



PRAIRIE LOYALIST

FROM THE LAND OF LIVING SKIES.....

**UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH**

December 2025

Vol 18 No 5



saskuelac.ca



*Happy
New Year
2026*



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS *WHERE THE TEA IS SERVED IN CUPS*

2026

New Year Levée: Government House, Regina
Annual General Meeting: TBA
Regular meeting: TBA
Dominion AGM (this is a virtual meeting only)
Saskatchewan UEL Day: Regina
Canada Day Party: Government House, Regina
Branch picnic: TBA
Regular meeting: TBA
Regular meeting: TBA
Christmas Lunch: TBA

Thursday January 1
Saturday February 21
Saturday April 18
TBA
Friday June 19
Wednesday July 1
TBA
Saturday September 19
Saturday November 21
TBA



*** Regina meetings will be at Western Pizza, 3847 Albert Street South unless otherwise noted*

FROM THE EDITORS PEN...

As the holiday season is settling in, members and friends came together once again for our annual Christmas Lunch at Western Pizza. Over a delicious turkey meal, there was no shortage of good fellowship, shared stories, and the easy camaraderie that marks our gatherings; all in the spirit of a shared heritage.

The afternoon welcomed a couple of surprise guests, including Lord Grey's Trophy, and, in true seasonal spirit, even Santa Claus managed to make an appearance, handing out Secret Santa gifts!

What a fitting way to close the year: the spirit of the season shared among friends. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



If you would like to share anything in an upcoming newsletter, contact the newsletter editor at scott.hazelwood@gmail.com.

The deadline for the next newsletter will be February 28, 2026.

Scott Hazelwood
Prairie Loyalist Editor



There are two membership renewal options.

- 1) A cheque made payable to **Saskatchewan Branch UELAC**. Mail to Gerald Adair, Box 452 Moosomin, SK S0G 3N0
- 2) Online by logging into <https://uelac.ca/>

Individual \$55.00 - Family \$85.00



PATRON

Her Honour the Honourable
Bernadette McIntyre, S.O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH UELAC EXECUTIVE 2025

President	<i>Jennifer Schafer UE</i>
Vice President	<i>Scott Hazelwood</i>
Past Co-President	<i>Ken Mackenzie UE</i>
Past Co-President	<i>Harvey Smith UE</i>
Secretary	<i>Barb Schmuland UE</i>
Treasurer	<i>Gerald Adair UE</i>
Genealogist	<i>Gerald Adair UE</i>
Assistant Genealogist	<i>Margaret Adams UE</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Kathy Webster UE</i>
Publications Chair	<i>Scott Hazelwood</i>
Archivist	<i>Harvey Smith UE</i>
Care Comm. Chair	<i>Beverley Risser UE</i>
Director	<i>Judy Sanders UE</i>
Director	<i>Margaret Adams UE</i>



THE CARE COMMITTEE

If you or a loved one is ill, in hospital or have suffered a loss, we encourage you or your loved ones to let the Care Committee know, to ensure that compassionate thoughts and prayers are directed your way during a challenging time. And if there is a celebration to mention, let's share the good news as well.

We are connected through our ancestors, our heritage and a familial sense of sharing and caring.

