



Published by The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society, established 1964.

*The Sir Winston Churchill Society isn't all about the things Winston Churchill did in the past (however profound they may be.) It's about his convictions, his wit, his power to inspire and how those qualities are necessary in the world today. We want to incorporate his values and spread his ways. We want to share what we have learnt and discovered from him, with you.*

## CHURCHILLIANS WELCOME NEW CANADIANS

*Written and submitted by: Rick Dumas*

*Photos by: Grant Cree*

This year is the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Citizenship Act, a major moment in Canada's history, and a milestone on our journey to full independence and nationhood. Before the Act, people of this country were British subjects.

Each year, from November 5 to 11, Canadians come together to commemorate Veterans' Week, culminating with Remembrance Day. This year Canada commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping. From 1914-1953, a span of only 39 years – more than 107,000 Canadian soldiers were killed and 227,000 were wounded of the 1.5 million that served at a time when our population ranged from only 8 to 15 million people.

This year also marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Ortona – a battle honour of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. On the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that battle, the cities of Edmonton and Ortona signed a Proclamation of Friendship.

Accordingly, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) chose Remembrance Week and the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum (LERMM) at the Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre to concurrently honour the service and sacrifice of our veterans and serving military. The venue, distinguished guests, veterans, and active serving members provided wonderful and meaningful visuals.

On November 9, 2023, the LERMM hosted the IRCC presentation, with sponsorship by the Rt Honourable Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society of Edmonton. An estimated 80 persons attended –38 candidates for citizenship from 10 countries with their guests; the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta the Honourable Salma

Lakhani, AOE, BSc LLC (Hon); Member of Parliament Ziad Aboultaif; Member of Legislative Assembly Lizette Tejada; Edmonton City Councilor Karen Principe; Indigenous Co-Advisor to the Commander of the Canadian Army MWO Sheldon Quinn (Kihew Napew), MMM, CD; Host and Presiding Official Captain (Retd) Richard Dumas,



*Right side, looking on, are the candidates, family, and friends. Left side, front row, are LERMM board directors John Matthews and Don Miller, CWO Mark Denney, and Lt Col Chris Barr. Second row are Churchill Society Archivist Bob Chaffee, VP Regimental Association Mike Rarog, Churchill Society executive secretary Elisabeth Checkel, and Churchill Society president Will Randall II.*



*The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, AOE, BSc LLC (Hon), shares her unique and inspiring perspective and sterling example as the platform party listens on. Seated from left to right are host and presiding official Captain (Retd) Rick Dumas, MMM, CD; Indigenous Co-Advisor to the Commander of the Canadian Army MWO Sheldon Quinn (Kihew Napew), MMM, CD; Member of Parliament Ziad Aboultaif; Member of Legislative Assembly Lizette Tejada; and Edmonton City Councilor Karen Principe. Along the back wall from left to right are drum major/singer MWO Warren Rubin, CD;, regimental piper Sgt Alex Cysouw; and harpist Keri Lynn Zwicker.*

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## CHURCHILLIANS WELCOME NEW CANADIANS

MMM, CD; and military veterans with serving members to include military musicians. Churchillian representation included Board President Will Randall II, Executive Secretary Elisebeth Checkel, and Archivist Bob Chaffee. There were two other Churchillians in supporting roles, working behind the scenes as volunteers.

On arrival, candidates were met with relaxing harp music while registering with IRCC staff and visiting the museum galleries. Briefings were conducted in advance of the poignant ceremony.

Members of the platform party were invited to speak; contributions included a smudging and personal congratulations upon candidates receiving their certificates.

Following the memorable ceremony was a lovely reception with a great selection of nosh and refreshments, with music by harpist Keri Lynn Zwicker. Our Honourary Patron, along with board member Bob Chaffee, enjoyed this luncheon while chatting with our new Canadians. Gallery visits continued. New Canadians were fascinated with visual reinforcement of what they had learned about our military history. Military veterans and serving members were delighted to mingle with the Museum's guests. MWO Sheldon Quinn is a member of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) which is affiliated to the Loyal Edmonton Regiment due to mutual war-time support and earned battlefield kinship during both World Wars. CTV



*(Foreground) With the reception underway, the CTV interview commences with CTV's Miriam Valdes-Carletti and event host Rick Dumas. (Background) Her Honour breaks bread with new Canadian Citizens.*

Edmonton covered this story at dinner-time and later that evening and the following morning, November 10, 2023.

