Monarchy Matters

NEWSLETTER

South Saskatchewan Branch

Monarchist League of Canada

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER Chairman's Message

The visit of Her Majesty the Queen and HRH Prince Philip was a resounding success from many points of view. Thousands of people were able to see them and some of us were honoured to meet her in person. The Provincial Welcome on 17th May was a rainy welcome indeed but Her Majesty carried our duties with grace and dignity. She was so relaxed and so gracious to all whom she met, as was Prince Philip. I regret that we could only accommodate 15 members with special invitations for that welcome but it was encouraging to see others in the crowds. The equestrian stateue of the Queen on Burmese now stands resplendant in the new Queen Elizabeth II Gardens in front of the Legislative Buildings. Take time and show family and friends the results of the generosity of many people, not least our Monarchist League donors. The latest edition of *Canadian Monarchist News* caries full coverage of the royal visitors in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

On 27 September Mme Jean will be installed as our new Governor General of Canada, representing her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in her Dominion. Her Excellency will face many challenges during her term of office but we wish her success in her role, supported by her husband and the love of her daughter. Rideau Hall will resound once again to the sound of a child's voice in the Vice-Regal quarters. We look forward to Her Excellency's first visit to our province in due time. Lt.Governor Lynda Haverstock will be present at the Installation ceremonies, along with other Lt.Governors and the three Territorial Leaders in Canada.

I would like to highlight our special Branch Programme planned for **Friday, 14 October**, when we have the pleasure of welcoming Professor Stephen Kenny who will speak on ***"The French Monarchy in Canada"***. Most of us probably have little knowledge of this part of our national history so we have much to learn. Invite family and friends to join us that night.

Our Dominion Website continues to bring new trial memberships as well as some full time members. It is most encouraging to see this trend developing, including some younger members amongst them. I remind us all again of the need to seek members amongst family and friends. Let me know if I can help with that task.

Our Branch Secretary and our Newsletter Editor – Raymond and Jeannette Mynett - celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary recently in Assiniboia. We wish them sincere congratulations. Margaret and I were able to attend and share greetings from our Branch at the reception. Please do let me know of similar celebrations in the lives of other members, as well as bereavements as they arise. As I prepare these notes I am due to fly with my wife to South Wales for the funeral of my younger brother who departed this life on 26th August. I am grateful to members who have already conveyed their condolences to myself and my siblings. They are appreciated.

May the coming Fall see better weather which can benefit our farmers at this time. They rely so much on the elements for the success of their endeavours. Also remember the devastation New Orleans and all affected by the effects of Hurricane Katrina and the huge loss of lives and property in that famous city and area.
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Noel F. Nicholls

NEWS AND NOTES

Monarchist League Meeting

Friday, October 14, 2005
at 7:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina

The French Monarchy In Canada
Speakers: Dr. Stephen Keny
Prof. Ian Germani

Plan to come; bring a friend

Future Activities of the Branch

When the Board of Directors meets on October 14, it will be planning the meetings and activities of the South Saskatchewan Branch for 2006. The branch is looking to see how it can be more active, and what it can do to raise money for its work. Also the branch normally has three meetings at which there is a program.

Your ideas are very welcome. Please give your suggestions for future programs and other activities to Derek Nicholls or one of the other board members.

Branch Directory
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Make plans to come to the

Annual General Meeting
of the South Saskatchewan Branch, Monarchist League

Please watch for information about the Annual General Meeting of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League. For the last number of years, the annual meetings have taken place at the end of January.

Do you know of people who would serve on the Board of Directors or in one of the executive positions? Please give their names to one of the members of the Board.

Memberships

As of last spring, the South Saskatchewan Branch had over one-hundred members including a few new members. Our web page has been a helpful way of letting other people know about us. Each member also can help in this. Tell your friends, bring them to meetings, and give them things like information brochures and copies of the newsletter. You can obtain brochures by contacting the branch chairman and copies of the newsletter by contacting the editors.

Please remember to renew your membership when it comes due. Normally they go directly to the Dominion Office. There are those who give their membership to the branch treasurer. If a period of time has passed since you last renewed your membership, you can renew it any time now. Contact John Morris in Moose Jaw.

