



Monarchy Matters

NEWSLETTER

South Saskatchewan Branch Monarchist League of Canada

SEPTEMBER, 2006

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The warm summer months have given us all an opportunity to relax and enjoy something different from our normal daily activities. I hope that many of us were able to take advantage of those days and enjoy some vacation time.

Since the last Newsletter Regina and district was pleased to welcome HRH Prince Edward and Her Excellency the Governor General and her husband. The official retirement of Dr. Jackson as Chief of Protocol was also marked by a special event at Government House. The Branch also held a wonderful evening with our retired Lt. Governor Dr. Lynda Haverstock and her husband Mr. Harley Olson. We are deeply appreciative of Her Honour's support for the League in South and North Saskatchewan Branches. It is also a pleasure to let you know that the new Lt. Governor, The Hon. Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, has graciously agreed to continue as our Patron in the Province. We look forward to welcoming His Honour at one of our future events.

I would like to say a special "thank you" to all who attended the Annual Queen's Birthday Luncheon in May which this year celebrated the 80th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. It is clear that this annual event is much appreciated by members and friends. The arrangements are already under way for the 2007 Luncheon again at the Hotel Saskatchewan.

Regretably our project for the sale of maple syrup did not happen due the fact that our supplier did not respond to enquiries about our order made to him in April of this year. However, we are considering a similar project locally and if it works out we will certainly let you know.

At the end of December the Queen's Golden Jubilee Statue Committee will discontinue as its task will have been completed. I have served as a member since its inception in 2001. The statue in Queen Elizabeth II Gardens in front of the Legislature is worthy of a visit by members and friends and is proving to be a good tourist attraction. A brochure about the statue is in the process of being prepared for tourists and others.

As October approaches I remind you of our programme on Friday, October 13th when Dr. Michael Jackson will speak to us about *Honours of The Crown*. Why not invite friends and relatives to enjoy this evening with us. At its October meeting your Board of Directors will consider next year's programme for the March and October meetings. Have you some suggestions for consideration? If so, let us know. We will also be looking at the nominations process for next year's Board members.

Looking forward to seeing you all in October. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Derek F. Nicholls
Branch Chairman

NEWS AND NOTES

Friday, October 13, 2006

Honours of the Crown

Speaker: Dr. Michael Jackson

St. Mary's Anglican Church,
Regina
7:30 p.m.

Tell others about this interesting program.

Bring a friend.

All interested people are welcome.

Annual Branch Meeting

Please watch for information about the annual meeting of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League. The date will be set at the next meeting of the branch board. For the last few years the annual meeting has taken place on the fourth Friday of January at 7:00 p.m.

Nominations Needed

Nominations are being invited for positions on the Board of Directors. Nominations for Chairman of the South Saskatchewan Branch are especially being sought. Any names can be submitted to Derek Nicholls.

New Patron of the South Saskatchewan Branch Monarchist League

Derek Nicholls has announced that the new Lt. Governor, Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, has graciously agreed to continue as our Honorary Patron of the Monarchist League in Saskatchewan during his term of office. He looks forward to being with us at sometime when we are planning events.

Meeting of the Board of the South Saskatchewan Branch

The Board of the South Saskatchewan Branch held a meeting on June 16, 2006 at the home of Derek and Margaret Nicholls.

The new brochures about the South Saskatchewan Branch have been well received. They were printed at Office Depot for less than the original estimate.

Plans are being made to draft a basic constitution for the South Saskatchewan Branch. The meeting also discussed future directions for the branch and the Monarchist League as a whole. Members were sent questionnaires to use to give their ideas. If you have any thoughts on this, please give them to Derek Nicholls.

