

2025 UELAC Dorchester Award Nomination

Nomination for the 2025 UELAC Dorchester Award: Patricia Groom UE

Patricia Groom UE has been a steadfast champion of Loyalist history and an inspiration to all who know her. Through her visionary leadership, generosity, and ability to encourage others to engage, Patricia has made immeasurable contributions to the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC). Her exemplary management skills and dedication to innovative approaches for connecting people with Loyalist history have been pivotal in ensuring the association's success and sustainability.

Currently serving as UELAC Past President, Central East Councilor, and Co-Chair of the UELAC Conference Planning Committee, Patricia's influence spans across many roles. She has also held positions as UELAC President, Vice-President, Promotions Chair, and a member of the Public Relations Committee. Additionally, she dedicated many years to leading the Toronto Branch as President and played a key role on the Board of Directors for the former virtual UELAC Bridge Annex Branch.

Pioneering Leadership in UELAC's Growth

One of Patricia's most notable achievements was spearheading the relocation of UELAC's Head Office, Library, and Archives from George Brown House in Toronto to the Cornwall Community Museum. Recognizing the association's need for a more fitting space, Patricia guided the transition, securing a partnership with the City of Cornwall, the Cornwall Community Museum, and the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society.

In her 2023 Spring *Loyalist Gazette* message, Patricia reflected on this milestone, emphasizing its importance in making UELAC more accessible and inclusive:

"The move of our head office and archives to Cornwall over the last year will change the way the public views UELAC and will make us much more accessible. Working closely with the Cornwall Museum staff, we are looking forward to being recognized as an inclusive organization."

Her forward-thinking leadership also introduced UELAC's first National Office Staff Member, Rodney Appleby, in Cornwall, a move that further strengthened the organization's infrastructure.

A Trailblazer in Virtual Engagement

Patricia's impact extended beyond physical spaces with her involvement in establishing the UELAC Bridge Annex Branch, the first virtual branch of the association. Under her guidance, the branch achieved a significant milestone by commemorating the life of John Baker, one of Cornwall's early Black citizens and a Loyalist descendant.

During the UELAC's 2021 virtual conference, the Bridge Annex Board unveiled a memorial storyboard for John Baker, highlighting his service during the War of 1812 and his contributions to the local community. Patricia and her team collaborated with Natasha Henry, President of the Ontario Black History Society, to ensure the memorial accurately honored Baker's legacy. They also facilitated the addition of a memorial stone, recognizing his military service, beneath the storyboard.

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As part of this project, Bridge Annex commissioned an original oil painting of John Baker by local artist Tracy-Lynn Chisolm. This painting was donated to the Cornwall Community Museum, where it will be featured in exhibits such as *The History of Racism in the SDG*.

Dedication to Preserving Loyalist and Community History

Patricia's unwavering commitment to preserving and sharing Loyalist history has elevated UELAC's profile as a vital cultural and historical organization in Canada. Her initiatives, including fostering partnerships and advocating for inclusivity, have created lasting impacts that will benefit future generations.

For her extraordinary service, innovative leadership, and enduring dedication to Loyalist history, Patricia Groom UE is a most deserving candidate for the 2025 UELAC Dorchester Award. Her tireless efforts continue to inspire and connect people to Canada's rich Loyalist heritage.



UELAC Vancouver Branch President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Wilcott". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

UELAC Vancouver Branch Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Drake". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

28 February 2025