Personal Notes

Congratulations go to Michael Jackson for being awarded the Royal Victorian Order. Dr. Jackson, who as served as Chief Protocol Officer for Saskatchewan, will be retiring the end of the year. The branch is grateful for his help and support over the years.

Congratulations also go to Raymond and Jeannette Mynett, who produce the branch newsletter, on the occasion of their fortieth wedding anniversary.

Eileen Bancroft celebrated her one-hundred and first birthday in May. She was still coming to some Monarchist League activities.

Sympathy goes to Derek and Margaret Nicholls for the death of Derek's younger brother, Graham. Derek and Margaret Nicholls flew to Wales to be with the rest of the family during this time.

Members, please let us know about personal awards, occasions in your life, and the like so we can note them as an organization.

Our Website

The website for the South Saskatchewan Branch is on line and is well worth visiting. Scott Hazelwood looks after our website.

The address for the website is;
http://monarchy.sasktel.website.net

The website has much information about the branch, past meetings, coming events, and the like. It is worth your time to have a look at it. Also, take some time to look at other Monarchist websites.

Royal Visit to Saskatchewan

Members of the Monarchist League were involved in several ways during the visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip to Saskatchewan May 17-20 to share in celebrating the provincial centennial.

Some special seating was arranged for representatives of the Monarchist League at the Legislative Building for the ceremony there on May 18. The representatives included a cross-section of members from Regina and from other communities. During the same ceremony the Chairman of the Branch, Derek Nicholls, was among those in a special group for the unveiling of the equestrian statue of the Queen.

Derek and Margaret Nicholls also were guests at the luncheon for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Lumsden later that day. The branch chairman had the opportunity to meet the Queen during the ceremony at Government House for which he was a guest.

Meeting of the Branch Board

The Board of Directors for the South Saskatchewan Branch met at noon on June 17, the same day as the general meeting. As always, a number of items relating to the work of the branch were discussed. The Board of Directors generally meets around noon on the same day as the general meetings and the annual meeting.

Submissions for newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced in December. Contributions are welcomed and should be sent to the editors by December 6, 2005.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Over ninety people gathered on May 21, 2005 at the Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina for the annual Queen's Birthday Luncheon which this year also marked the Centennial of the Province. When the branch chairman, the Rev. Derek Nicholls, called the assembly to order, he noted that half of those present were not members of the Monarchist League.

In his welcoming remarks, Derek Nicholls noted that this luncheon was being held in the glow of the Royal visit. He briefly described some of his experiences during this visit. He also noted that many members of the League had been able to see the Queen during the visit. Derek Nicholls conveyed some greetings and regrets, including those from John Aimers, Dominion Chairman, and Nigel Molero, Chairman of the North Saskatchewan Branch.

The Rev. Ann Cheetham gave the grace before the meal, and Scott Hazelwood gave the loyal toast. Eileen Bancroft was presented a special Centenarian Medal.

The main speaker was Mr. Glenn Hagel, MLA, who was the Legislative Secretary to the Premier responsible for coordinating Saskatchewan's Centennial celebrations.

Mr. Hagel described the visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip which was a significant part of the centennial celebration of the province. She first went to the First Nations University when she arrived on Tuesday and acknowledged First Nations veterans. Even the rain on Wednesday did not dampen the enthusiasm during the ceremonies at the Legislative Building, and many came for the events. On Thursday the Queen was in Saskatoon, with the day concluding with a gala concert. On Friday she was again in Regina to visit Government House and open the new wing, As always, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh had a warm welcome from a province that always welcomes the Royal Family. They in turn have a special feeling for Saskatchewan.

Mr. Hagel talked about the times he had been in contact with the Queen. The first time was in 1987. He was at a Commonwealth Seminar in 1993. The Queen was sick at the time, but was represented by Princess Diana.

Glen Hagel spoke about the various centennial celebrations that were planned. Over one-hundred, fifty communities were planning various events. The big anniversary celebration would be on September 4.

The provincial centennial is a time to look back with pride and look ahead with confidence. Saskatchewan had a number of significant "firsts" which affected Canada and North America. Saskatchewan is a special place with a number of resources, a diverse geography, and a varied people with their cultures. They are honest, humble, hard-working, and caring, seeing cooperation as the way to get things done. We will know the centennial celebrations have been successful when people say they were proud to have been a part of it all. The celebrations gave us a chance to show our pride. We now look forward to the next century.

