

# LOYALIST MONUMENTS

## The Butler Homestead, Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Butler Homestead monument was unveiled on Sunday, May 18, 2008 in the newly- created Colonel John Butler Homestead Park in St. Andrews Glen on Balmoral Drive just off Regional Road 55, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The foundations of the original Butler homestead were identified by lines of crushed rock in the grass giving a clear idea of the original building. Designed and built by Jon Jouppien of JK Jouppien Heritage Resource Consultant Inc., the four sided cairn was built with stones from Fort Niagara that were surplus to the building of the monument at the site of the Battle of Chippawa 1814 (<http://members.tripod.com/war1812/ncm1a.html>). The Butler Homestead monument presents a quartet of informative plaques herein transcribed clockwise.



### THE BUTLER HOMESTEAD

Colonel Butler lived here with his wife, Catharine Bradt, who died in 1793. Butler died in 1796, willing his estate to his sons. Because Butler was an important man in Indian affairs and was a prominent political leader in Upper Canada (Ontario), he was visited by army officers stationed at Fort Niagara, by prominent Canadians, and by influential Aboriginal leaders travelling to this area.

Along with a frame house, the homestead included several outbuildings. During the War of 1812, the homestead was occupied by American soldiers after they captured the town of Niagara and Fort George in May 1813. His homestead was fortified by the Americans and was the focus point of several sharp skirmishes during the summer of 1813. When the American Army retreated in December, they burned the entire town, including Butler's homestead.

### JOHN BUTLER, 1728-1796

John Butler was an army officer, Indian agent, and Loyalist leader and was one of the most important figures in the early years of Ontario.

The son of a British army officer, Butler moved to New York's Mohawk Valley in 1742. He befriended William Johnson, a man who was instrumental in forging alliances between the British and the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy. By 1755, Butler was an interpreter for the British Indian Department.

During the American Revolution, Butler formed a regiment of Rangers that operated out of Fort Niagara against the rebellious colonists led by George Washington. In 1778, Butler established barracks for his men on the west side of the Niagara River in what is now Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Following the revolution, he led the men of Butler's Rangers from the newly independent United States to settle in Canada. Butlers Rangers and their families were the first non-Aboriginal settlers of the Niagara peninsula.

Butler lived on this site and remained active in Indian affairs, serving as the Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs to the Six Nations.

John Butler died on this site in 1796 and was interred in the nearby family burial ground.

## **FINDING BUTLER'S HOMESTEAD**

Following the War of 1812, knowledge of the exact location of Butler's home was lost. The farm had become pasture and the ruins of the homestead remained hidden beneath the turf. When the development of a residential subdivision threatened to obliterate the ruins of the home of Niagara's founding father, steps were taken to locate the exact site and preserve it for future generations. An archaeological excavation uncovered what had been buried for almost two centuries. The dig uncovered stone foundations and a treasure of artefacts ranging from prehistoric Aboriginal artifacts through military buttons and fragments of the fine china used when the Butlers entertained the upper classes of early Ontario.

Through the efforts of many people, the site of John Butler's homestead is preserved for all time.

PLAQUE FOUR lists the honorary land grantees of the Butler Homestead who made the preservation and presentation of the homestead site possible.

Participating in the unveiling of the monument were Ron Dale, manager of Parks Canada's War of 1812 Bicentennial Project, The Hon. Rob Nicholson, MP, Minister of Justice, Kim Caitor, MPP Niagara Falls, Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs, NOTL, Zig Misiak of Butler's Rangers and Bernie Villamil of the Trillium Foundation. Music was provided by the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. Also present were a number of descendants of Col. John and Catherine Butler, members of UELAC and local heritage groups.

[The Plaques appear on the next page.](#)

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## THE FOLLOWING, HONOURARY LAND GRANTEES OF THE BUTLER HOMESTEAD, HAVE MADE THE PRESERVATION AND PRESENTATION OF THIS SITE POSSIBLE.

