

OCTOBER 2025

Volume 14 - Issue 5

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

<http://www.uelac.org/Chilliwack/>

First issue - May 1994

Branch Chartered October 18, 1990

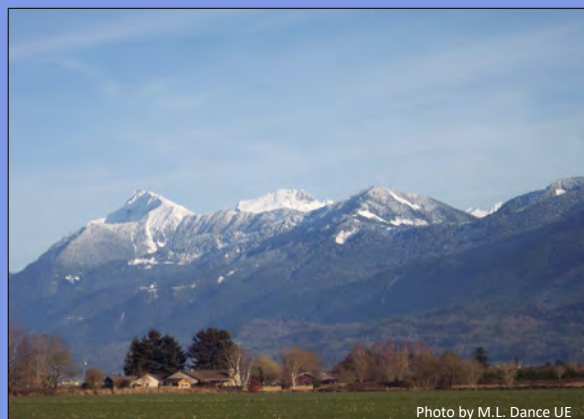
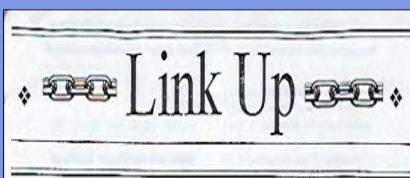


Photo by M.L. Dance UE

President's Message

Happy 35th Anniversary to our Branch

We held back our usual first of the month publication of this newsletter to be able to include the pictures and details from the October 4th Celebration of our Anniversary.

This was a special time, and a lot of preparation went into the planning of our event. Special thanks goes to the Management team for all their suggestions, help and food preparation to make this event such a tasty success.

So while the first few pages contain our usual calendar, projects and news gleaned over the past two months; the remaining pages focus on our birthday. Thirty-two members and friends from Comox, Vernon, Abbotsford, Hope, Vancouver, New Westminster and Maple Ridge travelled to the event, many wearing Loyalist attire.

Letters of congratulations were read from UELAC President, Bill Russell UE; Chilliwack MP Mark Strahl and from Raymond Webb UE, the son of Vera Webb UE (an original petition signer), who at age ninety-nine was unable to attend. Best wishes to Vera! The agenda shown on page five, includes a History of the charter, Loyalist Certificate presentations; the awarding of the Phillip E.M. Leith Memorial Volunteer Award, and the UELAC Suzanne Morse-Hines Memorial Genealogy-family history award.

After the colours were retired, everyone enjoyed the light refreshments. A six minute slide show of branch events over the past thirty-five years was shown on a repeating loop played in the background. There were many familiar faces of those no longer with us. They have been honoured on our "In Memoriam" page on our website. The afternoon ended with the drawing of the door prizes - the lovely fall aster plants on each table, and four 2026 Calendars from Assiniboine Branch UELAC.

Here is to many more good years to come.

Loyally yours,
Marlene Dance UE

Thank you for sending your photos so promptly. Photos used on pages 6-10 and the cake to the right, are courtesy of Donna Little UE, Judy Scholz UE, Carl Stymiest UE, Linda Drake UE,

**United Empire
Loyalists' Association
of Canada
Chilliwack Branch
Your Management Committee
for 2025/26**

President: Marlene Dance UE
Vice Pres: vacant
Past Pres: S. Dargatz UE (deceased)
Secretary: Judy Scholz UE
Treasurer: Carole Lefler UE
Genealogist: Marlene Dance UE
Asst. " " Janet McCartney UE
Web Mistress: Vicky Heibner UE
Honourary member & Director:
Margaret Strocel UE
Branch Directors:
Chris Hay UE
Cindy Lyfogg UE
Helena Bastedo Smith UE
Jan Duelliet
Social Conveners:
Vicky Heibner UE
Rebecca Heibner UE
Newsletter: Marlene Dance UE

Pacific Regional VP
Carl Stymiest UE
Pacific Regional Councilor
Michael Woodcock UE



Calendar for 2025 Page 2

Branch items Page 3

UELAC news Page 4

Anniversary Celebration Page 5-15



Calendar of Events for 2025

Print and save with your calendar



Meetings will be scheduled individually.

Details as to location, Zoom links and guest speakers, will be sent via email and/or included below in each edition of this newsletter.



