Monarchy Matters

NEWSLETTER

South Saskatchewan Branch
Monarchist League of Canada

September, 2008

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I hope that everyone has had a good summer and that you are looking forward to getting back into the regular routine as we begin our fall activities.

Thank you to all those members who helped in any way in the planning for the Queen's Birthday Luncheon, especially to our co-ordinator, Isabel Bailey. I am sure that everyone who attended enjoyed the event in all aspects.

After the Luncheon our usual activities are put on hold until the fall. However, thanks to the initiative and hard work of Derek and Margaret Nichols and a number of other members, we held another very successful Garage Sale. Thank you very much to all who participated in getting ready for it, working at it, or contributing and buying.

Our executive meeting was held on September 26, and you will have details on our regular meeting which will be advertised in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing everyone at this event.

Bruce Farrer
Branch Chairman

Editor's Comments

The United States is in the midst of their election during which citizens will elect members to the House of Representatives, some of the Senators, various other officials, depending on the state, and their Head of State, the President, along with the Vice-President. It is worth considering that the U.S. process of naming their Head of State is very, very long, counting all the primaries. Also consider the cost of the elections! I have never seen any exact figures of late, but it must be millions of dollars. When one compares that with cost of our Monarchy, one must admit that the cost is a small fraction of the cost of just electing a U.S. president. We really have a good, economical institution in our Monarchy which is outside the political process in its working.

Canada also is in the midst of an election. It might be of some worth to ask candidates what their views are in terms of support of the Monarchy. We need to have people in Parliament who understand and support the Monarchy and other fundamental institutions.

Jeannette Mynett

NEWS AND NOTES

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General Meeting

Friday, October 17, 2008
St. Mary's Anglican Church,
Regina at 7:30 p.m.

Program: ***Royalty and the Arts***
Speaker – Jeannette Mynett

Make plans to come
Bring a Friend
Social time & refreshments

Royal families long have encouraged and supported the arts. Also, many have made extensive collections of works of art. Our own royal family has a very considerable collection of works of art of all kinds. However often members of royal families are not only supporters and collectors of all kinds of art, including paintings, sculpture, music, jewelry, and literature. They are themselves artists, painting pictures, composing and performing music, writing, and doing other kinds of arts. The program on October 17 will look at some members of royal families who were artists in their own right, whether amateur or professional or near-professional.

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Personal Notes

The branch sends its condolences to the family of Mary Salway who died on May 15. Mary was Branch Secretary for some years and an active supporter of its activities. The Rev. Derek Nicholls participated in her funeral.

We also mourn the death of Branch member Andy Joerrisen, husband of Branch member Jean Tweten. Andy Joerrisen died on August 5. The Rev. Derek Nicholls also participated in his funeral.

Garage Sale

The second Garage Sale organized by the Branch was held July 17 and 18 at the home of the Rev. Derek and Margaret Nicholls in Regina. It was a must successful time made possible by donations of items from 23 doners and help from 9 branch members and a friend of the branch.

Labeling and pricing took time. Grateful thanks goes to Kay Brogden, a friend of the Branch, who spent most of a Tuesday pricing and sorting out donations. It is estimated that bout 90-100 people came to view and buy some useful bargains which were amongst what was for sale. A last minute doner brought a dinette set, a wheel chair, and some other items from her father's home as he is now in the Veterans Wing of the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre. Those items were soon sold. The income for the branch was $595.82, up from last year's income of $347.00. Unsold items were divided between the Salvation Army and Mennonite Thrift Stores, and many books given to the Regina Library for their book sales. The success of the Sale was largely due to the work of Derek and Margaret Nicholls who also made their garage available for this project.

Talk Given by Heather Salloum

Private Secretary of the Lieutenant-Governor

Given at the Queen's Birthday Luncheon on May 17, 2008

It is an honour to be with you today as we gather with those who respect the Monarchy and celebrate Victoria Day. Throughout Canada's evolution, there has been no more visible and enduring institution than the Crown. For me, more than ever, I appreciate that the Canadian Crown continues to be one of our major, national, unifying symbols.

Over four years ago, I read an article in the *Leader Post* by Will Chabun. It was a tribute to Irene White, who had just retired after a long and productive career as the Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor. I had served on committees with Irene, and knew of the location of her work, but not much else. I called to inquire if they were accepting applications for the job. They were. I sent mine in. I was called for an interview. My references were contacted, and I was offered the position. From that very day, I have become dedicated to serving the Crown in Canada. On my first day of work, I arrived early and walked around the building which was under construction with the new wing for the province's centennial. I shared some chat time with the hard-hat workmen and took some delight in their startled looks. That day, Dr. Lynda Haverstock presented me with the LG pin. I serve at the pleasure of the Lieutenant-Governor. I wear this pin with pride. Wearing this pin is a visible symbol of my support, respect, and appreciation for our systen of government and for our wonderful province.

