was the Parks Canada Western and Northern Service Centre at 145 McDermot, where a senior employee escorted us to various labs and workshops, at each of which a craftsman, researcher, or restorer described the work being done.

Last stop was the Manitoba Museum Complex. Some chose to return to their hotels, others to take in the Planetarium show, and others to visit *The Nonsuch* and the HBC Collection.

Thursday, June 7th saw a flurry of activity as delegates checked into the hotel and registered for the conference. The Boutique and the Hospitality Room were in operation. The afternoon featured two optional tours: of Dalnavert Museum and of the Exchange District, “Death and Debauchery”.

At 5:00 PM delegates were transported to Government House in retro -style by the Winnipeg Trolley Company. The Lieutenant Governor’s



Bob and Marjorie McConomy receiving their UEL Certificates at the Manitoba Club



Conference Co-chairs Gerry Lane and Lorraine Cook at Government House

reception began with a receiving line, followed by wine and hors oeuvres and a short program. The “light supper’ that followed was in fact a lavish spread.

The Honorable Phillip Lee and her Honour Anita Lee proved to be warm and gracious hosts, making this evening a wonderful start to the more formal events of the conference.

Friday, June 8th was a marathon of events, beginning with a trio of workshops. The first, a genealogy presentation by Manitoba Branch genealogist Alice Walchuk and her husband Bruce, was very well-received. The second, on early nineteenth century clothing, ran afoul of dreaded technology: the McPhersons’ power point program malfunctioned. The third workshop, on the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, was interesting and informative.

The luncheon which followed in the Manitoba Club was doubtless a high-light for four members of the Manitoba Branch: Reg Eamer, Bob and Marjorie McConomy, and Alice Poyser all received their UELAC certificates.

Lunch was followed by an excellent presentation by Gary Hilderman, a member of the Friends of Upper Fort Garry, on the plans for the preservation of the site surrounding the Governor’s Gate.

After lunch some eighty delegates boarded buses for Lower Fort Garry, where they had an excellent tour. At 5: 00 PM they were transported to Little Britain United Church Hall for a country-style dinner.



Jo Ann Tuskin, Dominion Secretary, Grietje and President Robert McBride at Government House



Flag-bearers Rod Nerbas and David Hill Morrison at Government House



Guest speaker Judith Hudson Beattie and husband Francisco Vallenuela at the Gala Banquet at the Hotel Fort Garry

Dinner was followed by a three part program: a family genealogy presentation by Zoe Thornton, the Membership Awards by Barb Andrew and Doug Grant, and a presentation by the Hamilton Branch, hosts of the 2013 Dominion Conference.

The evening ended with a lively concert of eighteenth and nineteenth century music by Simpson's Folly.

The morning of Saturday, June 9th was devoted to the AGM. This was followed by a lunch hosted by the Hotel Fort Garry.

The afternoon was at leisure, save for an optional tour of the Manitoba Legislative Building.

The Gala Banquet in the Concert Hall of the Hotel Fort Garry began with a Costume Parade and the entrance of the flags, followed by the entrance of the Vice Regal Party accompanied by piper Graeme McCombe.

Dinner was preceded by toasts to the piper, the Queen, and our Loyalist forebears, followed by a Loyalist grace. Conference Co-chairs Lorraine Cook and Gerry Lane had promised a surprise and there it was: a beautiful jeweled program designed by web-mistress Beverly Boudreau.

The post-dinner program included greetings by Lieutenant Governor Phillip Lee, and remarks by Dominion President Robert McBride and Manitoba Branch President Peter Rogers. The 2012 Dorchester Award was presented by Prairie Region Vice-President Gerry Adair to Shirley Dargatz UE, President of the Chilliwack Branch. Manitoba Branch Conference Planning Committee Co-chairs Lorraine Cook and Gerry Lane passed the Loyalist



Honourary UELAC President Peter Millikin, Manitoba Branch Secretary Mary Steinhoff and David Hill Morrison at Government House



Reg Eamer receiving his UEL Certificate from Dominion President Bob McBride and Manitoba Branch Genealogist Alice Walchuk



Delegates and their Honors Lt. Governor Phillip Lee at Government House

flag to Hamilton Branch 2013 Conference chair Ruth Nicholson, UE.

A high-light of the evening was the knowledgeable and interesting presentation, "Finding UEL/HBC Connections" by guest speaker Judith Hudson Beattie, who was dressed as Lady Selkirk.

The evening ended on a lively note as delegates and guests joined in the dancing with the English Village Country Dancers.

The main event on Sunday, June 10th was the Church Parade at Westminster United Church. Again delegates travelled in style on the trolley. The large group, in costume, was piped into the nave by a piper.

The Reverend Robert Campbell, a UE descendant, focused his sermon, "Born to Serve", on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was exemplary, as was the choir, with Nicky Kirton's solo, "Jerusalem", being a highlight.

Then, for some it was back to the Hotel Fort Garry for the famous brunch. For others, it was off to the airport or highway to head home.

The Manitoba Branch thanks all those who attended and helped to make "The Conference at the Confluence" a success. We had fun. We hope you did too.

Mary Steinhoff,

Secretary, UELAC- Manitoba Branch



The Conference Planning Committee at the gala Banquet