

The Niagara Loyalist

Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

President's Pen - April 2015

Spring is upon us and with it come new challenges. For the Branch, the challenges seem to remain the same from year to year. This is no different from other non-profit organizations, in that it must continue to find ways to maintain its membership, encourage member involvement and remain relevant.

The topic of membership involvement and expectations was on the agenda for the Special Strategic Planning Meeting held on April 4. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss what we need to focus on over the coming year and how to achieve our objectives. I personally felt that the meeting went well, as we had a lot of input from those members who attended. The information that was gathered will be presented to the membership in upcoming meetings. This was just the beginning of the planning process, since the "Next Steps" will be very important as we move forward.

As mentioned, part of the meeting focussed on volunteer involvement and getting more of the membership to fill our vacant positions, in particular, the office of Vice-President. At this time, I would like to thank Carol Cox for stepping in to this position.

Carol is looking forward to the challenges and duties of her new position and we look forward to working with her.

As well, I would like to thank Ann Huffman for her excellent work as Newsletter Editor over the past two and a half years. This issue of the Niagara Loyalist is her last. While Ann has been performing the duties of the Newsletter Editor, she is also our Membership Secretary.

On another note, summer is around the corner! Please read through the newsletter for all of the activities that will be taking place over the next several months. I hope to see many of you at these events. If you have any questions about this or other aspects of the Branch, please use the "Contact Us" section of the website. You may also wish to use one of the Executive emails provided in this newsletter.

Loyally, *Paul Preece* UE

From the editor: It is with mixed feelings that I pass on the responsibilities of Newsletter Editor to Wayne and Cheryl Scott who will present you with your next edition of the Niagara Loyalist in August. Thanks to all who have contributed items over the past years. Best wishes to Wayne and Cheryl!

Ann Huffman

www.coljohnbutleruel.com



Up-Coming Meetings, Speakers & Events

May 2: Jodi Allair of Bird Studies Canada will speak about the appreciation and conservation of wild birds, including birds at our back-yard feeders.

June 20: Loyalist Flag-Raising in Niagara-on-the-Lake at the Cenotaph, 10:30 a.m.

Following the ceremony, we will head to Strewn Winery for lunch and a tour and wine tasting at 1339 Lakeshore Road, NOTL on the banks of the Four Mile Creek. It is close to the Palatine Hill cemetery, about a five minute drive from downtown. Those who are interested in taking part at Strewn must reply to Shirley Lockhart by June 10th for reservation purposes. Reminders will go out by June 7th and you can reply directly to Shirley.

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Please see page 7 for more events



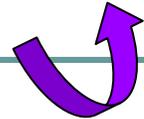
Doors open at 11 a.m.

Lunch at 11:45 a.m.

Respond at least two days prior to the meeting to:

Deb Sherk

debsherk@hotmail.com



Note: New Contact

In Memoriams

As we welcome new members, we must also say good bye to others. Our sincere condolences go to Twila Harwood UE and Gloria Ursacki UE on the loss of their daughter and niece, Linda Armbrust UE. Linda had recently received her UE designation and was a proud member of the Butler Branch.

Our sympathies also go out to Marion Tait UE on the death of her husband Mitch, and to the families of past members Bob Waugh, and Peter Doan UE.

And finally, condolences to long-time member Patricia Hughes UE on the death of her dear husband Donald, who was also a CJB member.



Welcome New Members

Priscilla & Richard Newman

& their children Richard Jr. and Sarah

Ruth Kitchen

John Hicks, Marilyn Moore

& their children William & Jeannette

Donald Sherwin

Ruth Smith UE

Donald Leitch

Grant & Patti Ann Timms

Dean Troup

&

Heather Troup

February General Meeting

Speaker Scott Gillies, Curator of the Ingersoll Cheese and Farm Museum was introduced and thanked by Program Chair, Dale Smout.

His topic was Royal visits through Norfolk and Oxford Counties. Following are the highlights:

1868: Prince Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, visited when he was 26 years old. He commemorated Brock's monument, met Laura Secord and watched Blondin cross Niagara Falls.

1869: Prince Arthur, brother of Prince Albert, visited Norfolk County and then returned in 1914 as the Duke of Connaught, when he was Governor General of Canada.

1901: Duke and Duchess of York visited and 6,000-8,000 people turned out to see them. He was later named George 5th, when he became King.

1939: King George 6th and Queen Elizabeth visited to bolster support for Britain for the upcoming war. He was the first ruling monarch to visit Canada. They travelled by train across Canada, stopping in London (300,000 people turned out) and in Ingersoll (where it is rumoured a 20 pound block of cheddar cheese was put on board the train). The couple went to the U.S. to meet President Roosevelt and they also opened the QEW.

