

# BRANCHES

## Grand River Branch UELAC

### Dates to Remember

We have had to make some changes to the fall schedule when our September speaker had to cancel due to a family illness.

All fall meetings will be held via zoom. The meetings will open at 1:30 so members will have an opportunity to chat. Our speakers will begin at 2:00 EST

#### **Sunday, Sept. 19 @2 EST**

Tim Compeau presents: A new Batch of Ships for the Great Lakes: British Experiments in Naval Technology on Lake Ontario in the War of 1812. Via Zoom

#### **Sunday, October 17@ 2**

Guest Presenter: Nathan Tidridge : topic to be confirmed. Via Zoom

#### **Saturday, November 21@2**

Guest Presenter: James Muth:

**2022 Dominion Conference: Eye on the Heart of the Continent**, hosted by Winnipeg



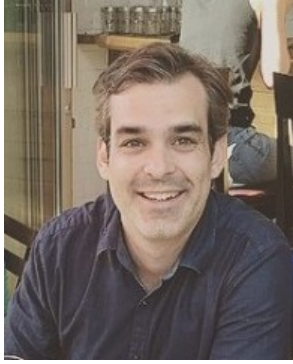
### Message from the President/Editor

Welcome Fall!

Good morning and I hope this newsletter finds you well. These last steamy days of summer will soon be past and we will begin to enjoy the beautiful transitioning of the leaves to glorious reds and oranges; cool nights to bring a solid night's sleep; and the frost that will end our forays into the garden. This is a great time to drive the backroads to enjoy the country side. Perhaps your family will be taking part in annual Dedication Services that will bring you to your family's ancestral burial ground. Here's something you can do on a beautiful fall day, to help with the maintenance and preservation of the Loyalist plaques that identify the resting place of our Loyalist forefathers.

Marlene and Paul Smith have been spearheading the Grand River UELAC Cemetery Project and have been hard at work creating a list of sites and organizing volunteers to do the work of replacing the worn and damaged signs. To date, Mike Bouk and Robert Foord and families will be out checking on the cemetery plaques in Brant and Oxford to report back and do repairs. But more people are needed to help with this. Please read the article from Marlene for more information.

Again Covid 19 numbers are on the rise. This time we are concerned



## Introducing Tim Compeau

Dr Timothy J. Compeau  
The 2007-2010 UELAC Loyalist Scholarship Award was awarded to Timothy J. Compeau. Originally from Gananoque, Ontario, Tim received an Honours BA in History from Queen's University (2004) and an MA in Public History, University of Western Ontario (2006). In 2015, Tim Compeau received his Doctor of Philosophy in History from the University of Western Ontario. Tim credits his interest in Loyalist history to a summer spent working at the Gananoque Museum. There, he discovered a suitcase filled with handwritten correspondence from the 1780s penned by the founder of Gananoque, loyalist Colonel Joel Stone. "For the rest of the summer, I got to explore these 200-year-old letters, put them in order and archive them," says Tim, who was 19 years old at the time. "That was a formative experience which left a lasting impression on me."  
Today, Dr. Timothy Compeau is recognized as a historian of colonial North America and the Atlantic World with a particular focus on the cultural history of the Revolutionary period.

about the spread of the Delta variant. Those of us who are double vaccinated are partially protected and seem not to suffer with severe symptoms but many are still unvaccinated and the health officials are warning of a surge in cases come the fall as we move activities indoors. The executive decided for the safety of our members and the possibility of yet another lock down, that we would continue to use Zoom for the remainder of the fall meetings.

We have purchased a Branch Zoom License so that we will be able to continue to use Zoom for the upcoming fall General meetings and Executive meetings uninterrupted. Sue Hines has faced some health issues and will not continue to act as our host. Judy de Korte and I will be having training sessions with Liz Adair, who will teach us the finer points of being Zoom owners. So bear with us for the September meeting.

Deb Blair and the executive are starting the planning for 2022 meetings. Our first job will be to confirm meeting dates. Please read the survey and let us know what works best for you so the executive can make a good decision for dates and timing of meetings.



## Work in progress: Replacing our UEL Burial Ground Signs by Marlene Smith

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in May, Paul and I set out to examine the first of the UEL Burial Ground signs that hadn't been looked at for some time. You may recall that the original ones were plywood and have not stood up to the elements very well.

