



**Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch**  
The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



# Newsletter

**December 2019**

**Winter has arrived; this is a good time to look back  
on our Branch activities in this year.**

## 2019 Branch Report

### Activities:

- **30 May:** Branch President Michel Racicot participated at the 2019 UELAC Dominion Conference "Capital Calls" hosted by Sir Guy Carleton Branch and held in Gatineau, Qc.
- **6 June:** Branch President Michel Racicot attended CIME Haut-Richelieu Annual General Meeting held on site at Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Qc. CIME is the organisation who owns the land where Sir John Johnson Burial Vault is located.
- **8 June:** The Branch Annual General Meeting and Luncheon was held in Knowlton, Qc with 30 members and guests participating.
- **3 August:** Branch President Michel Racicot was present at the Brome County Historical Society "Night at the Museum" fundraiser gala held at the museum in Knowlton, Qc.
- **14 August:** Our Branch Picnic was held at the lovely home of Branch members John and Sharon Taylor in Knowlton, Qc. Fifteen members, including our special guest Anne Redish, VP Central East Region, had a great time.
- **6 October:** Branch members Edwina Jenne Bougie UE and Michel Racicot represented the Branch at the Eastern Townships Heritage Fair organized by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network and held at the Colby-Curtis Museum in Stanstead, QC.
- **19 October:** About 20 members and friends were present at the "Visit in Warden, QC" where our host and branch member Paul Sicard shared with us information about Warden, a village founded by Loyalist Johannes Mock.
- **27 October:** Branch members Michel Racicot, Adelaide Lanktree UE and Edwina Jenne Bougie UE attended Heritage Branch UELAC "Meet and Greet" held at the Black Watch Armoury – Officers' Mess, in Montreal, QC. Michel Racicot, the speaker at this event, presented "Loyalist Refugees: The Story of the First Settlers in the Eastern Townships".

### Branch Projects:

- In addition to maintaining Sir John Johnson Burial Vault and site with the cooperation of CIME Haut-Richelieu, the Branch participated with CIME and the Société de restauration du Patrimoine Johnson (whose Board is composed of only Branch members) in Phase 1 of an archeological dig with the objective of locating the foundations of Sir John Johnson manor house and of his windmill. Phase 2 will take place next summer.

### Membership:

- In 2019, our Branch had 53 members and 9 second branch members. We do hope to increase our membership in 2020. Please help us by completing the 2020 membership renewal (page 7) and mailing it with your cheque to our Membership Chair, Adelaide Lanktree UE.

### Branch Concerns:

- Our main concern still remains increasing our membership and having more members accepting to participate and serve on the Branch executive.

**Michel Racicot, President**

## Genealogist Report

A UE Certificate was approved 30 July 2019 for Branch member Noreen Pettes Duross proving her ancestral line to Loyalist Jacob Ball who settled in Sutton, QC.

A second UE Certificate for Noreen Pettes Duross was approved on 9 August 2019 through her Loyalist ancestor James Pettes who settled in West Brome, QC. Congratulations Noreen.



President Michel Racicot presenting Noreen Pettes Duross UE her two UE Certificates during our “Visit in Warden” on 19 October 2019

## New Online Membership System

UELAC is presently setting a “new online membership system” which will enable members to join, renew and pay their membership to a UELAC Branch online. More information about this new system will be soon available We will keep you informed.

The present membership renewal (by cheque and regular mail) will continue to be available to all.



# The Year 2019 in Photos



President Michel Racicot presenting the Quebec Flag during the UELAC Conference Gala



Member Edwina Jenne Bougie UE at QAHN Heritage Fair in Stanstead



Our Branch Picnic in Knowlton



Visit in Warden



For more photos and news about our Branch, you can follow us on our Facebook Page: *Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC*



*As the New Year approaches us, we wish all of you a Wonderful 2020. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and friendship over the years.  
Happy New Year!*



# In Memoriam

## Gerald Harrison Thomas

We have lost one of our most active members. Gerald Harrison Thomas passed away at his home in Cowansville, on 30 January 2019, at the age of 85, beloved husband of 60 years to Marjorie Mason Thomas, who passed away only 11 days earlier.



