

BRANCHES

Grand River Branch UELAC

Dates to Remember

July 1, 2021

Canada Day!



Sunday, July 18, at 2 p.m.

Sue Hines UE presents: Mrs Simcoe's Diary via Zoom

Sunday, August 15 @ 2

Graham Nickerson N.B. presents: 104th Regiment and Black Loyalists via Zoom

Sunday, Sept. 19 @2

Roy Winders presents: War of 1812 via Zoom

Sunday, October 17@ 2

Guest Presenter: Nathan Tidridge topic to be confirmed



Message from the President/Editor

Happy Canada Day!

Canada Day, for me marks the beginning of summer. And for many this year, also marks relief as more now have their second Covid shot and can start to slowly move towards a more normal life. We are hopeful for a possible in-person meeting in late fall.

But this Canada Day also brings sadness. Canada is in mourning after the discovery of the graves of so many Indigenous Children that died as a result of abuse in Residential Schools. How do we remember them and move forward into the future? I included an article from the Hamilton Spectator about the opening of the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford, that was once the Mohawk Institute that closed in 1970. I hope you enjoy reading about this creative and positive reimagining of the building and in future might consider visiting.



In Contemplating this tragedy, I recall the times I drive by the Young Monument along Highway 54, just outside of Cayuga. I often stop to survey the farmer's field below, that once was the site of



Thank you Sue !

Sue Hines UE has passed the torch of Dominion President to Trish Groom. I would like to thank Sue on behalf of the Branch for her incredible leadership during the past three years. None of us could have know what this pandemic would mean in terms of navigating these uncharted waters. She has been a strong support for us at the Branch. She is our host for all zoom meetings and has been available for advice when needed. She has kept the executive on top of changes in policies and procedures, most recently as we renewed our by-laws.

Sue will continue to be very busy with new committees and responsibilities as she takes on the Past President role. Her knowledge and leadership will continue to be a tremendous asset to us all.

Thank you Sue.

2021 Dominion Executive

President: Trish Groom UE

Past President: Sue Hines UE

Senior Vice President: Carl Stymiest UE

Central West Regional Vice President: Heather Smith UE

Central West Regional Chairperson:

David Hill-Morrison UE

the original Young homestead and burial ground. The burial ground is now officially designated and protected after many years of trying to prevent the farmer who had purchased the farm from tilling over the graves. David Faux UE and Stuart Young's family in particular, who still farm part of the original tract, worked for many years to protect the site.

The grave stones are gone and we are not completely certain of who all is actually buried here but we do know that First Nations people are buried along with my Young ancestors, a reminder of the friendship and interconnected relationship that link us.

I then take time to reread the plaque and pay particular attention to the last lines referring to Adam Young UEL: "Reviled as a traitor in one nation.... A founding father in another" "Canada Day follows closely after Loyalist Day. As Loyalist descendants, it gives us double pause to be thankful and to honour the Loyalist contributions to this great land.



2021 Dominion Conference

What an amazing Conference! Congratulations to the Bridge Annex UELAC virtual Branch. The interactive map provided for navigating the Conference is still available when you log into www.UELbridgeannex.com/2021. It contains a treasure trove of information. You will not be able to access the talks from the keynote speakers but Tim Compeau and Nathan Tidridge will be presenting to the Grand River Branch in October and November.

2022 Dominion Conference: **Eye on the Heart of the Continent**, hosted by Winnipeg Branch will be a virtual conference

2023 Dominion Conference: **Where the Sea Meets the Sky**, hosted by Vancouver Branch will be an in-person conference with a virtual component.

One thing that has become very clear in this time of Covid is that technology has enabled us to continue to meet from a distance and be accessible to so many more people despite distance. Our challenge will be to meld in-person with the virtual in the future.

Membership Update

Memberships are on sale!

As of July 1st a half year membership is at a reduced price. Please spread the message!

A membership form is attached for your convenience.

Dave wrote an excellent post on our facebook group page which you could share if you like.

Go to facebook; search 'Grand River Branch UELAC' then 'visit group' and if you haven't already, join the group.

We do our best to keep our viewers up to date on what's happening and what members are discussing. It's about all things 'loyalist'.

Janet Parsons UE , Membership Chair

Dene Doroszenko presents Wolford Chapel

We spent a very interesting afternoon listening to Dene Doroszenko speak about the Simcoe family and how Woford Hall, despite being in England, came to be part of The Ontario Heritage Trust. Dene is an archeologist with Ontario Heritage Trust and has been to the Chapel in Devon England. Her slides showed the chapel's restoration along with the Simcoe family personal stories that brought this beautiful Chapel and burial place of John Graves Simcoe and his family to life.