We were unsure because of COVID, as we hadn't been away from home much, let alone to another County, but off we went looking for the Edison Cemetery near Vienna because Bill Terry had visited the nearby Estherville Cemetery a year earlier when he replaced that sign. He saw that the Edison sign needed to be replaced. It was in very bad shape, so with our toolkit in hand down came the sign, which is really in a ditch as you approach the out of sight cemetery. And up went a new one. Then we boldly went for a takeout lunch in Port Burwell. Our world was getting bigger.

That was our opening foray back into the world around us so we continued to check cemeteries and signs. Many are still in good shape, others are very worn. We followed the list Bill Terry provided

and eventually we changed signs at Johnson Cemetery in St. Williams, Hillcrest Cemetery on Charlotteville Rd 1 and Woodhouse United on Hwy 24 south of Simcoe. We still have to return to St. John's Woodhouse, also on Hwy 24 south, to replace that sign.

Now others are on board. Bill Terry and his brother, Robert Terry, Anne and Robert Foord and Mike Bouk will be checking from the list which is now updated with addresses of cemeteries and dates when last checked. This will be an ongoing process although these new signs should last longer than the originals.

As I have worked at this I have thought of Don and Cathy Thompson and their determination at putting up the original signs, more than 30 of them! They used a post hole digger and bags of quick set concrete mix, taking water with them, setting the posts, and attaching the original signs which were backed with plywood and therefore heavier than the ones we are using today. What a formidable undertaking. Paul and I helped them one autumn day and put up five signs in one afternoon. How they managed the other 25 by themselves, I can't imagine. It wasn't all work, the four of us went to Turkey Point for a lovely lunch break.

We may find more cemeteries than the ones on our list, ones that have yet to be recognized, or we may find that the list is not complete. But with this new list and several other helpers involved I can see the process is becoming more manageable.



Robert Vincent McCrum  
Our youngest member

### Genealogist's Report

We have just submitted four applications for Robert Vincent McCrum who was born on August 3, 2021. He is the youngest descendant of his Loyalist ancestors Henry Windecker, Jacob Benner, Frederick Anger Jr. and Frederick Anger Sr. We expect the applications to be approved shortly.

A new printer/scanner has been purchased at a cost of \$404.99. The old scanner could not feed and scan documents which is essential if we are to submit applications through the drop box system that Dominion wants. Jane Adams helped to get a discount and the scanner/printer has been shipped.

**The Norfolk County Archives and Eva Brook Donly Museum** will be reopening for research on October 9, 2021 after being closed for more than a year due to covid. This means the Loyalist Library will be accessible once again. If anyone is planning a visit please call ahead and let them know you are coming and what you are looking for. The Archivist Josh Klar is very knowledgeable so please contact him if you have research questions or are planning to go there in person. 109 Norfolk St S, Simcoe, ON N3Y 2W3

### August Meeting

Our guest speaker, Graham Nickerson presented *Liberte, Freedom, Refuge and Glory*.

Graham attempted to cover a great deal of information to help us learn more about the Black experience and settlement in Canada from the origins of the slave trade through to the War of 1812. Using maps and photos we learned of settlement patterns and the unique way slavery played out in practice. For example in the Northern states many whites had one or

more slaves, black and indigenous. There circumstances were different from the large plantations to the south and so we are less aware of this fact. As well some Blacks were free and not enslaved.

The earliest all Black settlement in Canada was along the South shore of Nova Scotia, founded in the 1760s. Many Blacks fought against the American Patriots during the Revolutionary War. They too hoped to be given land in what was to be Canada. Unfortunately the land was of poor quality and they could not make a living from it or establish a thriving community in many cases. Many perished or decided to leave.

Again in the War of 1812, Blacks in the Maritimes joined the militia or formed their own Militia. One such militia made its way to Queenston to take part in the Battle of Queenston Heights.

Graham continued to share the many contributions from the Black Community despite adversity and prejudice.

We recorded the talk so you may watch the actual presentation by going to your [UELAC.ca](http://UELAC.ca) address and search for the recorded videos.

