



# Monarchy Matters

## NEWSLETTER South Saskatchewan Branch Monarchist League of Canada

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October, 2017

### News of Events in the South Saskatchewan Branch

#### Queen's Birthday Luncheon

The Queen's Birthday luncheon took place on Saturday, May 13, 2017, at the Travelodge South Hotel in Regina. The change of place for the luncheon worked well, and those who attended were pleased with the meal and the setting. The luncheon was attended not only by members of the Monarchist League but also by a number of visitors and guests. The main speaker was Robert Hawkins. Notes of his talk are included in this newsletter

#### Annual Meeting of the South Saskatchewan Branch

The annual general meeting of the South Saskatchewan Branch took place on Friday, April 21, 2017, at the Guide Hall in Regina. Those present received and discussed the annual reports, named the officers and board members for the branch, and discussed other matters. Some of these included ideas for raising money and for future programs. After the business meeting Valerie Cade spoke about her trip to Vimy Ridge for the observances marking the battle that took place there in World War I.

#### Program

South Saskatchewan Branch  
Monarchist League

Saturday, October 21, 2017

1:00 pm – Tour of Government  
House

2:30 pm. – Tea at the Vintage  
Tea Room

All interested people are welcome  
Plan to come – bring a friend

Monday, November 20, 2017

Ringing of bells at Knox  
Metropolitan Church, Regina  
12:00 noon

In Honour of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Of Queen Elizabeth and Prince  
Philip

League members to have lunch  
together after the bell-ringing

## **Chairman's Message**

Greetings to members and friends of the South Saskatchewan branch. As we head into the fall of 2017, you may have noticed that our Canadian Monarchy of late has been pleasantly placed upfront in the news.

With the installation ceremony of Canada's 29 Governor General, Ms. Julie Payette on October 2, 2017, we are "over the moon" about the Queen's appointment of a former Canadian astronaut to the vice regal position representing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Canada's head of state. We thank His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston and Viceregal Consort, Mrs. Johnston, for their seven years of service to Queen and country.

With the recent news of an expectant third child for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in the spring, we share the excitement of a brother or sister for Prince George and Princess Charlotte. In May of this year, we celebrated Her Majesty's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday along with the 96<sup>th</sup> birthday of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh. On November 20, we offer our heartfelt congratulations as the Queen and Prince Philip celebrate 70 years of marriage.

As 2017 winds down, we look back at the Canada 150 Royal visit, and although Saskatchewan did not get a part in the tour, we shared in the excitement as the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall spent time with fellow Canadians in Nunavut, Ontario and on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Canada Day.

On behalf of the board I would like to encourage members and friends to join us at our branch membership meetings held periodically throughout the year, as well as our annual luncheon celebrating our Sovereign's birthday each May.

God Save the Queen!

Scott Hazelwood, Branch Chair.

## **Officers and members of the Board of Directors the South Saskatchewan Branch Monarchist League of Canada**

Named at the Annual Meeting of April 21,  
2017

Scott Hazelwood – Chairman,  
Communications  
Bruce Farrer – Vice-Chairman  
Raymond Mynett – Secretary  
Blake Rintoul – Treasurer  
Judy Parsons – Membership  
Jeannette Mynett – Newsletter  
Valerie Cade – Queen's Birthday Luncheon  
Monique Goffinet-Miller

## **70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip**

Congratulations go to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on the occasion of their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on November 20, 2017. May they have many years and many blessings. This milestone in their lives will be marked by a bell-ringing by Knox Metropolitan Church in Regina at 12:00 noon on November 20. This was arranged by the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League.

When their wedding took place seventy years ago Britain was still in the midst of post-war austerity, and the day itself was cold and blustery. However none of these factors took anything from the joy of this event which proved to be a welcome break from the rationing and difficulties facing Britain as it recovered from World War II. The wedding brought together one of the largest gatherings of royalty of the century, and the various parties recaptured the fiestas of the years before the World Wars.

## **Prince Harry in Toronto**

Prince Harry was in Toronto in September to host the Third Invictus Games. The prince founded the Invictus Games in 2014 to be the international sporting competition for wounded, injured and sick service men and women. He has hosted the games since their beginning.

Prince Harry served in the army for ten years and was twice in Afghanistan, so he has a personal connection with those who have been in the military and were wounded physically or mentally. The Invictus Games are to provide a way for healing for these veterans. In his opening address, Prince Harry declared, "I knew it was my responsibility, given the great platform that I have to help the world understand and be inspired by the spirit of those who wear the uniform. I wanted to find a way for veterans to be a beacon of light." Prince Harry also works in other ways for the welfare of veterans who need physical or emotional healing.

