

Trip to the Grand River Branch, Brantford, Ontario: 16 September 2012



Grand River Branch's Past President, Ellen Tree UE, and Central West Regional Vice-President, Sue Hines UE, invited me to bring greetings and speak about my third great grandfather, Captain John DeCou, son of one of my Loyalist ancestors, Jacob DeCou^{III} UE. John built and owned the stone house commandeered by Lieutenant James FitzGibbon in the War of 1812. This is the same house to which Laura Secord fled to bring the news of imminent attack by American soldiers. I was asked to give a talk about Captain John DeCou's exploits in the War of 1812.

The Friends of Laura Secord group, teaming up with the City of St. Catharines, is in the process of creating Laura Secord's walk that will take place on 22 June 2013, exactly

two hundred years after the event. Using parts of the Bruce Trail and paths through the Jackson's Flats area of Shorthills Provincial Park, just off DeCew Road, as well as streets in St. Catharines, this walk, that I am looking forward to attending, will be the start of an annual event.

Grand River Branch booked a meeting room at the Best Western Plus hotel in Brantford. This was followed by a delicious buffet supper that sent everyone home quite satisfied with the day's events.





It was great to hear Past Dominion President, Bill Terry UE, encouraging members to pay their dues with such humour.

I was very pleased to present a UELAC certificate to Brooke Skelton UE and to share conversation with members before and after the general

meeting.

Grand River Branch has an excellent newsletter created by Sue Hines UE and an excellent website created and maintained by David Kanowakeron Hill Morrison UE.

It is indeed very rewarding to see teamwork producing such great results as exemplified by all the members of the Grand River Branch.

Sincerely and loyally,

Robert C. McBride UE
UELAC Dominion President 2011 – 2013.

