

CATARAQUI LOYALIST TOWN CRIER



*The Kingston and District Branch
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada
P.O. Box 635, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X1*

www.uelac.org/kingston

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KingstonUELAC/>

*Kingston and District Branch was granted its charter
November 4, 1978*



Volume 37, No. 1 – January 2017

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, January 28, 2017.

Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church Hall. (Potluck lunch at 12:00, hall open from 11:30 a.m.). Please bring your favourite dish, hot or cold, to add to the lunch.

Debra McAuslan will speak on "**The Palatines – Refugees from an Earlier Time.**" Since a large proportion of the Loyalists who settled in eastern Ontario were of Palatine descent, you'll want to hear how Germans ended up among the British. This may give you some more ideas for the ancestor stories you're writing for our Canada 150 Project.

Kingston & District Branch UELAC

Officers

President: Peter Milliken
Past President: Dean Taylor
Vice President: **VACANT**
Secretary: Loralee Martin
Treasurer: Gerry Roney

Committee Chairs

Genealogist: Anne Redish
Hospitality: Maureen Long
House: Jim Long
Library: **VACANT**
Membership & Welcome:
Lorraine Sherren
Newsletter: **VACANT**
Programme: **VACANT**
Publicity: Nancy Cutway
Web Editor: Nancy Cutway

DECEMBER MEETING

Lunch is always on offer prior to our meetings. Some folks are asked to contribute a dish, and others pay a nominal fee (probably the cheapest lunch in town!) for a varied array of sandwiches, cookies/squares, and other tasty foods.



Across the lunch table we can talk about our ancestors or our descendants. People offer suggestions to those still collecting the information required to complete an application to be certified as a Loyalist descendant. Some discover, to their surprise, that their great-great-grandfather was the brother of someone else's great-great-great-grandmother: it has happened several times!

Our speaker was author Jean Rae Baxter, on "Honouring Loyalist History Through Fiction". Ms. Baxter has published numerous award-winning historical novels, many based on events from the American Revolution. She kindly brought a supply of her books which were eagerly purchased by members, both for themselves and to give as gifts for Christmas - an ideal way to interest a grandchild in Loyalist history.



Jean Rae had been asked to add some pointers in her talk that members might be able to use when writing up their own family histories. How could we make them more interesting to strangers who may be reading them on our website next year, when we complete our "Canada 150" goal of collecting 150 stories about Loyalists on our website and possibly in a book? Jean Rae gave us a brief writing workshop that was both comprehensive and succinct, using examples from her own writing to illustrate her points.

Before we start to write, she said, we should set out three statements:

- I want to write about...
- I want to show ...
- I want the reader to experience...

Jean Rae went on to point out that we need to set events in specific place and time. We need to ensure that our story has a beginning, middle and end: don't start telling the reader about John Jones' service in the Kings' Royal Rangers without expanding on where they fought and where he ended up.

We very much appreciate Jean Rae sharing her expertise with us.

This was also our Annual General Meeting. People were sought for unfilled executive positions, but unfortunately we continue to have vacancies. Those already on the executive were acclaimed to remain in the positions they were holding. **Members are encouraged to volunteer through the coming year to help with Program and Newsletter. Looking ahead, we also need people willing to "shadow" the positions of Treasurer and President, to begin learning what responsibilities are entailed in each role.**

CANADA 150 PROJECT

We hope to receive 150 family stories of Loyalists or related families. They can be as long or as short as you wish. They do not need to be accompanied by citations and documentation: save those for your certificate applications. Stories will be placed on our website as they are received. Once all 150 are collected, we hope to publish them in book form. Send your story by email to kingston.uelac@gmail.com

PETER C. NEWMAN BOOK LAUNCH AND SIGNING

The elegant Renaissance Event Venue (a former Masonic Lodge building, beautifully re-purposed) provided a wonderful space for the book launch and signing.



Shirley Bailey, President of the Frontenac Heritage Foundation, acted as emcee for the evening.

Shirley first called on Nancy Cutway of Kingston and District UELAC, who introduced author Peter C. Newman.

Peter Newman even brought his own Loyalist flag to drape over the podium!

If you don't know of Peter C. Newman: he is a former editor-in-chief of the *Toronto Star* and of *Macleans* magazine. He is also the author of a best-selling history of the Hudson's Bay Company, *Company of Adventurers*, as well as books on prime ministers John Diefenbaker, Lester B. Pearson, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and Brian Mulroney.

Mr. Newman explained that he's always wondered why the United Empire Loyalists do not hold a more prominent place in the Canadian consciousness – they are the ancestors of at least ten percent of Canadians, they established the government and other institutions that are part of present-day life in Canada, but many Canadians know nothing about them. With this his 35th book, he set out to raise Canadian consciousness of the Loyalists.