Another reason for Prince Harry being in Toronto is this city is the home town of his girlfriend, Meghan Markle. The two have been dating for some time, and there is considerable speculation they will become engaged in the near future. However there has been no official announcement, and the Queen has advised her grandchildren not to rush into a marriage.

## **Duke and Duchess of Cambridge expecting their third child**

Congratulations go to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge who are expecting their third child. As in the two previous pregnancies the Duchess has suffered from extreme morning sickness and thus for the

time is not carrying out public engagements. However she likely will pick up the pace as her health improves.

The Cambridge's third child will not change the order of succession of Prince George and Princess Charlotte no matter whether it is a boy or a girl. Like most western monarchies the order of succession for our monarchy is determined by the order of birth. The Duke and Duchess have moved to Kensington Palace in London which will now be their main residence. They will be giving their full time to royal duties.

## **Prince Philip Retires**

Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh fulfilled his last public engagement on August 2 by attending a parade of the Royal Marines. He has been the Captain General of the Royal Marines since June 2, 1953.

Prince Philip announced his retirement earlier in the year, saying he would fulfill previously scheduled engagements, but not accept any further invitations after August. However he may attend some public events from time to time.

In his almost seventy years of service, Prince Philip has achieved a great deal in his public life. He has carried out 22,219 solo engagements, 637 overseas visits, has made 5,496 speeches, has been the patron of 785 organizations, and has written 14 books. One of his notable achievements was setting up the Duke of Edinburgh awards in 1956. They are now the leading youth achievement awards in 141 countries.

The younger members of the Royal Family will be carrying out more of the public duties. Prince Edward has on the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Now most of the overseas tours are being done by the younger royals.

## **The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall in Canada**

The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall were in Canada for three days to represent the Crown for the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation. The very successful tour included a visit to Iqaluit in Nunavut and areas of Ontario. The centerpiece of the royal tour was their participation in the national celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation. Prince Charles addressed the nation during the celebration in both English and French. Also he was made an Extraordinary Companion of the Order of Canada.

### **From the September, 2017 edition of Zoomer Magazine**

The September, 2017 edition of Zoomer Magazine features tributes to several members of the Royal Family under the theme, Romancing the Throne. Here are some excerpts from two of the articles on Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

#### **On Queen Elizabeth:**

Could the Queen, in her own extraordinary way, be a model for late-life productivity?...The Queen will never leave her office; the Queen Mother, who lived to be 101, was making public appearances almost until the end.

As journalist Andrew Marr wrote (in *The Diamond Queen*): “ It has been a life of turning up...It is a surprising gruelling routine.” It would tire a woman of a quarter of her age.

Now she has scaled back her duties somewhat, especially concerning international travel, leaving more and more

to her children and grandchildren. Still, she conducted 332 engagements in 2016.

There is much to be learned in this for those of us sailing – okay, dragging our feet – toward our senior years. We may not have the Queen’s riches or resources, but we can keep our brains and hands busy till the end. We can carry on.

#### **On Prince Philip**

The announcement of Prince Philip’s retirement came quietly..Was Prince Philip ill?... The answer was a resounding no. The Duke had merely decided that we wanted to retire gracefully before his sell-by date had passed.

The Duke of Edinburgh is the longest serving consort to a living monarch. And while it may be said that the prince has lived like a king, he has done so without the title or the burden of the crown, thus giving him freedom to speak his mind, to innovate and modernize the monarchy.

Many in the United Kingdom consider Prince Philip’s greatest achievement to be The Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards, which he set up in 1956 and are now the world’s leading youth achievement awards and presented across 141 countries. (Many agree that the prince has made a huge success of his role as the Duke of Edinburgh)

“All too often, I fear Prince Philip has had to listen to me speaking, frequently we have discussed my intended speech beforehand and, as you can imagine, his views have been expressed in a forthright manner,” said Her Majesty the Queen during a speech in 1997. “He is someone who doesn’t take easily to compliments, but he has quite simply been my strength and stay all these years.”

Happy retirement, Prince Philip. You’ve earned it.

**Notes from Remarks by  
Robert Hawkins  
Annual Queen's Birthday Luncheon  
May 13, 2017  
Vimy and What It Tells Us About the  
Role of Canada's Monarchy**

This year, we mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. I would like to reflect on the part that our monarchy played at the time of that battle, and continues to play in its commemoration, and to consider what this tells us about the future role of Canada's Crown during our next 150 years.

