



# Fidelity

*United Empire Loyalists' Association of  
Canada  
Toronto Branch*



Volume 29 Issue 2

April/May 2007

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## The Great Flood of 2007

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On Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, the Toronto branch office was flooded after a pipe burst during a cold spell. Branch executive member **Linda Young** was at the office (along with her husband, Mike) when the pipe burst. Thanks to the quick actions of the Youngs, the flood damage was contained. Here is the series of events, as described by Linda:

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*It was a bright and frosty Monday at the Toronto branch office. My husband Mike and I were in hot pursuit of his Loyalist ancestors. The table was piled high with reference books. We had just found an entry that almost certainly indicated that he had Loyalist blood when we heard a most unusual noise - a bit like snow falling off a tin roof.*

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*When we turned around, water was starting to appear across the floor.*

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*Mike went down to notify the Security Guard. I started moving items off the floor. Soon [branch trustee] **Kathie Orr** and several firemen were on the scene. The water was channelled down the stairs while the fireman determined how to turn off the sprinkler system. Eventually the water was off, as much water as possible was squeegeed out the door and we were left to assess the situation.*



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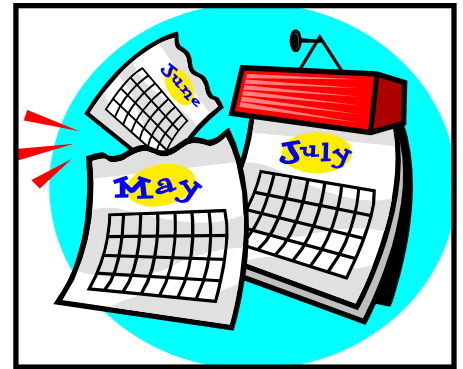
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*Kathie was able to contact the insurance representative. Soon building management was on the scene with fans and dehumidifiers. Next morning I was at the office to let the insurance clean-up crew in. Overnight, with Kathie's supervision, all of the furniture, except that in the library, had been raised onto wooden blocks. The clean-up crew was very efficient. The baseboards were gone in no time so that the walls were not affected by the water. The Archive packers were busy*

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## Spring 2007 Branch Meetings

After the flood hiatus, our spring schedule of monthly speakers resumes on **Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**. Our speaker will be **Megan Webster**, Acting President, Upper Canada Map Society. For those who don't know her, Megan is an antiquarian map and book dealer based in Toronto. She has performed "Roadshow" appraisal clinics as well as catalogued both private and institutional collections. Her topic is "**Antiquarian Maps and the Loyalist Period**".



The **May 16<sup>th</sup>** meeting promises to be very special. **Paul McGrath** will be speaking on "Toronto Towards the End of the 19th Century (1845-1900)." We will be given a "virtual tour" of the city in the 1850s and in the 1870s, using maps and photographs. This should be helpful for anyone doing research on their early Toronto ancestors or on anyone who lived in the city during that period. Included in the photographs is a set of 24 images taken in 1856, considered to be the first known photographs of Toronto.

The monthly meetings are held at the branch office at **40 Scollard Street, Suite 300**. Scollard Street is three short blocks north of Yonge Street from Bloor. The **#6 Bay Street bus** stops at Bay and Yorkville, which is only one short block from Scollard Street. Members are welcome to come early for refreshments and to peruse the library and to meet fellow members before the formal meeting starts. There is metered parking on the street and several parking lots in the neighbourhood. Once in the lobby, **buzz #1500** for access.

We are always looking for suggestions for speakers or topics. If you have any ideas for upcoming meetings, please email them to our programme chair, **Linda Young** at ([linda\\_fawcett\\_young@hotmail.com](mailto:linda_fawcett_young@hotmail.com)) or leave a message at the branch office.

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## The Great Flood (continued from page one)

*building, filling and labelling boxes. I am told that they packed and removed about 85 boxes for drying. As I write the box contents are freeze drying. The putting back together is in good hands but, as always, taking a bit longer than we hoped. Oh yes - further investigation shows that, Mike has four Loyalist ancestors. We are on the trail again.....*

The flood necessitated the postponement of the February and March monthly meetings. The work of putting the office back together is progressing slowly. There is still some repair work to be done in the Archives room. The origin of the burst pipe needs to be identified and the situation rectified so that this does not occur again. Branch president **Karen Windover** assures the membership that every step necessary will be taken to prevent any damage to our important papers and memorabilia.

