



Monarchy Matters

NEWSLETTER

**South Saskatchewan Branch
Monarchist League of Canada**

December, 2005

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I prepare this message we are two weeks away from Christmas. This Christian Festival reminds us that Jesus Christ is known as *The Prince of Peace*, and it is salutary that we keep that in mind as we witness what is taking place in some areas of the world. As a nation, and as individuals, we need to model our lives on the example which God sets before us. God reveals himself not only through the Christian Faith but also through other world religions. In some countries monarchy is sometimes held captive to the political trends which surround it. We are blessed with a form of constitutional monarchy which has stood the test of time and still has much to offer us in this first decade of the 21st century. Once again Her Majesty The Queen will address us on Christmas Day with her annual message sent to the countries which form part of the Commonwealth of Nations. May this year's message continue to offer hope to a troubled world and within our nation of Canada.

2006 will see the end of the term of office of our present Lt. Governor. Her Honour has responded warmly to the wish of the Branch to hold a "Farewell & Thank You Event". Because the date and time will be subject to announcements from Ottawa we will have to let you know when final arrangements are made. In the meanwhile let us look forward to the selection of someone who can continue the excellent services which Dr. Haverstock has given during her five years in office. As an organisation we pledge our full support to whoever that may be.

The programme for 2006 has now been finalised and will be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. You are encouraged to note the dates on your **calendars and in your diaries** now so that you can come along and participate. I also encourage you to view our branch website (monarchy.sasktelwebsite.net) which is an excellent production under the care of Scott Hazelwood. New technologies enable us to communicate to a wider public in meaningful ways.

The Annual Meeting is set for **Friday, 27th January**. This year I plan to step aside as Chairman after nine years in that office, and this means that we are seeking someone who would be willing to serve in that capacity. Please let me know if you would consider taking on this task on behalf of our Branch. I promise to assist whoever is elected as much as possible.

As 2005 winds down I take this opportunity to wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Branch Chairman

NEWS AND NOTES

Make plans now to come to the

Annual Meeting

South Saskatchewan Branch

Friday, January 27, 2006

**St. Mary's Anglican Church,
Regina, Saskatchewan**

At 7:00 p.m.

**"Show and Tell" of royal
memorabilia
Pie Dessert**

**Tell others. Bring a friend.
Bring your ideas.**

Do you have a royal memorabilia? If you have a special picture or some item that is connected with royalty we invite you to bring it to the annual meeting and briefly share its story with those at the meeting. These items will be shown and the stories told after the business meeting. Each person who has a memorabilia to share should only bring one item.

Nominations for the executive and board of directors are needed. Especially we need nominations for the branch chairman. Please give names to The Rev. Derek Nicholls.

Programmes for the Meetings of the South Saskatchewan Branch For 2006

Friday, March 17, 2006

**The Dominion and the Rising
Sun: Canada Encounters
Japan**

Speaker – Dr. John Meehan, S.J.
7:30 p.m. St. Mary's Anglican
Church, Regina

Friday, April 21, 2006

**Annual Dinner
Royal Society of St. George**

More information will be in a
future newsletter.

Saturday, May 20, 2006

**Annual Queen's Birthday
Luncheon (celebrating the
Queen's 80th Birthday)**

More information will be in a
future newsletter.

Friday, October 13, 2006

Honours of the Crown

Speaker – Dr. Michael Jackson
7:30 p.m. St. Mary's Anglican
Church, Regina

Branch Directory

Patron: The Hon. Dr. Lynda Haverstock

Lt. Governor of Saskatchewan

Chairman: Rev. Derek Nicholls, 949-8690

5336 Dewdney Ave. Regina, SK. S4T 1C3

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Canada Post to Honour Queen's 80th Birthday with Three Stamps

