

WEST SMOKY LEGION No. 244

Honours the Life of Queen Elizabeth II

Written by Wanda Zenner September 2022

“The Legion honours with reverence, Canada’s longest reigning monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her generous patronage and support will never be forgotten.”



The two pictures of Queen Elizabeth II that have been proudly displayed at the “Legion Hut” have now been carefully and respectfully draped. The photo of Queen Elizabeth (left) was donated to the West Smoky Legion by Margaret Robideau who was a WWI British war bride.

The Legion was founded in Winnipeg in 1925 as “*The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Services League*” and was later incorporated by a special Act of Parliament with its Charter being issued in 1926. The Act was amended in 1961 after the Queen consented to the use of the prefix “Royal.”



In 1957, Queen Elizabeth II became the first sovereign to open a session of Canadian Parliament in person. She delivered the throne speech, something that is typically done by the Governor General. The Queen and several members of her immediate family visited Canada on many occasions during her 70 years of service.

As well, several members of the Queen’s family have displayed great respect for Canada’s Fallen including her son, the King, and the Queen Consort who placed a wreath at the National War Memorial in 2009 and in 2022 during the Queen’s 70th Jubilee. Her Majesty’s daughter, the Princess Royal, Princess Anne and her husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence also attended the Legion’s National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa in November 2014.

The late Queen’s parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, were present for the inauguration of Canada’s National War Memorial at the original dedication ceremony in May 1939.

Reference

Excerpt from the Legion “News”
Bruce Fenton – President of West Smoky Legion
Photos by Donna McNally