Once again, thanks go to Linda (and Michael) Young for their quick actions and to Kathie Orr for her attention to detail in preserving our irreplaceable legacy.

## Mississauga Heritage Showcase—Thanks!

Our thanks go to all those members who offered their time to staff the display at Mississauga Heritage Showcase. **Gordon Coyne, Richard Atkinson, Linda Young, Fred Hayward, Ray Lewis, Wanda Sinclair, Diane Reid, David Ellsworth** and **John Warburton** all served on the weekend of February 16-18th at Square One.

After speaking to us, a few members of the public even returned with their family history information to share it with us. Many "Brown Bess" musket demonstrations were enjoyed by the shoppers who stopped to look. We even sang a spinning song with our neighbours. Heritage Mississauga featured a "loyalist" category in their large screen "Jeopardy" Game.

We thank Heritage Mississauga for the chance to participate and to have our static display at City Hall for the week.

- *John Warburton*



*At right: John Warburton and Diane Reid at Heritage Showcase. Photo courtesy John Warburton*

## Trillium Awards—70 Years of Service

This spring six of our members will receive pins and certificates to mark their years of continuous service with our Branch. Ontario's Trillium Award is given annually to deserving volunteers who better the life of their communities. Our education and outreach to the Toronto area would not be possible without the dedicated service of our volunteers. This Province of Ontario programme is a great way to say "thank you" to our people for all their hours of work.

This year's recipients have given a collective 70 years of *volunteer* service:

**Wanda Sinclair and Ray Lewis** - five years

**Anne Rahamut** - ten years

**Kathie Orr and John Warburton** - fifteen years

**Martha Hemphill** - twenty years.

Again, congratulations and thank you to our 2007 recipients.

- *John Warburton*



We would like to remind members of the 2007 national UELAC conference, taking place May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Windsor, Ontario. The host Bicentennial Branch has put together what looks like a great program of weekend events featuring the remarkable history of Essex County and Detroit River heritage sites.

The registration fee of \$409 includes lunches and dinners, taxes and gratuities and events for the conference. It does not include a hotel room. The Holiday Inn Select in Windsor is offering a special room rate of \$129 for those attending the conference. Be sure to mention the conference when making your booking.

More information about the 2007 UELAC national conference can be found at the Bicentennial Branch's excellent website. Go to [www.uelbicentennial.org/](http://www.uelbicentennial.org/) and click on the link on the right to "UELAC Dominion conference 2007". You will find the full conference schedule and the registration form. Those without access to the website can obtain more information by calling the Toronto branch office.

We encourage as many Toronto branch members as possible to attend this event. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet members from other branches and to learn about a particularly historic corner of our country.

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## [www.ueltoronto.ca](http://www.ueltoronto.ca)

We would like to remind members that the Toronto branch has an extensive website, found at [www.ueltoronto.ca/](http://www.ueltoronto.ca/). Thanks to a team headed by **Martha Hemphill**, the site includes all kinds of useful information for members, including:

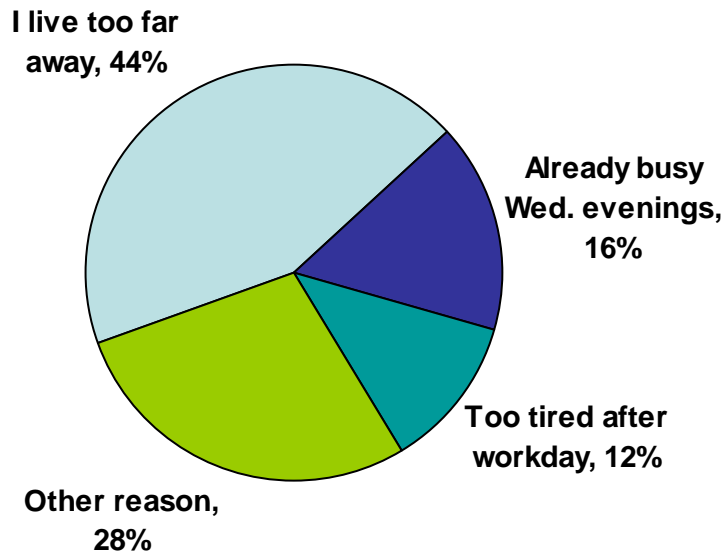
- Calendar of upcoming branch meetings
- A branch history and listing of the branch executive
- A summary of the holdings in our extensive library
- A great guide to research facilities in Toronto, compiled by **Kathie Orr**
- A timeline of United Empire Loyalist events, compiled by **Richard Atkinson**
- Links to other key genealogical and historical sites

A website is an organic thing that requires continuous refreshing to stay relevant to its audience. Your suggestions and input are welcome. Please feel free to email the Toronto branch office at [TorontoUEL@bellnet.ca](mailto:TorontoUEL@bellnet.ca) with any ideas or comments.

