

#### NEWSLETTER

#### South Saskatchewan Branch Monarchist League of Canada

JANUARY, 2007

#### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The end of 2006 brings a realization that we have had another successful year as a Branch. The Annual Meeting, two General Meetings, and the Queen's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Luncheon proved to be good events. I am most grateful to all who were able to give their support. Now we look ahead to 2007 and what it will bring. Our programmes for March and October should be most interesting and we will make certain that members in and around Regina get good notice and reminders as we would like to see good attendances at both events.

The 2007 Annual Meeting will be held at St.Mary's Anglican Church Hall on Friday, January 26 at 7.00pm. This coming year we anticipate some changes on the Board of Directors and would welcome nominations of members who would be willing to serve. Nominations should be sent to me ASAP either to my home address at 5336 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, S4T 1C3 or by email dereknicholls@sasktel.net I still hope that we can find a new Branch Chairman as I complete my 10<sup>th</sup> year in that position. I can assure prospective nominees that the experience is always very fulfilling and rewarding. Think about this and let me know of your wish to be considered.

During December the Branch was saddened by the death of Jessie Bailey who has been a faithful member almost since the beginning of the Branch. She was for many years our refreshments organizer after meetings and always had a cheerful disposition. Many members attended her Memorial Service in December. We offer our condolences to her three sons Peter, Neil and Ian.

On December 4th I was honoured with a special Certificate of Honour from the Art of Living Foundation, along with six other recipients. It was in recognition of my contribution to many facets of community involvement in Regina and area over the past 18 years. These included the Monarchist League, Regina Multi Faith Forum, Regina Council of Churches, amongst a number of other groups to which I also belong. It was totally unexpected and therefore treasured. This is a non-profi humanitarian organization dedicated to serving society, and exists in about 130 countries. It is non-governmental, and has a special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. I am delighted to share this honour with the Monarchist League of Canada.

As we enter into a New Year on January 1st I wish you and your family and friends the blessings of a year which we hope can be freer of violence and bloodshed in our world. In our own way we can create peace in the hearts and minds of others. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Branch Chairman

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#### **NEWS AND NOTES**

#### **Annual Meeting of the**

## South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League Of Canada

Friday, January 26, 2007
At 7:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Anglican Church
Regina

Annual Business Meeting
Video – Places and Events in
England with
Royal Associations
Dessert Social (\$3.00 each)

Come and share time with League members.

Find out what the League is doing and share your ideas.

Bring a friend.

#### **Nominations**

Nominations for the executive and board of the South Saskatchewan Branch are being invited. Nominations are especially needed for the positions of branch chairman, vice-chairman, and treasurer. Names of nominees should be sent to: The Rev. Derek Nicholls, 5336 Dewdney Ave., Regina, SK, S4T 1C3, 949-8690.

#### Come for an

# An Evening with the Lieuterant-Governor The Hon. Dr. Gordon Barnhart

Friday, March 16, 2007 7/30 p.m. St, Mary's Anglican Church Regina

Pie and coffee refreshments

Come for a special evening. Please invite friends and family.

#### Programmes for 2007

Friday, March 16 - St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina, at 7:30 p.m. An Evening with the Lt. Governor.

April 21 – Annual St. George's Society Banquet.

Saturday, May 19 – at 12:00 noon Queen's Birthday Luncheon at the Hotel Saskatchewan. Contact – Isabel Bailey.

Friday, October 19 - St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina, at 7:30 p.m. Program and Speaker to be announced.

#### **News of Members**

Congratulations to Louis Browne of Regina who was elected to the Regina City Council last October. He represents Ward 1 and was the lead candidate from a slate of nine nominees. His constituency was held by the late Mike Badham who was tragically killed in the spring of 2006.

Congratulations to our Branch Chairman, the Rev. Derek Nicholls, for his recognition by the Art of Living Foundation.

