Monarchy Matters

NEWSLETTER

South Saskatchewan Branch
Monarchist League of Canada

FALL, 2007

The Chairman's Message

The summer months are winding down but the past few months have been satisfying ones for our Branch. The Annual Queen's Birthday Luncheon in May was once again well attended. Our Guest, The Hon. Dr. Edward Bayda, gave a most encouraging address which is available to interested members.

In June my wife and I attended the first Provincial Youth Awards Ceremony at the Hotel Saskatchewan, in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal. This new Award needs to become more well known throughout the Province. Information may be obtained via the Provincial Office of Protocol and Honours.

In August my wife and I hosted our first Branch Garage Sale at our home. We are grateful to all who donated items for sale, and those who gave their time as salespeople. We cleared $364.17 for branch funds which was very encouraging. Perhaps we could that again next year?

September 17 we will attend the launch of a new Government publication at Government House. It is called *Royal Saskatchewan – The Crown in a Canadian Province.* More information should be available for our next Branch Newsletter.

Friday, October 19 at 7:30pm. Please note this on your calendar now and plan to attend our next General Meeting here in Regina. Our Branch Vice-Chairman, Bruce Farrer, is presenting an interesting programme called "*Royal Quirks and Quarks*". This could be of interest to family and friends. Why not invite them to join us that night. See further details in this Newsletter.

Sunday, November 18. Here is another date for your calendar. The Branch and the Lt.Governor are hosting a celebration of the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen and HRH Prince Philip. Plans are in the process of being finalized but I hope we will have your full support. Part of the celebrations will be be at Government House. Contacts will be made by email and phone call to members in mid October.

As the year enters its final phase for our Branch we turn our attention to the needs of electing a new Board of Directors for the year 2008/09. Please give careful thought and let me know if you would be prepared to serve on the Board. Our special need will be seeking a new Branch Chairman. I have now held this office for the past 11 years!

I conclude with grateful thanks for the regular renewal of memberships and extend a warm welcome to our new members.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Glen Nicholson

NEWS AND NOTES

Monarchist League Meeting

Friday, October 19, 2007

Bruce Farrer will speak on

Royal Quirks and Quarks

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

All interested people are welcome.
Plan to come. Bring a friend.

From the Branch Records

Condolences

Condolences are offered to the families of the following members who have passed away since our last Newsletter:

+ Vic Andreas
+ Marjorie Ewart
+ Rose Ullrich
+ The Hon. Jack Wiebe

Welcome to new members: Ruby Apperley (Regina), Jason Dearborn MLA (Regina), Ron Goodwin (Regina), Richard Hordern (Regina), Sandra Kerr (Saltcoats), Agnes Reeve (Regina), Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Sanftleben (Regina), Debbie Saum (Regina), Andrew Tate (Regina).

A celebration of the

Diamond Wedding Anniversary Of

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip

Sunday, November 18, 2007

Possible church service and event at Government House.

Members will be contacted as to final plans for this event by mid-October.

Watch for information about this event.
Plan to come, let others know,
and bring a friend.

All interested people are welcome.

Wanted – Nominations for Officers and Board members Of this Branch

Do you know someone who would serve as an officer or board member for the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League? Would you be interested in letting your name stand? If your answer is yes, please contact the Branch Chairman, the Rev. Derek Nicholls. Especially the branch will be seeking a new chairman since the present one will be retiring.

Ideas for Programs for Branch Meetings, 2008

The Board for the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League will be making plans for the programs for the branch meetings in 2008. Ideas and suggestions would be welcome. Please give them to the chairman, Derek Nicholls before the next board meeting on October 19.

Royal Family Video Collection

There was a proposal in the Spring, 2007 *Monarchy Matters* for the branch to buy and make available for loan a small collection of videotapes and DVD's on the Royal Family. People who were interested in using this service are asked to contact Bruce Farrer (phone: 306-699-2613; Box 37, Qu'Appelle SK., S0G 4A0; email-**b.farrer@sasktel.net**).

Commemorating Diana Princess of Wales

The 10th Anniversary of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales which occurred in a Paris tunnel on August 31, 1997 was commemorated with a Choral Evensong at St. Luke's Anglican Church, Regina on Sunday, August 26. The Service was co-hosted by St. Luke's Parish and the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada. The Service was planned by Fr. Derek Nicholls and included three hymns and a reading from I Corinthians 13 which were used at the Funeral Service at Westminster Abbey on September 6, 1997. The officiant was Canon Willie Lourens, Rector of St. Luke's, and the lessons were read by Margaret Nicholls as a Branch member and Mr. Jack Jameson. The sermon was given by Fr. Nicholls who is Branch Chairman and Honorary Assistant at St. Luke's. Two special prayers written by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, were used in the closing part of the Service. Following the Service a reception was hosted by members of the Monarchist League.

