



Monarchy Matters

NEWSLETTER

South Saskatchewan Branch

Monarchist League of Canada

APRIL/MAY, 2007

Chairman's Message

The change from winter to spring and summer weather conditions mirrors our life as a Branch. The March meeting was changed because the Lt. Governor could not be with us on the day due to an attack of laryngitis, for which His Honour later expressed his regrets. We look forward to inviting him to another event when possible.

May 19 will see us gathering for the **Annual Queen's Birthday Luncheon**. Once again it will be at 12 noon and in the Hotel Saskatchewan. The costs of tickets will again be \$21.00 and we look forward to a good attendance by members and friends. Tickets will be available by the end of April and may be obtained from Isabel Bailey (586-8975) or by email to auntisabel@sasktel.net. Closing date for tickets will be Wednesday, May 16. A Guest Speaker has yet to be confirmed.

The Board of Directors has taken its first steps for a celebration to mark the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen and HRH Prince Philip. Plans are being made for events to take place on Sunday, November 18, but the actual Wedding Day was November 20, 1947. We will keep you all informed about the plans as they unfold.

In early June HRH The Princess Royal will be in Regina to visit the Royal Regina Rifles as their Honorary Colonel-in-Chief. We welcome Her Royal Highness once again to our capital city.

I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to John Morris and Margaret Nicholls who have stepped down from the Board of Directors. John has been Membership Chairman for the past four years, and Margaret will continue to look after hospitality at our General Meetings.

On a national level we welcome Robert Finch as the new Dominion Chairman of the League and wish him success in his leadership of our national organisation. We also thank John Aimers for his 37 years as Dominion Chairman and Founder of the League, and we have sent a message of appreciation to the former Dominion Secretary, Mrs. Winnifred Weston, for her many years of faithful service.

Locally we look forward to a process of seeking new memberships and maintaining our presence in Southern Saskatchewan. Family and personal friends could be approached on our behalf and we are prepared to be in touch with them as prospective members. Please let members of the Board of Directors know of their names and addresses.

This message is being prepared as celebrations take place in honour of the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in World War 1. We pay tribute to those who died in that momentous event, and to all surviving veterans of WW1, WW2 & Korea, together with our Peacekeeping forces overseas.

God Save the Queen!

Chairman, South Saskatchewan Branch

NEWS AND NOTES

Annual Queen's Birthday Luncheon

Saturday, May 19, 2007
At 12:00 Noon

Hotel Saskatchewan
Regina
in the Blue Lounge

Tickets: \$21.00

For tickets, contact Isabel Baily
Phone – 586-8975
Email – auntisabel@sasktel.net
by May 16

There will be a display of Royal
Memorabilia-contributions welcomed.

Other Coming Events

Remember the **Annual Banquet of the Royal Society of St. George on April 21.** Contact Isabel Baily for information.

General meeting of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League will take place on **Friday, October 19, 2007,** at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Regina, at 7:30 p.m. Information about the program will be in the next newsletter

Royal Diamond Wedding Anniversary

The Queen and Prince Philip will celebrate their Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary in November, 2007. The Board of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League is starting to plan for a special event in November to celebrate this anniversary. Details will be given in a future newsletter.

Board of Directors – South Saskatchewan Branch, Monarchist League.

Chairman – The Rev. Derek Nicholls
Vice-Chairman – Bruce Farrer
Secretary – Raymond Mynett
Treasurer – Isabel Baily
Directors - Scott Hazelwood
(Community Relations
and Website)
Jeannette Mynett
(Newsletter)
Mildred Morrison
(Telephone Contacting)

We need:

The position of Membership Convener was not filled at the Annual Meeting. The branch needs someone to serve in this position. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, or want more information about this office, please contact the Chairman, Derek Nicholls.

In discussing what is required for the position of Membership Convener, the Board noted the need for someone to be pro-active in developing ways of recruiting new members. Ideas are welcome.

Royal Family Videotapes and DVD's

The South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League is considering the possibility of buying some DVDs or Videotapes to be used as a travelling library. Saskatchewan members of the League could borrow these tapes for a short period of time at no cost, apart from postage. A member of the Board would act as "librarian" and all our members would need to do is email, phone or write the librarian with his or her request.

