



Newsletter

Summer 2016

Message from the President

Members and guests of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch enjoyed two very special occasions in June 2016. First, our 49th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon was held on Saturday, 11 June at the Lakeview Inn “*one of Québec’s most prestigious and charming historical inns*”, located in Knowlton, Québec. During the luncheon, a special ceremony took place to recognize and thank three important partners of our Branch. You will find our report on page 2.

Second, a special plaque unveiling ceremony honouring Sir John’s service in the War of 1812 took place at the Johnson Family Burial Vault in Mont-Saint-Grégoire on 23 June. You can read about this special ceremony on page 4.

Upcoming Events

Looking ahead, there will be one more important Branch activity this summer, our Annual Picnic on Saturday, 20 August. Again this year, we have been invited by our Branch 2nd VP Marven Beattie to his home, the ViewMount House in Dunham. All are invited. More information on page 8.

Looking further ahead, our Branch will be present at Townshippers’ Day which will be held again this year on the Brome fairgrounds on 17 September. Then in October or early November at the latest, we will hold our semi-annual general meeting. More details about this meeting will be sent to you at a later date.

Since 2010 with 94 members, our membership had been decreasing every year reaching, hopefully, a low last year with 53 members. In 2016, we have 56 members as of July, with five more months to go. Let’s try to increase that number before the end of the year. I am counting on all of you.

Michel Racicot

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Annual General Meeting

The 49th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held on 11 June 2016 at the Lakeview Inn “located in the heart of the authentic Victorian village of Knowlton near Brome Lake”. Robert Wilkins, Heritage Branch President said “Grace” and the “Toast to the Queen” was given by Kate Holbrook, Townshippers’ Association Cultural Coordinator.

Forty-three members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal and good company. We were honoured with the presence of several special guests: Donald Gray-Donald, President of Brome County Historical Society; François Reid, President of Missisquoi Historical Society; of CIME, Michelle Durand, Executive Secretary and Renée Gagnon, General Manager;



Kate Holbrook, Cultural and Community Coordinator of Townshippers’ Association; of Cowansville Historical Society, Vice-President Réjean Lehoux and Secretary Gaétane Landry; Beverly Loomis, President of Little Forks Branch UELAC; of Heritage Branch UELAC, President Robert Wilkins, Treasurer Maura McKeon Wilkins and Genealogist Susan McGuire; and Duncan Phelps, nephew of the late Marion Phelps who was not only a great friend of our Branch but also an honorary member.

During the luncheon, a special ceremony took place. Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch has been active since 1967. Through these 49 years the Branch has benefited from the support of many people and organisations and at the luncheon we especially wanted to recognize and thank three important partners:

Missisquoi Historical Society (MHS)

During the summer of 1967, John Chard, then UELAC President, came to visit the MHS museum at Stanbridge East where he met Ruby Laduke Moore, genealogist of MHS. Several years later, John Chard made this comment on his first visit in Missisquoi:

“It soon became evident that there was now support for a gathering of the Loyalist descendants.” Since that first meeting, the Missisquoi Historical Society has been a

great partner of our Branch. In appreciation for this support, Branch President Gerald Thomas and 1st VP Michel Racicot presented a cheque of \$1000 to François Reid, President of Missisquoi Historical Society.



Brome County Historical Society (BCHS)

In 1967, Ruby Moore had the help of Marion Phelps, the historian, archivist and curator of the Brome County Historical Society. In 1969, in recognition of her worthwhile contribution to the Branch Miss Phelps was made Honorary Member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. She helped many members find their Loyalist ancestors. For many years now, you can find the Branch's library and archives in the archives building of BCHS. For their help and support all these years, Branch President Gerald Thomas and 1st VP Michel Racicot presented a cheque of \$1000 to Donald Gray-Donald, President of Brome County Historical Society.



Centre d'interprétation du milieu écologique du Haut-Richelieu (CIME)

A more recent friend of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was also recognized during the luncheon, CIME the owner and guardian of the land where Sir John Johnson Family Burial Vault is located. Since the Branch was founded in 1967, the restoration of the burial vault has been one of our most important goals. This goal was finally attained in 2014 and could not have been done without the help of CIME. In recognition of all their help, Branch President Gerald Thomas, Branch Vault Committee Chair Raymond Ostiguy and 1st VP Michel Racicot presented a cheque of \$1000 to Renée Gagnon, CIME General Manager and Michelle Durand, CIME Executive Secretary.