2025:

Oct 4th Celebration of 35th Anniversary of our Branch
 Nov 11th Remembrance Day and luncheon at Canton Gardens
 December Christmas celebration with Vancouver Branch TBA

Be sure to send suggestions, information and/or pictures for this publication to: chwkbrielcontact@gmail.com

Please visit our branch webpage: <http://www.uelac.org/Chilliwack/>



United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Partnering with Heritage Chilliwack Society since 2019

Keeping the Past Present! www.heritagechilliwack.org/

"On the Porch" - beautiful old homes in Chilliwack.
 Just Google to find all eight episodes on YouTube.

Featuring:

Hazel House, Carmichael House,

Higginson House, Gwynne Vaughan House,

Brock House,

Skelton House, Gibbens House.

As well as District 1881 - the new downtown rejuvenation.





Chilliwack Branch Projects in the works:

1) LOYALISTS AND THE CHILLIWACK CONNECTION

This project is ongoing. We are working with the applications in our archives.

Chilliwack Pioneers with a Loyalist connection include:

Aitken, Blakney, Dahl, Evans, Thornton, Stevenson, Patten, Webb, Reeves, Munro, Chadsey, Halcrow, Nelles, Kipp, Reece and Higginson.

2) BACK ISSUES OF THE "LINK UP"

We are so proud to announce that effective the morning of July 3, 2025, all the back issues of the "Link Up" that we have been given are now on our webpage. Member Janet McCartney UE stepped up to take on the task of scanning and creating each PDF. Please have a look at the results.

And maybe have another look for missing issues. **Take a bow, Janet!**

3) Organization of our Library/storage room area: established Fall 1994.

In reviewing our past history "Branching Out" on our webpage, we found a comment about establishing a Memorial Library in memory of Andrew Webb UE.

Andrew was a signer of our charter and our first Branch Genealogist. A number of books from his collection were donated to get our library established. We will have a plaque made.

Our reorganization is ongoing. We have slowed down a bit but will get going again soon.

Slow and steady wins the race!

Chilliwack Branch

United Empire Loyalist' Association of Canada

[Homepage for Chilliwack Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada \(UELAC\)](#)

As mentioned above in #2, as of the morning of July 3, 2025 Back Issues, Bulletins & Handouts to our founding have been placed online. We have also just been handed a few more back issues and items that were added July 22, 2025. B.C. Loyalist Day!

Please go have a look and see the evolution from 1994 to now. The link is above.

We also found a few handouts from meetings prior to 1994, and have added them.

These issues together with the link on our "About Us" tab called "Branching Out Reports" give an amazing look back at the founding and development of our branch.

This October is the 35th anniversary of our Charter and we are planning an event to celebrate.

The date is October 4th and we are booked at the Chilliwack Alliance Church, 8700 Young Road.

So watch for more information via email and this newsletter.

Apply for Certificates for your Grandchildren!

We have had a few enquires by both present and past members to get Loyalist Certificates for the grandchildren. Checking into our files we have the records, are able to get others via the National office in Cornwall and can update the proofs with documents now available online and through new sources back east.

A family membership would be required, but right now it is half price to the end of the year.

Also, once approved, the application fee would be \$50.

What a wonderful heritage to pass down to family.

Two applications are now well underway. Thanks so much.



Her Excellency the Right Honourable
Mary Simon, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., O.Q., C.D.,
Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of
Canada

Photo credit: Sgt Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall © OSGG 2021

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada:
**Founded 1914 – "Preserving, promoting and celebrating the history
and traditions of the Loyalist era in Canadian history."**

**The UELAC Welcomes
Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon as Patron**

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is honoured to announce that Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, has graciously accepted to serve as Patron of the Association.

This appointment carries profound significance for our national organization. As Canada's first Indigenous Governor General, Her Excellency embodies the spirit of reconciliation, dialogue, and unity. These values reflect the essence of the Loyalist experience: resilience, loyalty, and commitment to building a diverse and enduring nation.

Her Excellency's patronage is a mark of distinction that reaffirms the national importance of the Loyalist legacy within the Canadian story. It underscores the need to preserve and share this heritage.

The UELAC extends sincere gratitude to Her Excellency for her support and encouragement. With her distinguished patronage, we are inspired to continue our mission of education, remembrance, and heritage preservation for the benefit of all Canadians.

Bill Russell UE, National President, UELAC

UELAC Honorary Fellow:

The Honourable Steven Lewis Point, OC, OBC receives the Order of Canada

From the UELAC Facebook page and the Chilliwack Progress newspaper issue of



September 26, 2025: It was first announced in November 2023 that the "Honourable Steven Lewis Point, O.C., O.B.C., of Chilliwack would be invested into the Order of Canada as an officer of the order.