Gerry was born in Abercorn, QC, on 19 October 1933. After graduating from the Cowansville High School, he began working at the Bruck Mills textile plant in Cowansville at the age of 19. In 1979, Bruck Mills was sold and renamed Consoletex where he retired as Director of Finance after 45 years of loyal service.

All his life Gerald was committed to many different community organizations. For years he was an active member of the Scout Movement and of the Brome-Missisquoi-Perkins Hospital Auxiliary. In 2002, he was a recipient of “The Golden Jubilee Medal”, the commemorative medal created to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II’s accession and awarded in Canada to nominees who contributed to public life.

Gerald was also a long-time member of Sir John Johnson Branch, UELAC. Although not a descendant of a Loyalist, he was a very active member. He served as Vice-President of the Branch from 2009 to 2012 and then until 2016 as President. Since 2016, he was our Past President, and recently in June 2018 he had also taken the position of Treasurer.

Gerry was a devoted husband, a loving father, a proud grandpa, and a caring brother. Family and friends were very important to him. Gerry was a supportive dad to his daughters Daphne (Jamie) and Paula (David). He will also be lovingly remembered by his 3 grandchildren Liam, Jessica and Matthew, by his sister Margaret and his 2 brothers-in-law Wayne (Louise) and Winston (Eileen), as well as many other relatives, loved ones and friends.

Gerry will be truly missed and long remembered.

# Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch

## UELAC

### 2019-2020

Honorary President: **Sir Guy Johnson UE** Winchester, England

#### Executive Committee:

Past President: **The Late Gerald Thomas**

President: **Michel Racicot**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Vacant**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **C. Ross Gledhill**

Secretary: **Vacant**

Treasurer: **Jo-ann Savage UE**

Membership Chair: **Adelaide Lanktree UE**

Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** 129 Church St., Cowansville, QC, J2K 1T9 Tel. 450-260-1736

Director: **Edwina Jenne Bougie UE**

#### Other Officers:

Archives: **Michel Racicot**

Flag Bearer: **Wesley Larocque UE**

Johnson Family Burial Vault: **Charles Harbec, Adelaide Lanktree UE,  
Raymond Ostiguy, Michel Racicot, Roderick Riordon UE**

Membership: **Adelaide Lanktree UE** 140 Principale Ouest, Farnham, QC, J2N 1K6 Tel. 450-293-6342

Newsletter: **Michel Racicot**

Various tasks: **Edwina Jenne Bougie UE**

Website: **James Riordon UE**



#### WEBSITES

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch

<http://www.uelac.org/SirJohnJohnson>

UELAC

[www.uelac.org](http://www.uelac.org)

#### E-MAIL

Loyalist Trails Newsletter: **Doug Grant UE** [loyalist.trails\(at\)uelac.org](mailto:loyalist.trails(at)uelac.org)

Branch President: **Michel Racicot**

Branch Chair : **Adelaide Lanktree UE** [adelaidel\(at\)sympatico.ca](mailto:adelaidel(at)sympatico.ca)

Branch Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** [mracicot001\(at\)sympatico.ca](mailto:mracicot001(at)sympatico.ca)

**Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC**  
**2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Dear Member,

Annual fees for the year 2020 are due by 31 **December 2019**  
Prompt payment would be greatly appreciated.

**UELAC membership**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Individual membership \$40.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Family membership \$55.00**

**Second Branch Members** (members of other branches)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Individual membership \$10.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Family membership \$15.00**

Please make your cheque payable to:

**Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch**

And forward it to:

Adelaide Lanktree  
140 Principale Ouest, Farnham  
Québec, J2N 1K6

Please return this notice with your payment. Thank you.  
Please notify us of any change of address, email address or phone number.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_