



The Hamilton Loyalist

published by the Hamilton Branch of
The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

"They forsook every possession excepting their honour, and set their faces towards the wilderness... to begin, amid untold hardships, life anew under the flag they revered."

Vol. X #3 - September 2011

President's Message

Ray Cummins UE

The first half of 2011 was busy for Hamilton Branch

Pat Blackburn UE, chair of the Education Committee, spoke about the Loyalists at the Burlington Heritage fair on 12 Feb at the Burlington Central Library.

Out-going President Ruth Nicholson gave 3 high profile speeches about Loyalists this spring. The first to The Wilson Institute of History at McMaster University then at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton and then at a meeting of the Waterdown East Flamborough heritage Society in Waterdown.

Our February meeting included an award-winning video showing the best of Hamilton which was produced by Mr Graham Crawford who runs his own private museum called History and Heritage on James Street North in Hamilton. Everyone should check out this fascinating (and free) museum.

The March 24 meeting featured Loyalist vignettes where members brought show-and-tell items and spoke to them for a short period. The format was like the old Gong show from television and it was enjoyed by everyone.

On April 28 we heard a fascinating account by Paul Grimwood UE about war losses suffered in Ancaster during the war of 1812. This was a preview of the tremendous local activity we can expect as we get set to commemorate the bicentennial of the war of 1812.

The Hamilton Branch manned a booth at the Ontario Genealogical Society Conference which was held at the Hamilton Convention Centre during the weekend of 12 May. Hundreds attended and our booth sported



Karen Windover, Toronto Branch President, Ray Cummins & Ruth Nicholson at OGS Conference

our new Hamilton Branch banner which certainly raised our profile at the meeting. Our booth was one of the busiest at the conference and we answered a lot of questions and encouraged several to join for the first time.

On Jun 11 Hamilton Branch took part in Doors Open Burlington. Our site was at Union Cemetery, the Loyalist cemetery on Plains Road, where we had unveiled a loyalist plaque in 2009.

We have been encouraging local governments to fly the Loyalist flag during the week of Loyalist Day. This year the flag flew at the municipal offices in Dundas Hamilton and Oakville. This initiative has been spear-headed by Fred Hayward UE

Loyalist Day was celebrated this year on 18 June at our Loyalist Monument on Main Street East in Hamilton; the ceremony was well attended. A lot of interest was generated as members enthusiastically volunteered to lay wreaths in memory of their original loyalist ancestors. During the first half of the

program each honoured loyalist was described as we attempted to answer the question “Who were the Loyalists?”. In the second half of the ceremony Outgoing Dominion President Fred Hayward UE described several exemplary present-day loyalists as he answered the question “Who are the Loyalists?”. This celebration is a great way to make our cause known to more people.

The branch picnic at Historic Ruthven park was a success and many who attended want to visit the great park and wonderful historic mansion outside Caledonia again.

Our Education committee (Pat Blackburn UE, Ruth Nicholson UE, Fred Hayward UE, Jean Rae Baxter UE, and Frank Rupert UE) was also very busy this spring. They made 27 visits to grade 3 and 7 classrooms and passed on the loyalist message to 1467 pupils in the first half of 2011.

The second half of 2011 is lining up to be as interesting and busy.

This year Hamilton Branch is encouraging our members to document the sons and daughters of our loyalists who were involved in and impacted by the war of 1812. We are planning some special commemorations of loyalists, SUE and DUE involvement in the war of 1812

Hamilton Branch members are also urged to make suggestions of projects which the branch may embrace as we prepare to celebrate the centennial of the formation of the modern UELAC organization in 2014.

Ontario Grant

"The Hamilton Branch UELAC preserves and promotes Loyalist heritage with the assistance of a Grant from the province of Ontario."

Brockville Conference Catch the Spirit – June 2-5 2011

Ruth Nicholson UE

Those attending from the Hamilton Branch were the following: Fred & Margaret Hayward, Colin & Marilyn Morley, Jean Rae Baxter, Catharine Bingle-Gonnsen, Karl Gonnsen, Pat Blackburn, Gloria Howard, Rowena Jeffreys, Michele Lewis and Ruth Nicholson.

The Colonel Edward Jessup Branch of the UELAC hosted this year’s dominion conference in Brockville Ontario. It’s always fun and interesting to take part in the tours of the area and to learn a little more about our Loyalist history.