1951: Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip had a brief stop in Ingersoll when they travelled across Ontario by train.

February Certificates



New UE certificate recipient Harold Beamer is seen here with Branch Genealogist Rodney Craig.

Harold's ancestor is George Adam Bowman.

Certificates for other new UEs were mailed to Nancy Tulloch, her children Christy and Alex Tulloch for their ancestor McGregor VanEvery, and to Peggy Baker for her ancestor Stephen Middaugh.

Congratulations all!

March Meeting Highlights

Ninety-four members and guests attended the March lunch meeting and the 50/50 draw was won by Sandra DeYoung who received an early St. Patrick's Day gift of \$70. Twelve other lucky winners went home with various draw prizes. The meeting was chaired today by Treasurer Ted Huffman, in the absence of President Paul Preece. Ann Huffman reported a total membership today of 300 members.

A very special presentation of the Past President's Jewel was made by Past, Past President, Eugene Oatley to Shirley Lockhart. Shirley received a round of applause for her dedication and hard work during her years of service to CJB.



A letter of thanks from the Salvation Army, Niagara Falls, was read by Eugene Oatley, who delivered the generous donation of food items collected at the February meeting.

Deb Sherk announced that CJB will be providing a \$50 prize to the District School Board of Niagara student who presents the winning project at the upcoming Heritage Fair on the subject of Loyalist History. A member from the Branch will be asked to present the prize to the student in his/her classroom after judging is completed.

Ted Huffman announced the format of the special planning meeting in April which will take the place of the regular general meeting, with a view to short and long term planning and the need for increased involvement by members for the long term health of the Branch.



Our speaker: Dr. Michelle Vosburgh from the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives at the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum was introduced and thanked by Program Chair, Dale Smout. Her topic was: For King and Country at Home and on the Front Lines during the First World War.

Dr. Vosburgh began her interesting presentation by acknowledging the sacrifice and dedication of the soldiers who fought and died for Canada during WWI. This included the Welland Canal Force, which consisted of over 1000 reservists from local militia units. It was set up to protect the canal, along with international bridges over the Niagara River, the CPR lines and the hydro electric installations at DeCew Falls.

However, she also detailed the varied and selfless activities of those at home – especially the wives, daughters and mothers of the soldiers. Some of these contributions were:

- The Canadian Red Cross – members knit sweaters, rolled bandages, held fundraising events and scrap drives, wrote letters to soldiers, made and sent care packages

- The “Farmerettes” – the Farm Service Corp was set up to assist farmers due to a labour shortage and in the Niagara area, young women helped to harvest the tender fruit crop
- Women’s Institutes – members planted gardens and canned the produce so that processed food could go to the soldiers overseas, made care packages for local soldiers to remember birthdays and Christmas, knit socks and sweaters, instituted recipes which used less meat, sugar and eggs and made scrapbooks of local news events to be sent to soldiers
- Canadian Patriotic Fund – this group provided comfort and support to the soldier’s families by assisting with daily tasks (chopping wood, fixing a leaky roof), providing a male influence to children with an absent father and when bad news came to a family, helping them to arrange a funeral, medical care or a pension application

March Certificates



Allan Swayze received his UE certificate for his ancestor Peter Wyckoff Sr. Allan could not be at the meeting and his cousin Wilda Chase Chapman accepted the certificate on his behalf. Congratulations Allan!

Mary Lou Garr accepted a certificate for her husband Wayne, for his ancestor Thomas Anderson. This is Wayne’s 12th certificate.

If you would like to access past issues of Loyalist Trails, a weekly newsletter of UELAC, you can do so by going to the UELAC website at: www.uelac.org and click on “Publications”. If you are not currently receiving this newsletter by email, you can subscribe on this site as well.

Also under “Publications” you can subscribe to the digital version of the Loyalist Gazette, the twice yearly publication for members that has been available until recently only in the print version. The digital version is in full colour which makes for a more interesting reading experience.

Planning Meeting - April 4, 2015



Thirty-six people attended the special planning meeting held on April 4th to determine our focus and objectives over the next year and onward for the Butler Branch.

Participants had been provided with job descriptions for executive and chair positions, as well as a list of other volunteer positions which help to make the Branch function smoothly.

During the first part of the meeting, six individual groups brainstormed about their expectations for the Branch, under the headings of what to continue doing, what to stop doing, and what to start doing to improve performance.

A spokesperson from each group summarized main points and a record was made and displayed on-screen for the group. After a short break, capitalizing on the previous brainstorming session, some priorities were identified and noted.



The Executive then met on April 14th to go over all of the information from the group sessions, eliminate duplication and prioritize items which need to be addressed. Over the next several meetings, discussions will take place with the membership on how to proceed and how to put our top priorities in place.