The symbology of the Citizenship Ceremony being conducted at this venue during Remembrance Week, was not lost. Immigration has been, and continues to be, central to our history and future. The Rt Honourable Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society of Edmonton was there in welcoming 38 new citizens in a very visible and fitting manner.

### HISTORICAL EVENTS

**1899** On November 19 Winston is captured by Boers when the armoured train he is aboard is ambushed and partly wrecked in hostile territory in Natal. The train is able to reverse away with most of its passengers and crew, but 4 are left dead and some 60 taken prisoner.



*Churchill POW*

**1915** On November 11, Churchill resigns from cabinet. He had been put aside as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster after the failed Gallipoli operation.

**1920** In November, after a series of 18 murders and many more attempts by the IRA, the Government of Ireland Bill is passed, partitioning Ireland into two self-governing states: Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland.

**1954** Operation Uranus commences, with the aim of encircling the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad on the Volga. It is the beginning of the last chapter in a human and military catastrophe.



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# PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

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Dear Patron, Honourary Patrons, Members and Friends of the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society of Edmonton:

As the holiday season unfolds, as Society President, I extend my warmest greetings to all of you. I want to update you the work of the society in 2023.

The society celebrated the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III at an English-inspired pub in Edmonton in May—a momentous occasion that marked history.

Shortly after the coronation, I visited London and the Churchill Gate, as shown in the accompanying photo.

The English author and historian Anthony Tucker-Jones discussed his book *Churchill: Master and Commander* during our banquet in June. It was a testament to our society's commitment to intellectual enrichment. The esteemed guest, Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Alberta, added to the evening's brilliance.

Beyond our gatherings, our commitment to philanthropy continued as we extended our support to the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, the Alberta Aviation Museum, and Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta. These efforts exemplify our dedication to the arts, history, and youth.

Recognizing and fostering talent among our members, the recognition of our speech and debate winners with well-deserved prizes reinforced our belief in the importance of fostering eloquence, civility, and critical thinking. Furthermore, we supported a citizenship ceremony to



*Churchill Gate St. Paul's Cathedral.*

welcome several dozen new Canadians hosted by the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in early November as part of our commitment to democratic values.

Regarding our society's Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome Michael Gibson, a partner at an Edmonton law firm, and David Checkel, our first Churchill Scholar, to the board. I offer my deepest appreciation to Richard Dumas, MMM, CD, whose term on the board ended in November. Rick reinforced our ties with our honorary patron, Her Honour, the Honourable Salma

Lakhani, as well as the Canadian

Armed Forces. I also thank Craig Lukaniuk for acting as treasurer for one year. Finally, I thank Lucas Robertson for serving on the board while studying at the University of British Columbia; Lucas has joined the Calgary Stampeders as a fullback.

Sadly, long-time member and supporter Valerie Cload died in 2023. I was so lucky to speak with her at the annual banquet. I extend my condolences to her loved ones.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with prosperity, peace, and the continued camaraderie that defines our society.

Warm regards,

Will Randall

*President,*

*Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society of Edmonton*

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## OUR VISION

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The leaders we inspire today will rise to meet tomorrow's challenges.

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## OUR MISSION

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The Sir Winston Churchill Society promotes leadership, citizenship, and strengthened communities through civil discourse, connecting to history, and encouraging critical thinking.



The Honourable Salma Lakhani,  
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta  
invites everyone to the 2024

# NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE

Meet Their Honours, enjoy music and light refreshments, and take a tour of historic Government House - the ceremonial home of all Albertans.

Event is free and open to the public. Limited free parking available on site.

Visit [www.lieutenantgovernor.ab.ca](http://www.lieutenantgovernor.ab.ca) for more information.



Monday, January 1, 2024

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm | Doors open at 12:45pm

Government House

12845 - 102 Avenue, Edmonton



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# VALERIE CLOAD

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1934 – 2023

The one-and-only true original Valerie Coad has passed away. She was the spouse of the late Arthur Cload, one of the founders of our Churchill Society (the first in Canada). She maintained an honorary membership in the society to the last.

Valeria Topping Alexander was born in August 1923 in Glasgow, Scotland. She was educated there and trained in Speech Pathology at the University of Glasgow. In 1964 she was hired by Alberta Health and emigrated to Edmonton where she was among the first of her profession. She set up a speech pathology program at the Glenrose Hospital, and later worked with colleagues to set a program at the University of Alberta.

