THE MONARCHIST LEAGUE OF CANADA
LA LIGUE MONARCHISTE DU CANADA

South Saskatchewan Branch

Patron: The Hon. Dr. Lynda M.Haverstock, Lt.Governor of Saskatchewan

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NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER, 2004

Chairman's Message

The end of 2004 brings us to the beginning of Saskatchewan's Centennial Year in 2005 and the many forms of celebration being planned across the Province in large and small communities. The growth of our Province from the days of the early pioneers and settlers has evolved into a part of Canada which has contributed much to our national profile through the years. Throughout our history we have been undergirded by the role of constitutional government and a deep respect for the monarchy. This will become more visible when Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip come to Saskatchewan in May 2005 to help us celebrate our Centennial Year.

Three significant events, amongst many, will mark the Centennial. First there is the new addition to historic Government House which is due to be completed by the end of December 2004. The Lt.Governor will hold her Annual Levee in the new addition on 1 January 2005. Second is the equestrian statue of The Queen seated on her favourite horse Burmese (Saskatchewan born and raised), to be unveiled by Her Majesty during her visit to Regina. Third is the creation of a special Centennial Medal to recognise the contribution of many people in the Province through the years. In each of these events members of the Monarchist League will be able to participate and show their support for the Province which we love as its citizens.

For our Branch of the Monarchist League we begin 2005 with the **Annual Meeting on Friday, 28th January** at St.Mary's Anglican Church, Regina, beginning at 7.00pm. The Nominations Committee has actively solicited a new Executive and Board of Directors to guide the Branch in 2005/2006. I have indicated my willingness to continue one more year as Branch Chairman but feel that after completing 9 years it is time for someone new to take the helm. Part of my reasons for continuing for the year is the impending royal visit and the completion of the equestrian statue project.

I am pleased to say that we have developed another series of good programmes for 2005 which are featured elesewhere in this Newsletter. Also we are embarking on the creation of a new *Branch Website* which will give us a new profile in the Province and across Canada. In May we are planning for **100 people** to share the Annual Queen's Birthday/Centennial Luncheon. I hope that we will all mark Saturday 21 May with a circle on our calendars and plan to attend. Family and friends are a scource of numbers, too.

As this edition of the Newsletter will appear over Christmastide and New Year I wish you all a very happy Christmas and an encouraging New Year. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Derek F. Nicholls

Branch Chairman

NEWS AND NOTES

Annual Meeting

South Saskatchewan Branch
Monarchist League

Friday, January 28, 2005

7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Anglican Church,
Regina

Business meeting followed by a Video on the Queen Mary II and Social time.

Make plans to come and bring a friend

Did you sail on any of the Cunard Queens (The Queen Mary I, the Queen Elizabeth I, the Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen Mary II)? If you have any pictures or other memorabilia from you voyage, please bring them to the meeting for a display.

Please note:

Nominations are welcomed for the Board of Directors of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League.
Nominations for directors for the South Saskatchewan Branch can be submitted to Isabel Bailey in Regina at 586-8975 up to January 10. Please be sure the person you are nominating will let his name stand.

Programs for 2005

Friday, March 11
The Senate of Canada
Speaker: The Hon. Jack Wiebe
(Former Saskatchewan Senator)
St. Mary's Anglican Church,
Regina, at 7:30 p.m.
Special coffee & refreshments

Saturday, April 23
Annual Banquet of the
Royal Society of St. George
Royal United Services Institute
Regina

Saturday, May 21
Annual Queen's Birthday-
Centennial Luncheon
Special Guest: Mr. Glen Hagel
(Chairman, Saskatchewan
Centennial Committee)
Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina
12:00 Noon

Friday, June 17
The Royal Consorts
(Speaker(s) to be announced)
St. Mary's Anglican Church,
Regina, at 7:30 p.m.

October
The French Monarchy in Canada
Dr. Stephen Kenny
Date and place to be announced

Meeting of the Board

The Board of the South Saskatchewan Branch met at noon on Friday, October 15. The members heard and discussed reports of the officers, reviewed past activities, and made plans for future events.

One of the main items of business was planning for the programs for meetings in 2005. The Board also completed plans for the annual meeting of the branch on January 28, 2005.

One of the things that was noted at the meeting was the establishment of the Dr. M. Shumiatcher Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Dr. Shumiatcher.

Welcome to New Members

A welcome is given to the following persons who have become members of the Branch in the last few months:

The Rev. Doug Garner, Carlyle
Dr. John Meechan, SJ, Regina
Trevor Powell, Regina
Heather Salloum, Regina
Dr. Brian & Susan Sanderson, Moose Jaw
Dale Schroh, Regina
The Very Rev. Waldemar Kuchta, Moose Jaw

Membership Renewals

Memberships for the Monarchist League of Canada should be paid directly to the national office. Notices for renewals come from that office. Please remember to renew your memberships when you receive your notice.

If you have any questions about your membership or renewing your membership, please contact the Membership Convener, John Morris, 62 Oxford St. W., Moose Jaw, SK., S6H 2N3, Telephone: 306-694-4192, Email: jhmorris@sasktel.net.

Has it been some time since you renewed your membership? We encourage you to send your renewal to the national office, or bring it to the annual meeting. You can contact John Morris or the Chairman, Derek Nicholls, for assistance.

Do you know anyone who may not have renewed his/her membership but is, or still might be interested in the Monarchist League. Perhaps you could speak to that person or send the name to the Board so he/she can be contacted.

Remember memberships are $25 for regular memberships, $45 for families, $10 for students, $33 for institutions, and $500 for life memberships.

