

## **BIRCHTOWN & ST. PAUL'S CHURCH**

By Brian McConnell UE

Birchtown, Nova Scotia and the Black Loyalist Centre are of tremendous historic value and members of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC) may also be interested to view the windows in St. Paul's Church there that were financially supported by them.

It is approximately a 15 minute drive southwest of Shelburne, Nova Scotia on Highway 3 to Birchtown. Settled in 1784 by Black Loyalists after the American Revolution, Birchtown became the largest settlement of free blacks outside of Africa. The historic site includes a National Historic Site of Canada monument, Saint Paul's Church, an old school house museum, a replica pithouse, a walking trail and park overlooking Shelburne Harbour as well as the Black Loyalist Centre opened on June 6, 2015. (1)



**View of Shelburne Harbour from Birchtown**

The historic St. Paul's Anglican Church located in Birchtown was built in 1905 but closed in 1989. It was de-consecrated on May 6, 2007. The Black Loyalist Heritage Society took over the building and its upkeep. It appealed for financial assistance. Donors were asked to support the restoration of windows in the church and plaques would be placed in recognition. After the UELAC annual meeting in June, 2007, the Association asked its' members to support the preservation of the windows by making donations.

**St. Paul's Church**



**View below inside showing Windows donated by UELAC and 3 plaques underneath  
(Two plaques on each side are for UELAC, middle is Municipality of Shelburne)**





**First plaque on left beneath window reads:**

**DONOR: BERNICE WOOD FLETT, UE, PRESIDENT UELAC 1996-98**

**IN MEMORY OF BERNICE WOOD FLETT, UE, PRESIDENT UELAC 1996-98**



**Second Plaque reads:**

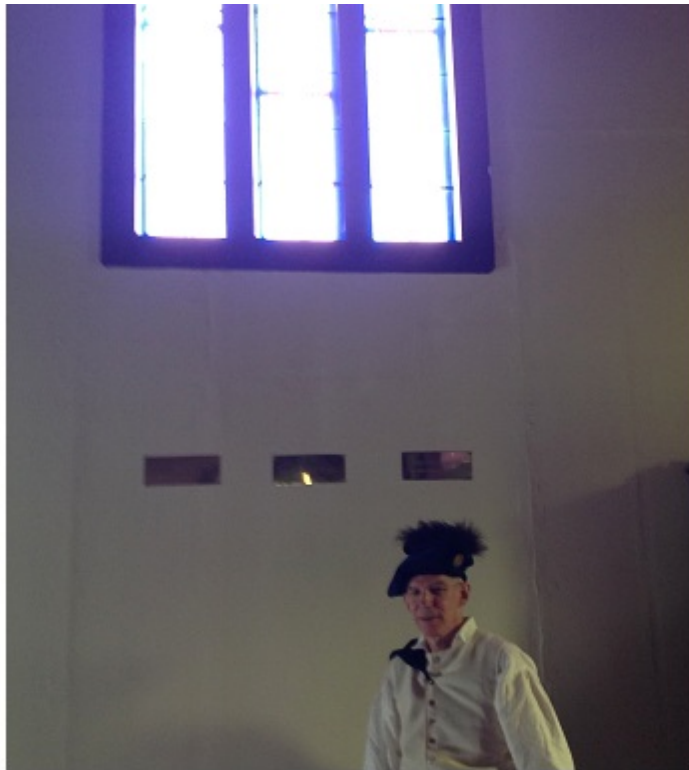
**DONOR: UELAC**

**IN MEMORY OF: JOSHUA CURREY, UE, NB LOYALIST**

**Notes:**

\* This article was prepared by Brian McConnell, UE on July 25, 2015. To contact him email: [brianm564@gmail.com](mailto:brianm564@gmail.com) All photos were taken on July 18, 2015 by Ann McConnell.

(1) For further information on the Black Loyalist Centre see: <http://www.blackloyalist.com>



Brian McConnell, UE, standing beneath UELAC windows  
in St. Paul's Church, Birchtown, N.S.