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In Memory of John Chard

by Peter Conley



Dave Laskey, President of the New Brunswick Branch is seen here presenting a cheque for \$700 to Kathy Wilson, President of the New Brunswick Historical Society to help with restoration work currently ongoing at Loyalist House, Saint John, New Brunswick and in memory of John

Chard. Mr. Chard was a past Dominion President of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada and was instrumental in the formation of over fifteen branches of the UELAC across Canada. He was of member of the NB Branch and made annual donations to our branch. Mr. Chard was very interested in Loyalist House, visiting it most recently in 2010 during the Dominion Conference held in Saint John. Mr. Chard passed away on May 17, 2013 in his 91st year.

Loyalist House

One of the few buildings to survive the Great Fire of 1877, Loyalist House serves as a proud reminder of Saint John's Loyalist heritage. Acquired by the New Brunswick Historical Society in 1959, the Loyalist House is a key feature of Saint John, preserving the excellence of the city's early craftsmen. Loyalist House was completed in 1817 by the Merritt family, Loyalists from New York State who arrived in Saint John in 1783. Six generations of Merritts lived in the gracious Georgian mansion before it was acquired by the NB Historical Society in 1959. It has been lovingly restored with Merritt furnishings to the year 1833.

Like any home, the building requires ongoing maintenance. However, this year it was found that a crisis was developing with one of its four massive chimneys. The exterior stone basement wall was beginning to lean outward and the masons realized that the chimney above it — for the dining room and nursery fireplaces — was not stabilized. It was feared that the chimney would collapse and take the wall of the house with it. Workers have stabilized the chimney

now with some 33 bags of cement and hemlock beams, and are currently awaiting the masons return. It was necessary to examine the chimney, which was embedded in the wall of the dining room, to see whether there was any disintegration of the brick work ... and thus the walls had to be removed.

Two doors, affected by the slight raising of the floor when new support beams were installed in the basement, will be shaved to allow them to swing without hindrance. The next stage will be plastering the front and side of the fireplace in preparation for new wallpaper. Traditional plastering techniques will be used. The entire room will be redecorated with new wall paper and new curtains.

interested in the history of our city and the important role that such a living museum plays in that history, to donate to this very worthy cause. ☐



The provincial government will consider a grant of up to 50% of this very costly work. Loyalist House is also in need of exterior paint work scraping, priming, and painting, as well as shutters and stairs restoration, so the need is great.

The New Brunswick Branch would like to challenge other groups or individuals who are