RALPH AND ELIZABETH OLIVER MALONE	PETER ZIJ	WEEZ BEVAN
LESTER G. TAYLOR	PETER LING AND DIANE LING	W.R. AND PATRICIA FRANCISCO
LADIA AND JIM THOMPSON	JANE WRIGHT	ROBERT WOODHEAD
RICHARD MERRITT AND NANCY SMITH	KAREN TREN	HARVEY AND JOAN MORGAN
GARTH DITTRICK	RUSSELL RETZERTON	BRUCE AND ELIZABETH WOODDELY
KEVIN AND JOYCE GILLARD	JAMES BUTLER HOUSTON	LARRY DOWIE
DAVID GILLARD	RIGG CHURCH	ROBERT GILES
DOUGLAS GILLARD	CLAIRE AND BERTINA BART	WARREN AND LINA PRAGER
DARIS GILLARD	DAVID AND CAROL APPEL	HOWE J. CHURCH
CAROLYN BAXTON	DAVID AND CLAUDIA GILCHRIST	JAMES REYNOLDS
C. COBINE AND WILKIN BUTLER	MARK SCHEFFEL	ROSS AND SYLVIA LEWY
JOHN BUTLER	LEE AND RITA ALMA	THOMAS AND JOAN BURSBRIDGE
SUSAN PRADOCK	KATHRYN KEE	DAVID BINGSTON
JIG MISIAK	WILLIAM AND ANN LINDSAY	J.C. COWAN AND B.L. JOHNSTON
IN MEMORY OF SHARON MISIAK	BLUMA APPEL	IAN AND ANNE CAMPBELL
CHRIS ALLEN	HELEN MERRITT	GERALD WOOL
ROBERT J. AND DOROTHY RAE URE	DAVID AND DIANE REFRANK	DODD AND SYLVIA KEMPEL
BRIDGETTE SCHERES-ROSE	WILLIAM AND CAROL FOX	RAY KEMPEL AND FAMILY
FOR FRAU SCHERES-ROSE	RALPH D. CUMMINGHAM	JAMES PROUDFOOT
TERRENCE AND ELEANOR AGRINE	SARAH TOYE	J. TUCKY
CLIFFORD JAMES	MRS. H.E. MERRITT	RANDALL AND LYNN LEGGALIAS
BUS AND ANNE WELLS	DOUG PETT	BRADFORD NICHOL
GILBERT BOCKAY	MARY JANE GRANT AND PERRY QUINN	RANNEY WOODSON
THE G.B. CASTRUCCI FAMILY	BARBARA AHLIWAJIA	RICHARD ANDREWS
SORBAINE JOYNER	SHERYL L. SPARK	ART VIOLA
JOY AND JOHN ORMSBY	AUSTIN SIBBEY	MR. AND MRS. RON FERGUSON
WIP AGERS	GAIL B. WISSEY	DAVID AND DEBORAH EDE
CLARA TANNON	N. WILLIAM AND ARI ALLINGHAM	BOB COPPING
W.E. WAUGH AND A.B. WAUGH	MIRIAM MCKEON	MR. AND MRS. A. TWINKING
MARY DROPE	IAN AND NANCY BUTLER	MARGO F. MORGAN
CHRISTOPHER NEWTON	JEROME AND MELISSA WALKER	BARBARA C. KINGSTON
EM GOODWIN	DOROTHY LEE	MR. J. GILBERT
ELLEN LLOYD AND EPHRAIM MICHAEL	REBECCA LEE	RONALD AND NANCY DALL
ANDREW HENWOOD	PETER AND CYNTHIA RAND	JOHN AND JEREMY JOUPTIN
	JANE WRIGHT	
U.E.L. ASSOCIATION (THOMPSON-CLEGGAN BRANCH)		WMO MERRITT BURNS
U.E.L. ASSOCIATION (JOHN BUTLER BRANCH)		M.J. GRANT AND CO.
ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (HAMILTON)		SNOW FESTIVAL
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		R.C. WATSON SERVICES
QUEENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION		SENTINIAL CARRIAGES
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE BED AND BREAKFAST ASSOCIATION		PERIOD IMAGES, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE CONSERVANCY		SIMPSON'S PHARMACY
BASE OF MONTREAL, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE		GREENHOUSES LANDSCAPING
NIAGARA CREDIT UNION		ANCHORAGE RESTAURANT
NIAGARA AIR BUS		NIAGARA JET BOATS
HISTECH LTD.		M.E. FOODS
KELLY INN CORP.		LINDSAY AND WELLS REGIMENT FOUNDATION
MCDONALD'S RESTAURANT		NIAGARA NATIONAL LODGE NO. 1 A1 & A2
		NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ROTARY CLUB

PUCEY CANADA  
ONTARIO TRAILLUM FOUNDATION  
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE