

Opening Address by Senator Vivienne Poy

Ontario Genealogical Society Conference: *Borders and Bridges: 1812 to 2012.* Kingston, Ontario

June 2, 2012

Friends, here we are again attending another interesting OGS Conference, *Borders and Bridges: 1812 to 2012.*

I wish to thank Bob Crawford and Nancy Cutway for helping my office with making arrangements, and Region VIII of the Ontario Genealogical Society for hosting this event in the historic city of Kingston, home of Canada's first prime minister. History comes alive this weekend, and I know many of you have enjoyed exploring Kingston as much as my husband and I have.

For more than fifty years, The OGS has promoted genealogical research. It has been a major catalyst for Canada's renewed interest in genealogy. And, during our visit to Pier 21 in Halifax last week, I realized how significantly genealogical research has, and will, contribute to our immigration history.

As we age, many of us seek out stories from our past, in order to share our unique histories with our children and grandchildren. The Ontario Genealogical Society could not manage so well without the countless volunteers, who give of their time and energy to organize Conferences such as this one.

This evening, I would like to recognize two of these volunteers, who will be receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on June 23, 2012 in Toronto, in recognition of their many years of volunteer service with the OGS.

Please join me in recognizing Mr. Don Hinchley, and Dr. Edward Kipp. Both of these men have worn numerous hats during their time working on behalf of the OGS. Dr. Kipp has served the Ottawa Branch as a Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, blogger, Committee member, Conference organizer, speaker, researcher and author. Mr. Don Hinchley is a past president of OGS, and a tireless volunteer working on behalf of the genealogical community in Ontario. Don has contributed so much to the genealogical resources available through his writings, research, and superb organizational skills.

The theme of this Conference is focused on the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, which Canadians are celebrating together this year. As you all know, the War of 1812 was a dispute over borders between England and the United States. In keeping with this theme, speakers at this Conference will discuss issues such as land settlement, pension records, immigration and migration, as well as genealogical resources in Ontario.

We learn about Canada's military history, which you can experience for yourself here in Kingston, and about our Loyalist ancestors. And as usual, there is a wealth of resources on research, and writing your own stories, including using new technologies to enhance your genealogical output.

This conference gives all of us the opportunity to network and learn more about our past. Sometimes we may discover things we don't want to know, but this is all part of the fun of the search. Well, tomorrow is another day of lectures and workshops. What you will learn and what you will find out might surprise you.

This is the last time I will act as the Honorary Patron of the Ontario Genealogical Society, and this evening, I am passing the reins to Kingston's long time MP, former Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honorable Peter Milliken.

The Honorable Peter Milliken, was born and raised in Kingston, and is a graduate of Queen's University and Dalhousie University. Peter also earned an MA in Jurisprudence from Oxford University, and was called to the Bar in 1973.

Peter was first elected as a Member of Parliament for Kingston-and-the-Islands in 1988. He was re-elected in every election until he retired at the 2011 General Election, making him the longest-serving MP in Kingston's history. Peter was elected Speaker of the House of Commons in 2001, and held that position until he retired 10 years later, making him the longest-serving Speaker of the House of Commons in Canadian history. So, the OGS in very good hands!

Peter now functions as Counsel with the firm Cunningham Swan, and is a Fellow in the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University, Kingston, where he teaches and conducts research.

He is currently Honorary President of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada <http://www.uelac.org> and the Honorary Patron of Choirs Ontario <http://www.choirsontario.org>.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Honourable Peter Milliken.