The following is a description from the Ontario Heritage Trust site.



“Woford Chapel – a Trust-owned property in England – is associated with significant British elements of Ontario's heritage. It was built by John Graves Simcoe (1752-1806), the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, to serve as a place of worship for his family on their estate. It is also the burying place of Simcoe, his wife Elizabeth Posthuma Gwillim Simcoe (1766-1850), and six of their 11 children. In 1966, the John Graves Simcoe Memorial Foundation acquired the property on behalf of the people of Ontario from the owner of the estate, Sir Geoffrey Harmsworth, a British publisher. The Ontario Heritage Trust accepted title to the chapel in 1982 from the John Graves Simcoe Foundation, which also provided

funds for its long-term care.

As Upper Canada's first Lieutenant-Governor, Simcoe was responsible for introducing the rudiments of British government to Upper Canada. Troubled relations between Britain and the United States made the defence of the infant colony one of his priorities. He founded York (Toronto) as a naval base for Lake Ontario.

Elizabeth Simcoe accompanied her husband to Upper Canada and recorded many of her experiences in her diaries. A talented artist, she drew maps to assist with government business and composed drawings and watercolours of provincial scenes.

In 1963, the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario placed plaques to John Graves Simcoe in the Legislature of Ontario and at Woford Chapel in England. Three years later a plaque was unveiled to Elizabeth Simcoe near the site of the Simcoe's former summer home, Castle Frank, on the edge of the Don Valley in Toronto. Since the Trust acquired the site, restoration work has been performed on the chapel. The Trust works in partnership with the John Graves Simcoe/Woford Chapel Committee, a local group of British citizens who are responsible for maintaining and promoting this special site for Ontario in England.

The Loyalist Gazette, Spring 2021 Issue has been Mailed

The Spring 2021 issue of the Loyalist Gazette has been completed, printed and mailed.

Anyone who expects a paper copy but has NOT received it to a Canadian address by the end of June should notify Jim Bruce, Dominion Office, UELAC uelac.office@bellnet.ca - a copy will be mailed to them.

This issue is available now in digital form to UELAC members in the Member's section at uelac.ca.

Fall Gazette: Do You Have a Story or a Feature Article?

Submit to the Loyalist Gazette

- The **Loyalist Gazette & Communications Committee** is now accepting submissions, manuscripts for feature articles on the American Revolution, a loyalist story, your loyalist ancestor(s), or a major branch event, etc. for the **Fall 2021 Loyalist Gazette** publication.
- Whether you are a new contributor or have been previously published, *The Loyalist Gazette* would like to hear from you.
- Our scheduled deadline is **06 August 2021** for the Fall 2021 submissions.
- Please forward all submissions to:
 - UELAC Loyalist Gazette & Communications **Committee Chair**
 - Communications@uelac.org
- What to include in your submission-?
 - Your full name (and pseudonym if applicable)
 - Your postal address, telephone number, and email address (if you have one)
Carl Styriest UE, Communications@uelac.org

Woodland Cultural Centre Reopens



By **J.P. Antonacci** Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for the Hamilton Spectator

In the shadow of Brantford's infamous Mohawk Institute residential school, the Woodland Cultural Centre keeps Indigenous culture alive — and thriving.

"In a way, Woodland reclaimed the space from the residential school," said executive director Janis Monture.

Monture said public and media interest in the Mohawk Institute has increased significantly since the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children on the grounds of a former residential school in Kamloops, B.C.

She wants to focus that attention on Woodland's ongoing efforts to preserve Indigenous history and languages.

"Our actual mandate is to bridge that understanding of our culture to non-Indigenous people, but (also) with our Indigenous communities, and to really celebrate our culture, identity, philosophies through the arts," Monture said.

Woodland falls under the jurisdiction of Six Nations, which recently loosened COVID-19 restrictions after not having any new cases for over a month. That allowed Monture to open the doors to visitors on June 17. She is particularly excited for members of the public to see a new exhibit featuring Woodland's first curator, Thomas Hill, a multidisciplinary artist from Six Nations.

"If you look at Indigenous art in Canada, he really put that mark on taking it from seen as a craft to actual art that should be shown in mainstream galleries," Monture said.

Most of the approximately two dozen paintings, drawings, pottery and silk-screen prints on display depict scenes from Six Nations, a community within a Carolinian forest. Hill's paintings find the beauty in a traditional longhouse, a cornfield, a laneway and a vacant house.

"He really looked at the landscape a lot," Monture said, explaining for the Haudenosaunee, "connection to our natural surroundings (is) really imperative."

“In some of the works, he talks about our culture and philosophies, in things like the creation story, the great Tree of Peace.”