The luncheon was followed by the Annual General Meeting chaired by 1st Vice-President Michel Racicot. A new Branch Executive was elected: Past President, Gerald Thomas; President, Michel Racicot; 1st Vice-President, vacant; 2nd Vice-President, Marven Beattie; Treasurer, Louise Hall; Secretary, Evelyn Beban Lewis; Genealogist, Michel Racicot; Membership Chair, Adelaide Lanktree.



Evelyn Beban Lewis and Michel Racicot

War of 1812 Veterans' Plaque Unveiling Ceremony

On 9 December 2015, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch submitted the application of “Sir John Johnson, Colonel, six battalions Eastern Townships Militia” to “Graveside Project – Honouring Veterans of 1812”, a project whose mission is to recognize nationally the graves of the veterans of the War of 1812. The application was approved.



A “War of 1812 Veterans’ Plaque Unveiling Ceremony” honouring Sir John Johnson took place on Thursday, 23 June 2016, at the Johnson Family Burial Vault in Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Québec, in the presence of ninety members and guests of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC, of Heritage Branch UELAC, of the Glengarry, Nor’Westers and Loyalist Museum, Williamstown, Ontario and members of the Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry and of the Canadian Voltigeurs.

The ceremony was preceded at twelve noon by a cold buffet luncheon served at the nearby Érablière Charbonneau. During the meal, the visitors were treated to a talk by Branch President Michel Racicot about the Burial Vault and its history. He was followed by Branch Member Raymond Ostiguy who not only talked about Sir John Johnson’s role during the war and also presented four other members of his family who took participated actively in



the War of 1812 and whose remains rest in the Johnson Family Burial Vault: (1) his son-in-law Colonel Edward Macdonnell, Quarter-Master General to the Forces serving in North America, (2) his son Captain Robert Thomas Johnson, 100th Regiment of Foot, (3) his son Lieutenant-Colonel John Johnson Junior, 6th Battalion of the Eastern Townships Militia, and (4) his son Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Gordon Johnson, 6th Battalion of the Eastern Townships Militia, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs and Lieutenant-Colonel of a Body of Indian Warriors. At the end of the luncheon, Mac Robertson, on behalf of the Glengarry, Nor’Westers and Loyalist Museum, presented a cheque of \$500 to Michel Racicot to help the Branch in the upkeep of the Vault site.

Following the luncheon, everyone proceeded to the Vault to witness the unveiling of a War of 1812 Plaque honouring Sir John Johnson's service during the war. Present at the ceremony were Anne Redish, Vice-President, Central East Region UELAC, and her husband Adair; Okill Stuart, former UELAC President and Past President Heritage Branch and his wife Sylvia; of Heritage Branch, President Robert Wilkins, Treasurer Maura McKeon Wilkins and Genealogist Susan MacGuire; Marc Grenon, Secretary, Missisquoi Historical Society; Major David Moore, Sergeant Charles Baker, Sergeant Keith Lindsay and Mardi MacFarlane, of the Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry; Albert Smith, of the Canadian Voltigeurs; and our friends of the Glengarry, Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum led by Wendy Wert, coordinator of the "bus trip".



After a short service the plaque was unveiled by Major David Moore. To close the ceremony a group photo was taken to immortalize the event. After, everyone was able to visit the site and view the ceramic vases containing the remains of Sir John Johnson and members of his family. The members and guests parted to return home wishing our guests from Ontario a safe journey with hopes that they carried with them happy memories of their time spent with us.

Evelyn Beban Lewis and Michel Racicot



In Memoriam



LEWIS STEVEN KREGER 1935 - 2016

Lewis Steven Kreger, age 80, died peacefully in his sleep at home on May 5, surrounded by his loving family. He was born December 10, 1935, in Princess Anne County, VA, the youngest of five with four older sisters. After a stint in the Air Force he earned a BA from St. John's College in Annapolis, MD. He and his wife Roberta Kreger (nee Michaud) lived in Portland, Connecticut for more than forty years.



