

UELAC President's Message



First of all I want to thank the members for their support and best wishes when I embarked upon this new position. It is an honour and a little bit overwhelming. It is also an honour to follow a long line of distinguished presidents.

Unity and membership were two themes that I referred to in both my remarks at the AGM in June and at the Conference banquet.

We are a small Association but we have *big* ideas. In a multicultural country, it is difficult to make our voices heard and, without a sense of unity and a unified approach, we will *not* be heard. Happily, my sense of the situation is that our Association has never been more unified and we must not let that slip. Issues will certainly crop up but it is important, (pardon the cliché), to look at the big picture!

There's work to be done.

There is a vast pool of Loyalist descendants to be tapped out there. Our current membership is clearly a tiny fraction of the total number of descendants. Some don't know that they have a Loyalist link. Some may know and not care. Many will not have heard of the UELAC. There's work to be done. More members equals more opportunities to make our voices heard, more chances to fund ambitious projects and the ability to properly finance a real home for the UELAC.

I am one of the few presidents who comes with a background in genealogy, (former co-Dominion Genealogist), and the first with a long history in reenactment. They complement each other. Occasionally reenactments will give me the opportunity to let others know about the existence of the UELAC. For example there was a large War of 1812 reenactment at Genesee Country Village, Mumford, New York, last June. I took the opportunity to speak to one of the officials to let them know about us. Communication with historical sites never hurts. Although Mumford is not that far from Canada, they had no knowledge that the UELAC existed. Now they are aware of us.

Let's move forward together!

Peter W. Johnson UE
President, UELAC

At Fort York, Toronto, during the 2006 Annual Conference:
Peter Johnson (right) just prior to taking over as UELAC president from Doug Grant.

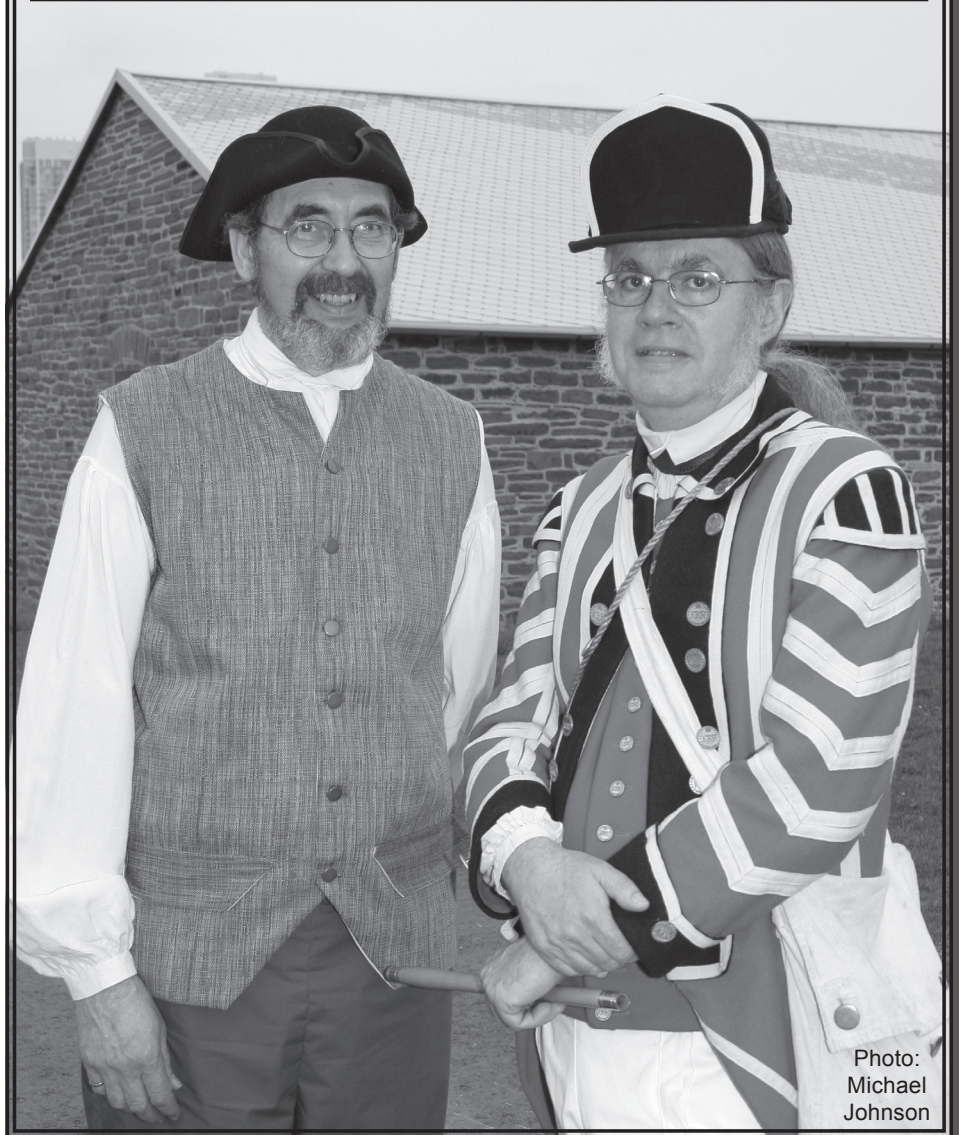


Photo:
Michael
Johnson

"...a long line of distinguished presidents" – collage and photos by Michael Johnson

