

2024 Suzanne Morse-Hines Memorial Genealogy Family History Award

The Suzanne Morse-Hines Memorial Genealogical-Family History Award was established by the UELAC Board of Directors in 2022. This Memorial Award exemplifies research into one's own family history. It confers recognition on recipients, for their contribution to their family story and to the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. Sue Morse-Hines was an avid and excellent researcher, always willing and able to lend a hand to others researching their family history. And I am grateful to count myself amongst the many members she helped. The award is exclusive to UELAC members and salutes the best amongst our members. For 2024 we have two recipients, both from Ontario branches: from Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch, **Beverly Craig**, UE; and from Kawartha Branch, **Joan Lucas**, UE.



***Beverley Craig** UE, 2024 award recipient;
Carl Stymiest, UE, UELAC President;
Joan Lucas UE, 2024 award recipient.*

Beverly Craig has had a deep interest in family history and genealogy for many, many years. Together with her husband, the late Rodney Craig, Bev traveled to England, Ireland, and Scotland, spending many hours in those countries researching family history. Bev and Rod wanted to help other learn about their family histories and as of March 1997, become Branch Genealogists for the Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch of UELAC. They were very dedicated in their roles as Branch Genealogists and continued in that capacity until April 2019. Bev and Rod went far above and beyond the requirements of Branch Genealogists: They traveled and spent many hours conducting research in London, Ontario, St. Thomas, Ontario, the Eva Brook Donly Museum in Simcoe, at Library and Archives Canada, at the Archives of Ontario, and various other libraries, to help members find the documentation necessary to prove descent from United Empire Loyalists. Rod and Bev were also instrumental in setting up and maintaining the Friends of the Loyalists Collection at Brock University. This collection has been a huge help to people researching their family histories and their Loyalist ancestors. The Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch of UELAC nominated Beverly Craig for the UELAC Suzanne Morse-Hines Memorial Genealogy-Family History Award for her outstanding contributions to family history and genealogy, not only for her own family, but for countless others.

As a charter member and Branch Genealogist, **Joan Lucas** has volunteered at the Kawartha Branch and at the Dominion level for 45 years. Since 1988, Joan has served Kawartha Branch as Genealogist and Membership Chair. She has assisted members in completing over 600 certificate applications, along the way, helping certificate recipients understand how to do research effectively. She sets high standards for herself and others. Her intense scrutiny and attention to detail ensures that applications are acceptable at the national level. She has served as the Genealogy Support Person at the national level for 24 years. In this role she designed and presented Genealogy workshops for 17 National Conferences and many UELAC Board meetings. Using her vast experience, she helped to revise the Dominion Genealogist's Handbook. At the local level, Joan attended Heritage Day events around the district. Armed with a table full of helpful resources, Joan could always be found

cheerfully talking to people about their Loyalist ancestors and how Kawartha Branch could support their research. In her retirement, she remains a willing and capable adviser to the current Branch Genealogists. Joan has proven 18 Loyalist ancestors, and more recently, she has turned her attention to helping relatives research their family history. Always thinking about making resources available to researchers, she has organized much of her genealogical resource material and sent it to the Kawartha Ancestral Research Association in Peterborough.