Branch Directory

*Patron: The Hon Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart
Lt. Governor of Saskatchewan*

*Chairman: Rev. Derek Nicholls, 949-8690
5336 Dewdney Ave. Regina, Sk. S4T 1C3*

*Editors: Mr./Mrs. R. Mynett, 642-4187
Box 1981, Assiniboia, SK. S0H 0B0*

South Saskatchewan Branch **Celebration of the** **Eightieth Birthday of** **Queen Elizabeth II**

Members of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League along with many others gathered at St. Paul's Cathedral in Regina for a Festal Evensong on April 23 to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Very Rev. James Merrett, Dean of Qu'appelle and Rector of St. Paul's Cathedral officiated at the service. The Rev. Derek Nicholls, Chairman of the South Saskatchewan Branch, led the prayers. The music was led by the choir directed by Bev Tillman, and the organist, Sandra Kerr. Gale's Florist donated the floral arrangement, and the City of Regina loaned the portrait of the Queen for the service. A reception followed the service.

Her Honour the Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock, Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, gave a tribute to the Queen in place of the sermon. She expressed her appreciation in being able to join the celebration. The Monarchy, she noted, was a historic institution that is in step with the modern age. The Queen has been to Canada twenty-three times and has had regular audiences with ten prime ministers. In all of this she shows an uncommon work ethic and sense of duty. The presence of the Queen and Prince Phillip for the provincial centennial was noted with gratitude, during which time she opened the expansion at Government House and unveiled the equestrian statue of herself on the grounds of the Legislature

Building. The Monarchy is the one system that makes Canada united and distinct from other countries in the Americas and gives Canadians rights and freedoms of which other people can only dream. The Queen links all kinds of people. She shows in all that she does great commitment and sense of purpose. The Lieutenant Governor concluded by saying she had been honoured to represent our Queen who is so worthy of respect. She also conveyed greetings from Queen Elizabeth, Queen of Canada to this occasion and ended with, "long may she reign."

Birthday Celebrations **For the Queen**

While the South Saskatchewan Branch was celebrating the Queen's Eightieth Birthday in this province, the Queen was enjoying a week-long celebration of her birthday in Britain. The celebration started with a dinner with specially invited people who were themselves born on April 21, 1926. There also was a family dinner, a special service of thanksgiving in St. George's Chapel in Windsor, and a display of fireworks.

The Queen received around 20,000 birthday cards and some 17,000 e-mail messages. In a statement the Queen said, "I would like to thank the many thousands of people from this country and overseas who have sent me cards and messages on my 80th birthday. I have been very touched by what you have written and would like to express my gratitude to you all for making this day such a special one."

Birthday Luncheon **In Honour of the** **Eightieth Birthday of** **Queen Elizabeth**

The South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League held its annual birthday luncheon to celebrate the Queen's birthday on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at the Hotel Saskatchewan. Over eighty people gathered for what was a special celebration in honour of the Queen's eightieth birthday.

The Rev. Derek Nicholls, Chairman of the branch, welcomed those who had come. After the singing of O Canada, non-members of the Monarchist League were introduced; these made up around a half of those present. Derek Nicholls also welcomed the Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson, Bishop-elect of the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle, and extended regrets from Eileen Bancroft and Mary Salway. The grace was given by the Rev. David Nevett. Following a buffet luncheon Heather Salloum gave the Loyal Toast.

Derek Nicholls introduced the main speaker, Mrs. Leith Knight, who spoke on, Royal Reflections. Raymond Mynett thanked Mrs. Knight and presented her with a gift on behalf of the branch.

Several greetings were shared with the gathering. The first was from the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, Dr. Lynda Haverstock. She spoke of the dedicated service of the Queen of Canada and concluded by thanking the Monarchist League for helping to educate Canadians about the benefits of our Constitutional Monarchy.

Lorne Calvert, Premier of Saskatchewan, sent greetings and noted that celebrating the Queen's eightieth birthday was fitting because of her lifelong dedication and service to the Commonwealth and to Canada. Brad Wall, Leader of the Opposition, extended his best wishes for the celebration and commended the work of the Monarchist League over the years. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, sent regrets and greetings, commending the work of the Monarchist League. He also spoke of Her Majesty's website, urging members to look at it.