There are many excellent videos available but many of them are quite expensive. Using a "Video Library" would make these videos available to all members, regardless of where in Saskatchewan they live. If you might be interested in using this service please contact our Vice-chairman, Bruce Farrer at: phone-306-699-2613; email – **b.farrer@sasktel.net**, or write him at Box 37, Qu'Appelle, S0G 4A0.

The kind of the videos/DVDs we are considering purchasing include: *The Royal Family Collection* (set of 8) which includes titles such as, *The First Windsors*, *Bertie and Elizabeth*, and *The King Who Threw Away a Crown*. We would also welcome suggestions from members for other possible purchases.

Please note that this service will not be provided if members who might like to borrow these videos do not contact Bruce. You do not have to commit yourself to borrowing, but if no one is interested in a video library we would not go to the expense of establishing one.

We Want The Queen of Canada Welcoming You at the Border

When we are driving back to Canada from the USA, we found most Canadians never actually have to leave their cars and go into the Customs and Immigration Offices at the various Ports of Entry. If we did, however, we would find that most of the Canadian Ports of Entry located in Saskatchewan do not have a picture of Queen Elizabeth II on display. I contacted one of the Supervisors to ask him why a picture of our Head of State was not on prominent display. He found it somewhat perplexing that I would want a picture of the "Queen of England" at all these offices. I assured him that what we were anxious to have was a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of CANADA on display. In typical bureaucratic fashion he offered to refer me to his supervisor, thence to his, and so on. I believe there were seven supervisory levels. Not being particularly anxious to be referred seven times, I obtained the phone number and email address of the Hon. Stockwell Day, Minister in Charge. I sent him an email with an offer from the Monarchist League to assist in rectifying this situation. To date he has not replied. We will keep you posted on what transpires.

(Bruce Farrer)

Meeting of March 16

The Hon. Dr. Gordon Barnhart was unable to come to the meeting of March 16 as had been planned because of illness. The program that night was the viewing of a video about the Royal Family and a social time.

HONOURS OF THE CROWN

**Conclusion of the Talk given by
Dr. Michael Jackson
To the Monarchist League
On October 13, 2006
*Some Suggestions for Change***

Our Canadian honours system, both national and provincial, is, in my view, a very good one. It has been a model for other jurisdictions. But there can always be adjustments or improvements. Here are some suggestions.

First, we need to coordinate federal and provincial honours, agree on standards, exchange information, and facilitate the work of all jurisdictions to minimize duplication and overlapping. So far Ottawa has abdicated responsibility. I hope that will change.

Next, as I'm sure all monarchists would agree, we should reverse the long-standing practice of minimizing the Queen's role in the Canadian honours system. Her Majesty is the fount of honours and Sovereign of the four national orders-but you wouldn't know it from the attitude and publicity of Rideau Hall.

Let me add that Rideau Hall has consistently opposed conferring Canadian honours on members of the Royal Family, whereas Australia and New Zealand have not hesitated to do so. Yes, the Queen Mother was made an honorary Companion of the Order of Canada in the year of her 100th birthday, but she should have received it long before-and it should not have been honorary membership, which is meant for non-Canadians. The only other Canadian honour given to Royal Family

members has been the Canadian Forces Decoration to those who are colonels-in-chief of Canadian regiments-but even people like me receive the CD for 12 years of service in the Canadian Forces

Only one Canadian jurisdiction has properly honoured members of our Royal Family. Which one? Saskatchewan, of course! The Prince of Wales was invested as the first honorary member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2001 and the Earl of Wessex as the second in 2006. The Duke of Edinburgh and the Earl and Countess of Wessex have received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal and the Prince of Wales, Duchess of Cornwall, Princess Royal and Duke of York are going to.

Furthermore, during the Queen's centennial visit in 2005, her Private Secretary, Sir Robin Janvrin, and several other members of the Royal Household and staff received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal at a special ceremony in Regina. These loyal servants of our Queen have not been properly recognized in Canada. We decided to do something about it.

Christopher McCreery has other ideas for improving the Canadian honours system. Like me, he wants to see the Royal Victorian Order awarded, as it used to be, for all forms of service to the sovereign. He also notes that Canada is one of the rare countries that does not have an order for the public service. Finally he points out the deterioration in the quality of both publications and medals of the national honours system.

Honours are one of the most significant instruments of the Crown. They recognize our best. And they should demonstrate our pride in our constitutional monarchy and in Her Majesty The Queen, who is the source of all our Canadian honours.