Canada Post has released information about three stamps to be issued in 2006 to commemorate Her Majesty's 80th birthday. The first, a 51 cent definitive stamp, will be issued on January 12. It features a photograph of the Queen taken during Her Majesty's 2002 Golden Jubilee Tour in Canada and the words "Happy Birthday April 21, 1926/Joyeux Anniversaire 21 Avril 1926". The new celebratory definitive will be larger than normal domestic rate definitive formats. The new stamp will be self-adhesive and available in booklets of 10. The booklet cover features six photos of the Queen spanning the years from her youth to the present. The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada website contains a picture of the domestic stamp: <http://www.rpsc.org/cp-2006.htm>

A souvenir sheet of two international rate stamps (\$1.49) will be issued on April 21 to coincide with HM's actual birthday. A full-colour reproduction appears in the new issue of "Details" (Vol. XV, No.1) published by Canada Post for stamp collectors. This is available at most full-service post offices and many franchise outlets.

The last Canadian international-rate postage stamp that carried the Queen's image (a commemorative, not a definitive, stamp) was the 15-cent stamp (paired with an 8-cent domestic-rate stamp) issued for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Canada in 1973.

Christmas Greetings from the Dominion Chairman **John Aimers**

The Christmas season invites people of all faiths to set aside their normal routines and to overcome society's frenetic pace in order to concentrate on the things that matter much more: time spent sharing happiness with family and friends. I am so grateful for the many kindnesses and the enormous hard work of members of the extended League family who give so much of their time, talents and treasure to the cause.

May you and yours, whether you celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday or in a more secular sense, feel the truth of Edmund Sears' lyrics:

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

Very best to you and yours for a Happy Christmas and all good things in 2006.

New Dominion Officers

The following new dominion vice-chairmen for the Monarchist League have been named: Robert Finch, Branch Development; Gavin Guthrie, Political Action; Nathan Tidridge, Education; Monica Cop, Student Monarchists.

Congratulations and Thanks

Congratulations go to four members of the Monarchist League in Saskatchewan for being presented the Centennial Medal of Saskatchewan. These members are, Raymond Mynett, Christine Pike, Nigel Molero, and Derek Nicholls.

The Rev. Derek Nicholls will be retiring as branch chairman after the Annual Meeting. He has given wise and steady leadership for which all of us are grateful. Thanks go to him for all he has done.

Retirements

Dr. Lynda Haverstock, Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, will be retiring from her position as the Queen's representative in 2006. She has worked tirelessly in her position and has strongly stressed her role as the representative of Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada. The date of her retirement and any special events connected with that will be announced in the new year.

Dr. Michael Jackson is retiring as Chief of Protocol at the end of 2005. Dr. Jackson has served in this position in a very able way. This was recognized when he was made a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. He also has a wealth of stories about his experiences in his office. We wish him well and hope we will be able to benefit from his experience.

From the Branch Board

Please watch for a new branch brochure. It is in the final stages of production.

Remember our excellent and well-maintained website. Those who have computers can check it for information.

Fund-raising continues to be a challenge. John Morris has done a good job with the sale of roses to raise money. He is continuing to work on a project to sell maple syrup, and it is hoped more information will be available in the future. Do you have any ideas for raising money for branch activities? Please bring them to the annual meeting.

Time has been given at meetings of the Board of Directors to matters such as a branch constitution, approach to programs for the year, and membership. These will be matters of on-going attention by the board in the future. Your thoughts would be welcome.

While many are good about remembering to renew their membership in the Monarchist League, there are some that have not kept their membership current. Normally memberships are sent to the Dominion Office. However they can be given to one of the branch officers.

Remember – the branch meeting and program on **Friday, March 17.**

Did you know – The cost of the Canadian Crown is **\$1.54 per Canadian per year.** Compare that with the cost of presidents and their election.

The French Monarchy **In Canada**

From the presentations by
Prof. Ian Germani
Dr. Stephen Kenny

Notes from the talk by Prof. Germani

The focus of this presentation will be on the French Monarchy, especially in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. We can start with two images. The first is a painting by Benjamin West showing the death of General Wolfe. The painting was not completely accurate, but it was an important ikon on the cult of patriotic sacrifice. The second image is a print showing the execution of Louis XVI on January 21, 1793.