Condolences go to the family of Evelyn Watchorn. Evelyn died on July 7. Jessie Bailey, a faithful and long-time member of the League, died on December 14. Jessie looked after the refreshments for the branch meetings for some time and helped in various other ways. She also was active in the Royal Society of St. George. Condolences go to her family. May Evelyn and Jessie rest in peace.

#### From the Board

The Board of Directors of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League held a luncheon meeting on October 13. The meeting was held on the same day as the general meeting for Octobe. Besides reviewing reports and attending to routine business the board planned the annual meeting of the branch set for January 26. It also made plans for the programs for 2007. The board also is working on a basic constitution for the branch.

Members were able to buy samples of jellies produced by the Clive Girls Farm. This will replace the proposed sale of maple syrup project which proved not to be workable. The jars of jellies will sell for \$5.00 each. Further information and order forms will be available in the future.

Do you have ideas for future branch programs? Please give any ideas you might have to one of the board members.



#### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

At The Queen's command, I have been asked to thank you for your kind message of good wishes sent on the occasion of Her Majesty's eightieth Birthday. Your thoughtfulness in writing on this special Day was much appreciated and The Queen sends you her warm best wishes in return.

Special Assistant to the Private Secretary

June 2006

#### **ROYAL NOTES**

### The Queen to be at 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jamestown

The Queen and Prince Philip will visit Virginia in May to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement, the Queen said in a speech at the opening of Parliament.

"The Duke of Edinburgh and I look forward to our state visit to the United States of America in May 2007," the Oueen said.

Buckingham Palace confirmed the trip, but said no details of the Queen's schedule had been confirmed.

The Queen and Prince Philip have made three previous state visits to the United States. One of these was in October, 1957. This visit included a visit to Jamestown which was celebrating the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its settlement that year.

President George W. Bush expressed his hope that the visit would celebrate the strong British-U.S. relations which are sustained by deep historical and cultural ties.

Royal connections have played a role historically in Virginia and in other areas of the original states of the U. S. This can be seen in some of the place names. Jamestown itself was named for King James I, and Virginia derived its name from Queen Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen.

#### **Royals as Artists**

Majesty Magazine had an article about Grand Duchess Olga, daughter of Tsar Alexander III; her mother, Marie, was a sister of Queen Alexandra. The Grand Duchess escaped from Russia at

the time of the Revolution and lived in Denmark until after World War II. She and her family then moved to Canada where she lived until her death in 1960.

Grand Duchess Olga was a talented artist and painted extensively. Her paintings have been shown at exhibitions and bought by collectors, including Queen Elizabeth. A large number of her paintings are on permanent display at Ballerup Egnsmuseum, a history museum in Denmark.

The Grand Duchess Olga is but one royal who has actively participated in one or more of the arts as well as supporting and patronizing the arts. Might this be a topic for a future program of the League?

#### Royal Governors-General

During the time of the British Empire and the early days of the Commonwealth, members of the Royal Family often were appointed governorsgeneral of Canada as well as places like Australia and South Africa. Governorsgeneral were important because they exercised the powers of the monarch unless the monarch was present.

Canada's first royal governor-general was the Marquess of Lorne whose wife, Louise, was a daughter of Queen Victoria. They were in Canada from 1878 to 1883.

The Duke of Connaught, third son of Queen Victoria, served as governorgeneral of Canada from 1911 to 1916. He was highly respected.

The Earl of Athlone, brother of Queen Mary, was governor-general from 1940 to 1946. Princess Juliana of the Netherlands was in Canada during that time.

### HONOURS OF THE CROWN

## Excerpts of the Talk given by Dr. Michael Jackson To the Monarchist League On October 13, 2006

Honours in Commonwealth states got their starting point in the British honours system, which goes back to the Middle Ages. In 1967 Canada was the first Commonwealth realm to create its own honours, and it was so successful that it was soon imitated by Australia and New Zealand. Even the United Kingdon is now adopting some aspects of the Canadian system. Honours abound in Commonwealth countries.

I think everyone would agree on the desirability of recognizing people for their achievements and contributions to society. Most states in the world, as well as many organizations, do this through various forms of official recognition. Although the term "award" can apply to all of these, I make a distinction between honours and awards.