Derek Nicholls made several announcements. These included the displays for people to see, the new branch brochures, and the reception on June 6 to mark the retirement of Dr. Lynda Haverstock as Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan. Also, an announcement was made of another event marking the Queen's Eightieth Birthday, an organ recital at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Regina by Roger Judd, Organist at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. (This well-attended event included English and French organ music.)

The program concluded with the singing of, God Save the Queen.

Royal Reflections

***Remarks by
Leith Knight***

The first attempt at staging a public celebration in Moose Jaw and Regina came on Queen Victoria's birthday, May 24, 1883. Both settlements had been

in the wake of CPR construction only eight months before and were still largely tent and shack towns. Regina, as the Territorial Capital and home of the North-West Mounted Police, had the resources to inject a little more pomp and circumstance into the occasion. The CPR offered cheap rail fares to all who wished to travel to Regina to celebrate the 24th.

The death of Prince Leopold in 1884 and the North-West Rebellion in 1885 meant the Queen's birthday was not celebrated for two years. In 1886, the settlements made up for lost celebrations. The chairman of the Moose Jaw celebration thanked the settlers for getting together in words that are applicable today: "To do honour to a Queen as highly beloved for her personal excellence as she is respected as the head of state."

Countries of Queen Victoria's worldwide empire prepared to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in 1897. To mark the occasion, Lady Aberdeen, wife of Canada's Governor-General, urged the formation of the Victorian Order of Nurses. A parliamentary bill made the Queen's birthday, May 24, a holiday in perpetuity.

Saskatchewan has welcomed many royal visitors since the end of the Victorian era. The first Royal Visit came in 1901 with the appearance of the Duke and Duchess of York. They traveled in a special train built for the royal journey. As soon as the royal couple arrived in Regina, they were taken by open carriage and Mounted Police escort to Government House for a luncheon. An early wet snowfall had blanketed the Regina area. The royal route was described as "a see of black gruel, over which the law of gravitation apparently had no control, as mud flew

in every direction, not even Her Royal Highness's fur cape escaping contamination." At a luncheon in Calgary, Princess Mary was impressed by the delicious bread rolls. She was told that the flour had been processed by Moose Jaw miller Donald McLean from local wheat and asked him to ship a barrel of that flour to the royal kitchen.

In 1939, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth became the first reigning monarchs to visit Canada. The people of Melville were ecstatic when they learned the train would stop over-night there. People came from long distances, and Melville switched to Mountain Standard Time for one day to give an extra hour to celebrate the Royal Visit.

In June 1959, the present Queen and Prince Phillip visited the farm of Olive and Carl Wells in the Tuxford district. The Queen wanted to make an informal visit to a typical prairie farm and to take tea with just Olive and Carl in their living room. Here the Queen completely relaxed, slipped off her shoes, and the forty-five minute tea-time went into overtime. The cups and saucers used by the Royal Couple were never washed. There are tea stains in both cups and lipstick on one. They are now in the Moose Jaw Museum and Art Gallery, and hopefully still unwashed.

Farewell/Appreciation **Lieutenant-Governor**

Members and friends of the Monarchist League gathered at Government House at 7:30 pm. on June 6 for a farewell and appreciation event with retiring Lieutenant-Governor, Dr. Lynda Haverstock.

The chairman of the South Saskatchewan Branch, the Rev. Derek Nicholls, welcomed those who had come and explained how this event had been planned and the reason for it. The Branch wished to express its appreciation to Dr. Lynda Haverstock for all she had done and to wish her well on her retirement. He also recognized the support of the staff of Government House and the Office of Protocol and Honours. Then he introduced the members of the Board of Directors who were present.