Peter pointed out that the post-nominal designation of "UE" is the only honour granted in Canada which can be passed down through the generations, and that all those who have proved their descent from a Loyalist should write it proudly after their name. He, of course, cannot: he was born in Vienna to Czech parents. His family escaped from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia to Canada in 1940 as Jewish refugees. This may have contributed to his understanding of the Loyalists' situation: they had to leave everything behind and start over in a new country. *Hostages to Fortune: The United Empire Loyalists and the Making of Canada* aims to educate Canadians and others about the importance of the Loyalists.



Newman said he spent four years researching and writing the book. Given the location of the event, he mentioned in particular Molly Brant, a noted Kingston Loyalist settler, but he said, "These are all heroes, and they created a heroic country."

After the author's brief remarks, Jean Rae Baxter UE thanked Peter C. Newman for his address, and for undertaking to write this important book. She commented that she knew how much research has to be done for such a history book, and she very much looked forward to reading her copy.

Thanks to local bookstore Novel Idea, those in attendance were able to purchase a copy or copies and get them signed by the author (one member was seen carrying a stack of four books up to be signed! Guess her Christmas shopping was done.) People chatted patiently in line, sipped a glass of something from the bar, and enjoyed an evening with a major Canadian writer.



Photos: Nancy Cutway UE

2017 BRANCH EXECUTIVE



Left to right: Audrey Bailey, Chard fund trustee; Gerry Roney, treasurer; Maureen Long, hospitality coordinator; Dean Taylor, past president; Jim Long, house coordinator and Chard trustee; Peter Milliken, president and Chard fund trustee; Anne Redish, branch genealogist and South-East Region Vice-President UELAC; Nancy Cutway, communications coordinator and webmaster; Lorraine Sherren, membership coordinator; Jean Rae Baxter, speaker at December AGM. Absent: Loralee Martin, secretary.



OUR SENIOR MEMBER, OKILL STUART U.E.



Kingston and District Branch member Okill Stuart, now 95, lives in St. Lambert, QC. He was featured in an article in the *Journal Saint-Lambert* on November 9, 2016. Writer David Leonardo mentioned several St. Lambert natives who served in the Second World War, in an article headlined “Who were the heros?” He then wrote a separate piece “The Last Man Standing” which discussed the fact that once again Okill would be speaking to high school students on November 11th about the Second World War and his service. Okill was with an artillery unit at Juno Beach during D-Day.

Okill used to do his Remembrance Day talks with a fellow veteran who has now died. “Both of us talked about how we weren’t much older than the children at Saint-Lambert High School and why we went to war ... it was instilled in us to do our duty in life. ... We didn’t have to be told,” Okill says. “We were patriotic and it was our duty.” But he did not welcome war: “I was afraid every moment I was in action,” Okill told the reporter. “Anyone who says he wasn’t is suffering from 65 years of memory lapse.”

No doubt all the original Loyalists would have shared the same feelings about war, but they felt they had to fight for what they believed in.

BEYOND CLASSROOMS

The Beyond Classrooms program in Kingston takes students out of their school for a week and sends them to a museum or other location where they interact not only with the curator but with other invited guests. Anne Redish and Nancy Cutway were invited to address a Grade 6/7 class that was based in Bellevue House (once home of Sir John A. Macdonald) for a week at the end of November. Our time with them lasted just for an hour on November 29th, but we hopefully left them with a few facts about the Loyalists they may remember as they start their study of Canadian history.



Thanks to Karla Tynski, the Beyond Classrooms coordinator, for these photos.

We hope that this event may lead to more opportunities for members of Kingston and District Branch to speak with students, whether in their classrooms or at special excursions such as this.

Perhaps if we can educate a few more students, we will not hear questions such as this: Anne had explained that Loyalists travelled north by boats on rivers and lakes (pointing to Lake Champlain on a map) or, if they lived closer to the seacoast, by sailing up the eastern seaboard of the USA and then around our maritime provinces and down the St. Lawrence River. "Wouldn't it be faster to drive than to sail in a ship?" asked one girl, in all seriousness. Her understanding of "time" and "history" obviously needs work.

More photos on the next page.



It was apparently not always easy for Loyalists to get actual deeds to their land. The following page is a transcription of a letter complaining about the problems encountered. The 1816 original can be found at <http://vitacollections.ca/digital-kingston/96948/page/2?n=>

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR ... of the Kingston Gazette, 27 Jul 1816, p. 2

COMMUNICATION.

Sir - The situation of the old settlers in the Province of Upper Canada is truly deplorable. These people settled in the wilds of Canada, then the Province of Quebec, under the surveys made by the acting surveyor General. Landmarks being established for the guidance of their improvements. No deeds were given them nor could be given them until the parliament of Great Britain altered the Quebec bill and arraigned a new constitution, for [?word] that they had lost in the revolution, in the Province of New York, from whence they chiefly came to settle at Frontenac, now Kingston. After cultivating the country agreeable to those surveys for twenty years and more, deeds are issued to cover those lots, drawn and cultivated as above mentioned. The Surveyor General David William Smith, Speaker of the House of Assembly, knowing that those deeds were filled up by guess, the survey never having been made complete, Mr. Smith wisely provided an act of the Legislature to prevent the deeds from moving the old land marks. This act provides that when thirty freeholders apply to the Magistrates in Petition, they shall make an assessment and collect the money to enable the Surveyor General to erect monuments, in order to preserve their ancient landmarks and boundaries. What is the reason that this act has not been complied with? Are the magistrates all landholders and their sons Lawyers?

