

UELAC DORCHESTER AWARD RECIPIENT 2020
Robert (Bob) Collins McBride UE

It is with great honour and pleasure as Chair of the UELAC Volunteer Recognition Committee to announce and present the 2020 Dorchester Award to Robert Collins McBride UE.

Robert (Bob) McBride received his first two of seven UEL Loyalist Certificates on 25 May 1993 and has been devoted to promoting Loyalist history ever since. Whether filling the role of Member, Branch President, Central East Regional Vice President, Dominion President or Publications Chair, Bob has demonstrated a willingness to do more than the ordinary on many fronts, both nationally and locally.

One member of the Kawartha Branch recently wrote, *“He has made his mark as he has willingly and enthusiastically contributed so much to the preservation of Loyalist history and its dissemination to those perhaps only marginally cognizant of it.”*



His journalism has focused on accuracy, detail, and the celebration of special events in the lives of our members. In June 2004, Bob was named Editor of *The Loyalist Gazette*, a role he has embraced with passion, while volunteering many hours to edit and assist contributors for the past 16 years. More than required, he accepted the challenge of the huge, year-round, time commitment to working with authors, editing manuscripts, and working with the new publisher and design team.

This he continued while serving as Dominion President.

In 2001, Bob served as Branch President and was instrumental in arranging Honorary Patronship for E. John Chard UE. In 2003-2004, Bob was part of the Kawartha Branch Conference Committee. From 2017 to 2019, he spear-headed the project of designing a memorial plaque for E. John Chard UE to be displayed in Adolphustown in 2020, arranging a suitable display at the Loyalist Museum. This involved coordinating with five other Branches.

From 2017-2020 he has been instrumental in making connections with Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming College to create scholarships, awards, and bursaries for promoting Loyalist research, and financially supporting Curatorship and Archive Preservation courses. This has given the Kawartha Branch a presence on the Trent University website and the Fleming College Awards Committee. Bob is diplomatic and encouraging and has a talent for rewarding the hard work of others in Branches across Canada and the Association.

As a result of Bob's continuous and consistent involvement over and above regular membership duties since 1993, we, the Kawartha Branch, unanimously support **ROBERT COLLINS MCBRIDE UE** as being deserving of this award. These words written in 2012 by John Chard in a note to Bob, sums up the reason that Kawartha Branch supports this application: **"You have been working quietly on strengthening the permanency of the UELAC across the country ... You are extending greater public knowledge and acceptance of the UELAC similar to what other well-known Canadian historical organizations have done."**

Carl Stymiest UE
Chair, UELAC Volunteer Recognition Committee