On September 18th in Ottawa at Rideau Hall, the formal investiture was carried out by her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, C.C., M.M., O. Q., C.D.

Governor General and
Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

In the Progress it notes that:

"An officer of the Order of Canada is appointed: for achievements and merit of a high degree, especially service to Canada or to humanity at large".

(Please see the Link Up June 2025 page 8 for other honours)



During the program, the picture on the screen was from the Oct. 19, 1990 reading and granting of the Branch Charter by Arnold W. Nethercott UE President, UELAC. First Chilliwack Branch President Lois Dickinson UE is at far left.



Guests were assembled at four tables of eight. Many guests were in Loyalist attire. The buffet can be seen along the wall to the left, with 1990-2025 shown and balloons saying 35 below.



History of Charter Day, October 19, 1990 Presented by: Korissa Hiebner UE (left)

**As written by Lois Dickinson UE, First Branch President
Submitted to the Loyalist Gazette for the Spring 1992 issue**

Loyalists are where you find them, and on Thursday, October 19, 1990, Dominion President, Arnold W. Nethercott, U.E., found them in goodly numbers 70 miles east of Vancouver, B.C., at Chilliwack, the second oldest incorporated municipality in the province.

At the Chilliwack Museum, formerly the City Hall, (1912-1979) now a recognized National Historic Site, President Nethercott officiated at the ceremony granting a charter to THE CHILLIWACK BRANCH, The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

This branch becomes the first new branch in B.C. in almost 60 years.

Chilliwack means "Valley of Many Streams" and there were indeed many streams of history evident on Charter Night ... all of them tributaries of those first Loyalist settlements in the Maritimes and Upper and Lower Canada. Tributaries linking the east with the western pioneers of the 1850's, the early 1900's, the post World War II years, and the present.

Tributaries from generation to generation.

The Museum was crowded with some 70 people in attendance.

They came to remember Loyalists and Chilliwack Pioneers with such names as:

William Casey of Napanee,
Kipp and Reece Families of Princeton, Ontario,
Daniel Keith of New Brunswick,
Jeremiah Brown of Nova Scotia,
Carmans of what is now Upper Canada Village,
Abel Stafford of Bruce and Grey County, Ont.,
Vickersons of P.E.I., and others like them.

They came and rejoiced that the dream of a charter was coming true.

President Nethercott, seated in a City Council chair, circa 1912, signed the charter with flourish and then presented it to Andrew Webb UE who holds ten certificates.

The charter ceremony was brief, but impressive.

The Union Jack was carried by seventeen year old Scott Roos, UE, a resplendent six foot six, in a Butler's Rangers Officer's uniform loaned by Robert Bessey, U.E., a former president of the Vancouver Branch.

Scott was followed by his mother Maribel Roos, in Loyalist costume, who carried the charter in the historic document box used by John McCutcheon, first reeve of "Chilliwack" Municipality in 1873. Reeve McCutcheon was from Ireland, but he presided over a council which included several Loyalist descendants.

This is an excerpt from the full report given by Korissa.

To read the full report, please go to:

[Homepage for Chilliwack Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada \(UELAC\)](#)
click on "About Us" then click on "Branching Out reports". It is the first pages.



Presentation of colours:

Thank you so much, ladies, for being our colour guard. Left-right:

Kaitlyn King UE,

Chelsea Lyftogt,

Karaline Siemens UE .

We so appreciate your help.

Love your Loyalist attire.

Loyalist Certificates presented:

Proud grandfather Chris Hay UE (below on left) stands tall, as his two granddaughters receive their Loyalist certificates.

Both in their pretty dresses for the occasion, are l-r:

Sofia Mackenzie Foulds UE and

Haylie Madison Foulds UE. Proud mother Jennifer Foulds UE (centre) looks on.

Their Loyalist ancestor is Major Richard Witham Stockton. Over the years, Chris has kept us up to date on his many findings of Major Stockton's career during the American Revolution.



Cheryl Jensen UE (above right) is presented with her certificate for Loyalist John Mersereau.

Proudly standing with her (l-r) are sister Janet McCartney UE, and mother Marion McCartney UE. Husband Bill and son Michael cheered on from the side. We are pleased to announce, that Janet McCartney UE, has agreed to take on the position of Assistant Branch Genealogist for us. Welcome to our team, Janet!