An order from the Governor has lain in the Surveyor General's office, ever since the year 1801, for monuments to be erected in the township of Kingston, agreeable to the intention of that act. – Why will not the magistrates do their duty? The consequence is, that the licenced surveyor John Ryder, is running new lines every day and moving the landmarks of the old settlers. People who have come into the country, from the States, marry into a family and obtain a lot of wild land, get John Rider [sic], to move the landmarks, and instead of a wild lot, take by force a fine House and barn and orchard and a well cultivated farm and turn the old Tory (as he is called) out of his house, and all his labour for 30 years.

These old settlers have suffered all that men could suffer; first in a seven years rebellion in the revolutionized colonies – then came to a remote wilderness, some hundred miles from any inhabitant – not a road, not a cow, or an ox or a horse to assist them. No bread to eat the winter they wintered first at Cataroque. A little pease and pork was all they could get until the ice gave way in the spring of 1785. The king as an acknowledgment and mark of his approbation for the loyalty and sufferings of His faithful subjects, ordered lands to be granted them, free from expence, and marked each man's name with the letters U. E. with a grant annexed to each child as it became of age, of two hundred acres of the waste lands of the crown.

Now these children cannot get these lands agreeable to the intention of government – They must sell their rights to a set of speculators that hover round the seat of government, or never get them located: Or if they should have the good fortune to get a location ticket, it is situated on rocks and Lakes and barran [sic] lands, where they are worth nothing at all; the good lots being marked by the surveyors and located by those U.E. rights they have so purchased.

Now, sir, was I a scholar, I might draw you a much better description of this wickedness.

But I have lived to see thirteen colonies, now States of America, severed from the British empire by the maladministration of justice in the civil government of those colonies: the people's minds were soured to that degree that a few designing men overthrew the government. After the conquest of Canada, the King ordered a thousand acres of land to be granted to each man – the land was granted; but the people to whom it was granted were deprived, by a set of speculators, from ever getting a foot, unless they became tenants to those who, in a manner, had robbed them of their rights.

A.G

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to report the passing on November 19, 2016 of a long-time member of Kingston and District Branch, John Frederick Sanders UE – a descendant of Loyalist Daniel Walker. John's obituary can be found at <http://yourlifemoments.ca/sitepages/obituary.asp?old=987733>

We also extend our sympathy to member Mary Lynn Bell, whose husband Walter passed away on November 13, 2016. Walter was the brother-in-law of branch members Doris Wemp and Ronald Storrington.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Amanda Fasken, Bath ON

Sandra Muis, Kingston ON



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 7:30 pm – Kingston Historical Society meeting at the Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street, Kingston. Jean Rae Baxter will present a talk, “The Governor and his Lady.” All are welcome to attend.

Elizabeth Simcoe was a true child of the Enlightenment, and her husband a visionary whose reach sometimes exceeded his grasp. It was during her research for her fifth novel, *Hope's Journey*, set in 1791, that Jean reread Mrs. Simcoe's Diary. Fascinated by this vivid account of the observations and experiences of Upper Canada's first Lieutenant Governor, she delved more deeply into the remarkable partnership between John Graves Simcoe and his wife.

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 10:00 am – Kingston Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society meets at the Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street, Kingston. Topic is “**Who Knew? Part 2**” – continuing on from an interesting 2016 meeting where members told of unexpected discoveries in their family history research.

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 1:00 pm – next meeting of Kingston and District Branch UELAC held at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall. Speaker and topic to be confirmed.

UELAC Conference 2017 : Jun 22-25, 2017, at the Delta Armoury Hotel in London, ON, co-hosted by London & Western Ontario Branch and Grand River Branch. Mark your calendars now! And see the UELAC website for details.

Please note: if you haven't yet renewed your Branch membership, this is the last newsletter you'll receive until you do so.



Kingston and District Branch
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada
P.O. Box 635 Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4X1

www.uelac.org/kingston

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2017

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: Home () _____ Business () _____

Email: _____

Please make your cheque payable to the *Kingston and District Branch, UELAC*.

Renewal Membership Dues for 2017

Individual Membership \$45.00

Family Membership (all at same address) \$60.00
(name(s) of additional family members):

If you belong and pay full dues to another Branch, you may maintain a membership at Kingston Branch for only \$15.00. \$15.00

Please indicate your preference:

I am willing to receive my newsletter by e-mail to the address shown above.

I prefer to receive my newsletter by postal mail.

I am willing for my phone number/e-mail address to be shared with other members of the Branch.

Yes No

Signature: _____