She soon met antique dealer and businessman Arthur Cload at a Royal Overseas League function. They were wed in 1965. She later recalled the tremendous effort that Arthur put into the first Memorial Banquet, and her work in support of his fulsome commitment to the society.

Their daughter was born in Edmonton. The Cloads lived for a time in Torquay, England, where their son was born. They spent time there and in Edmonton until settling permanently in Edmonton in 1979. Arthur passed away on his daughter's birthday in September 1996.

Valerie was founder of ELLA, Edmonton Lifelong Learner's Association, in 2001. ELLA is a non-profit Alberta society and charity whose mission is "To offer mature adults high-quality and affordable non-credit educational courses, seminars, and workshops which stimulate both mind and body by exploring liberal arts, fine arts, sciences, humanities, and physical activities." ELLA continues to function in 2023. See their website at [www.my-ella.com](http://www.my-ella.com).

As a supporter of the Churchill Society, Valerie regularly attended our banquets and AGMs.

As guardian of Arthur's legacy and champion of competence and correct form, she was a reliable and accurate critic. She would find out who her table companions would be at our Memorial Banquets, and would then bring place name cards for them. Her friend Dr. Siegenberg would be among them.



We eventually took the hint and provided place cards for all guests. Although mindful of her husband's legacy she did not claim it for herself. In her independent spirit she never served as a director or officer and turned down an offer from the board to rename the Arthur O. Cload Trophy for Speech for both her and Arthur. She did, however, attend our annual awards ceremonies to proudly present this trophy to deserving students.

Valerie Cload attended her last annual Memorial Banquet in May of 2023, accompanied by a companion care worker. She passed away October 7, 2023. She was a remarkable person. Her diminutive stature was no measure of her actual size. She knew what she liked and was not shy about speaking up on behalf of her sensibilities. We knew Valerie to be above all our friend and our wise and articulate critic. She will be missed.

*The generous assistance of Valerie's daughter Laura, and son Bruce were crucial to this tribute. Thank you both for your facts and recollections. Valerie herself provided some interesting memories in interviews prior to 2020. -Editor*

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# SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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This year's Battle of Britain Airshow at Imperial War Museum Duxford was an opportunity for reflection on the high summer of 1940, when the outnumbered RAF handed the Nazi Luftwaffe its first significant defeat. The show featured static and flying displays of aircraft mostly from the Battle of Britain and the Second World War. On the groundside there were participants in period RAF uniforms and flight gear, USAAF uniforms, women in period fashion, live swing music, merchandise galore, and £20 burgers. The aircraft - some of them eighty years old - put on a magnificent display. It was a very moving experience.

Winston Churchill famously said of those days in 1940



*Spitfire Mk I. Photo by Robert Chaffee.*

that it was the British nation that had the lion's heart, and that he had had the luck to be called upon to give the roar. At Duxford on that warm September afternoon, the sound of those marvellous old engines echoed that roar. The exuberant snarl of Rolls-Royce and Packard Merlins, the smooth muttering of Pratt and Whitney Double Wasps, and the whistle of superchargers were the sounds of defiance, of a nation standing fast. Lest we forget.

The Sir Winston Churchill Society promotes communication skills, civil discourse, critical thinking, and connection with history among today's students. The day may come when some are again called to "give the roar."

Membership in the Sir Winston Churchill Society is affordable. It carries no obligations and confers voting rights at general meetings and reduced ticket prices for our long-running annual Memorial Banquets. We invite you to join us as we bring Sir Winston's legacy into the 21st century as a positive example of democratic service, communication, and leadership.

We offer three tiers of membership. You can purchase your membership by visiting our website and following the instructions there:

<https://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop>

Or send the form below, with payment, to our Executive Secretary. Memberships are valid for one year from date of purchase.