Masthead for Newsletter

The Board of the branch is planning to have a formal name and masthead for the branch newsletter. You were invited to submit ideas. Here are some ideas that have been received:

Monarchy Matters – The Newsletter of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada

The Royal Mail – The newsletter of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada

Around the Realm – The newsletter..

Newsletter – South Saskatchewan Branch, Monarchist League of Canada

The South Saskatchewan Monarchist – The Newsletter of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada.

Other ideas and suggestions would be welcomed. You can bring them to the annual meeting.

Do you have any ideas for a design for the masthead of the newsletter, or do you know someone who might have some suggestions for a design? Please bring those to the annual meeting.

From the North Saskatchewan Branch

The North Saskatchewan Branch continues to be very active. Memberships have increased by twenty-five percent, and interest for the branch activities remains high.

The branch has named Red Box coordinators, and these have been working to distribute the educational toolkits to local schools. The Red Boxes have been warmly received. Student leaders Erin Buck and Chad Denie will attend a teacher's conference to promote the boxes.

A Summer Open House took place in Saskatoon on August 10. The Hon. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and George Lafond, aboriginal adviser, were guest speakers.

The branch also is working to distribute new portraits of the Queen in the region.

Queen's Tour to Saskatchewan for the Provincial Centennial

The Queen and Prince Philip will be in Saskatchewan May 17-20 to participate in the Centennial Celebrations of the province.

Please watch for further details as they are publicized.

The Birthday-Centennial Luncheon will take place right after the Queen's visit. This can be a follow-up celebration of the Royal visit as well as that of the province's centennial. Ideas for promoting the luncheon would be welcomed.

Christmas Message of the Dominion Chairman

At this happy time of the year, I want to send each of you my warm good wishes for this season, regardless of through which faith tradition you may celebrate it.

My own tradition is Christmas, which has come to carry meanings both religious and secular. However, not all the tinsel and reindeers and rank commercialism associated with it can blind us to its central imagery: the sense of wonder and mystery, the light of the beckoning star, the vulnerability of a child in a manger, the tenderness of a mother's love. These are motifs meaningful to all faiths and all humans.

Hamilton Mabie wrote of Christmas in the following terms: "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

That love may be your portion this Yuletide is the fond wish of your Dominion Chairman and friend.

John Aimers

Charity Book Sale

Martin Luther Manor of Regina will hold a **Big Charity Book Sale** at the West Harvest Inn (Emerald Ballroom B) *Friday and Saturday, January 28-29* from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. It will include books on the monarchy, a few tables of antiques and collectibles like art, glassware, model cars and trucks, toys, knives, coins and paper money, quilts, and the like. Nostalgia and much more. Everyone is welcome. Just show up.

Forward Planning for the South Saskatchewan Branch

The Board of the South Saskatchewan Branch has been looking at future directions for the branch. Some of the things the members have been considering include such questions as

- How can we attract new members?
- What form might our future meetings take?
- How can we ensure financial stability?

What are your thoughts on these matters? Please share them with the board and/or at the annual meeting.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE

Ray Plosker and Loyd Begley from the Government House Historical Society spoke to the meeting of the South Saskatchewan Branch on Friday, October 15. The meeting took place at Government House. Following the meeting those present were able to go on a tour of the house.

Government House opened in 1891. Located two and a half miles from Regina, it was the fifth residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North West Territories. Up to that time the government house was quite inadequate.

Landscaping of the grounds of Government House started the same year the house was opened. George Watt was recruited to work on the grounds which totaled fifty-three acres. Mr. Watt eventually became the provincial horticulturalist.

In 1913 there was some thought to building a new government house, but this was not done. Government House had additions built on it, including the Ball Room and the Conservatory.

When Saskatchewan became a province, Government House continued to be the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan until 1945. The Lieutenant-Governor's residence was moved to the Hotel Saskatchewan.

After Government House was closed as the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor, the building was given various uses. Many of the items in the house were sold or moved to other places.

By 1976 Government House was getting in such poor condition that there was thought given to demolishing it. However the building was saved and restored. In 1984 the office of the Lieutenant-Governor was moved back to Government House. Much of Government House is a museum. It is a heritage property that is a monument to the Canadian Monarchy and the role of the Crown in the West.

Much of what had been in Government House has been returned or recovered. Part of the mandate of Government House is to preserve these items and their history. Government House carries out a variety of programs and has many visitors.

At this time work is being done to further improve the facilities and grounds of Government House, This is a Centennial Project. The work is based on a report prepared during 1999-2000. It is being done in three phases.

One of the important parts of the planned improvements involves the building of a new visitors center. This will house an interpretative center, displays, and administration offices.

Another part of planned improvements includes restoring the grounds to be more as George Watt designed them. While much of the original fifty-three acres that once made up the grounds of Government House was sold, the nine acres that remain include the original garden. At one time the grounds were an expanse of fields and included a vegetable garden. As the city expanded much of the original grounds were sold for city uses.

There will be further additions to increase the facilities and to provide a new kitchen for the hospitality functions of the Ball Room. The additions and new facilities are planned so they are consistent with the architectural style of Government House.

Princess Ann dedicated the corner stone of the additions. Several provinces have no government houses. In five provinces the Lieutenant-Governor lives in the provincial Government House. Saskatchewan is the only province in which Government House is a museum.

Be sure to mark on your calendar:

The annual banquet of the Royal Society of St. George will be on Saturday, April 23 at the Royal United Services Institute in Regina.

Please contact Isabel Bailey or Jessie Bailey for details and further information.

Items for the newsletter are welcomed.

Please send any items for the newsletter to Raymond and Jeannette Mynett, Box 1981, Assiniboia, SK., S0H 0B0, or send items by fax to 306-642-3835. The next newsletter will be in the spring.