How are these events linked? The death of General Wolfe commemorates the battle that determined the fate of French Canada. Its loss was a symptom of problems that led to the decline of the French Monarchy. The Seven Years War was a blow to France's imperial dreams, and in the treaty which ended it, France abandoned French Canada in order to keep its holdings in the Caribbean region. Even then the French Monarchy could have continued. France did well in other wars, including the War of Independence of the U.S. After that war, the British Monarchy looked bad. However the British Monarchy regained its popularity and became stronger.

There were a number of factors that led to the end of the French Monarchy. One was the changing political situation in which France had new rivals for power. Maintaining a strong army and navy was a great financial strain.

There was an increase in popular discontent caused in part by the personality of King Louis XVI and his queen. He seemed unable to cope with the demands placed on him and had a poor press. Throughout Europe the nature of the state was changing, so all monarchies had to adapt. In the 17th Century the view of the state was personal so that it was identified with the monarch. By the 18th Century this was replaced by an impersonal idea of the state in which it was seen as an abstract idea separate from the Monarchy. Thus there was the view that the monarch had a contract with the people to work for the good of all which was central to the well-being of the state. Enlightened Absolutism especially followed this idea. The British Monarchy became more detached from the actual political work so its symbolic role and the character of the monarch were what many saw were the important elements.

Louis XVI was attracted to enlightened absolutism, but was unable to follow through with the demands this brought or to manage the factions of the French court. Even after the Estates General met, Louis was unable to regain any initiative. He met his end with dignity and courage.

The death of Louis XVI and his son did not mean the French Monarchy was at an end. There were various moves to restore the monarchy. The idea of monarchy was important in the 19th Century. The French Monarchy was not restored on a permanent basis because those involved did not recognize the changes in ideas and the need to rule with constitutions and assemblies. Its final end was caused by a failure to adapt to changing ideas and conditions.

Excerpts from talk the by Dr. Kenny

What is or was the relevance of the French monarchy in Canada? Since the year of the Conquest 1759-1760 Canada's link to that institution was broken and with the French Revolution only thirty years later was affirmed its rejection in France itself. Indeed official links between France and Canada only came a hundred years later.

Those of you familiar with the sometimes problematic history of the meeting of French and English speaking Canadians will know that at crucial points in the past these two communities have been more than solitudes, they have been adversaries and opponents. Perhaps the most profound divisions in modern times occurred during the two world wars in the first half of the last century. Canadians understood those conflicts and their responsibility to participate in radically different ways. For some it meant defense and support of the mother country and for others it was a struggle with which they had little to do. The answer to this paradox resides in the fact that not only did French speaking Canadians challenge the acceptability of British institutions and values, as well their history disconnected them from French institutions and values, whether these latter be those of the *Ancien regime* or of modern revolutionary and republican France.

On November 23, 2004 unveiled in the Salon de la Francophonie in the Senate block of the Canadian parliament were several portraits of French monarchs who reigned at the time of *la Nouvelle France*. When he was interviewed by Radio-Canada on the day

of the dedication in the Salon de la Francophonie, Senator Serge Joyal made several points about the importance of the institution of the monarchy which existed in Canada from the time of explorations and settlement first undertaken by the French in the early sixteenth century.

France being torn by wars of religion looked inward for the rest of the sixteenth century. It was only in the early seventeenth century that France turned once again to the new world. During the long reign of Louis XIV the old system of granting Canada to business monopolies gave way to direct Royal Government.

Still, compared to the thriving Atlantic colonies New France seemed insignificant. As Britain prevailed in North America the last monarch Louis XV became increasingly disenchanted with Canada. As the inevitable parting of the ways occurred in the context of the Seven Years War, in the Canadian theatre of that world conflict it was clear that the King and France were prepared neither to defend nor to retain Canada. Some may see the Conquest as a British victory but no one should fail to notice that it was also a French abandonment.

It is at this point historians face the obvious discontinuity of the institutions of monarchy in Canada. The essential difference between the French and British versions of monarchy is the notion of absolute power and shared authority. No matter how we perceive the institution of monarchy today, the one which accompanied Canadians to the present and had the largest and most positive effect upon their lives and political values is that of Britain.