Prince Charles' Poundbury

Prince Charles long has been vocal in his criticism of many current developments in architecture and urban planning. While Charles' flamboyant statements employ a lot of ink, they are only a small part of his architectural philosophy. Indeed, this untrained amateur has developed a coherent and detailed critique of modernist architecture and urban planning that includes an alternative approach to replace it: his famous Ten Principles. Nor has the Prince of Wales been content to issue manifestos; he has put his considerable fortune where his mouth is, founding an architectural institute (The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment) and creating a land development meant to epitomize his theories. That development is Poundbury, in the small Dorset county town of Dorchester.

"What I was trying to do," the prince said, "was remind people about the pointlessness of throwing away all the knowledge and experience and wisdom-of what had gone before."

At its heart, Prince Charles' approach is environmentalist, not traditionalist. With his Principles, Prince Charles' approach is looking for a way to create a built environment that duplicates the advantages of a mature and stable ecology, a livable environment that is harmonious and egalitarian.

Unlike the conventional developments the prince so despises, Poundbury follows a design of almost unnerving boldness despite its cozy old-world atmosphere. Dotted with offices and several inconspicuous factories, it is densely packed, enabling many residents

to walk to work, and its tight lanes and snaking avenues are meant to baffle motorists. "If you design with the pedestrian at the centre, not the car," the prince said, "then you tend automatically to produce a more livable community."

Poundbury starts as a village, a tightly packed centre of mixed architecture and uses. Its well-defined centre, removed from the noisy main road, has a market square with a guildhall raised on bulbous columns above an open piazza, a small grocery store, a very nice pub and several shops. Both the pub and a tea shop provide outdoor seating on sunny days, and the square is invariably mobbed. Narrow streets radiate chaotically. The planners actually laid out the building lots, then fitted the streets in between them, so the lanes tend to make random jerks. Like the great 18th-century projects, the developers that act for Prince Charles have established rules that impose a common architectural language while allowing individuals a great deal of freedom in designing their own buildings.

Indeed, Poundbury is so successful that it has spawned smaller versions of itself elsewhere in the duchy, and a bigger version is set to rise next to the Cornish town of Newquay. The planning ideas in Poundbury are a serious challenge to the blandly impersonal modernist developments that all too perfectly capture the spirit of a machine-dominated age. The prince's hope that his vision will shape urban living beyond the duchy seems to be coming true. Curious city planners and high officials from numerous countries have come to see Poundbury.

(From May, 2006 *National Geographic* and May, 2007 *British Heritage*)

A REVIEW OF THE FILM "THE QUEEN".

The success of this film at the recent Hollywood Oscars event was a really excellent tribute to a film which focused on the events surrounding the death of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. Dame Helen Mirren's portrayal of Her Majesty the Queen was outstanding. There were some scenes when one wondered if HM herself was part of the cast, so well was she portrayed. Opinions of the film will vary according to how you judge what took place 10 years ago this coming August. Prince Philip was well played as was The Prince of Wales. The portrayal of the late Queen Mother left some questions. Prime Minister Tony Blair was very well portrayed and his steadfast influence at that time came across extremely well. Diana's sudden death was one of the new P.M.'s biggest challenges and he was able to assist The Queen in her ultimate decision-making after a traumatic event which deeply affected the Royal Family, leading to its reappraisal of its role in the lives of Her Majesty's subjects. This is a film which requires to be seen and not evaluated by the thoughts of its critics. How touching it was to see Dame Helen Mirren publicly recognize the honour she felt in playing the part of The Queen as she accepted her Oscar for Best Female Actress.

NOTES ABOUT PRESENT AND PAST MEMBERS.

The Branch extends its sincere condolences to His Honour The Lieutenant Governor following the death of his mother on March 31.

We also mourn the deaths of two Branch members. Henry Poegel of Tompkins died in January, and Vic Andreas of Regina died in March. To their families and loved ones we extend our sympathies.

We also share the honours bestowed on two of our members. On April 25 Mr. Keith Knox will be invested with the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal for his services in many organizations throughout recent years, including his Chairmanship of the former Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League.

On May 16 our Branch Secretary, Raymond Mynett, will be one of three members to be honoured with a Life Membership of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

CONGRATULATIONS to you both from your many friends in the Branch