

# **FINAL REPORT: THE RESTORATION AND REPAIR OF THE UEL MONUMENT AND CEMETERY GROUNDS**



**A PROJECT BY THE BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH  
OF THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**



**In conjunction with the  
UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST HERITAGE CENTRE & PARK  
located along the Loyalist Parkway (Hwy #33)  
at Adolphustown, Ontario**

# THE RESTORATION AND REPAIR OF THE UEL MONUMENT AND UEL CEMETERY

## BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT:

In order to comply with insurance coverage, the United Empire Loyalist Heritage Centre and Park, which is owned and operated by the Bay of Quinte Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, contacted two organizations to inspect the UEL Monument in the cemetery grounds. The inspection was done in the fall of 2010 by Campbell Monuments (Belleville) and Kingston Monuments (Kingston).

The monument is a tall granite obelisk over 30 feet tall, with a three-tiered limestone base. Both companies reported back that the monument was listing due to its age, and would need to be levelled. In addition, the original limestone base were cracking and settling, and were not able to be repaired. Limestone wears over time, and the bases would need to be entirely replaced in order to prevent further damages to this important monument. They recommended that the work be done within the next few years to avoid major problems with the monument. In addition, the flagstone walkway, installed in 1956, showed signs of heaving due to frost and tree roots, and in many areas poses a tripping hazard to any visitors into the cemetery grounds. This again poses insurance risks to visitors.

There were four damaged stones formerly from the UEL cemetery that have been in storage in the basement at the Museum on the site. In addition, several known burials on the site have no markers. As part of the project, it was proposed to repair the damaged stones and replace them in the cemetery, and install new small marker stones to recognize any known unmarked burials there.

The project was aimed at improving accessibility and safety to the general public visiting the UEL Cemetery and Monument by stabilizing the monument and its bases, and by levelling and reinstalling the flagstone walkways at the entrance and around the monument.

Several companies were contacted for quotes on the repairs but many were not able to undertake the repairs to the monument, given its unusual size. Quotes were received from Campbell Monuments and Kingston Monuments. In addition, quotes were received from Shurtleff Building Services and Romano Brothers for work on the flagstone area. Other quotes were received for the small cemetery stone repairs and the new cemetery markers. Campbell Monuments was selected to do the work. In order to examine the cemetery grounds, we had the area doused in the summer of 2013.

Fundraising was started for the project in 2013 through 2014, and through the generosity of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, the Bay of Quinte Branch UEL, and various other organizations and individuals, enough money was generated to support the project.

Permission for the repairs was granted from the Ontario Heritage Trust on March of 2014 which would allow the work to commence in the spring of that year. Over May, June and July, the work was done by Campbell Monument staff. At the close of 2014 operations, the 4 damaged stones were replaced in the grounds by our staff after consultation with Campbells and others.



## PHOTOS OF WORK IN PROGRESS:







**NOTE: All photos of the work courtesy of Campbell Monument, Belleville**

**For further information from them, contact them at [www.campbellmonument.com](http://www.campbellmonument.com)**

As can be seen in the photos, the original obelisk was carefully removed. The original limestone bases were badly cracked and also had to be removed. We were able to salvage one section of the lower base which has been retained on the cemetery grounds to show the original base work, and can be used for seating while visiting the grounds.

New Stanstead granite bases were installed and the original obelisk was then replaced. Once the monument was fully restored, the surrounding flagstones making up the walkways were removed. New stone dust base was put in place, and a gentle slope up to the monument replaced the original step. The flagstones were then replaced, and any surrounding grass damaged in the work was re-sodded and re-seeded.

The work completed by Campbell Monuments was surveyed and inspected by our UELHCP Board to make sure all work was done according to the proposals.



**PHOTO OF RESTORED MONUMENT & WALKWAY , taken July 24, 2014 with Dominion UELAC president Bonnie Scheppers, Ketcheson Family President Trevor Ketcheson and Bay of Quinte Branch UEL President Peter Johnson**

The Monument to the United Empire Loyalists is the oldest monument to the Loyalists in all of Canada. It is located in the United Empire Loyalist Heritage Centre and Park, which is situated along the historic Loyalist Parkway in Adolphustown, Ontario. It was erected in the old Loyalist Cemetery in Adolphustown, established shortly after the first Loyalists to Ontario landed on this site on June 16, 1784. The first recorded burial took place in 1784.

During the 1884 Centennial celebrations of Loyalist Settlement in Ontario, the provincial government selected the Adolphustown site for the first of their celebrations. The original UEL cemetery was in deplorable condition, but was cleaned up by this time and a new obelisk shaped monument was unveiled on June 16th, 1884 to honour the loyalist landing site and the cemetery.

In 1956, the area became the first park in Ontario dedicated to the Loyalists when Premier Leslie Frost officially opened the Bay of Quinte UEL Memorial Cemetery and Park. In preparations for this, the cemetery was cleaned up, with existing stones placed in a wall, and the entire site was surrounded by iron fence and a commemorative gate.

The Bay of Quinte Branch UEL chose to do the restoration as part of “**PROJECT 2014**” which marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada. We were pleased that the project to Restore and Repair the UEL Monument and Walkway was able to be completed in that year. In addition, the project was entirely funded without government grants or finances.



## NEXT STEPS AND RECOGNITION:

Now that the Monument and walkway has been restored, there are plans to have an official re-dedication of the Monument. The date for that will be the afternoon of **Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. It will be part of a weekend of activities on May 23-24 that also includes the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the War of 1812. The original Glengarry Fencibles, who took part in several actions during the War of 1812 were stationed in Adolphustown during the spring of 1815 until they were disbanded in Kingston. The weekend will host an encampment by various re-enactors and will conclude with a ceremony in the cemetery on Sunday afternoon. Various political dignitaries and UEL executive members will be invited, along with other individuals and groups that helped to finance this restoration project. A plaque will be unveiled at the ceremony to commemorate the restoration.

Additional information has come in on potential burials that have no known marker in the cemetery. We hope to have paving stones placed along the original cemetery walkway, similar to those used in the "Ad Astra" walkway at the National Air Force Museum of Canada in Trenton, Ontario. That way, families can erect a stone in memory of their loyalist ancestors. It is hoped that we can create an annual event in the cemetery to mark unveiling of new memorial paving stones.

(see <http://airforcemuseum.ca/en/about-ad-astra/application-form> )

### PHOTO TO RIGHT:

One of the 4 repaired and restored cemetery Stones that were damaged and removed years ago that is now reinstalled in the UEL Cemetery at Adolphustown. Several other members of this family have stones installed in the memorial wall erected in 1956 but this stone had been missed and stored in the museum basement for year.

## FOR FURTHER INFO:

Should you wish further information on this project, or have any questions please contact

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You may also visit the UEL Heritage Centre & Park/ Bay of Quinte Branch UEL website

[www.uel.ca](http://www.uel.ca) or email them at [1784@uel.ca](mailto:1784@uel.ca)

