



Newsletter

December 2017

Winter has arrived; this is a good time to look back
on our Branch activities in this year.

2017 Branch Report

Activities:

- **20 May:** Branch President Michel Racicot attended the Annual General Meeting of Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) held in Montreal, QC.
- **10 June:** Our Branch 50th Luncheon and Annual Meeting, held at the Centre EuroSpa in Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge, QC, was attended by 44 members and guests.
- **20 June:** Branch President Michel Racicot participated at the UELAC Central East Regional Meeting held in Kingston, ON.
- **5 August:** Branch Picnic at the BCHS Museum in Knowlton, QC.
- **15 August:** We were guests of the Glengarry, Nor'Westers & Loyalist Museum, in Williamstown, ON.
- **19 August:** Past President Gerald Thomas and President Michel Racicot participated at BCHS Gala Fundraiser "Night at the Museum" held in Knowlton, QC.
- **9 September:** Roderick Riordon UE and Michel Racicot were invited on the reviewing stand at the Battle of Plattsburgh Parade, in Plattsburgh, NY
- **25 October:** Michel Racicot, Evelyn Lewis, Jo-Anne Savage UE and Gerald Thomas represented the Branch at Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner, in Montreal, QC.
- **6 November:** Michel Racicot, Evelyn Lewis, Adelaide Lanktree UE, Louise Hall UE, Edwina Jenne UE and Roderick Riordon UE attended the Canadian Club of the Yamaska Valley's conference given by Branch member Joanne Croghan, in West Brome, QC.

Branch Projects:

- Upkeep of Sir John Johnson Burial Vault: in addition to maintaining the site, we have prepared a new interpretative panel about the War of 1812 Veterans buried inside the vault, panel which will be installed on site next summer. This winter, we intend to prepare and print two informative brochures about the history of the Johnson family and their burial vault.

Membership:

- In 2017, our Branch had 51 members, a decrease of 5 members from the previous year. We do hope to increase our membership in 2018. Please help us by completing the 2018 membership renewal (**page 7**) and mailing it with your cheque to our Membership Chair, Adelaide Lanktree UE.

Branch Concerns:

- Our main concern is not only increasing our membership, but also finding new members to join and participate actively on the Branch Executive. Progress was made in 2017 as we now have a new member on the Executive. We do hope that others will consider joining the Branch Executive.

Michel Racicot, President

50th Luncheon and Annual General Meeting



The 50th Luncheon and Annual General Meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held on 10 June 2017 in the new hall of Centre de santé EuroSpa at St-Ignace-de-Stanbridge, QC. To celebrate this event, 44 members and friends accepted our invitation including several family members of former Branch Presidents.

During the 50th Luncheon and Annual General Meeting, Okill Stuart UE, Past President of Heritage Branch and UELAC President 1994-1996 proposed that the following letter be mailed to His Royal Highness The Prince Philip who was celebrating his 96th birthday anniversary that same day.

His Royal Highness
The Prince Philip
Duke of Edinburgh
Buckingham Palace
London, England, SW1 1A11

June 10, 2017

Your Royal Highness:

At the 50th Luncheon and Annual General Meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada on June 10th, 2017, it was brought to our attention that the date coincided with your 96th birthday.

Reminiscences of your historic visit to Lennoxville in 1989 were discussed, where our Branch, together with Heritage Branch of Montreal played such a significant part – a day in our history which will long be cherished.

It was proposed by Okill Stuart, your one-time schoolmate and warmly agreed that we convey best wishes to you on this date and for this your “so-called” retirement year.

Sincerely
Michel Racicot, President
Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch's 50th Anniversary and Brome County Historical Society's 120th Anniversary Celebration Picnic

The Brome County Historical Society was established in 1897 and has worked diligently since then to preserve the history and heritage of Brome County, Quebec. Today, BCHS organizes educational activities, exhibits, events and lectures, owns and maintains a Museum and Archives, and manages extensive artifact and archival collections.

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was founded in 1967. The name "Sir John Johnson" is in honour of Sir John Johnson, the Loyalist leader, who resided many years and has his burial place at Mont-Saint-Grégoire, in the territory covered by the Branch. The word "Centennial" was added to the name in order to commemorate



Robert Wilkins UE, Michel Racicot, Roderick Riordon UE,
Maura McKeown and Marven Beattie UE

the 100th year of the Confederation. In 1967, Marion Phelps, historian, archivist and curator of the Brome County Historical Society greatly helped in the foundation of our Branch and she also helped many Branch members find their Loyalist

ancestors. In 1969, in recognition of her worthwhile contribution to the Branch, she was made Honorary Member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. In 1983, she was the co-editor of the book *Loyalists of the Eastern Townships of Quebec*, the Branch's Bicentennial Project. For nearly 40 years, Marion Phelps was a great friend of the Branch. And for many years now, you can find the Branch's library and archives in the old Court House building of BCHS. In 2015, after a lot of hard work and dedication by the Brome County Historical Society, the house of Paul Holland Knowlton, grandson of Loyalist Luke Knowlton, was saved and moved on the grounds of their museum in Knowlton, QC.

