



# Newsletter

## *Spring 2013*

Finally winter is behind us and summer is already showing its colors.  
It is time to invite you to our 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**At 11:30 AM for lunch at 12:00 Noon**

To be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall  
Montgomery St, Philipsburg (St. Armand), QC

**Guest Speaker: Roy Lewis, Vice-President Central East Region UELAC**

Topic: News from the UELAC

**Lunch – Buffet Style: \$16.00 per person (wine included)**

*(See menu on page 7)*

**Please reserve by June 8th with:**

Adelaide – e-mail: [adelaidel@sympatico.ca](mailto:adelaidel@sympatico.ca)

Telephone: (450) 293-6342

or

Linda – e-mail: [lilac23@axion.ca](mailto:lilac23@axion.ca)

Telephone: (450) 306-1096

*Payment may be made at the door  
but please remember that we must pay for the number of places we reserve.*

## QAHN SOFTI Project

Last September, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) launched a project called “Significant Objects for Telling Identity (SOFTI): English Quebec through 100 objects”. With this project, QAHN aimed in collecting the stories of 100 objects that together would create a portrait of Quebec’s English-speaking communities, past and present. This project was realized in partnership with historical societies, museums, community groups, and individuals across Quebec, Canada. It is a portrait of the English-speaking communities of Quebec, in all their diversity.

The official launch of QAHN’s much-anticipated “100 Objects” website took place on March 26, 2013 at Uplands Heritage and Cultural Centre in Lennoxville (Sherbrooke), Quebec. Members of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, Michel Racicot, Heather Darch, Adelaide Lanktree and her son John were present at the launch. Heather Darch was the SOFTI Project co-manager. Also present were Beverley and Milton Loomis of Little Forks Branch.



This new website <http://100objects.qahn.org/> contains photos of artefacts, stories, essays, and an historical timeline. It identifies resources for further research. It also offers six audio-visual capsules that help bring selected stories alive. While browsing through this website, please take a special look at object 13 "Gravestone of Sir John Johnson-1830" presented by Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, at object 20 "Sampler by Adela Hyatt" submitted by Little Forks Branch, at object 56 "Yard of Silk" presented by branch member Michel Racicot, president of the Cowansville Historical Society, at objects 7 "Whaler's Try Pot" and item 21 "The Boyle Family Bible" submitted by branch member Jim Caputo, president of Heritage Gaspé, and finally at object 5 "Loyalist Coat" presented by the Missisquoi Museum, Stanbridge East, Quebec. A DVD of this project is being made and will be distributed to libraries across Canada.

## **The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award Presented to two second branch members of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch**

On November 27, 2012, the Governor General of Canada presented the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award to Maura Wilkins for her long-standing compassion toward society's most vulnerable and to Lieutenant-Colonel Okill Stuart (Ret'd) UE for his long commitment to promoting our country's heritage. We wish to extend our congratulations to both our second branch members.

## **Sir John Johnson Family Vault... Something Old, Something New...**

Patrimoine Johnson awaits the results of a renewed application for a subsidy from the *Fonds culturel* of the MRC Haut-Richelieu which, combined with the proposed grant from UELAC, would permit it to go forward with the plans to complete the UELAC Centennial Project, the preservation of the ruins of the Sir John Johnson Family Vault, the return to the site of the remains found and identified during the archeological excavations and the construction of an exact scale replica of the front wall of the vault (with the original restored door and replicated lock) at the end of a flagstone surface laid over and representing the existing foundations of the two burial chambers.



*In 1977, only three people could remember the exact site of Sir John's grave. A small group of local historians gathered on Mont Saint-Grégoire to plant a simple marker in Sir John's memory.*

A new smaller vault is contemplated behind the restored door to permanently receive the remains, presently in Quebec City. At least three interpretive panels are to be installed in collaboration with C.I.M.E., the property owner. The site is to be landscaped to give the appearance of the vault in the famous Bunnett painting and the surveyed and contracted Patrimoine Johnson area is to be integrated into C.I.M.E.'s new footpath network in the orchard recently cleared of apple trees.

Estimates for the work have been provided by a local contractor for the purpose of the renewed application to the MRC Haut-Richelieu. The major portion of the construction and site work would be undertaken this year with the finishing touches to be completed in time for the opening and dedication of UELAC's Centennial Project in 2014.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Ostiguy



## Remembering our Past

In 1968, Sir John and Lady Rosemary Johnson of England were honoured guests at the Cowansville Art Centre.