2025 Phillip EM Leith Memorial Volunteer Award

Carole Lefler UE of Chilliwack Branch was selected to receive this award for her many contributions to our branch since joining. The trophy is shown below. She received the certificate and wears the medallion shown left. Carole shares the award with Linda Curran of Victoria Branch.

At left, with Carole in Loyalist dress, we see Kirra Little UE, Carl Stymiest UE, and Donna Little UE who presented the award.

Congratulations Carole, you do us proud!



Chilliwack Branch members who have been honoured with the Leith award include: 2007 Shirley Dargatz UE; 2011 Judy Scholz UE; 2017 Marlene Dance UE; 2018 Alan Reid UE; 2021 Jan Ouellet; 2022 Chris Hay UE; 2024 Margaret Strocel UE;



Suzanne Morse-Hines Memorial Genealogy-Family History Award

Established in 2022 and awarded annually by the UELAC.

The winner for 2025, was announced at the UELAC Annual Conference in Saint John, New Brunswick on July 12, 2025 at the Gala Banquet. Linda Drake UE of Vancouver Branch, was not able to attend to receive her award in person. So we are delighted to have it presented to her at our celebration. Above left, we see Carl Stymiest UE presenting the hand painted glass vase to Linda. Her list of 15 UEL certificates as well as her other genealogy accomplishments make for a very impressive resume. Above right we see Linda with her sister, Sandy Farynuk UE, President of Thompson/Okanagan Branch showing us her prize.

Congratulations from all of us Linda - well done!

A few pages from the slide show (page 9 - 12)



Celebrating

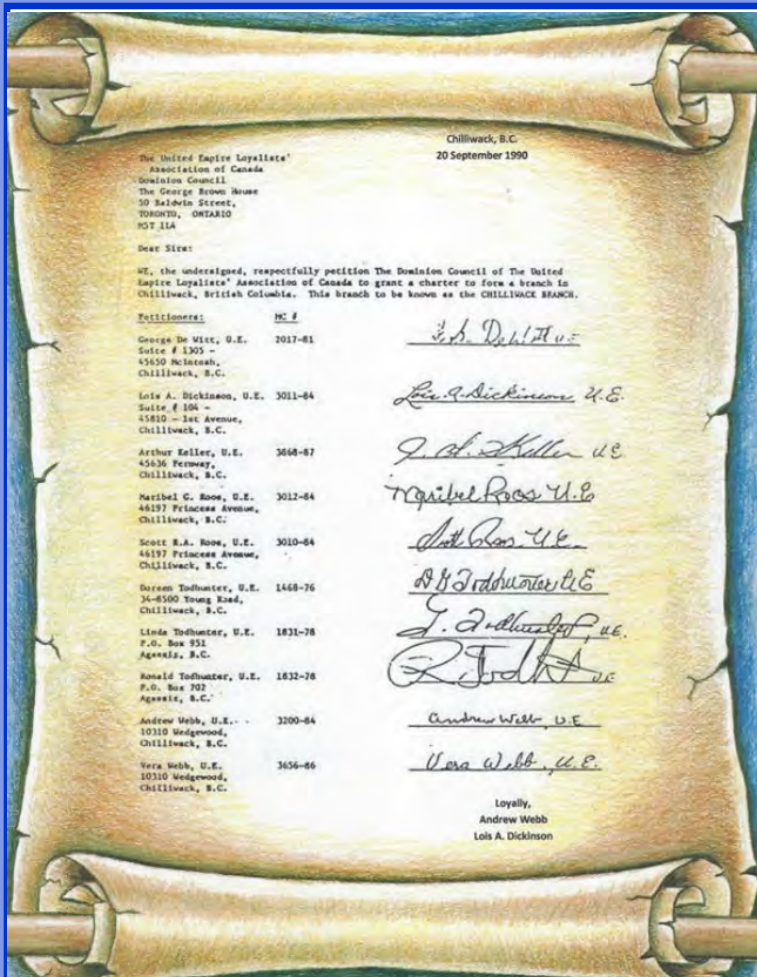
The 35th Anniversary of the presentation of our Charter at the Chilliwack Museum on Oct. 18th, 1990



Receive a Certificate
We Will travel !

At left - private home
Below left - in Prince George
Below right - Government House
Victoria
Right - Vernon





The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



To All and Every Member of

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Know Ye that whereas by an Act passed by the Parliament of Canada, on the 27th day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen, and Chapter 146 of 45 George V 1914, the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, hereinafter called "Association," became a body corporate and politic, with the powers in the said Act contained.