For the last 50 years, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch has been closely linked to Brome County Historical Society. On this special year, our Branch Annual UEL Picnic was held with Brome County Historical Society's Picnic on Saturday, 5 August 2017 at the BCHS Museum in Knowlton (Lac-Brome). Before the lunch, many of us gathered in the Old Court House to watch Laura Teasdale's excellent play "Home Child" based on a true story around the life of a child who came to the Eastern Townships as a British Home Child.

At lunch time, it rained and it poured. Even though nature did not cooperate, we still enjoyed our annual picnic in the Centennial Building. For this special occasion, Maura McKeon Wilkins, Treasurer of Heritage Branch, had brought "Confederation Cookies" to go with BCHS' "Confederation Coffee".



Edwina Jenne UE, Herb Coles
and Shirley Wilson

Visit to Williamstown

On **15 August 2017**, seventeen members and guests of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch were the guests of the Glengarry, Nor'Westers & Loyalist Museum in Williamstown, Ontario. We were very well received and the guided tour of the museum was not only very interesting but also very informative.

After a delicious lunch at the museum, we visited the Sir John Johnson Manor House, the St. Mary's Catholic Church, the St. Andrew's United Church and the cemetery, and the Bethune Thompson House, all located in beautiful Williamstown, named after Sir William Johnson, father of Sir John Johnson.



Members and guests in front of Sir John Johnson Manor House, under renovation.

Battle of Plattsburgh Parade



Colin Stuart UE, Roderick Riordon UE, Okill Stuart UE and Michel Racicot had a great time at the Battle of Plattsburgh Parade, Saturday, 9 September 2017, held in Plattsburgh, NY. We had been invited by the organizers on the Reviewing Stand.

Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner

On 25 October 2017, Branch members Michel Racicot, Evelyn Lewis, Jo-Anne Savage UE and Gerald Thomas represented the Branch at Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner held at the historic Black Watch Armoury, on Bleury Street in Montreal, QC. Not only did we enjoyed good company and a delicious dinner, we also enjoyed an interesting presentation given by guest-speaker Jacques Archambault, Executive Director of The Canadian Heritage of Quebec.

The Canadian Heritage of Quebec, a not-for-profit corporation based in Montreal, is dedicated to the conservation of heritage buildings and sites of historical or natural interest in different regions of the Province of Quebec. This corporation owns and maintains nearly 25 buildings or sites, with many being classified as heritages sites.



*As the New Year approaches us, we wish all of you a Wonderful 2018. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and friendship over the years.
Happy New Year!*

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch

UELAC

2017-2018

Honorary President: **Sir Guy Johnson UE** Winchester, England

Executive Committee:

Past President: **Gerald Thomas**

President: **Michel Racicot**

1st Vice President: **Vacant**

2nd Vice President: **Marven Beattie UE**

Corresponding Secretary: **Jo-Ann Savage UE**

Recording Secretary: **Evelyn Beban Lewis**

Treasurer: **Adelaide Lanktree UE**

Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** 129 Church St., Cowansville, QC, J2K 1T9 Tel. 450-260-1736

Other Officers:

Archives: **Michel Racicot**

Flag Bearer: **Wesley Larocque UE**

John Chard Inheritance Account: **Roderick Riordon UE**

Johnson Family Burial Vault: **Charles Harbec, Adelaide Lanktree UE,
Raymond Ostiguy, Gerald Thomas, Michel Racicot, Roderick Riordon UE**

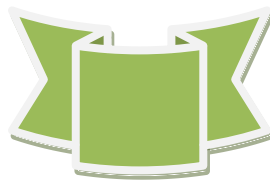
Membership: **Adelaide Lanktree UE** 140 Principale Ouest, Farnham, QC, J2N 1K6 Tel. 450-293-6342

Newsletter: **Michel Racicot**

Publicity: **Evelyn Beban Lewis**

Various tasks: **Edwina Jenne UE**

Website: **James Riordon UE**



WEBSITES

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch

<http://www.uelac.org/SirJohnJohnson>

UELAC

www.uelac.org

E-MAIL

Loyalist Trails Newsletter: **Doug Grant UE** [loyalist.trails\(at\)uelac.org](mailto:loyalist.trails(at)uelac.org)

Branch President: **Michel Racicot**

Branch Treasurer: **Adelaide Lanktree UE** [adelaidel\(at\)sympatico.ca](mailto:adelaidel(at)sympatico.ca)

Branch Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** [mracicot001\(at\)sympatico.ca](mailto:mracicot001(at)sympatico.ca)

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC
2018 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dear Member,

Annual fees for the year 2018 are due by **20 December 2017**
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:

Adelaide Lanktree
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 _____