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch obtained its charter on December 16, 1967 and the first important event organized by the new Branch took place on April 24, 1968, with a special visit by Sir John Paley Johnson and his wife, Lady Rosemary Johnson, of England. Arriving at the Bruck House on Main Street, Cowansville, Sir John Paley and Lady Johnson were greeted by Murray Mason, President of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch and by Eugenie Lee, President of the Cowansville Art Centre. About 50 persons were present. Mr. Mason welcomed the guests and said how honoured they were to be able to have the visit of Sir John, who was the sixth Baronet of New York since Sir William Johnson, father of Sir John Johnson.

Sir John traced the early history of his family from the time they settled in New York until they reached the safety of Canadian Shores. He told of the harrowing escape from New York, of Lady Polly Johnson, wife of Sir John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bt, with her small children and the story of the Johnson bell which was carried all the way from the Mohawk Valley in New York to St. Andrews East, Ontario, where it still rests.



HONORED GUESTS — Sir John Johnson and Lady Johnson of England (right) were guests of the executive of the Sir John Johnson Centennial

branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association and the Cowansville Art Centre executive. Shown at left are Murray Mason, president of the

UEL and Mrs. L. S. Lee, president of Cowansville Art Centre. (Record photo: Studio Eclair)

### ***English couple visit namesake branch of UEL in Cowansville***

This “Johnson bell” was first in the famous Johnson Hall built by Sir William Johnson in 1762 in Johnstown, NY, where it hung in the coach house and used to call the workers from the fields. “In 1780, Sir John returned to Johnson Hall for the last time and retrieved his buried silver plate. He also recovered the bell that hung in the coach house and it was toted painfully over the Adirondacks to what is now Prescott, Ontario. Later he placed it in the manor house of the Seigneurie of Argenteuil which he purchased at St. Andrew’s East, Quebec.” *Audrey Martin McCaw*

*Photo* – Honoured Guests – Sir John Paley Johnson, 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet of New York, and his wife Lady Rosemary Johnson were guests of the executive of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists’ Association and the Cowansville Art Centre executive. Shown at the left are Murray Mason, president of the Sir John Johnson Branch and Mrs. Leopold (Eugenie) S. Lee, president of Cowansville Art Centre.

### **Marion Louise Phelps (1908-2013)**

Marion Louise Phelps, a long time historian, curator and archivist of the Brome County Historical Society at Knowlton, Quebec, passed away peacefully on January 2, 2013. She was born on February 9, 1908, in the Township of Stukely, Shefford County, the daughter of William Walter Phelps and Maude McDougall.

Marion went to school at the Blake Schoolhouse, at the Stukely Village stone school, and later at Waterloo High School. After obtaining her teacher's degree at the School for Teachers, Macdonald College, in 1927, she taught one year at St. Jovite, one year at Ste. Agathe, one year at Farnham, three years at Waterloo High School, before coming at the Heroes' Memorial High School in Cowansville where she taught full time from 1933 to 1964, grades 4, 5 and 6. After retiring, she came back to Heroes' Memorial, teaching arts part time until 1969.

In 1959, she was named curator of the Brome County Historical Society Museum, position she kept until the late 1980's. She then became the archivist of the Brome County Historical Society, function she kept until March 2005, when she finally decided to retire.



In 2001, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network inaugurated the "Marion Phelps Award". The first recipient was Marion Phelps herself. The award is given annually to an individual for his or her "Outstanding long-term contribution to the protection and preservation of Anglophone heritage in the Province of Quebec".

Marion was a great friend of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch since its beginning in 1967. In October 1969, in recognition of her worthwhile contribution to our branch, Marion Phelps was made Honourary Member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. Through the years, our genealogists have always benefitted from her invaluable assistance in the documentation of Loyalist lineage.

Our heartfelt sympathies to the family.

### Edgar John Chard UE (1922-2013)

E. John Chard passed away suddenly at the Kingston General Hospital on Friday May 17th, 2013, in his 91st year. Son of the late Clarence and Rita Chard, he was predeceased by his brother Richard Chard.

John Chard was not only a great friend and supporter of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, he was also the Patron of our branch.

In 1966, John Chard, then President of UELAC, became concerned that there was no branch in the Province of Quebec and especially no branch representing the descendants of those Loyalists who had settled in the Missisquoi County. In 1967, he came to Missisquoi and met Ruby Moore, genealogist of the Missisquoi County Historical Society and several Loyalist descendants. Later, he made this comment on his first visit in

Missisquoi: *"It soon became evident that there was support for a gathering of the Loyalist descendants."* John Chard's initiative was successful. On December 16, 1967, the Dominion Council granted a Charter to Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. His friendship and support will be sorely missed.