Two tours were offered. The first was along the St. Lawrence River to the home of Loyalist Dr. Solomon Jones, then to the monument of Loyalist Barbara Heck at the Blue Church, St. John’s Anglican. Next we toured a rather small but mighty Fort Wellington where girls in period clothing led us through the parts of the fort. The Battle of the Windmill was an interesting site, including a dramatic presentation by Sandra Shouldice UE, retired teacher from the St. Lawrence Branch. We also visited one of the locks on the St. Lawrence Seaway.



The Blue Church – Brockville



Battle of the Windmill – Brockville

The second tour visited Wiltsie Pioneer Cemetery, the 2014 project of the Jessup Branch. Next was the 200 year old Delta Mill, once operated by Loyalist Abel Stevens. A lock station was seen at the halfway point of the Rideau Canal system, oldest continually operating canal system in North America.

Friday evening we enjoyed a dinner cruise amongst the Thousand Islands. It was a beautiful evening – great for the photographers on board.

Saturday’s focus was the Dominion Council meeting, which was held at the Brockville Yacht Club. Fred Hayward UE, Dominion president for three years handed over his office to incoming Dominion



Catharine Bingle-Gonnsen on the Thousand Island Boat Tour



New Dominion Past President Fred Hayward with Incoming Dominion President Bob McBride

president Robert McBride UE. Fred has brought much attention to our history and our organization; he is to be recognized for his outstanding contributions to the UELAC. Robert, or Bob, as he is best known, comes into his new role as president with the major job of editing our magazine, the Loyalist Gazette, for many years. Both he and Fred are retired educators, used to juggling many tasks simultaneously. We wish Bob much success in his new role with our association.

Saturday evening everyone attended the gala banquet, many in period clothing. Brian Porter portrayed Major James Morrow Walsh of the Northwest



Gloria Howard at the Brockville Gala

Mounted Police. He was born in Prescott, near Brockville and was famous for his relationship with the great American chief Sitting Bull. Towards the end of the banquet, the distinguished Lord Dorchester award was presented to Doug Grant UE who has done yeoman's work to move our association onto the Internet through our on-line bi-weekly news "Loyalist Trails". Doug is past Dominion president and he has been president of his branch, Governor Simcoe, three times. Doug keeps our website up to date and continues to add links to it.

The Sunday church service was held at First Presbyterian Church, in downtown, historic Brockville. Brian Porter this time became Sir John A Macdonald, first Prime Minister of Canada. He definitely looked the part and his speech to the attendees was full of information and humour.

Loyalist Day 2011 Our Fourteenth Ceremony at Prince's Square Hamilton

Ruth Nicholson UE

This year Loyalist Day was held a day early on Saturday June 18th. The theme this year was all about honouring our Loyalist ancestors by placing individual wreaths in front of our beautiful Loyalist monument. Twenty-six wreaths were ceremoniously laid in place while President Ray read the name of each Loyalist as well as the name of the person laying the wreath.



*Alicia, Owen & Paul Nicholson with their
youngest Loyalist Claire*

A big thank-you to Ray and his wife, Eva for collecting wreaths from a Mississauga Legion as well as borrowing a supply from Robin McKee. There were enough wreaths for all the families who wished to participate. Ray prepared each wreath with a ribbon that showed the Loyalist's surname on it. This was a new idea and a great one.

Over eighty people attended our ceremony this year. President Ray asked the question: Who were our Loyalists? Most recent past Dominion president Fred Hayward answered the current question: Who are the Loyalists?

Those who participated in wreath laying were the following:

- Peggy Leppert, President of the St. George's Benevolent Society of Hamilton
- Jeffrey Thiessen, President of the Hamilton Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada
- Fred Hayward for Samuel Embury
- Margaret Hayward for Sgt. Robert Campbell
- Margaret Danton for Pvt Harmonius House
- Norma Hitchcox for Pvt William Koughnett
- Paul Bingle for Pvt Andrew Ostrander Jr.
- Renee Stead for Edward Ryckman
- Sharon Coppins for Frederick Schram
- James Clements for Antonie Westbrook
- Major Colin Brown for Pvt Samuel Aikens
- Doug Coppins for Joel Daniel
- Marilyn Hardsand for Peter Gordon
- Kelly Reick-Chafe for Adam Green
- Judith Nuttal for Capt John Moore
- Catharine Bingle-Gonnsen for Alan Nixon Jr.
- Rowena Jeffries for Nathaniel Pettit
- Bev Corsini for Jacob Smith
- Carly Jardine for John Smith
- Judith Wagner for Daniel Cummins
- Ruth Nicholson for Jacob Arner
- Jude Johnson for Lt John Depew
- Paul Nicholson for Joseph Ferriss
- Rev. Charlotte Moore for Peter Horning
- Cheryl Lynn Bennett for George Philip Wintermute
- David Nicholson for John Cornwall
- Dorothy Bingle for Pvt Thaddeus Davis Sr.
- Pat Blackburn for John Ernst Defoe