The exhibit also features impressions from the artist’s travels — a rainy theatre in New York City, a forest trail in Banff — and tenderly painted portraits of his mother and grandmother.

Some pieces are borrowed from the collection of Indigenous Services Canada, where Hill worked for 14 years as director of cultural affairs at what was then called the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

He left government service in 1982 to become Woodland’s first director. Before retiring in 2004, he curated exhibits of Indigenous history and contemporary art at the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Smithsonian in Washington.



The new exhibit is a way for Monture to personally honour Hill, who was a mentor during her first stint at Woodland from 2003 to 2017.

“For me, it was so fun to see this project come to life, because he was someone I always looked up to when I was working here,” Monture said.

With Woodland turning 50 next year, Monture returned last May to prepare for that milestone anniversary and “get us back to our roots.” Previously, she was director of tourism and cultural initiatives for the Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation.

“While I was gone, there was so much focus on the residential school. And that’s important, and I’m all about advocacy about that history,” she said.

But at the same time, I’d like people to see us as a thriving culture, living in our communities and doing really great work.”

Along with the retrospective exhibit of Hill’s art, visitors to Woodland can tour a portrait gallery of prominent Indigenous figures and explore a permanent exhibit that traces the history of local First Nations from before contact with European settlers to the present day.

Among the many items on display are poignant artifacts from the Mohawk Institute.

As the former school undergoes renovations to reopen as an interpretive site, Monture is placing Indigenous culture at the forefront by keeping Woodland’s Indigenous language revitalization department and research library inside the Mohawk Institute building.

“I want tours to go through the language space, because I want them to hear the language,” she said.

“Because that’s one of the things that school did — you were punished for speaking your language. I want those walls to hear it.”



This conference comes highly recommended by Branch members who have attended in the past. **Conference - August 6-8, 2021** - The American Revolution Mohawk Valley Conference includes 11 Speakers and a Bus Tour.

Registration - Please Visit: <https://fortplainmuseum.org/viewevent.aspx?ID=1054>

Bus Tour - August 6, 2021 - The Stone Arabia and Klock’s Field Battles that took place on October 19, 1780, are the sites where fighting combat took place between the British and the American forces. This is an in-depth, never done before tour of the Stone Arabia and Klock’s Battlefield Historic Sites. This detailed tour of the Stone Arabia Battlefield will follow the avenues of approach, view battle areas, visit the historic churches burned in battle, and the sites of Forts Kayser & Paris, and more.

Grand River Branch, United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada
O/A GRAND RIVER BRANCH UELAC
MEMBERSHIP FORM for the 2021 Year

You may submit this form to us or you may simply join on-line at <https://uelac.ca/signup/>
If you decide to join on-line, please email your Loyalist Ancestor information to us at janfarms@fibreop.ca

Name - Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Rev _____

Do you currently have the U.E. designation? Yes (___) No (___)

Address _____ Apt/Unit _____

Town/City _____ Prov/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Proven Loyalist Ancestors

Do you consent to having this information shared with other Members for genealogy for research purposes? Yes (___) No (___)
Unproven Loyalist Ancestors

Communication Preferences (√)

- a. Branch Newsletters by email (___) or regular mail
- b. Dominion semi-annual issues of the Loyalist Gazette by email (___) or regular mail

Membership Type (√)

- a. Individual Membership - \$55.00 (___) After July 1st - \$35.00 (___)
 - b. Family Membership - \$85.00 (___) After July 1st - \$57.50 (___) by regular mail (___) by regular mail
- Family Membership is for two (2) or more family members living at the same address. If requesting a Family Membership, please include the full names of your spouse and all children included.

Spouse _____ Child 1 _____
Child 2 _____ Child 3 _____

- c. Student Membership - \$30.00 (___) After July 1st - \$20.00 (___)
- d. Branch Only Membership - \$15.00 (___)

Branch Only Membership is for anyone who is a Member of another Branch but wishes to receive information from the Grand River Branch as well. No one can be a Branch Only Member without paying Dominion membership fees to another Branch. Other Branch name _____
For American Members – we ask that you pay your membership fee in American funds. Thank you.

Payment Methods (√).

Payment by credit card or by PayPal is only available on-line at <https://uelac.ca/signup/> a. Cash (___)
b. By cheque (___) Make cheque payable to Grand River Branch UELAC
By Interac E-transfer (___) Contact Membership Chair at janfarms@fibreop.ca
Send application and payment to -
Janet Parsons UE, Membership Chair, 38 Second Street, Sturgeon Falls, Ontario P2B 3A8 Phone (705) 753-0730; email: janfarms@fibreop.ca

Signature _____ Date _____

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