My learning curve was steep, and the learning has never stopped. I became part of what I have been calling a"dream team"- the significant others who work in the Lieutenant-Governor's Office. We are not part of "the government" but are an integral part of "the governance" of our province and country. My purpose today is not to provide information about the role of the Lieutenant-Governor (His Honour does that with engaging expertise) but to share with you some of the inside information of an office like ours.

Basically, my role is a dual one. I am Director of the office as well as the Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor. As Director, I manage the human resources, budget, police, and day-to-day operations of the office. As Private Secretary I serve the LG as his principle advisor, coordinate the scheduling of the many invitations and duties of his professional obligations, and organize many of the details of his personal life. Although staff at Buckingham Palace must sign a confidentiality agreement as a condition of their employment, in the LGO, we do not require that, but we understand that there is an expectation of confidentiality which we guard earnestly.

So that is the story of my history with the LGO. What I would like to share with you now are some of my personal joys and memorable experiences of this unique position.

Being in the LGO has placed me in a position to engage in many partnerships.

Because I believe most everything we do is about building and maintaining relationships, this feature of my work has been a daily pleasure. There are the official partnerships: executives in the provincial government-Executive Council, Provincial Secretary, the Speaker's Office, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, the Office of Protocol and Honours, and those in the Federal Government – Rideau Hall, the Prime Minister's Offiice, Canadian Heritage, and others. In addition, I engage with organizers of our events and work together on the planning of occasions and celebrations. I also work with officials from the Palace with Royal Visits, His Honour's audience with Her Majesty, and special meetings. However, the success of the operations of our office is due to the expertise of our team of creative collaborators: our office family – Pat Langston, Carolyn Speirs, Christopher Dove, Peg St. Godard, and Don Savaria.

Our work in the LGO is important because His Honour's official duties are at the center of our Constitutional Democracy. As well, His Honour is instrumental in the ceremonial and celebratory occasions which recognize the character and accomplishments of our Saskatchewan citizens. As I see it, the Lieutenant-Governor reinforces the successes of our peoples and instills hope and pride in our lives.

Over the past four years, I have become an avid fan of the Royal Family. Certainly, many of my personal highlights have involved Royal Visits.

The visits of the Princess Royal, Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Earl of Wessex have been highlights. When I first met the Princess Royal a few weeks after joining the LGO, I remember thinking, "she is not like us!" Her upbringing is so different from ordinary people like us. I have come to realize that her life's work is inspired by a devotion to service, just like her mother, and that commitment defines everything they do.

I remember the farewell for Dr. Lynda Haverstock in the Legislative Chamber which was an unprecedented invitation for the Lieutenant-Governor to receive accolades from elected officials in the Chamber. I recall the effusive praise for her work in our province, and her emotional response. I remember the installation of Dr. Barnhart on August 1, 2006. With the ceremony and dignity of an ancient ritual, we witnessed the beginning of a new administration of Saskatchewan's twentieth Lieutenant-Governor. Other memories include our Northern Tour and Levee, the 2005 Centennial of Saskatchewan, the Annual Lieutenant-Governors' Conference which we hosted in 2006, and His Honour's initiative of the Lieutenant-Governor's Leadership Forum for Saskatchewan youth.

Certainly a life marker for me was the Royal Visit of 2005. I was a part of and also witnessing "history". I especially remember Thursday, May 19 at 6:00 p.m. In an arena of 10,000 people, I was sitting ten feet away from the Queen of Canada. I really cannot carry a tune, but there I was singing my heart out God Save the Queen To the Queen!! I remember Her Majesty's smile, her twinkling eyes, her attention to me in that few seconds when I met her face to face. Yes, I curtsied, and I observed.

As a person who values attention to detail, I noticed the much-discussed purse that Her Majesty carried. I did some research, just for this occasion, to share with you some inside info about the Queen's handbag. She is considered to be one of the most elegant women in the world, and the details about her "accessories" are of interest to many people. She has over 200 bags, some of which are 30 or 40 years old. The London-based firm, LAUNER has had the Royal Warrant to supply Her Majesty's bags for the past 40 years. She carries no cash, cheque book, credit cards, keys, or passport. (She does not have a passport.) In the bag she often has the following: an "S" shaped device used as a hook to hang her purse from a table; good luck charms, mostly given to her by her children; family photos; a tube of mints; a package of doggie treats for her pets; a fountain pen (she does use a ballpoint pen); a small metal make-up case that her husband made for her as a wedding gift; reading glasses; and a small note book. Her bags serve as a way to send coded messages to her attendants. When she puts her bag on the table, it is the signal that it will be time to go in five minutes. If the bag is on her left arm, crooked, with her gloves in her right hand, she is happy.