(Description of the battle follows)

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was a great victory for the Canadian army. Its soldiers earned a reputation as an elite fighting force. They succeeded where the French twice, and the British once, had failed to capture the ridge. Vimy was the first time all four Canadian divisions, with soldiers from every part of the country, fought as a cohesive formation on the same battlefield.

Earlier, in 1914, King George V send a message to the first Canadian troops arriving overseas. It stated: "I shall follow with interest the progress and work of my Canadians." The King was good to is word. In the early morning of April 10, 1917, after most of Vimy Ridge had been captured, he wrote: "The whole empire will rejoice at the news of yesterday's successful operations. Canada will be proud that the taking of the coveted Vimy Ridge has fallen to the lot of her troops. I heartily congratulate...all who have taken part in this splendid achievement.

The King visited combat zones on six occasions during World War I. On each

occasion he spent time with the Canadian troops.

Four years later, in 1921, George V appointed former Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Julian Byng, by then First Viscount Byng of Vimy, to be Canada's 12<sup>th</sup> Governor-General. The appointment, initially popular with Canadians because of Byng's war service, became tarnished in 1926 when Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Governor General Byng, became embroiled in the political and constitutional crisis now known as the King-Byng affair.

Also 1921, George V selected red and white when he assumed a separate Royal Arms for the Dominion of Canada. These colours, symbolic of blood and bandages, were meant to honour the sacrifices of Canadian soldiers during World War I. In 1965, they were adopted as the colors of the new Canadian Flag.

For Canadians, Vimy is more than a defining moment, stained into a bloodied battlefield. It is also an eternal memory, sculpted into a limestone monument. The Vimy memorial is dedicated to the 60,000 soldiers of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who never came home from the Great War. It is thought by many to be the most beautiful of the combatant nations' memorials.

(The memorial and its construction is described)

The dedication of the monument took place on July 26, 1936. It was the centerpiece of a grand national act of remembrance. The Canadian Legion organized a pilgrimage of 6,200 Canadian veterans and their families, at that time the largest peace-time movement of people from Canada to Europe. The pilgrims were

issued Vimy pilgrimage medals, souvenir berets, and special passports stamped on their covers with the words “Vimy Pilgrimage.” When the pilgrims arrived at the dedication site on July 26, they were joined by a crowd estimated to have been between 50,000 and 100,000 people.

King Edward VIII dedicated the memorial. During the war, while Prince of Wales, he had been on the staff of the Canadian Corps in France. Now he was present as King of Canada and flanked by Mounties in scarlet dress uniform. This was his first official engagement since the death of his father, George V. It was also one of his few official engagements prior to his abdicating the throne.

The presence of the king made the dedication an empire-wide event. The ceremony was broadcast live to Canada by the Canadian Radio Commission, using the shortwave facilities of the British Broadcasting Corporation. The BBC used those facilities to transmit the ceremony to the world. Hundreds of thousands listened; millions more read the newspaper stories. The monument, the pilgrimage and the ceremony, all underlined by the royal star-power of the King of Canada, rekindled the pride of Canadians in what they had accomplished at Vimy, and of the place which the young nation could now command in the world.

By 2002, the monument was showing signs of serious deterioration. The Canadian government committed 20 million dollars to its restoration. The meticulously repaired memorial was rededicated by Queen Elizabeth II on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. The Queen was joined by Prince Philip and the largest crowd since the 1936 ceremony. This was the first time in years that the Canadian government

had asked Her Majesty to act as Queen of Canada in an international setting.

Last month, on April 9, 2017, the one-hundredth anniversary of the Vimy battle, the royal family again used its presence to draw the world’s attention to Canada’s accomplishments at Vimy, and to remind us of the sacrifice for freedom that our forces made. Prince Charles, together with his sons, and 30,000 pilgrims, nearly half of whom were high school students, recalled the stand taken a century earlier by thousands of Canadian soldiers who fought against tyranny and oppression.

The story of Vimy, the battle and the monument, illustrates perfectly the role and the dedication, of Canada’s monarchy.

- It shows the Crown as our willing partner, there to assist us, in good times and bad, as we develop our national identity.
- It shows the Crown as our steadfast witness, there to speak to us, and to the world, of who we are and what we aspire to be.
- And, it shows the Crown as our enduring conscience, there to remind us of those who sacrificed for peace and our freedom – “Lest we Forget”

Willing partner; steadfast witness; enduring conscience – these are the Royal commitments that will make Canada’s next 150 years bright.

God Save the Queen . . .

Thank You.

(Due to circumstances beyond anyone’s control, this newsletter is coming out a bit later than I had wished. Thank you for your understanding.

Jeannette Mynett, Editor)