Contact

Bev Risser UE
306-586-3211
bevrisser@sasktel.net





BRANCH NEWS & EVENTS

BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

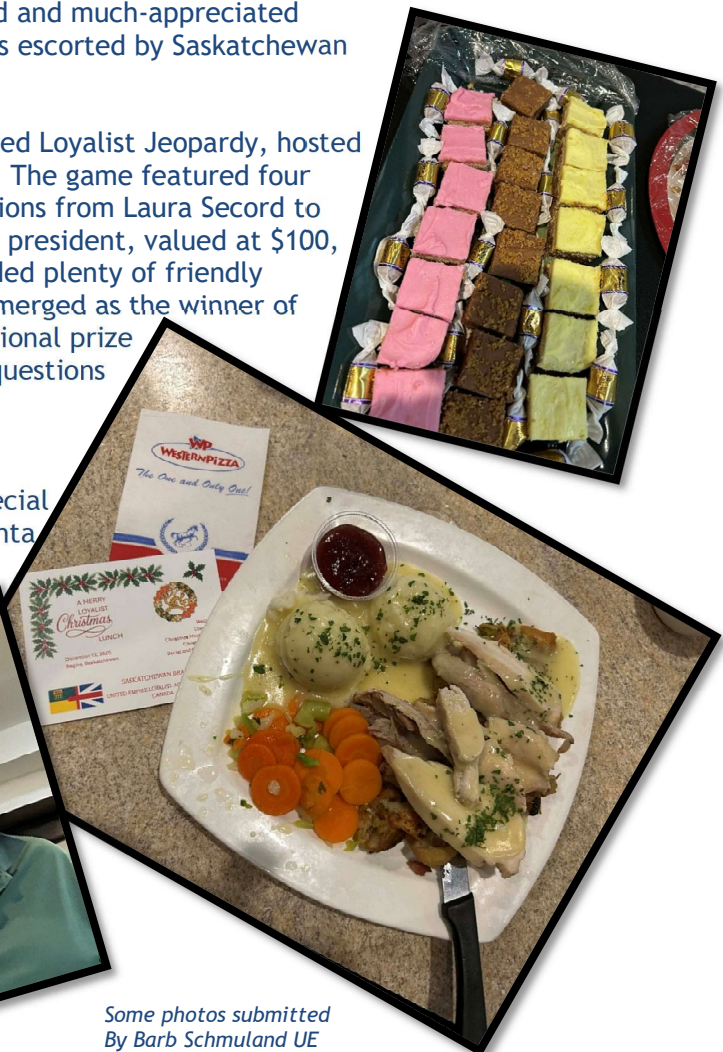
Members gathered for our annual Christmas Lunch at Western Pizza to enjoy a delicious turkey meal and an afternoon filled with good company and seasonal cheer. Following the Loyal Toast, and a filling meal, we shared from a spread of a variety of tasty treats generously brought by several members, making the meal all the more festive.

The gathering was marked by a memorable surprise when the Grey Cup was brought into our private room, giving members the opportunity to see the historic trophy up close—an unexpected and much-appreciated highlight of the afternoon. The Cup was escorted by Saskatchewan Roughrider Brett Lauther.

Entertainment for the afternoon included Loyalist Jeopardy, hosted by Margaret Adams and Kathy Webster. The game featured four Loyalist themed categories, with questions from Laura Secord to Ken Mackenzie being our fourth branch president, valued at \$100, \$200, \$300, \$400, and \$500, and provided plenty of friendly competition. In the end, Gerry Adair emerged as the winner of Final Jeopardy, getting the highest fictional prize money by answering the most factual questions correctly.

In true Christmas spirit, Santa Claus, portrayed by Norbert Fries, made a special appearance to distribute the Secret Santa gifts. The event was a wonderful opportunity to come together, celebrate the season, and enjoy a fellowship of heritage.

“Santa” made a surprise visit to our Branch Christmas party. Thank you Norbert Fries!



*Some photos submitted
By Barb Schmuland UE*



BRANCH NEWS & EVENTS ...cont'd

Saskatchewan Branch
members were treated
to a surprise visit of
the Grey Cup on
November 13th.





BRANCH NEWS & EVENTS ...cont'd

A game of Loyalist Jeopardy, a visit from Santa and the Grey Cup trophy were highlights of the day.





LOYALIST NOTES

CHRISTMASTIDE IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA

For Loyalists, Christmastide was far more than a holiday. In the dark, uncertain winters of the late 18th century, it became a quiet but powerful reaffirmation of loyalty—to the Crown, to community, and to a shared moral order. For Loyalists, Christmas was observed not in comfort, but in conviction. In rough cabins, military huts, and refugee camps, families and comrades gathered by candlelight to mark Christmastide as a quiet affirmation of who they were.