Pat Blackburn with the Defoe wreath



Earl Walker in period clothing on Loyalist Day



James Clements and Rev. Charlotte Moore

Picnic at Ruthven Park – National Historic Site

Ruth Nicholson UE

Sunday June 26 was a perfect day for our picnic. Twenty-five attendees enjoyed the shade of ancient trees, in a vast park-like setting. We toured the gorgeous Greek Revival mansion, built in 1845-47 by David Thomson. The estate was owned by the Thompson family until 1993 when it was given to The Lower Grand River Trust Inc. The mansion overlooks the Grand River, where David Thomson hoped to make a fortune with a canal system similar to that of the Welland Canal. The trains came in and that dream passed on as well as the considerable town that was built around this enterprise.

Today the Ruthven site is busy with archaeologist from Wilfred Laurier. A researcher from the University of Windsor is measuring the stress hormone levels in tree swallows as they cope with human encroachment into their territory. Another researcher from Sir Sanford Fleming, part of the Ecosystem Management program, bands birds. They have banded an enormous variety of birds and interestingly enough 2 800 Snow Buntings were banded in January and February. There is a network

of people who band birds in the winter, in Ontario. In early April a banded Snow Bunting was seen in Labrador. One bunting banded in Kitchener was sighted in Greenland. It appears from this first winter experiment that our winter buntings come from Greenland by way of Labrador and the St. Lawrence River corridor. Interesting scientific studies!

There are several, easy walking trails to enjoy at this site also. On one side of the mansion there is a trail leading to an Irish Catholic Cemetery. The stones have been resurrected and the grass trimmed. This has been a new initiative over the past two years. On the



Ruthven Mansion

other side of the mansion there is a trail leading to a beautiful wrought iron fenced-in cemetery where the large monument stones show the various generations of the Thompson family who have lived here.

It was certainly worth the drive to visit beautiful Ruthven Park.



Irish Catholic Cemetery at Ruthven Park

Outreach at the Hamilton Marketplace - Bayfront Park

Pat Blackburn UE

On July 1st I attended the Hamilton Marketplace at Bayfront Park to spread the message of Loyalist history and how we can help locals in tracing their personal histories. It was a very hot day. Eight other organizations also had tents to show their brochures and articles of pertinent interest. All booths were providing history of the area with respect to their particular insight.

The Hamilton Branch UELAC tent was well attended. The new banner with our name helped draw passersby. I noticed several returnees from last year.

Thanks to Michele and John for their assistance and also to Betty and Franz Compeer for their support. It can be a long day if there are no visitors to the site.

Upcoming Plaquing Event

Christ's Church Cathedral
252 James St. N. at 10:30 a.m.

Our plaquing committee led by Doug and Sharon Coppins have finalized our first unveiling for this fall. On Sunday October 2nd at the 10:30 a.m. service, we will unveil our beautiful Loyalist Burial Site plaque. This time we honour Loyalist Richard Beasley as this is his burial site.

Please mark this date on your calendar and join us as we uncover the history of one of the remarkable early Loyalists of Hamilton.

Joseph Brant Day at LaSalle Park - August 1st, 2011

Ruth Nicholson UE

Colin Morley and I set up our booth at 8 a.m. inside the pavilion at LaSalle Park. We had artifacts from our educational presentations as well as the usual genealogical books. Our banner was placed on the front of the display table to identify us clearly. Colin has been at this event many times and he said that we had the greatest interest he had ever experienced and thought it may have been due to our clear identification.

There was an assortment of heritage displays inside the pavilion. Outside that area there were displays of canoes, Native drums, and early crafts. There were



Colin Morley at our display on Joseph Brant Day

several Native dancers, both from the local Six Nations and from the northerly Ojibwa tribe. There were reenactment soldiers dressed in their red woolen coats. It was a very hot and muggy day yet everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Our thanks to those who helped host our booth: Colin Morley, John & Michele Lewis and Martha Hemphill.