On his retirement from a career at IBM, he co-founded a small networking company just as the internet was taking off. Lewis grew up a waterman, sharing his passion for boating, fishing, and crabbing and all the beauties of nature with family and friends. His interest in genealogy led him to research American revolutionary history, especially of the U.S.-Canada border region. He had a love for good food and was an accomplished, creative cook. Lewis was a brilliant and generous man with a large extended family. In addition to his beloved wife Roberta, he is also survived by 6 children: Kevin, Matthew, Regina Kreger and Marguerite Callaway, all of Maryland, Cathy Kreger-Berlinghoff of Huntington, NY, and Michelle Berlinghoff of Portland, CT, as well as 4 grandchildren: Maggie and Zachary Callaway and Henry and Priscilla Kreger, and a sister, Marian K Meekins, of Virginia Beach, VA.*

Lewis Kreger was a member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch for many years and participated regularly in the Branch activities. On 13 August 2003, our Branch Annual Picnic was held across the border in Alburgh, Vermont, where we were greeted by Lewis and wife Roberta at their historic summer home, the old schoolhouse. He will be greatly missed by all of us. Our deepest condolences to Roberta and family.



**The obituary was published in The Middletown Press, New Haven, CT, on May 9, 2016*

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Executive 2016-2017

Honorary President:	Sir Guy Johnson	Winchester, England
Past President:	Gerald Thomas	
President:	Michel Racicot	
1 st Vice President:	Vacant	
2 nd 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
Membership:	Adelaide Lanktree	140 Principale Ouest, Farnham, QC, J2N 1K6 Tel. 450-293-6342
Publicity:	Evelyn Beban Lewis	
Archivist:	Michel Racicot	
Bi-Centennial Book Account:	Roderick Riordon	
Vault Committee:	Charles Harbec, Adelaide Lanktree, Raymond Ostiguy, Gerald Thomas, Michel Racicot, Roderick Riordon	
Newsletter:	Michel Racicot	
Flag Bearer:	Wesley Larocque	
Website:	James Riordon	
Various tasks:	Edwina Bougie	



WEBSITES

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch	http://www.uelac.org/SirJohnJohnson
SJJCB Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/SirJohnJohnsonCentennial
UELAC	www.uelac.org

E-MAIL

Loyalist Trails Newsletter:	Doug Grant	loyalist.trails@uelac.org
Branch President:	Michel Racicot	
Branch Treasurer:	Louise Hall	adelaidel@sympatico.ca
Branch Secretary:	Evelyn Lewis	
Branch Genealogist:	Michel Racicot	mracicot001@sympatico.ca

Annual UEL Picnic

Saturday, 20 August 2016

at ViewMount House

2240, Chemin Beattie (Road)

Dunham

12:00 (Noon)

*** Bring a picnic lunch and a lawn chair.***

We hope for good weather and a good turn out and look forward to seeing you there. All are welcome. However... In case of rain, the picnic will be cancelled.



If you have any questions, contact either:

Adelaide Lanktree, tel. (450) 293-6342 – [adelaidel\(at\)sympatico.ca](mailto:adelaidel(at)sympatico.ca)

Michel Racicot, tel. (450) 260-1736 – [mracicot001\(at\)sympatico.ca](mailto:mracicot001(at)sympatico.ca)

The map displays the town of Cowansville, Quebec, with the Rivière Yamaska SUD-Est flowing through it. The Centre de la nature is located near the river. Two specific locations are marked with numbers: '1' is situated on Boulevard Jean-Jacques Bertrand, and '2' is on Chemin Scottsmore. The map includes various streets such as Rue de la Rivière, Rue de Westmount, Rue des Textiles, Rue Miner, Rue du Sud, Rue de Québec, Rue Brown, Rue Draper, Rue d'Ottawa, Rue Vilas, Rue de la Principale, Rue Oliver, Boulevard de Dieppe, and Rue Fitchett. Major roads are indicated by yellow lines with route numbers 104, 139, 202, and 241. The surrounding areas of Cowansville and Scottsmore are also labeled.

2- On *chemin* Scottsmore (Road), drive about 1 klm to *chemin* Beattie (Road). About 3 klm from the corner, you will see on your right View Mount House (2240 Beattie Rd).

View Mount House, built in 1960, was the home of Arthur and Gladys Beattie. Today it is the home of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Vice-President, Marven J. Beattie, UE, 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. Join us on Saturday 20 August and come see the view. All are welcome.