

MONARCHIST LEAGUE OF  
CANADA—BRANCH 81  
NEW BRUNSWICK

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!  
DIEU PROTÈGE LA REINE!

# NEWS FOR MONARCHISTS

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These three were among the participants in our Royal Party at the Fredericton Region Museum on June 1st during our week of Coronation Anniversary celebrations.

## Message From Your Chairman

Like all of you, I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of Baby Cambridge as this issue of *News for Monarchists* goes to print. By the time many of you have the chance to flip through these pages, we will no doubt have already welcomed to the world the future King or Queen of Canada. Be sure to read inside about our plans to commemorate the royal birth later this summer.

I am grateful to those of you who attended or helped to execute our various Coronation Anniversary observances early last month. Overall, I was pleased with our efforts to commemorate this important anniversary. I know that those of you who live outside the Fredericton area no doubt sent your own good thoughts to HM The Queen as she marked the occasion.

By now, all of you should have received your two books of tickets for our annual fundraising raffle. I hope that you will consider selling or purchasing these tickets, as the revenue generated from fundraising is what allows the Branch to continue its good works in support of the Monarchy in New Brunswick.

I wish each and every one of you a safe and happy summer. The other members of the executive and I are looking forward to getting back to work in September.

## Our Reflection on Victoria Day



Queen Elizabeth in a lighthearted moment

Today, Canada's first holiday of the "summer" season, marks the official Canadian birthday of Her Majesty The Queen. It is a commemorative national day, one of our oldest secular holidays in fact, which is often lost in the excitement of the first long weekend during which most places enjoy good weather (though as I look outside at skies threatening rain I half smile at myself). It has become known as "May-Long," May 2-4," or simply the "May long weekend."

I suppose it can be said that most Canadians do at least know that the official name for the holiday is Victoria Day, and associate it, at least vaguely, with the long dead Queen who sat upon the throne when Canada was united under the BNA Act. Indeed, the old Queen's birthday was celebrated on May 24 or 25 from 1868 until 1900 – she did not reach her 1901 birthday.

After the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, an Act was passed by Parliament establishing a legal holiday on May 24 in each year (or May 25 if May 24 fell on a Sunday) under the name Victoria Day. As

is the custom today, King Edward's birthday was feted on that day as well. Born in November, the King's birthday was celebrated in May likely for two reasons – because his mother's birthday was a familiar holiday and because the weather in May was finer than the weather in November.

For Edward's successor, George V, it was possible to celebrate his birthday on the actual date, June 3rd. The one birthday celebrated by Edward VIII was also celebrated on the actual day, June 23rd, but George VI (who was born in December) was feted in early June by annual proclamation. The exception was during the 1939 Royal Tour of Canada, when the King celebrated his birthday on May 20th with a Trooping of the Colour on Parliament Hill.

However, Victoria Day continued to be observed all the while. For a time, it was known as Empire Day and was celebrated far beyond our borders – it eventually became Commonwealth Day and was moved to the second Monday in March. After the present Queen's accession in 1952 (she was born in April), her birthday was officially celebrated by annual proclamation on Victo-

ria Day until 1957, when this age old holiday was permanently fixed as her Canadian birthday.

In many Canadian capitals, including Fredericton, little official fuss is made, although the Artillery regiment from CFB Gagetown stages a wonderful 21 Gun Salute from the ground overlooking the Saint John River, next to Government House and behind the Victoria Health Centre. Most other celebrations are personal and more muted, like the one my family and I had in our backyard in 2011.

It would take a miracle to convince Canadians that they should spend Victoria Day sipping tea and attending official functions – and who would want that anyway? Well, maybe I would – but like The Queen's official birthday in the UK and elsewhere, the focus is on family and friends and a general mood of celebration. What the goal of monarchists must be is to educate Canadians about Victoria Day and what it means.

Meanwhile, here's one monarchist who, among other activities today, will be lifting a glass to our Sovereign.



Members of the League attend the Choral Evensong

## Coronation Anniversary Events a Success

During the first week of June, the League was involved with several celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. The first of these events took place on June 1st when approximately 50 parents and children joined us at the Fredericton Region Museum

for a "Royal Party at the Museum," taking part in a variety of themed activities. The following day, between 75 and 100 persons gathered at Christ Church Cathedral for a Choral Evensong in Celebration of the Coronation Anniversary, during which Ven. Patricia Drummond led the service

and gave the sermon. That same day at noon, churches across the province were asked to ring their bells for 6 minutes in honour of the Queen's anniversary. On June 6th, we hosted a showing of "Canada at the Coronation" at the Fredericton Public Library. Thanks for your support.

# Celebrate the Arrival of Baby Cambridge!



With a Celebratory Tea

21 September 2013

2-4PM

Codys Women's Institute Hall

1 Codys Lane, Codys, NB

*More information to follow in early September*

## Press Release from Dominion Headquarters

*Dominion HQ recently issued the following press release to media outlets across Canada. This was the inspiration for our September 21st event.*

TORONTO, July 2, 2013 /CNW/ - The Monarchist League of Canada invites every Canadian to hold a simple Royal Baby Shower for neighbours and friends to celebrate

the birth of Canada's future monarch. Rather than encourage gifts of home-knitted items, which most likely would never be seen or used by the Cambridges, we suggest guests bring a small amount of money which the host will consolidate and forward to an appropriate Canadian charity. All present can sign a card to let William and Catherine know of the gift, which they will undoubtedly appreciate. Suggestions for the Shower, info on how to

write The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and contact details for recommended Canadian charities appear on the League's website at <http://www.monarchist.ca/en/baby2013>

*If you can't make our September 21st event (during which a free will offering will be taken for the Benin Orphanage) then why not consider hosting your own informal Royal Baby Shower at your home or place of work?*



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NEW BRUNSWICK BRANCH**

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**Monarchy: The Canadian Way!**



**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!**

**We're always in recruiting mode—and we hope that you are as well. Write for forms today.**

**Now is a great time for people to join the League. Anyone who joins through the Branch (by mail or the website) is eligible for a reduced initial membership fee of \$25 (\$13 off). What's more, that \$\$ stays in NB. New members who join through HQ in Ontario pay \$38 and most of that \$\$ stays in ON.**

## More Miscellaneous Monarchist Memorandums

- The Branch recently donated to the Cambridge Narrows Library to remaining books from our Branch Lending Library. Previously, many other volumes were donated to the Fredericton Public Library and are available for loan across the province.

- Members are reminded that the \$25 members fee is for NEW members only. Once you've joined, every year after your renewal fee is paid to Dominion HQ at the current rate (which is now \$38).

- Several months ago I asked our membership to offer their thoughts on why they are monarchists. The responses I received are now featured on our website

at [www.monarchistnb.ca/membership/why/](http://www.monarchistnb.ca/membership/why/)

- Dominion HQ recently published a translated version of their educational booklet, and the Branch has ordered enough copies to send one to every Franco-



phone school in New Brunswick. Copies of the English version of the booklet are still available.

- We regret to announce the recent resignation from our executive committee of Peggy Scott (treasurer) and Alex Carleton (member at large). We are grateful to both Peggy and Alex for their service to the Branch. Thank you!

- The Branch recently purchased a flag pole and base for our League flag to use at official functions. We'll have it with us at the AGM in October so you'll get to see it then.

**- Please note our new mailing address above and the change to renewal fee (\$38 from \$35)**