## Reflections on the appointment of Mary Simon as Governor General

David Kanowakeron

Hill-Morrison, UE - Mohawk - Six Nations of the Grand River



Upon learning of the appointment of Mary Simon as Canada's 30th Governor General, my first impression was one of "it's about time" which was quickly followed by a sense of pride that Aboriginal people are achieving respect and honour after centuries of neglect, abuse and dishonesty. Coupled with that was a profound relief that the Inuit of Canada's Far North are finally receiving the platform they've lacked and so richly deserved for decades. As a Canada's premier and most honoured person of state, our Queen has given both her overt (as well as tacit) nod of approval to represent the service and duty which are hallmarks of the Canadian Monarchy.

The Inuit, Metis and First Nations of Canada have a very special relationship with the Crown which differs from that of non-Aboriginals. By declaration and decree, the Indigenous people of Canada are considered Allies of the Crown rather than Subjects of the Crown. It is this seemingly minor difference that represents centuries of Nation-to-State alliances, fellowships and vows of Allegiance, most often detailed via the power of Treaties.

Canada's future lies north; in many aspects, it has always been a northern focus that drives the agendas of the southern society and communities. However, for centuries, the Far North has been neglected unless something was needed, belittled unless their importance was wanted for national defense purposes and seen as insignificant and unimportant unless something like global warming threatens Canadian sovereignty in the newly opened shipping routes in and around the Northwest Passage.

Mary Simon's C.V. tells a tale of senior appointments in broadcasting, academia, business, governmental affairs and a variety of Inuit organizations such as the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the creation of the Arctic Council. As President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, she was in charge of the body representing Inuit interests and serving as a sounding board so that the voices of the Inuit are heard. As a diplomat, she served as the Canadian Ambassador to Denmark which will prove useful in her appointment as Governor General.

I'd heard of Mary Simon in passing, along with other notable Inuit leaders such as the up-and-coming current President of the Inuit

Tapiriit Kanatami, Natan Obed and Nunavut's first Premier, Paul Okalik. While some Canadians might be inclined to see prejudicial preference towards the Aboriginal segment of Canada she serves, given Ms. Simon's extensive background in diplomacy, negotiating and representation, it's difficult to imagine Canada's first Indigenous Federal Vice-Regal will ignore her mandate as Her Majesty's emissary and resort to favoritism.

It might be fair to say The Queen will pay particular attention to her newest Canadian Governor General after Ms. Simon's predecessor's unfortunate performance and the toxic culture she helped create in Rideau Hall.

In addition, the Prime Minister and the body which was charged with selecting a candidate for the vacant position will also be closely watching after the previous Governor General reflected badly on the PM's appointment that left many questioning both the National leader's skills and common sense in filling vacant positions at such a high and respected level.

In my opinion, the issue of the new G-G being non-conversant in French is a complete non-starter; she taught Inuktitut for four years at the university level at McGill University. As such, she already has the foundation of learning a new language and is eminently aware of the pitfalls, difficulties and challenges students face as they learn a language.

Fluent in an Indigenous language which uses syllabics instead of the letters most Canadians are familiar with, she also must be familiar (if not fluent) in the various dialects of Inuktitut which are spoken and written throughout the Arctic. Obviously completely articulate in English, Ms. Simon has the benefit of French which also has 26 letters in its alphabet making the transition easier than, say, learning the Mohawk language which has 12 letters of the Roman alphabet. Francophone Canadians need only be fair and understanding as the new Governor General tackles her French studies the same as any other student of languages.

I feel some of Aboriginal Canada will naturally be expecting special consideration will be given to the issues they face. Ms. Simon, of all people, must be well aware of the numerous issues the Nunavummiut deal with on a daily basis: food and job insecurity, shortages of affordable quality housing, community drug and alcohol addiction, suicides of young people, boredom and alienation, difficulties and challenges of accessing medical facilities, and a pervasive attitude of some southern Canadians who demand "why don't they just move south to where the money and jobs are?"

As such, she already has firsthand knowledge of the exact same vexing problems of any number of First Nations communities. A resident of polar reaches, she understands how tenuous surviving can be as well as the acute sense of hopelessness in the face of simply securing the basics of all lives: food, clothing and shelter.

