

## HARRY DANFORD, M.P.P., U.E.

Inducted 2007

Harry Danford was born in Rawdon Township, Hastings County, where he has lived all his life and resides on the family farm which was settled by his McMaster ancestors. Harry and his wife Lola have two children, four grandchildren & two great-grandchildren.

Harry's career has included many interesting areas besides operating the family farm which he bought in 1964. The Hastings County Milk Board & the Holstein Club have held much interest for him over the years. While serving a fourteen year tenure on Rawdon Township Council he held the position as Reeve for nine years and was elected as Warden of Hastings County in 1998. He held the elected position as Provincial Representative to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for four years, as well as the Chairman of Lower Trent Conservation Authority. He was elected to the Ontario Legislature as M.P.P. for Hastings Peterborough in 1995 and was appointed Parliamentary Assistant the Minister of Agriculture from 1995 to 1999.



On December 18, 1997 the Legislature of Ontario passed a private member's bill introduced by Harry Danford, which designated that those of loyalist heritage would be recognized every year on June 19th as "United Empire Loyalists' Day in Ontario". The bill received Royal Assent and is now law in Ontario. It is to be noted that we are the first Province in Canada that has an officially designated United Empire Loyalists' Day.

June 19th is a significant date in Loyalist history as it is the anniversary of the Constitutional Act of 1791, having received Royal Assent. This act created the framework for responsible government in the newly organized Province of Upper Canada, now Ontario. The creation of United Empire Loyalist Day was a very significant effort and one that was lauded by every resident of Canada and beyond who are of Loyalist descent.

However, he felt there was more to do and it couldn't and didn't stop there! Harry carried on to achieve another goal, which was to have emphasis placed on the Loyalist history and government within the Ontario school history curriculum. It was August 26, 1998 when it was announced by the Minister of Education that the Ontario Government would include a unit of study on the Loyalists in their Grade 7 History & Social Sciences curriculum. By passing this bill, the government of Ontario officially recognizes the important contributions that the Loyalists made, and their descendants continue to make, in the development of Ontario.



The Bay of Quinte Branch unveiled a road sign in the United Empire Loyalist Heritage Centre and Park at Adolphustown on August 7th, 2002 for “Harry Danford Way” in appreciation of his efforts while MPP. Not only has Harry's efforts in government served us well as an organization, he continues to serve his greater community in many capacities.

He supports the efforts of the Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage in Stirling, and he is very active in the Masonic Lodge. Harry was appointed to the onerous position of Deputy Grand Master for the Prince Edward District of the Masonic Lodge for 2007 and 2008.

Harry Danford is a true representative of the standards required to be recognized as a member in our Legacy of Loyal Americans Hall Honour and was appropriately honoured by the Bay of Quinte Branch in Adolphustown on June 16th, 2007.