The Regina Service was in advance of the special Service held at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, in London, England on the actual anniversary date of August 31. That service, organized by Princes William and Harry, was attended by 500 people including the Queen and members of the Royal Family, members of Diana's family, and guests from many of the charities which received patronage from Diana during her lifetime. Prince William read a lesson from Ephesians, and Prince Harry gave a moving tribute to their mother. In his sermon the Bishop of London urged that at last Diana be left to rest in peace. The Service was transmitted live from the BBC to Canada via CBC Newsworld.

From the Treasurer

I recently deposited $385.87 to the Monarchist League account. Thanks to Derek and Margaret Nicholls for organizing and holding a sale in their garage which earned $347.17 for the branch. Thanks also goes to Keith Inches who obtained $38.70 from recent stamp sales. He received the stamps from only eight other contributors. All members could help raise funds (used mainly for the newsletter) by collecting stamps. They can be sent to Keith Inches, 2857 Garnet Street, Regina, S4S 1X1 or Isabel Bailey, 207-2050 College Ave. Regina, S4P 4M3. Please try to leave a border around the stamps when cutting them from the envelope. All stamps of any denomination are collected.

Queen's Birthday Luncheon

The Birthday Luncheon celebrating the 81st birthday of the Queen took place on Saturday, May 19, 2007, at the Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina. There were around ninety people in attendance.

The Rev. Derek Nicholls, Chairman of the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League, welcomed all who had come. After the singing of O Canada there was a silent tribute in memory of members who had died during the past year, these being Vic Andreas, Jessie Bailey, Eileen Bancroft, John Bolton, Marjorie Ewart, Henry Poegal, and the Hon. Jack Wiebe.

Derek Nicholls welcomed the main speaker, the former Chief Justice Dr. Edward D. Bayda, and introduced the head table. He also recognized those who were at a birthday luncheon for the first time. Derek Nicholls finally called people's attention to the short explanation of the luncheon in the program, mentioning that the luncheon was a celebration of the birthday of both Queen Victoria and our present monarch, Elizabeth II. Mrs. Margaret Asquith-Morrey gave the grace before those present enjoyed a buffet luncheon. Deborah Saum, M.V.O., gave the loyal toast to the Queen.

After the luncheon Derek Nicholls introduced the main speaker, Dr. Edward D. Bayda Q.C.. Louis Brown, a member of the city council of Regina, gave thanks to Dr. Bayda. Thanks also were expressed to the Hotel Saskatchewan, Isabel Bailey for making arrangements, to Scott Hazelwood for the tickets, and to those who brought royalty items for the display of royalty memorabilia. After Derek Nicholls made several announcements, the program concluded with the singing of, God Save the Queen.

Notes of the Talk Given by (The Hon.) Edward D. Bayda

Given the occasion of the day, a dual celebration, I thought it would be appropriate to talk to you about the role of the monarch in our democracy and the importance of that role. I hope this does not come across to you as a lecture. I'm not given to pedantry, but there is the risk. If I slip into it, forgive me. I am also hoping I will not be very long. If I indulge myself in a frolic of elaboration, I authorize the chairman to intervene and give me a sample of his boot. I am sure that what I have to say will not be new to many of you, but, I remind you, refresher courses are always beneficial. So is re-enforcement.

I think it fair to say that most people who savour the fruits of our democracy either do not fully understand or do not appreciate the exigencies of the role of the monarchy in our democracy. It is troubling, for example, to see Charles Roach, who is 73 years of age, born a British subject in Trinidad and Tobago, a resident in Canada for fifty years, seeking Canadian citizenship, refusing to take an oath of allegiance to an "offshore queen". The oath he was required to take was "to be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors". Mr. Roach argues that the mandatory oath violates the Charter's freedom of conscience provision. He is reported to have said: "I feel that we (blacks) were colonized

as a people by the British throne, and we were enslaved as a people by the British throne and, to me, taking an oath to the monarch of Great Britain, without any disrespect to the Queen herself as a person, is like asking a Holocaust survivor to take an oath to a descendant of Hitler." Another example of that misunderstanding is that of Michael McAteer, a retired journalist with the Toronto Star. He is 72 years old, an Irishman who came to Canada from Dublin in 1964. He refused the oath as well. He is reported to have said: "In general, I don't like monarchies. If they would require me to take an oath to be faithful to Canada, that would be fine. But as a democrat, I think the monarchy is an undemocratic system that serves no purpose whatsoever."