Royal Consorts

Notes of the presentation
by Jeannette Mynett and Derek Nicholls
June 17, 2005

The first part of this presentation will deal with some of the roles of royal consorts. Most of these roles will relate to those played by Queen Consorts of the British Royal Family. Until Prince Albert, who did much to define a modern role for a Prince Consort, prince consorts were few in number and generally did not exercise an important role.

We will now see what were some of the main roles of Royal Consorts. Royal Consorts sometimes served as the means of establishing important connections. Queen Consorts in their marriages secured diplomatic ties between countries and connected various royal families of different countries. They also might play a significant role in uniting branches of a royal family or providing key links between two families.

Perhaps one of the most important functions of Royal Consorts was to provide heirs. Until more modern times this meant sons, and this is still true in places like Japan. Queen Consorts would be commended if she had children, including sons. Now in many countries whether the children of rulers are sons or daughters does not matter.

Consorts played various public roles. One of the very important one was the coronation of the consort. Queen Consorts were crowned, and it was the coronation that set them apart and established them as Queen Consorts, not simply the wife of the king. Prince Consorts generally are not crowned.

Consorts had many other important public roles. They participated in ceremonial and social events in the court and country and accompanied their spouse in their official duties. Queen Consorts in particular were expected to set the tone of and lead court life and to be a leader in society. How well a consort fulfilled these roles could make a significant difference for the monarch, the court, and the entire country.

There were other public duties. Consorts have carried out various activities that are for the good of their country and assist the work of the royal family. These would include doing tours, visiting institutions, acting as presidents and patrons of various social, charitable, service, and educational institutions, and doing much to forward social causes and promote education and the arts. While some consorts were not very visible in such activities, other consorts were very active and even acted as regents when the king was out of the country.

Finally, often consorts played a very important role in a more private way by giving the reigning monarch support, encouragement, and companionship. Often how they would create a happy home life and give advice would be important for the royal family and nation.

In all, Royal Consorts play many important roles and make significant contributions.

(Jeannette Mynett)

This part of the presentation will include examples of Royal Consorts throughout the centuries, primarily within the British Isles.

Matilda was Queen to William the Conqueror. During the Norman Conquest she remained in charge of Normandy. She came to England in April, 1068 and was crowned at Winchester on Whit Sunday of that year. She was a good example of someone who exercised influence "behind the scenes."

Marguerite of France was the second wife of Edward I. She was never crowned as Edward did not have time to give his second wife a proper coronation. She was acknowledged as Queen and exercised influence during the latter years of her husband's reign.

King Henry VIII had six wives. He married them primarily to produce a male heir. **Katherine of Aragon** only had one surviving daughter, Mary. Although Henry loved Katherine, he had the marriage annulled because she failed his expectations to have a son. **Ann Boleyne** had one surviving daughter, Elizabeth. Because she failed to bear a son she was executed on the basis of trumped up charges. **Jane Seymour** bore the long desired son but died shortly after his birth. The marriage with **Anne of Cleves** was soon annulled. **Catherine Howard** was accused of adultery and executed. **Katherine Parr** cared for Henry in his latter years and was known as Queen even after Henry's death.

Henrietta Maria, daughter of Henry IV of France, was the wife of Charles I. She refused to participate in a "Protestant" coronation, but otherwise was supportive of Charles.

Catherine of Braganza was the wife of Charles II. She was a faithful Queen Consort under very difficult personal circumstances and ministered to the needs of her husband.

Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, worked hard to be effective, but was not always popular during his life. He accomplished many important things which included his leadership role with the Great Exhibition of 1851 and his work as a social reformer. Many places were named after Albert by his grieving widow. Among these are the Province of Alberta and the city of Prince Albert. The Albert Hall in London is a memorial to him. All these testify to the love which Victoria had for her husband who did so much as Prince Consort.

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh has been consort of Queen Elizabeth II for fifty-three years, during which time he has earned a place in the life and history of the Royal Family. Prince Philip is patron of many British and international causes and works tirelessly to carry out his many and varied responsibilities. As Prince Consort Philip has often spoken strongly about concerns which he has. The Queen relies very much on her husband's guidance and support which he offers faithfully at all times.

These are a few examples of many consorts who have influenced their respective spouses during their reigns.

(Derek Nicholls)