



Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, UELAC

Newsletter

Autumn 2015

With winter fast approaching, this is a good time to look back on our Branch activities in this year.

Branch President's Report

Activities:

There have been a number of items of interest throughout this year:

- Our Branch was well represented at Heritage Branch Spring Dinner held on April 22nd. Members Adelaide Lanktree, Louise Hall, Michel Racicot and I enjoyed their hospitality and a very nice dinner.
- In May, we submitted the Johnson Burial Vault Restoration for the *Prix du mérite patrimonial Fleur bleue*. Although we did not win an award, we were among the finalists.
- On June 20th, we had our Annual General Meeting at the All Saint Anglican Church Hall, in Dunham, Quebec.
- On August 6th, some of our members had a very enjoyable Picnic at ViewMount House, in Dunham, home of our 2nd Vice President Marven Beattie.
- Then on August 15th, several members participated at the Paul Holland Knowlton Day, held at the Brome County Historical Society Museum. The highlight of this event was celebrating the success of the restoration of the house of Paul Holland Knowlton, founder of Knowlton and grandson of Loyalist Luke Knowlton.
- On September 12th, members Michel Racicot, Adelaide Lanktree and I participated at Townshippers' Day held at Brome Village, Quebec.
- On October 28th, Past President Roderick Riordon, 2nd Vice President Michel Racicot and I represented the Branch at the Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner.

Branch Project and Concern:

- The Upkeep of Sir John Johnson Burial Vault

The restoration of the burial vault of Sir John Johnson and of members of his family was completed in 2014. It had been our priority project for many years. From now on, our Branch new project will be promoting this historic place and maintaining the site's integrity.

- Increasing our membership

In recent years our Branch membership has been decreasing. Probably our biggest challenge in the present and near future is finding ways to attract new members. Memberships are the lifeblood of our association. We need to find ways to increase our membership. Any ideas? We are counting on all of you to help us increase active participation in our branch's activities.

Gerald Thomas

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Annual General Meeting

On Saturday June 20, 2015, at 11:30 a.m., members and friends of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch gathered in All Saint Anglican Church Hall, in Dunham, Quebec, for the Annual General Meeting and Luncheon. Sitting at tables of eight, decorated with vases of spring flowers, following Grace said by the Reverend Sinpoh Han, Rector of the church, the members were treated to a delicious dinner. During the meal, Fred Gilman proposed a Toast to the Queen. Edwina Bougie, on behalf of the members, thanked the ladies of the church for a meal enjoyed by all. Adelaide Lanktree then introduced Michel Racicot who presented a very informative and interesting PowerPoint presentation of the restoration of the vault and the burial of the remains of Sir John Johnson, ceremony held on August 23, 2014 at Mont Saint-Grégoire, Quebec. Heather Larocque thanked the speaker.



Past President Roderick Riordon, in the absence of President Gerald Thomas, asked Flag Bearer Wesley Larocque to present the flag and the members sang God Save the Queen. He then welcomed everyone especially visitors from Vermont, New York and Ontario. Gene Hicks from Vermont spoke about the launching of the Royal Archives Project to digitize and catalog more than 250,000 papers of personal documents of King George III. The results of this project will likely transform our understanding of the Georgian Period especially events during the American Revolutionary War. Anne Redish, UELAC Central East Region Vice President from Ontario, addressed the members with greetings from central office. The greetings were followed by a short business meeting which included the election of the Executive for 2015-16: Past President Roderick Riordon, President Gerald Thomas, 1st Vice President Michel Racicot, 2nd Vice President Marven J. Beattie, Treasurer Louise Hall and Secretary Evelyn B. Lewis. The meeting closed with the members standing to sing "O Canada" and the flag being retired by Flag Bearer Wesley Larocque.

Evelyn B. Lewis

Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner

The Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner was held on Wednesday, October 28th at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch Armoury on Bleury Street in Montreal. The guest speaker was Alan Hustak, long-time Montreal Gazette journalist now retired and author of various books, who presented a very interesting talk on the Reverend Frederick G. Scott, senior chaplain of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division during World War I and father of the famous Canadian poet Francis Reginald Scott.

Among those present was Anne Redish, Vice President, Central East Region, who brought us a message from our newly-elected Dominion President, Barbara J. Andrews. Our Branch was represented by Past President Roderick Riordon, President Gerald Thomas and 2nd Vice President Michel Racicot. Also present were second branch members Robert and Maura Wilkins and Okill and Sylvia Stuart.