Part of the Lost Dancers Troup from Six Nations Joseph Brant Descendants

Get Geared Up for Conference 2012 in Winnipeg

**Conference at the Confluence by the
Manitoba Branch - June 7-10, 2012**

~ Tour Lower Fort Gary, a living history fort ~

- Enjoy a pioneer dinner in the Little Britain Church
- See The Forks, named Best Space in Canada, within walking distance - Fort Gary Hotel
- See Dalnavert Museum, a national historic site with Queen Anne revival architecture.
- Visit the Manitoba Legislative building and Golden Boy, the symbol of Manitoba
- Banquet speaker is Judith Hudson Beattie, keeper of the Hudson Bay Archives
- Church service at Westminster United Church, a heritage building

Jonathan Frid, Local Television Personality Back in New York

Ruth Nicholson UE

As I was reading the Toronto Star on August 13 a headline took my attention: Actress Lives in Dark Shadows. You see, Dark Shadows was an afternoon soap opera when I attended high school in Amherstburg. We received only one Canadian station, but several big American stations and Dark Shadows was a favourite vampire story that my sister Mary loved.

Today the vampire theme is alive and well with The Vampire Diaries, True Blood and the Twilight books and movies.

Local actor and Loyalist, Jonathan Frid was the lead vampire in the Dark Shadows series that ran from 1966-71. He was the heart-throb, Barnabus Collins. Jonathan Frid flew to London England recently to meet with film producer Tim Burton and actor Johnny Depp. Kathryn Leigh Scott had four roles on the original series and she was actually the main subject of the article.

Tim Burton is creating a new version of Dark Shadows and Johnny Depp will be the lead vampire this time. Kathryn Scott, Jonathan Frid, Lara Parker and David Selby spent three days in London filming cameos for the 2012 release of this new movie.

Those of you who have been Hamilton Branch members since 1999 will remember the Loyalist play that Jon Frid and I wrote for our Christmas luncheon at St. Luke's Anglican Church, in Burlington. It was entitled Lot 17 and it was about a family of four who were seeing their new land for the first time and their ensuing first Christmas. The late Bev Nicol and I were the married couple and our children were Ethan Edwards and Hannah Ince. The dramatic readers included Fred Hayward, Marilyn Hardsand, David Woodward and Barbara Nelson. It was quite the production!

I did contact Jonathan Frid to congratulate him on his new and exciting movie appearance.

PASSAGES

Gloria Oakes UE

We were glad that we had helped celebrate Ken's 100th birthday in 2009 and to have him present at our meeting to receive a special certificate marking the event. The following notice appeared in Loyalist Trails on August 1, 2011:

Last Post: Kenneth Beaton Turner, CD, UE

Peacefully at the Heritage Green Nursing Home on August 1, 2011, in his 102nd year. Predeceased by his beloved wife Constance Claire Smith in 1993. Dear father of his daughter Elizabeth Jane (husband Robert Dunn), his son K. John (wife Nancy), his daughter Mary Constance (husband Michael Murray), his son David William (wife Trina), and twelve grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. Survived by his sister Katherine. Predeceased by three sisters and two brothers.

Ken was a veteran of the RCAF from 1942 to 1959, retiring with the rank of Squadron Leader, his last post as Chief Budget Officer in Ottawa. Worked for several trust companies both before and after the war, including the formation and operation of Lincoln, Astra and Effort Trust.

Ken was a member and past president of the Brougham Union Masonic Lodge in Claremont and the Murton Lodge of Perfection (1961) Hamilton. Ken belonged to the Rotary Club of Niagara Falls (42 years of perfect attendance, served as President), the Dundas Rotary Club and the Dundas Valley Sunrise Rotary Club. which was formed in 1999. He was also a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation and a Rotary Benefactor. Ken was a former member of the Scottish Rite, was active in his church activities throughout his lifetime and also volunteered at McMaster.

In 2003, Ken [received his Certificate of Loyalist Lineage](#) for James Cowell Turner as a member of the Hamilton Branch UELAC.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at the Dundas Baptist Church on Saturday, August 27th at 11 a.m. Donations to the Cancer Assistance Program or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

www.catteletonandchambers.ca



Gloria Oakes with MPP Ted McMeekin at the ON Awards Ceremony

Seeking participants for study on family history research

Leighann Neilson & Del Muise

We are two professors – Leighann Neilson and Del Muise -- from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario who are conducting research on family history. We are not affiliated with any of the commercial genealogy databases or software providers. We are researchers and family historians ourselves, who want to learn more about the surge of interest in family history. In order for our research to accurately capture what's happening in family history in Canada today, we need the participation of as many family historians as possible.