Derek Nicholls summarized the history of the Monarchist League and the South Saskatchewan Branch. The Monarchist League was organized in February, 1970 under the leadership of Mr. John Aimers who led the League for over 35 years. He stepped down from being Dominion Chairman for personal reasons, and the leadership of the League is being carried out by the Vice-Chairman. A branch of the Monarchist League was organized in June of 1970. For a time it included the entire province, but now is the South Saskatchewan Branch, with the North Saskatchewan Branch being centered in Saskatoon. The Monarchist League of Canada has about 17,000 members, and the South Saskatchewan Branch has 110 members in Regina and 13 other communities. The League is continuing to attract new members.

Derek Nicholls noted the visits of the Queen and Prince Philip and other members of the Royal Family. This enables people to see what monarchy is, and the League works to encourage this interest.

Derek Nicholls concluded by commending the way Lynda Haverstock has carried out her work as the Queen's representative and thanking her for her friendship with the League and its members.

Bruce Farrer, Vice-Chairman of the South Saskatchewan Branch, presented a gift to the Lieutenant-Governor on behalf of the Monarchist League. Mr. Keith Knox presented a gift to her husband.

Dr. Lynda Haverstock then spoke to the gathering. She thanked the League for the gifts and continued support. As Lieutenant Governor one thing she has worked to do in her travels is to explain why Canada has a Queen and why we should value our monarchy. Any thinking person would know the worth of a constitutional monarchy. There is much to be said for separating the Head of State and the political head of the government.

Dr. Haverstock spoke of the five royal visits in the years she has been Lieutenant-Governor. Some of these have been working visits which the royals like since they can be more with the people. Dr. Haverstock further noted the role of the Monarchist League during the Golden Jubilee, especially in its support of the equestrian statue of the Queen

The Lieutenant-Governor expressed her appreciation to her husband for his support. She announced the public farewell event on July 29 at Government House which would be for everyone.

The evening concluded with a social time.

Other Royal Occasions

Diamond Jubilee of the King of Thailand

His Majesty King Bhumibol, the ninth ruler of the Thai Chakri dynasty, celebrated his Diamond Jubilee as King of Thailand in 2006. He is the longest-serving monarch in the world. During the sixty years he has been king he has overcome many challenges and crises and has become deeply loved and respected by his people.

When King Bhumibol was born in 1927, he was not in the direct line of succession, being the second son of Prince Mahidol. However the early death of his father and the murder of his older brother in a conspiracy brought him to the throne in 1946. His mother, Sanguan, had done much to ensure the continuing of the Thai monarchy during World War II and the years following the war. Over the years King Bhumibol worked to maintain stability in government and to bring about many needed reforms in Thailand.

Jubilee celebrations began on June 9 when almost a million Thais gathered in front of the throne hall to pay their respects to the king. Three days later 27 of the world's reigning families gathered for a ceremony in the throne hall. Thirteen monarchs attended, and twelve others were represented. Andrew, Duke of York, represented the Queen at the ceremony. The most senior guest was the Emperor of Japan.

The Jubilee celebrations also included various religious ceremonies, a display of fireworks and a royal barge procession on the Chao Phraya River.

Royal Birthdays And Births

This year not only did the Queen celebrate her eightieth birthday, but **Prince Philip** celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday. Prince Philip was born on June 10, 1921 on Corfu, but has lived most of his life in England. He and Princess Elizabeth were married in 1947.

King Carl Gustaf of Sweden celebrated his sixtieth birthday at events attended by a host of European royalty and many Swedes. Carl Gustaf became the direct successor to the throne of Sweden after the death of his father and succeeded his grandfather, King Gustaf VI Adolf, in 1973. He married Silvia Sommerlath in 1976; they have two daughters and one son.

On September 6, 2006, **Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko**, second son and daughter-in-law of the Emperor of Japan, had a baby boy. The prince and his son are second and third in succession to the Japanese throne.

New King of Tonga

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, of Tonga, died in 2006 at the age of eighty-eight years. While he opposed political reforms, he was generally a benign ruler who worked to bring improvements to Tonga. He is succeeded by the Crown Prince Tupouto, who was educated in Britain.