And Whereas a Petition has been presented to the said Association to grant a Warrant or Charter under the name of the **Chilliwack** Branch, with its office or place of meeting at the **City or District of Chilliwack** in the Province of **British Columbia** in Canada, and it is advisable to grant the Prayer of the said Petition, and to issue a Warrant for the institution of such Branch under the said Act, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

Now Know Ye that the petitioners are hereby constituted a Branch of the said Association under the title of the **Chilliwack** Branch, to hold meetings at or near to the **City or District of Chilliwack** in the Province of **British Columbia** in Canada, with all the privileges and powers contained in the said Act and the By-Laws of the Association; subject to such provisos and conditions as are now or may hereafter be declared by the Constitution and By-Laws respecting the Association, and Branches thereof.



In Testimony Whereof the President and Secretary of the Association have hereunto set their hands, and the seal of the Association has been affixed, at Toronto, this 22nd day of September in the year of our Lord, 1990

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Lois A. Dickinson U.E.
President

Angela Johnson U.E.
Secretary

The original petitioners to the Charter in 1990

George De Witt UE – Loyalist Evert & Jacob De Wit of Ontario
Lois Dickinson UE – Loyalist Richard Rogers of New Brunswick
Arthur Keller UE – Loyalist Frederick Keller of Ontario
Maribel Roos UE – Loyalist Richard Rogers of New Brunswick
Scott Roos UE – Loyalist Richard Rogers of New Brunswick
Linda Todhunter UE – Loyalist Robert Campbell of Ontario
Ronald Todhunter UE – Loyalist Robert Campbell of Ontario
Doreen Todhunter UE – Loyalist Robert Campbell of Ontario
Andrew Webb UE – Loyalist Richardson Webb of Ontario
Vera Webb UE – Loyalist Isiah Kierstead of New Brunswick

- **First Executive** was **President** was Lois Dickinson UE;
Vice Pres. Arthur Keller UE;
Secretary Maribel Roos UE;
Treasurer Betty Keller;
Branch Genealogist Andrew Webb UE
- **First Certificate** presented was to
Mildred Evans Hall UE for Loyalist William Casey of
Adolphustown, Ontario

(Shown on display board on page five)



Above - Ships on Sticks in 1997
Below— Branch sign always there!







On behalf of the UELAC Executive and Board of Directors I would like to extend congratulations to the Chilliwack Branch on their 35th Anniversary.

Thirty-five years ago, a dedicated group of individuals in the Chilliwack community came together with a vision to honour their Loyalists ancestors, to preserve their stories, and ensure that the legacy of perseverance, resilience, and loyalty would never fade from Canadian history.

Since its founding, the Chilliwack Branch has done exactly that. Through education, heritage projects, presentations of over 310 Loyalist Certificates, and fellowship, you have carried on the Loyalist story.

This anniversary is not only a celebration of the past, it is also a moment to reflect on the future. Our Loyalist ancestors built new lives in the face of uncertainty, and in their courage we find inspiration for our own challenges today. Their spirit reminds us that history is not just to be remembered but to be lived in our values, in our service, and commitment to community.

To the members and executive, past and present who have served the Chilliwack Branch over these past 35 years, we extend our heartfelt THANKS. Your dedication ensures that future generations will continue to learn about and be inspired by our Loyalist contribution to Canada.

Congratulations, Chilliwack Branch on 35 remarkable years. May the next 35 shine just as brightly.

Have a great day and enjoy the festivities and anniversary cake.

Bill Russell UE

UELAC National President

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September 24, 2025

Marlene Dance UE
President
Chilliwack Branch UELAC

Dear Marlene,

Thank you for the invitation to attend the 35th Anniversary of the Chilliwack Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC). Unfortunately, a prior commitment will prevent me from joining your celebration.

It is good that we celebrate and honour the men and women who rejected, at great cost, American republicanism. Their loyalty to the Crown cost them their land, homes, and businesses but it gave birth to the Dominion of Canada. It is why, regardless of whether you are one of six million estimated descendants of a Loyalist or not, their struggle and sacrifice matters.

I want to thank everyone responsible for ensuring that in our community the heritage of our Loyalist ancestors and their contributions in making this country great are not forgotten in Chilliwack.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful event and God Save the King!

Sincerely,

Mark Strahl, MP
Chilliwack—Hope