



The Ottawa Loyalist
Newsletter of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch,
UELAC
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Message from the President

Hello Sir Guy Carleton members,

Happy Valentine's Day to you and your dearest ones.

And welcome to a 'real' winter. It's been more cold that we're used to, and more snow than we've seen in a while. Today (February 14) is a break between storms. I remember talking with someone new to Canada and they didn't understand why we had so many kinds of winter clothing. Hard earned experience, my friend. Talking about weather is a great icebreaker.

Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership. We appreciate your sticking with us through Covid and beyond. Sir Guy Carleton is looking for more member engagement. We look forward to hearing from you on what interests you, either online or in person. There are a lot of things happening in Ottawa. Heritage Day, February 18, 2025, and many local groups have special events. We welcome your ideas, please check out our website Events page for more information. Please note, 2027 will be Canada's 160th birthday, and our American friends turn 250 next year.

We don't have a date yet for the Spring AGM, and we want to return to a luncheon. If you have favourite places that could be suitable, please let us know. It's mid-February, March (and Spring) are coming up fast. Don't forget to put the Dominion Annual General Meeting on your calendar. Registration is now open.

<https://uelac.ca/conference-2025/>

Rose

Rosemarie Pleasant, President

Sir Guy Carleton Branch, UELAC

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Rosemarie Pleasant, President

Sir Guy Carleton Branch, UEL

Heritage Day, February 18, 2025

We were excited to celebrate Heritage Day with the theme "Heritage Champions: Crafting a Legacy of Preservation and Innovation." The Sir Guy Carleton Chapter was present at the Heritage Day activities on February 18 at [Jean Piggott Hall](#) (Ottawa City Hall.) It was a great opportunity to meet the different historical societies across the city.

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Passing

David Hill Kanowakeron Morrison UE, who passed away on October 16, 2024, was a cherished member and leader of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC). A resolute Central West Councillor for many years, National UELAC Board Director, and a great historian. David's life was a testament to perseverance, cultural pride, and service to his communities.

Born in Rochester, New York, in 1954, David's journey to uncovering his Loyalist roots began after reconnecting with his birth mother in 1991. This led to the revelation that he was the seventh great-grandson of Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea), the renowned Mohawk leader and Loyalist. This connection sparked his deep involvement in the UELAC and his work to honour the intertwined histories of Indigenous and Loyalist heritage.

David played pivotal roles in the UELAC. He was a founding member and served as Vice President for the former virtual Bridge Annex Branch and as Grand River Branch Webmaster. His commitment extended far beyond administrative duties; he was instrumental in promoting education about Haudenosaunee culture and Loyalist contributions to Canada. David was also an advocate for Native adoptees and an enthusiastic supporter of Indigenous and Loyalist history.

In 2018, David's remarkable contributions were recognized with the UELAC Dorchester Award, celebrating his excellence in volunteerism and leadership. Throughout his life, he balanced identities as a Mohawk, Canadian Loyalist, and citizen of the United States, bridging diverse cultural perspectives with integrity and grace.

David's work left an indelible mark on the UELAC and the communities he served. His passion, wisdom, and dedication will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

May he rest in peace, leaving a legacy of unity, history, and inspiration for generations to come.

From the UELAC web site

David Hill Kanowakeron Morrison with Fellow Loyalists at the 2024 UELAC Conference in Cornwall



Book Review:

Northern Vermont in the Revolutionary War

Jason Barney

The History Press

Charleston 2022

Many people believe the Lake Champlain/Green Mountain/Adirondack region is one of the most appealing regions in Eastern North America. Stretching 193 kilometres from the southern extremity of Quebec to the heart of New York State, Lake Champlain is framed by Vermont's Green Mountains to the east and New York's Adirondacks to the west. The Champlain Valley has also served as a water highway before there were asphalt highways.

It was in this context that the Champlain Valley was a strategic route for both the King's armies and the Rebel forces in the Revolutionary War. Consequently, the Champlain Valley saw the comings and goings of fleets, armies and raiding parties from 1775 through to 1783. This is why the book *Northern Vermont in the Revolutionary War* was needed. This book in 13 chapters and 173 pages tells the story of the ebb and flow of armies and the web of political intrigue in achronological order over those eight momentous years: focussing on northern Vermont and even more specifically, the lands bordering Lake Champlain.

From a Loyalist perspective, the last five chapters, covering the years 1778 to 1783, are of greatest interest. The reader will learn about the following events in this portion of the book:

- The botched raid in 1778 by Loyalists of the 84th Regiment on a blockhouse in present-day Alburgh
- The arrival of Roger Stevens and family in the St-Jean area and the beginning of his distinguished military career, which took him and his family eventually to the Rideau River Valley
- The story of Carleton's Raid (1778) on Otter Creek, Vermont, in which 30 men from Sir Johnson's Regiment and Roger Stevens took part. This raid was more successful in destroying valuable stocks of Rebel supplies
- The beginning of the secret negotiations in 1780 between Justus Sherwood, representing the British Government, and Ethan Allen, "President" of the Republic of Vermont. The aim of these negotiations was to bring Vermont over to the King's cause. Justus Sherwood would later go on to be one of the first Loyalist settlers in the Brockville-Prescott area.
- 1780 was also the year of several very successful raid by Loyalists into Vermont, one led by Roger Stevens and a second led by Christopher Carleton (nephew of Sir Guy). A third raid by Mohawk and Abenaki into the Onion River Valley collected 27 prisoners.
- 1781 saw the construction of a British blockhouse on an island in Lake Champlain, from which Justus Sherwood continued negotiations with Ethan Allen and the Vermonters
- 1782 saw the negotiations with Vermont come to nothing and with the end of the war in sights, Loyalists fleeing northward settled along the shores of Lake Champlain, on both sides of what would become the Canada-US border.
- And while the 13 colonies got their independence in 1783, the British would maintain forts in Vermont for another decade.

Loyalist Travels:

Fort Edward, New York and the Sad Fate of Jane McCrea

Fort Edward, New York is another stop for travellers exploring their Loyalist heritage. Fort Edward, four and a half hours from Ottawa (384 kilometres) is in the heart of a region that boasts of many Loyalist stories from the turbulent years of the Revolutionary War. Fort Edward is in the heart of the beautiful Lake George region and is just outside Glens Falls, New York. Not far from Fort Edward are other historic sites important to Loyalists, such as [Fort Ticonderoga](#), [Saratoga National Historic Park](#), and [Johnson Hall State Historic Site](#).

Fort Edward was the site of the tragic killing of Loyalist [Jane McCrea](#) in 1777. McCrea was on her way to be reunited with her fiancé, David Jones, a Loyalist and officer in the British Army. While staying with friends in Fort Edward, she was murdered, although the identity of the perpetrators is still under debate.

The visitor to Fort Edward can see the region's early history encapsulated in the stunning Patrick Smyth (another Loyalist) house, which is the site of the Old Fort Museum. A stone's throw away is a second museum of the region's history, the [Rogers Island Visitors Center](#), named in honour of Robert Rogers, military hero in the Seven Years War and Loyalist officer (yet another Loyalist) in the Revolutionary War. Rogers Island, despite Major Rogers's Loyalist service, is today called the "Birthplace of the US Army Rangers", which is an enormous tribute to his contributions to the British/Colonial successes in the Seven Years War.

The Old Fort Museum in Fort Edward Museum (credit: Old Fort Museum)