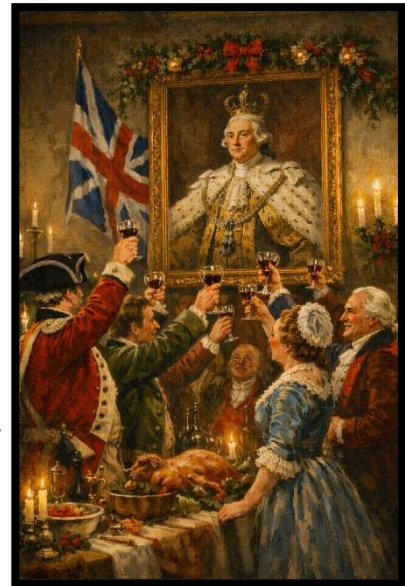
After the Revolution, celebrating Christmas itself carried meaning. Some Patriots rejected Christmas as an “English” or Anglican custom, while keeping Christmas was a way of saying “we remain loyal to our faith, our traditions and our heritage”. Faith and the rule of law stood at the heart of these observances. Prayers drawn from the *Book of Common Prayer* affirmed duty, obedience, and moral order, while Christmas itself symbolized continuity in a world unsettled by rebellion. Loyalists believed liberty was preserved not through upheaval, but through lawfully constituted authority under the Crown. For Loyalists, church and Crown were inseparable pillars of stability.

The Christmas meal was simple yet always shared. Tables might offer salt pork, dried peas, hard bread, or whatever could be spared from winter stores. Occasionally a bird or venison appeared, but abundance was not the point. Gatherings were deeply symbolic. Eating together in winter expressed mutual responsibility and communal care, reinforcing bonds within fragile settlements—a Loyalist virtue as strong as political allegiance.

Carols and hymns followed, often sung softly and from memory. Familiar English carols and sacred hymns connected families to homes left behind and to traditions long held. In the glow of candlelight, these songs affirmed continuity and belonging. To sing an English carol in a Canadian winter was to claim belonging.

The seasonal meal often culminated in a formal Christmas toast. Spoken while standing, hats removed, and in respectful silence, it was most often “The King”—King George III—sometimes followed by “The Royal Family” or “The British Constitution.” These were not casual words. The toast expressed loyalty not only to a monarch, but to law, order, and stable government. To heritage, tradition and gratitude.

Above all, Christmas revealed the endurance of loyalty. To remain loyal meant hunger, exile, and loss, yet year after year Loyalists kept Christmas, shared what little they had, sang the old songs, and raised the toast. Their loyalty was not loud or triumphant—it was lived, patiently and steadfastly, through hardship. This quiet loyalty to their traditions, their country and their sovereign became the Canadian way.





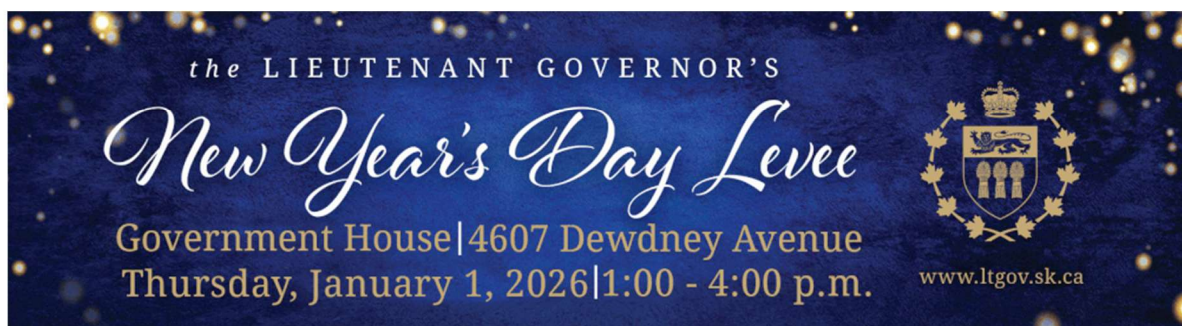
THE ROYAL CHRISTMAS CARD

The Royal 2025 Christmas card features a picture of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in the grounds of Villa Wolkonsky in Rome, taken to mark The King and Queen's 20th wedding anniversary.

Photograph: Aaron Chown/Reuters

HIS MAJESTY'S MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH THE 2025 CHRISTMAS DAY MESSAGE TO THE COMMONWEALTH

12:00 PM DECEMBER 25, 2025





There are many Saskatchewan cemeteries where descendants of Loyalists are buried, and the Cemetery Committee is looking for submissions for Cemetery Plaques.