Honours are official recognition by a country through the head of state. In a constitutional monarchy like Canada the honours are authorized by the Queen and awarded in her name. Awards, on the other hand, may be conferred by any organization.

There are three kinds of official honours. *Orders* are fellowships of honour, of which the recipient becomes a member. They recognize superior levels of achievement over a fairly long period of time. Many, but not all, of them have several grades. The Order of

Canada and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit are Canadian orders.

Decorations are usually awarded for specific acts, like bravery, or for achievements of a lower level than for orders or over a shorter period of time. The best-known decorations in Canada are for those for gallantry, like the Victoria Cross, or for meritorious service like the Royal Victorian Medal or the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

Medals are the most widely-held honours. They are awarded for long and exemplary service or to recognize special occasions. These include long service medals, military campaign medals and anniversaries such as the Queen's Golden Jubilee or the Saskatchewan Centennial. Medals are awarded much more widely than orders or decorations.

Canadians were eligible to receive British or "imperial" honours - sort of and sometimes - until the creation of an indigenous Canadian honours system in 1967. In 1918 the House of Commons adopted the "Nickle Resolution" which stated that all other honours for Canadians would be recommended to the King by the Canadian Prime Minister. This was interpreted by most prime ministers as a ban on British honours. Except from 1933 to 1935. from 1940 to 1946, and for military honours between 1950 and 1953. no British honours were awarded after 1918. It was the virtual end of honours for Canadians until 1967. Canadians were simply not officially recognized for their service to the nation.

The Centennial of Confederation in 1967 provided the ideal opportunity to

establish a Canadian honours system. In that year the government of Lester Pearson introduced the Order of Canada, at first as a single-level order, although two medals, one for service and one for courage, were added.

A very important element of this new order was that recipients were to be recommended to the Governor General by an independent committee from nominations submitted by the public. The Order of Canada was an immediate success, thanks in part to this nonpartisan selection process, and in part to the calibre of the first appointments. In 1972 the Order of Canada expanded to its present three levels: Companion. Officer, and Member. The Order of Military Merit was created for Canadian Forces, also in three grades.

In the past three decades the system has expanded significantly. Orders that were created include the Meritorious Service Decorations, the Star of Military Valour, the Medal of Military Valour, the Order of Merit of the Police Forces. and the Police Exemplary Service Medal. A final group of medals are commemorative medals - those awarded on the occasion of major anniversaries. 1967 Canada created its own commemorative medal for the centennial of Confederation. This was followed by the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, the Commemorative Medal for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation, and the Oueen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

The Royal Victorian Order was established by Queen Victoria in 1896 to recognize services to the Sovereign and Royal Family as her personal gift. There are now four personal honours of the Sovereign: the others are the Order of

the Garter, the Order of the Thistle, and the Order of Merit. The Order of St. John was revived in the U.K. in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and soon took root in Canada. However it fell prey to the infamous Nickle Resolution and was not awarded again until it was restored by Prime Minister R. H. Bennett in 1931.

Canada is unique in having honours of the provincial Crown as well as its national honcurs. The Chancellery at Rideau Hall opposed them from the claiming they would dilute, duplicate, and diminish the prestige of Canada's national honours. provinces did not accept this rationale. In fact interest in the national honours has been stimulated by the provinces recognizing deserving people in their own jurisdictions. Saskatchewan and provinces now four other have decorations and medals as well as orders.

Saskatchewar orders have gained considerable rest ect and prestige. These include the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, and the Suskatchewan Protective Services Medal. The Saskatchewan Centennial Medal has proven in some ways to be the most influential of our With 4,200 recipients and honours. more than 80 presentations this program brought honours into the community in a way that no other could. We conceived it partly as an opportunity to educate the wider public about honours.

Honours are one of the most significant instruments of the Crown. They recognize our best. They deserve to be of top quality.

(Final reflections on the topic to follow)