

The Royal Canadian Legion South Vancouver Island Zone

SIR PERCY LAKE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY

The story of the Sir Percy Lake Memorial Scholarship is unique in the history of the Royal Canadian Legion. It is a story that applicants and Legions members should know.

Born in Tenby, Wales, in 1855, Lieutenant-General Sir Percy Lake built a distinguished military career through service which took him to many parts of the British Empire, including an appointment as Chief of General Staff for the Canadian Militia.

After WWI, when Earl Haig toured the Empire organizing Veterans into the British Empire Service League, Sir Percy Lake became the first President of the Canadian Legion within the League and eventually was elected the Grand President. Sir Percy made his home in Victoria where, until his death in 1941, he had been a member of the Pro Patria Branch #31, now known as Trafalgar/Pro Patria, Branch #292.

The Pro Patria Branch # 31 felt that a memorial should be dedicated to Sir Percy. A suggestion from a member for a memorial scholarship was recommended to the Provincial and Dominion Commands. The recommendation was not accepted by either so the then Victoria and District Branches decided to go ahead with it by themselves.

The first scholarship was presented by Lady Lake in 1943, and one has been awarded every year since. This first scholarship was the forerunner of scholarships which are now a part of the Legion Program throughout Canada. It had a value of \$150; the current value stands at \$ 2,000.00

Funds are raised and provided by Branches in the South Vancouver Island Zone.