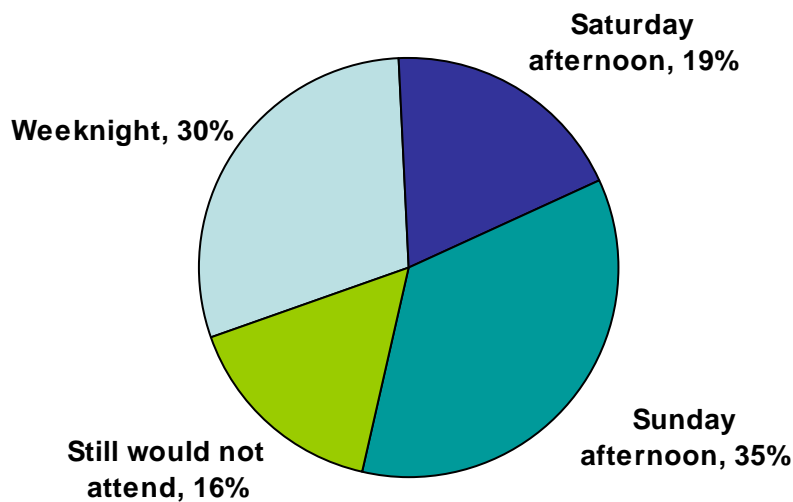
# Toronto Branch Member Survey

*Last fall we sent a survey to our membership to try to learn more about what kind of speakers and events people were interested in seeing. Thirty-seven members responded—thank you to everyone who took the time to reply. Here is a summary of the results.*

Two-thirds of respondents had not attended a branch meeting in the past year. We asked them why not:



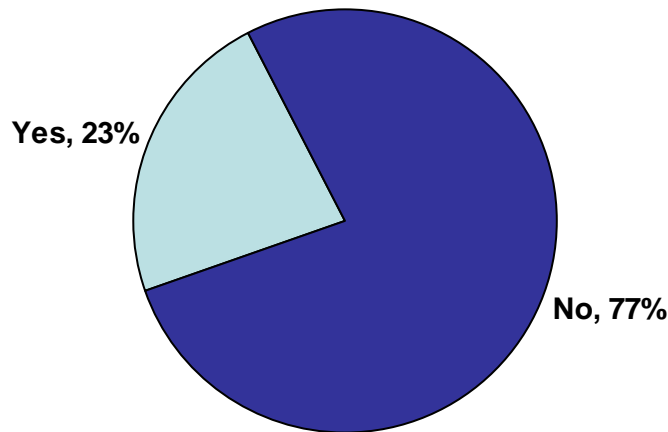
We asked which day/time would be most convenient for members to attend a meeting:



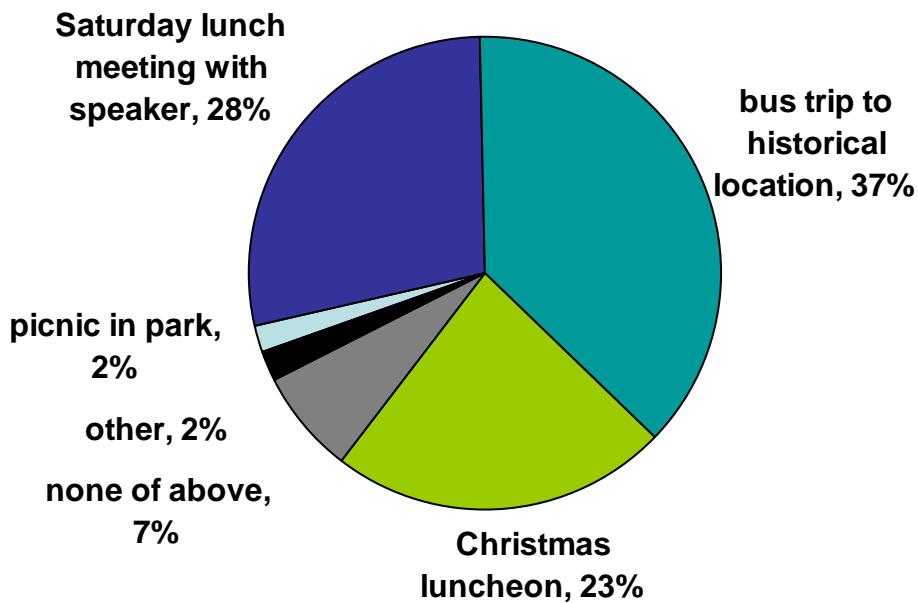
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# Toronto Branch Member Survey (cont.)