What these two gentlemen, and people like them do not seem to understand is the nature of our democracy and the role of the monarch in a democracy that has that nature. Permit me to briefly outline that nature.

There are four basic models of democracy:

1. The classical Athenian Democracy;
2. Republicanism;
3. Liberal Democracy;
4. Direct Democracy.

There are any number of variants of each of these four classic models. We have seventy some democratic nations in the world, and they reflect those many variants. I think it fair to say that no two democracies are exactly alike. There is no need for me to delve into the details of any of the variants. They have one attribute in common: people rule. That is the very definition of democracy. The term is Greek in origin: demos – people; cratos – rule.

Our democracy is a variant of the third classic model, the liberal democracy. Before the introduction of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms we were a monarchical parliamentary democracy, the same as Great Britain. After the introduction of the Charter we became and are today a monarchical constitutional parliamentary democracy. That distinguishes us from the American congressional model which is a variant of Republicanism.

It is natural to ask, who has the better form of democracy, they or we? I suppose there are good arguments on both sides. I prefer our form. You will see why in a minute.

To appreciate the nature of our democracy it helps to dig a bit into its history. We inherited our democracy from Great Britain. There was a time of course when people did not rule, and the monarch was the absolute ruler. Somewhere along the way an evolutionary process began to slowly emerge. The process was tortuous to say the least. It produced such things as the Magna Carta, the doctrine of the Divine Right of Kings, the Reformation wars, any number of decapitations, the separation of church and state, and independent judiciary, and the list goes on and on.

The ruling powers of the monarch were incrementally whittled away to a point of virtual non-existence. The people ruled through their Parliament. The monarch's role evolved from that of absolute rule to being the protector of democratic rule, the protector of the people's right to rule. This is so beautifully illustrated by Queen

Victoria's refusal to cross the threshold of even the humblest cottage without an invitation by its residents, as a symbol of who, ultimately, was sovereign in her kingdom.

We in Canada are the fortunate beneficiaries of this proud heritage. As one writer put it: "Over time the old dominions of the Empire – and we were one of them - transformed into the democracies of the Commonwealth, and along with them the monarchy that binds them all together, has changed from imperial ruler to the symbol of each citizen's freedoms and obligations." Those rights and freedoms are codified and are now enshrined in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. They represent and reflect the civilized values we enjoy and cherish in this country.

Now I ask you if you were given the privilege of choosing a symbol for these cherished values, and we human beings need our symbols, would you choose a living human being or an inanimate object? I suspect you would prefer the former, not the latter. Would you want that living being to be relatively permanent or someone who is here today and gone tomorrow? Would you prefer a person who by reason of his/her elected political position, exalted though it may be, that by its very nature attracts controversy and partisanship, as does for example the position of the American or French president, or would you prefer a person whose exalted position is assured by history, heritage, tradition and culture?

I have in mind a person who by reason of the coupling of the person's position and his/her sense of purpose, duty, dignity, honour, fairness, impartiality, vision, dedication and caring generates respect from all quarters. I rather think the answers to my questions are obvious. If your answers are what I think they are, you have just chosen the present day monarchical constitutional parliamentary democracy over the republican model. You have chosen our Canadian model of democracy.

As head of state of Canada, Queen Elizabeth, is that powerful symbol I have described for all Canadians regardless of political affiliation, race, gender, age, or the like. Also, she has certain constitutional duties she must perform. There are of course many ceremonial duties that she also so dutifully and graciously performs. She delegates the constitutional and ceremonial duties to the Governor-General and to the Lieutenant Governors. The monarchical structure comprises the monarch and many other persons, namely those representatives of the monarch in the 15 Commonwealth nations and the members of her family.

I found it interesting, but I suppose not surprising, that *Time Magazine* recently described Her Majesty as the most famous woman in the world. That honour went not to some Hollywood celebrity or some sports figure, but to her. The magazine also chose her as one of 100 of the most influential people in the world today. It is interesting to note that this famous woman has never given an interview. This tells you a great deal about her and the deep respect she has for the position she occupies and for her office.

I am proud to have her as the head of my state. God Save the Queen.