Our work in the LGO is varied, exciting, meaningful, and driven by our mandate and instincts to "reach out" to individuals, organizations, and communities. We welcome invitations from all sources for Their Honours to join with others in celebratory, educational, athletic, or cultural events.

I feel privileged to be a part of the LGO. I aim to spread zeal, unflagging eagerness, and passion for the work we do and for our support of the Crown in Canada.

On my lapel is the symbol of my service, and in my heart is a belief in our people, our traditions, and our institutions. God bless Canada, and God Save the Queen.

Royalty Notes

"Sisi, Empress of Austria

When we(editors of this newsletter) were in Vienna this summer, we had the chance to visit the church crypt where the Hapsburg monarchs were buried. One tomb, that of the Empress Elizabeth, wife of Franz Joseph, had fresh flowers placed at her grave, showing the love and respect some feel for her even after her assassination in 1898. It is also interesting to note that in one guide of Vienna the one short biography in it is that of the Empress Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was a Bavarian princess, a daughter of Duke Maximilian and Ludovica who was a Princess of Bavaria and sister of Archduchess Sophie, mother of Franz Joseph who became Emperor of Austria. The two sisters had planned for Franz Joseph to marry Elizabeth's older sister, Helene. However Franz Joseph fell in love with Elizabeth. They were married in 1853. Elizabeth was only sixteen years old at the time. Elizabeth was popular with her subjects, especially the Hungarians, but was unable to cope with the very rigid court life in Vienna and a domineering, controlling mother-in-law. She was assassinated during one of her long trips

away from Vienna. Since then Elizabeth, popularly known as "Sisi", has been the subject of several books and movies, and one very successful musical. It would seem the near adulation given Princess Diana is not a new thing.

A Royal Saint

How many people know that a grand daughter of Queen Victoria is a saint on the Orthodox Calendar? If one were to look at an Orthodox Calendar, he would notice that *St. Elizabeth the New Martyr* is celebrated on July 5.

Elizabeth was a Princess of Hesse, daughter of Princess Alice, daughter of Queen Victoria. She married Grand Duke Sergei of Russia, fifth son of Alexander II and Governor of Moscow, in 1884. Conservative in nature, Elizabeth became a devout member of the Orthodox Church. She also brought a welcomed youthful bounce to the Romanov court. However her marriage to Sergei was difficult because of his rather harsh character and very reactionary outlook in social and political matters. Grand Duke Sergei was assassinated in 1905. After his death Elizabeth gave up her royal title and life which she had found so difficult, became a nun and started what became the Convent of Mercy of St. Martha and St. Mary. The convent was devoted to a number of charitable and social service projects to help the poor. Elizabeth insisted in staying with her convent to see that its work continued, even after the start of the Bolshevik Revolution. Her charitable work did not save her. She was arrested, exiled, and then brutally murdered with others of royal connection on July 18, 1918. Elizabeth was canonized a saint of the Russian Orthodox Church in 2001. A recent book, Ella: Princess, Saint and Martyr, by Christopher Warwick, tells her story.

60th Birthday of Prince Charles

Charles, Prince of Wales, will celebrate his 60th birthday on November 14, 2008. As a part of the celebration of his birthday, there will be a special exhibition in Windsor Castle of pictures and other memorabilia showing his life. Several of Prince Charles' many personal interests also will be shown in the exhibition. The exhibition will be accompanied by a book, Charles, Prince of Wales: A birthday Souvenir Album (Royal Collection Publications).

Prince Charles was born on November 14, 1948 in Buckingham Palace. He attended Gordonstoun School, majored in archaeology, anthropology and history at Cambridge University, served in the military, and has carried out a full program of public duties since 1964. Best wishes go to our active and able Prince of Wales for this important birthday.

Canadian Connection with Royal Family

Peter Phillips, son of the Princess Royal, and Autumn Patricia Kelly of Montreal, Quebec, were married in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The reception took place at Frogmore. The wedding was attended by around 300 guests, including most members of the Royal Family. Peter and Autumn met in 2003 in Montreal, although Autumn was employed in London. Congratulations and best wishes go to the couple.