We asked if members would be more likely to attend a meeting if the office were located closer to the periphery of Toronto, for example in Etobicoke, Scarborough or North York. Such a location might have free parking and access to a bus route but would not be close to a subway line.



We asked members which kind of branch social event they would be most likely to attend:



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## Toronto Branch Member Survey (cont.)

We also asked members a series of open-ended questions, including one about which kinds of speakers or topics they would find most interesting. Suggestions included (but were not limited to) the following:

- sessions on Butler's Rangers
- researching one's Irish ancestry
- history of the Bay of Quinte area
- the War of 1812
- stories of Loyalists who were not involved in battles or fighting
- how to get one's UEL designation

Our conclusions? For many members, distance is the main reason they do not attend meetings. Having meetings on the periphery of the city would not likely make it more convenient for enough members to attend. Sunday afternoons would be a good alternative to weekday evenings for some members—we experimented with Sunday afternoons in the fall. There is significant interest in a daytime bus trip to a local historical site. This is something on which the executive will follow up.

The executive will review the rest of the suggestions and strive to implement whatever is possible. Thank you again to everyone who participated in the survey; your opinions and ideas are very helpful to us.

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## Ancestors in the Attic

An average of 58,000\* Canadians are tuning in to every episode of "Ancestors in the Attic" on History Television. "Ancestors" positions itself as "*part personal drama, part CSI-like forensic investigation and part historical revelation, [revealing] to Canadians, in an intimate and dramatic way, not only their roots, but also the diverse stories that make up the history of our country.*" "Ancestors in the Attic" invites Canadians to send in their story about a family mystery, legend or discovery that may make for an interesting episode in the series.

Among the genealogical experts appearing regularly on the programme is **Fawne Stratford-Devai**. Fawne is a well-known genealogist and author of numerous books, who has spoken at the Toronto branch as recently as May 2006. Fawne is a panelist on "Ancestors in the Attic" who helps to unravel some of the genealogical mysteries.

**Paul McGrath** is the staff genealogist on "Ancestors in the Attic" and is described as a "genealogical Indiana Jones." Paul is a particular expert on the history of early Toronto and of Ontario. We are fortunate to have Paul as our speaker at the **May 16th** branch meeting, talking about Toronto at the end of the 19th century.

For more information on Ancestors in the Attic, visit the programme website at: [www.history.ca/AncestorsintheAttic/default.aspx](http://www.history.ca/AncestorsintheAttic/default.aspx)

\* source: BBM-NMR, all persons 2+, season-to-date to March 2007.

## Toronto Branch UELAC

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## Special Sale – Loyalist Lineages II

Toronto Branch offers you the opportunity to obtain this high quality, hard cover bound two-volume set at an exceptional price.

**One Set** \$ 62.50 per set  
**3 or more sets** \$ 31.25 per set

Terms: set orders only

Taxes as applicable and postage / shipping charges are extra and not included.

These make a great gift. Don't delay! Contact the branch office today for more details. Thank you to everyone who has supported this venture with sales.



## The Next Issue



Fidelity is published bimonthly. Submissions are most welcome; articles may be edited for length or content.

The next issue of Fidelity will be the June/July issue. The deadline for submissions is **Saturday, June 2nd**.

Submissions can be emailed to [susan.ellsworth@omd.com](mailto:susan.ellsworth@omd.com) or mailed to her attention at the branch office.

Thanks for technical assistance go to **Kathie Orr UE**.