**Regular membership:** Annual fee \$30  
*Confers voting privileges at members' meetings and reduced ticket prices for Churchill Society events*

**Student membership:** Annual fee \$10  
*Regular members' privileges for registered students*

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## 2024 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Salutation: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First

Middle

Last

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

Prov

Postal Code

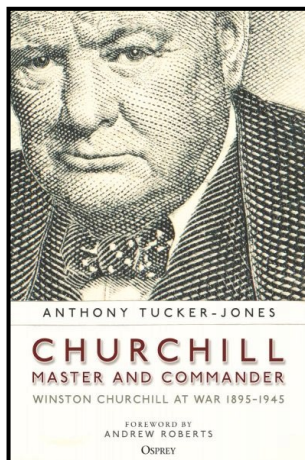
Type of Membership:       Regular \$30       Student \$10

**Privacy and Consent:** By including your E-mail address, you agree to receive future notifications regarding Society activities. Please note, all E-mail messages sent to the membership are sent under the use of the Blind carbon copy (Bcc) tool which means that individual recipients do not see the entire list of addressees. There is no fear of being added to additional mailing lists, etc.

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## BOOKS

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### *Churchill, Master and Commander: Winston Churchill at War 1895-1945*

Anthony Tucker-Jones

It was our privilege and pleasure to host historian and author Anthony Tucker-Jones at our 2023 Memorial Banquet. He provided an entertaining and thought-provoking keynote address on the theme of his recent book *Churchill, Master and Commander: Winston Churchill at War 1895-1945*.

In this work he examines Winston Churchill's military career and his wartime military leadership. Neither hagiography nor hatchet-job, the book shows us in a series of well-paced and fascinating narratives a "round and unvarnished" view of Winston the soldier, war correspondent, and defence minister.

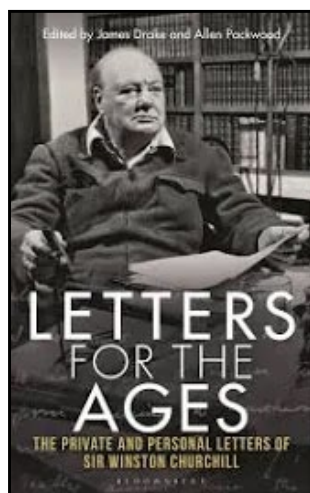
Here we see Churchill through the eyes of those close to him in military affairs, at his best and at his most misguided. His early search for military "creds" in support of his political ambitions is one example; another is his successful grooming of FDR as an ally. Others include his willingness to use mustard gas as a "non-lethal" agent on more than one occasion (it was never deployed), and the facts and context of the Bengal Famine.

One playful chapter describes Winston's frequent wartime attempts while in high office – attempts not always thwarted – to get as close as he could to harm's way. On this and other matters, the book offers numerous quotes from the writings of his colleagues, allies, generals, and subordinates, offering a balanced view of a leader, arguably both great and flawed.



*Anthony Tucker-Jones. Photo by Grant Cree.*

**Get it from Audrey's Books**



### *Letters for the Ages; the Private and Personal Letters of Sir Winston Churchill*

Edited by James Drake and Allen Packwood

An engaging chronological collection of personal correspondence, beginning in 1883 with a letter from 8 year old Winston to his mother.

**Get it from Audrey's Books**



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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Dr. David Checkel has joined our board as Treasurer. Elisebeth Checkel, Rick Dumas, and Craig Lukaniuk have left the board.

Our Patron, Mr. Randolph Churchill, has told us that he likes our focus on education and the competitions we run and sponsor. We at present are short-handed on our board and need new (or return) hands. Maybe you might like to help but do not want to join a board: we can still use your help.



*Randolph Churchill, Patron of our Society*

### Churchill Society Board and Executives

Will Randall II	<i>President</i>
Jill Wright	<i>Vice President</i>
David Checkel	<i>Treasurer</i>
Stan Guzczewski	<i>Director</i>
Michael Gibson	<i>Director</i>
Robert Chaffee	<i>Archives</i>
	<i>The Churchillian</i>

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## CONTACT US

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If you would like to comment on anything in our newsletter, or if you have submissions or suggestions for future articles, we would like to hear from you! Contact our editor, Robert Chaffee at 780.929.6766 or email to [edmontonchurchillsociety@gmail.com](mailto:edmontonchurchillsociety@gmail.com). If you are interested in serving as a Director, or helping out with events, please contact our Executive Secretary.

*Alternatively, we invite you to make your purchases on-line at*  
**[www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop](http://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop)**

For membership application, enclose a cheque payable to “The Sir Winston Churchill Society” and send to:

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Sir Winston Churchill Society  
127 Twin Brooks Cove NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 6T1

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[edmontonchurchillsociety@gmail.com](mailto:edmontonchurchillsociety@gmail.com)  
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