Our deepest condolences to the Chard family.



*On June 8, 1968, John Chard presenting the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Charter to Ruby Moore.*

### Norma Williams Purssell UE (1920-2013)

Norma Williams Purssell, née Derick, of Kentville, Nova Scotia, passed away Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at home. Born in 1920 at Noyan, Quebec, she was a daughter of the late Archibald Williams and Sarah Estella (O'Connor) Derick. She is survived by a son, Allan, New Minas and by a sister, Dorothy Weir, Kentville. She was predeceased by her husband, Eric Walter Purssell.

Norma was a proud UEL. She became a regular member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in 1968. Her Loyal Ancestor was Philip Derick (Derck) who served in Major Rogers' Corps of King's Rangers. In 1784, Derick was still listed as a Captain in Henry Ruiter's Company of Loyal Rangers. He settled at Caldwell Manor in 1783.

On behalf of all members, we would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Purssell family.

## Invitation to Fred Gilman's Summer Picnic - July 6, 2013

Fred Gilman's Picnic will be held by the Veterans Coalition of Vermont – MBA, MOA, MOWW & AFA and hosted by ROA.

Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 12:00 Noon

At the Gilman home on Lake Champlain, **1720 Gilman Street, Clarenceville, Quebec**  
Directions: On Route 202, between Clarenceville and Venise-en-Québec, take Lakeshore Road (going south). Continue to Street 2 (rue 2), turn left and go to Gilman Street.

Price: \$15

Please make cheque payable to Fred Gilman

Give your name, phone number and total of your party planning to attend,  
and mail to Fred Gilman, 9 Rix Ave. Bedford J0J 1A0

For more information, you can reach Fred Gilman at 450-294-2651 or 450-248-3341

### *Menu*

*Tomato Juice*  
*Green Salad*  
*Pasta Salad*  
*Potato Salad*  
*Cold Beef*  
*Cold Turkey*  
*Cold Ham*  
*Cake and Ice Cream*  
*Wine*  
*Coffee and Tea*

## Buffet Style Lunch

**Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**At 11:30 AM for lunch at 12:00  
Noon**

To be held at the Royal Canadian  
Legion Hall

Montgomery St, Philipsburg (St.  
Armand), QC

**\$16 per person, wine included**

All are welcome!

Please bring your family and friends



# Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Executive 2012-2013

Honourary President:	<b>Sir Guy Johnson</b>	Winchester, England
Patron:	<b>E. John Chard</b>	Belleville, ON
Past President:	<b>Roderick Riordon</b>	
President:	<b>Gerald Thomas</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:		
Secretary:	<b>Linda Howman</b>	
Treasurer:	<b>Louise Hall</b>	
Genealogist:	<b>Michel Racicot</b>	129 Church St., Cowansville, QC, J2K 1T9 Tel. 450-260-1736
Publicity:	<b>Evelyn Lewis</b>	
Membership:	<b>Adelaide Lanktree</b>	140 Principale Ouest, Farnham, QC, J2N 1K6 Tel. 450-293-6342
Card Convener:	<b>Louise Hall</b>	
Vault Committee:	<b>Charles Harbec</b>	
Hospitality:	<b>Linda Howman</b>	
	<b>Joan Lee</b>	

## WEBSITES

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch  
UELAC

<http://www.uelac.org/SirJohnJohnson>  
[www.uelac.org](http://www.uelac.org)

## E-MAIL

Loyalist Trails Newsletter:	<b>Doug Grant</b>	<a href="mailto:doug.grant@insurance-canada.ca">doug.grant@insurance-canada.ca</a>
Branch President:	<b>Gerald Thomas</b>	<a href="mailto:gerryt@sympatico.ca">gerryt@sympatico.ca</a>
Branch Treasurer:	<b>Louise Hall</b>	<a href="mailto:adelaidel@sympatico.ca">adelaidel@sympatico.ca</a>
Branch Secretary:	<b>Linda Howman</b>	<a href="mailto:lilac23@axion.ca">lilac23@axion.ca</a>
Branch Genealogist:	<b>Michel Racicot</b>	<a href="mailto:mracicot001@sympatico.ca">mracicot001@sympatico.ca</a>