She's seen the wistful eyes of young people as they view southern peers enjoying a standard of living they know they'll never attain. It's one thing to say, "study and work hard and you too can have all the perks and consumer goodies of your age group that you see on TV". It's quite another thing to be faced with the decision to stay close to the family that nurtures and loves you or break loose and move south to a very alien culture with few if any support systems to assist when needed. That's a choice almost every young Aboriginal faces at some time or another.

Now there's a Governor General who has witnessed that dilemma.

Survival across Native Canada takes in many scenarios.

In light of the shattering headlines of late, Aboriginals might have every right to expect the Queen's representative to invest some exceptional time into responding to what could easily become a tinderbox issue. However, I don't see addressing this particular issue as 'favoritism' any more than I'd accuse a GG of Japanese ancestry as playing 'favorites' by responding to the historic and draconian measures taken against Japanese-Canadians during the Second World War.

This is a contemporary crisis brought upon the government of Canada that calls for a non-partisan act or address. Nothing more and certainly, nothing less. To hold a special Day of Remembrance nationwide might merit some consideration but to have a special apology in the House of Commons seems to ring hollow this time.

The tragedy of hundreds of children being discovered in unmarked graves calls for words of healing, perhaps some sort of initiative that adds a footnote of reality in the history books of Canada. Something of this gravity calls for the special State to Nation and Nation to State association which has guided, supported and affirmed the unique relationship between the Crown and the Inuit, Metis and First Nations for centuries.

Perhaps the timing of this appointment is providential in itself.

I feel nothing but grateful appreciation for the incoming Governor General and look forward to her serving, defending and supporting the people of Canada and our Canadian Monarch.

– *Canadian Monarchist News* – Summer/Été 2021

### **Read a good book lately! Submit a review 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 a Spring 2022 **Loyalist Gazette** publication.
- Whether you are a new contributor or have been previously published, The *Loyalist Gazette* would like to hear from you.
- Please forward all submissions to:
  - UELAC Loyalist Gazette & Communications **Committee Chair**
  - [Communications@uelac.org](mailto: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 Stymiest UE, [Communications@uelac.org](mailto:Communications@uelac.org)

Grand River Branch  
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

## Calling all Loyalists

Have you stood on the land of your Loyalist Ancestor's land grant?



If yes, we want YOU!

### You are eligible to enter a draw and you could win a large Loyalist Flag

Requirements to enter...the fine print...

You must be a member of the Grand River Branch UELAC to enter

If yes then either...

1. post a picture of yourself on the land grant on the Grand River Branch UELAC facebook page  
OR
2. send us a picture by email to [janfarms@fibreop.ca](mailto:janfarms@fibreop.ca) of you on the land grant of your loyalist ancestor  
OR
3. Either post or send us written details of when you visited the land grant of your loyalist ancestor

IN ALL CASES please let us know your name, what year you visited, where the land grant is located, the name of the Loyalist Ancestor and whether we can share the information.

All qualifying entries will be tossed in a hat and the winner drawn and announced at our October Grand River Branch meeting.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES – Sunday October 2, 2021**

*Join in and let's see how many of our current 176 members have visited their ancestor's land grant!*

### Future Grand River Meeting Dates Survey

At the last executive meeting we discussed meeting dates and times for 2022. Four meetings fall on the third Saturday of the month because of conflicts with the Sunday or length of time needed for the meeting. The executive proposed that we make all meetings Saturday meetings for consistency. But this may not meet the needs of our members. In order to make a good decision we need input from the membership. Then the information gathered will be used to form a motion if your feedback indicates any change needs to take place in the planning for 2022.

Thank you for your help with this.

Loyally,  
Bev Balch UE  
President, Grand River UELAC

**This survey is for information purposes only.**

#### Survey Questions

- I would support all meetings being held on Saturdays.
- I prefer to keep the mix of Saturday and Sunday meetings.
- I have no preference.

Once we are able to meet in person:

- I prefer having lunch followed by our meeting.
- I prefer having the meeting followed by a meal.
- I have no preference.

Zoom meetings would continue to have a 1:30 chat time followed by our speaker at 2:00. Followed by our business meeting.

- I attend all or most of the in- person meetings.
- I attend all or most of the Zoom meetings.
- I am not able to attend meetings because: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

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