The survey is available online at:

www.cusurveycentre.ca/gensurvey and takes about 20 to 30 minutes to complete. If you're interested in learning about the results of the survey, we'll be posting updates on our blog Genealogy in Canada <http://genealogyincanada.blogspot.com>.

We anticipate sharing the results of our research with museums, archives, and genealogy societies, all of who are trying to meet the needs of family history researchers. Individual family historians will be able to learn more about how others are conducting their research by reading and commenting on the survey results as we report them on our blog.

Jean Rae Baxter UE Launches New Book: Scattered Light

Ruth Nicholson UE

It was a pleasure to be in attendance at the launch of Jean's new book of short stories on September 8th at the Artword Artbar 15 Colbourne St. very close to Christ's Church Cathedral where our next plaque unveiling will take place.

Jean was one of four Ontario authors who are published by Seraphim Editions, out of Woodstock, who were chosen to present their work. She introduced her reading as a wine tasting: passages that were light, medium and dark in nature. It was a great metaphor to use for me personally, since Jean and I have been to some of the wine events on North Shore Erie, at Fort Malden taking part in such a tasting event.

One of her stories: Dead End has a connection to a late Loyalist family, the Vandeeps. It has a genealogical base that includes mystery and a thrilling ending. Each story is a surprise – fun to read.

This is very different material from her historical fiction for young adults that are Loyalist based, The Way Lies North and Broken Trail. It is full of unusual twists that the reader will not expect.

Jean won the 2010 Kenneth Galbraith Literary award for her short story, Annabelle, which is included in Scattered Light. Upon reading only two of these short stories, I wouldn't be surprised if Jean is in line for another major literary award.



Jean Rae Baxter

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Visit our home page:
www.uel-hamilton.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hamilton Branch of the UELAC

Meetings – 4th Thursday of Feb., March, April, Oct. and Nov.

Olivet United Church, 40 Empress St., lower level. Program at 7:30 p.m.

Oct 2 Loyalist Burial Plaquing Event at Christ's Church Cathedral, James St. N. Hamilton at 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

Oct 27 Doug Green – The Billy Green Story – 1813 Local Hero

Nov. 24 Nathan Tidridge – New easy to understand book written about our form of government in Canada – The Constitutional Monarchy

Dec. 3 Christmas at Rock Chapel, 12 noon. Tickets \$22.00 from Treasurer Gloria Howard 905-575-9878

Ancaster Township Historical Society

Meet at the old township hall, 310 Wilson St. at 7 p.m.

Sept 9 Antique Fire Equipment & Corn Roast at Shaver Homestead

Oct 28 McArthur's Raid, Speaker Zig Misiak

Nov 25 War of 1812, Speaker Robin McKee

Burlington Historical Society

Meet in the Centennial Room of the Burlington Central Library, second Monday Sept to May at 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 12 David Craig talks about restoring old photographs

Dundas Valley Historical Society

Meet second Wednesday of the month at The Dundas Museum, 139 Park St. at 7 p.m.

Fieldcote Museum

64 Sulphur Springs Rd., Ancaster 905 648 8144

7 to 9 p.m. Quilt Workshops. Create a quilt to be proud of in 3 sessions - First Friday of every month October to December. Members: \$45 Non-members \$55

Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society

Meet at Dundurn Castle at 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 14 Triumph & Tragedy – Dr. Mary Anderson, local author will bring the story of the McQueston family to light.

Nov. 11 Gary Evans, local author will bring stories of the history of the Hamilton beach strip.

Old Town Hall Public Meeting - Ancaster

310 Wilson St. Ancaster

Oct. 19 7-9 p.m. Razing the Dead – New Development – Old Cemeteries. A panel of guests will present the facts for your consideration. How can we move forward as a growing community, while preserving our past?

Oct. 29 Halloween Spirits of Ancaster – Mr. Ancaster's Magical Mystery Bus Tour & Tea. Ancaster's historical local personalities will be visited and the "dirty laundry" aired. Leaves from the Old Town Hall. Cost is \$10 in advance; phone Fieldcote at 905 648 8144

Oakville Historical Society

Ghost walks around the oldest part of town; meet at 110 King St. at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. on October 6, 8, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 28 & 29. Adults \$12 Children under 12 - \$6. [Phone 905 844 2695 for reservations.](tel:9058442695)