The Official Opening of the Paul Holland Knowlton House

The Paul Holland Knowlton Community Day on August 15th took place on the grounds of the Brome County Historical Society (BCHS) Museum in Knowlton, Town of Brome Lake, Quebec. Hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the official opening of the restored square log house and home of Knowlton's founding father, Paul Holland Knowlton, grandson of Loyalist Luke Knowlton.

The log house will be the centre of Paul Holland Knowlton's artifacts and those relating to the Loyalist community that settled in the region more than 200 years ago. Kathryn Lexow, Director, BCHS and PHK Day Planning Committee, declared that "Paul Holland Knowlton's house will allow the museum to showcase our Loyalists collection and the history of the contributions of the Knowlton family via both permanent and special exhibits."



Many representative of the UELAC showed up to take part in these celebrations. Anne Redish, Vice President, Central East Region, came to Knowlton to lend her assistance to the official opening. She told the audience that the mandate of the UELAC is to preserve the Loyalist history, protect the artifacts related to Loyalists' lives and to promote understanding of their heritage. For the occasion, Branch President Gerald Thomas offered the BCHS Museum a Loyalist flag as a gift to be flown forever on the grounds of the museum (*See photo*).

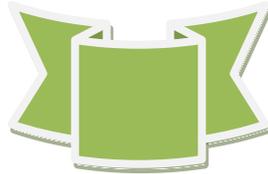
Annual Branch Picnic at ViewMount House



The Beattie family originally came from Scotland and lived three generations in Ireland before coming to America and settling in 1828 on what became Beattie Road in Dunham Township, Lower Canada. ViewMount House, built in 1960, was the home of Arthur and Gladys Beattie. Today it is the home of their son Marven J. Beattie, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Vice President and descendant of Loyalist William Bull. From the house, the view of the mountains is breathtaking. In one glance, you can see Jay Peak, the Round Top, Mont Echo, Mont Glen, Mont Foster, and Mont Orford and several others. On August 6th, about twenty of us came to see this scenic view and had a very enjoyable picnic. Thank you Marven for the warm welcome!

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Executive 2015-2016

Honourary President: **Sir Guy Johnson** Winchester, England
Past President: **Roderick Riordon**
President: **Gerald Thomas**
1st Vice President: **Michel Racicot**
2nd Vice President: **Marven Beattie**
Secretary: **Evelyn Beban Lewis**
Treasurer: **Louise Hall**
Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** 129 Church St., Cowansville, QC, J2K 1T9 Tel. 450-260-1736
Publicity: **Evelyn Beban Lewis**
Membership: **Adelaide Lanktree** 140 Principale Ouest, Farnham, QC, J2N 1K6 Tel. 450-293-6342
Archivist: **Michel Racicot**
Vault Committee: **Charles Harbec, Adelaide Lanktree, Raymond Ostiguy,
Gerald Thomas, Michel Racicot, Roderick Riordon**
Newsletter: **Michel Racicot**
Hospitality: **Joan Lee**
Card Convener: **Louise Hall**
Flag Bearer: **Wesley Larocque**
Website: **James Riordon**
Various tasks: **Audrey Blinn, Edwina Bougie**



WEBSITES

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch <http://www.uelac.org/SirJohnJohnson>
UELAC www.uelac.org

E-MAIL

Loyalist Trails Newsletter: **Doug Grant** loyalist.trails(at)uelac.org
Branch President: **Gerald Thomas** gerryt(at)sympatico.ca
Branch Treasurer: **Louise Hall** adelaidel(at)sympatico.ca
Branch Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** mracicot001(at)sympatico.ca

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC
2016 MEMBERSHIP

Dear Member,

Annual fees for the year 2016 are due by **December 15, 2015**.
Prompt payment would be greatly appreciated.

UELAC membership

_____ **Individual membership \$40.00**

_____ **Family membership \$55.00**

Second Branch Members (members of other branches)

_____ **Individual membership \$10.00**

_____ **Family membership \$15.00**

Please make your cheque payable to:

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC

And forward it to:

Ms Louise Hall
140 Principale Ouest, Farnham
Québec, J2N 1K6

Please return this notice with your payment. Thank you.
Please notify us of any change of address, email address or phone number.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