Provide the name of the cemetery, where it is located and any known Loyalist ancestors that are buried there to any committee member; you do not have to be a Branch member. Remember that any of your family members that are also descended from your Loyalist should also be on your list and they do not have to be proven!

Committee members are:

- Gerry Adair UE
- Judy Sanders UE
- Harvey Smith UE
- Barb Schmuland UE

Plaques are now at the following Saskatchewan cemeteries.

- Dilke Cemetery, Dilke, Saskatchewan
- Fairlight Cemetery, Fairlight, Saskatchewan
- Inglesfield Cemetery, Maryfield, Saskatchewan
- Maryfield Cemetery, Maryfield, Saskatchewan
- South Cemetery, Moosomin, Saskatchewan



MAPLE CREEK - 2026

In May of 2026, there are plans for a cemetery dedication ceremony in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. It is hoped that there would be a number of people interested in attending, and that there would be some carpooling. More details to come.





Are you looking for Loyalist Merchandise and Memorabilia?

Everything from Christmas ornaments, cuff links and luggage tags to shirts, hats, flags, family name ribbons, books and souvenir licence plates.

Select items are available at each meeting in the care of Gerry Adair.

There are also items available online at uelbridgeannex.com/shop/

Do you have your copy of *Loyalist Descendants in Saskatchewan*? If you have, let your friends and family know if you enjoyed it. If you haven't got a copy, or would like to purchase one as a gift, you can get one at any branch event or by contacting Gerry Adair at gerry.pat@sasktel.net.

This Saskatchewan Branch book is \$30.00 if picked up in person or \$50.00 including shipping to anywhere in Canada.





“Behind the Counter”

A Fictional Account from the View of a Shopkeeper

My name is Margaret Wells. I kept a small shop in Boston with my husband—candles, cloth, spices, even a few ribbons for the ladies who still fancied a bit of colour during hard times. It wasn't a grand life, but it was ours.

We paid our taxes, swore loyalty to the Crown, and hung a modest portrait of King George III above the hearth. That was enough to brand us.

I didn't care for politics, not at first. I cared about whether my cinnamon arrived by ship from Jamaica, whether the neighbours' accounts were paid, and whether the soap had hardened properly.

But things began to shift. First, whispers. Then, meetings in the taverns. Then, protests in the square. The Patriots—young, angry, and hungry for change—began to watch us. My husband once refused to remove the King's portrait from our shop wall. That week, someone smashed our window.

One day, a neighbour I had known since girlhood spat at my feet and said, “Traitor.” I was stunned. We'd baked bread together.

Customers stopped coming. Suppliers stopped shipping. One night, a crowd gathered outside our door with torches, shouting. My husband held my hand and whispered, “We can't stay.”

We fled with what we could carry. I wrapped my silver measuring scales in a cloth and tucked them under my coat. That's all I took. A symbol of the life we'd built.





We joined a Loyalist convoy north, through snow and sorrow. Some died on the way. I never thought I'd be a refugee—but there I was, a shopkeeper with no shop, standing on a frozen riverbank in what would become Canada.

The British gave us land, yes—but no customers, no shelves, no candles or spices.

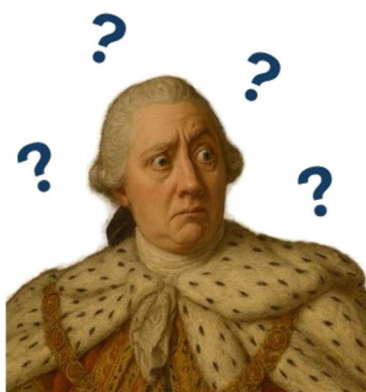
Still, we began again. I sold buttons from my front room. Traded soap for eggs. Taught girls how to stitch. A shop, even if small, lives in the hands of the keeper.

And when I finally hung a sign above my door in Upper Canada—"Wells & Co. Provisions"—I stood for a long time in the snow, just looking at it.

We lost our country. But we didn't lose who we were.



* Watch for another *Trail of Tales* in the next issue of *Prairie Loyalist*.



By George!!
Find Seven Things That
Don't Belong in the Colonies.





December 17, 2025