One of the good things that came out of this meeting is that a number of people have volunteered to take on some of the smaller jobs, perhaps with a view to doing something more significant in the future.

Thanks to all who participated in this valuable group planning meeting.

Summer Events Continued

District School Board of Niagara will be putting on a Heritage Fair at the Niagara Falls History Museum to showcase student presentations. The Butler Branch is offering a \$50 prize to the student who submits a winning presentation in the category of Loyalist history. Judges for the event will be Deb Sherk and Shirley and Jim Lockhart. Judging is on May 5th and the community is invited to view the displays May 7th from 6 to 8 p.m.

The No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum Annual Open House is July 4 - This year the Open House will be even bigger than in 2014 with more craft vendors and many displays by local heritage organizations. There is no charge for admission. The popular classic car show by the Dunnville Cruisers Club, with sales of vintage car parts, will be back. In addition to hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages from the grill during the day, the popular Chicken BBQ Dinner will follow from 4 to 6. Tickets for the Dinner are \$15 and can be ordered by calling 905-774-4799.

Battle of Chippawa Commemoration will take place July 5th at 2:00 p.m.

Battle of Fort George, War of 1812 Re-enactment - July 11 & 12, 2015 – commemoration of the 202nd anniversary of the Battle of Fort George. Re-enactors from all over North America will descend upon Fort George as they re-enact one of the pivotal events in Niagara during the War of 1812. Battle re-enactments will be scheduled on both Saturday and Sunday. Weekend programming including musket firings, artillery demonstrations, music presentations and more will be happening both days inside Fort George. For more information call Parks Canada at 905-468-6614.

Fort Erie - History in the Park - June 26, 27 & 28 Go back in history with a War of 1812 Village—complete with camp res, period cooking, War of 1812 Musket & Canon demonstrations, Children's Militia Drills with hats and toy muskets ...plus photo booth with dress up station period & just for fun accessories! For more information visit the website at www.friendshipfestival.com

The Siege of Fort Erie August 8 & 9, 2015 - Re-Enactment—Canada's Largest Annual Re-Enactment at Canada's bloodiest battlefield. For more information call 905-871-0540 or visit www.oldforterie.com.

Battle of Lundy's Lane Commemorative Service —Sunday, July 26 at 12:30 at the Drummond Hill Cemetery. Following the service the Niagara Falls Historical Museum will host an informal reception.

Conference: American Revolution in the Mohawk Valley - May 1 to 3 at the Fort Plain Museum. Almost 100 battles of the American Revolution were fought in New York State, including the Mohawk Valley, the Battle of Oriskany and defence of Fort Stanwix. For more information see the website:

<http://newyorkhistoryblog.org/2015/01/27/conference-american-revolution-in-the-mohawk-valley/>.

**COOKSMILLS COMMUNITY
BATTLE OF
COOKS MILLS
OCT 18 19
905 735-6745**



WANTED: NURSE
THE REGIMENT REQUIRES ONE DECENT,
SOBER WOMAN NURSE, WHO SHALL
RECEIVE AT THE RATE OF ONE SHILLING
PER DAY; WHOSE DUTY WILL BE TO
PREPARE THE SLOPS AND COMFORTS
FOR THE SICK, AND OCCASIONALLY TO
ASSIST IN ADMINISTERING MEDICINES,
COOKING THE VICTUALS, WASHING,
ETC.



Photos courtesy of
Roy Johnson UE



Teacher Arrested at JFK

A public school teacher was arrested today at John F. Kennedy International Airport this morning as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, a slide-rule and a calculator. At a press conference just before noon today, Attorney General Eric Holder said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-Gebra movement. Although he did not identify the man, he confirmed the man has been charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of math instruction.

'Al-Gebra is a problem for us', the Attorney General said. 'They derive solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values.' They use secret code names like "X" and "Y" and refer to themselves as "unknowns" but we have determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, "There are 3 sides to every triangle." The Attorney General went on to say "Teaching our children sentient thought processes and equipping them to solve problems is dangerous and puts our government at risk."

Correction in January's Newsletter

2014 Certificates Presented should have read : certificate for Adam Young was presented to Jacqueline Williamson, not Jacqueline Williamson Yorke.



Loyalists Come West 2015



Victoria BC

UELAC Conference 2015 - Victoria British Columbia - May 28 to 31

Venue is the Coast Victoria Harbourside Hotel & Marina close to the Legislature Buildings and many tourist activities.

Victoria Branch has planned lots of activities for the Conference and you can keep up to date through Loyalist Trails or on the UELAC website at www.uelac.org and follow the links to the Victoria website.

Registration forms are also available on the website.

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