

BRANCHES

Grand River UELAC Newsletter

Dates to Remember

In November

Membership renewal time!

Janet Parsons has included more information for renewing either on line or using the inclosed membership form in the newsletter

November 11

Remembrance Day

November 22 @ 10:00

Regional Meeting via Zoom

Contact: johnr_ue@kjsgroup.com
for registration

Upcoming Meeting

Saturday, November 15th ZOOM Meeting @ 2:00 pm

Steve Bowley UE : The Brant Volunteer and the Carpenter/ Merchant

Due to technical issues we have had to make this a ZOOM only meeting.

1:30 Zoom opens



Bill Terry UE and Bob Rennie UE at the Secord/Mabee plaque unveiling.

Editors Message

It hardly seems possible that the year is winding down. We have had a number of excellent speakers and presenters both in person and via zoom. The summer field trips were so interesting particularly the Canadian Military Heritage Museum. Despite the weather, those attending very much enjoyed celebrating Loyalist Day at the Backus Heritage Centre. And to top it off kudos to Bill Terry UE et al who created the beautiful Secord/Mabee plaque and organized the amazing unveiling ceremony. But none of this happens without energetic and enthusiastic volunteers who step forward both as executive members and members who are interested in seeing the Branch thrive. Thank you.

Shortly if not already the nominating team will be approaching you to ask that you consider one of the upcoming vacant positions. All are important to the running of the Branch. Most do not need expertise, except for the technology and treasurers positions in particular. Please help where you can.....Bev

Next Grand River UELAC Meeting: Saturday, November 15th @ 2:00
******Via ZOOM only**

Our guest Speaker Stephen Bowley UE will present *The Brant Volunteer and the Carpenter Merchant.*

Stephen Bowley UE retired in 2018 from the University of Guelph following a 35-year career as an Associate Professor in plant breeding and genetics.

He is married with four children and since May has been a grandfather; their daughter Claire had twins Ramona and Theo. Since retirement Steve has authored a statistics text for graduate students which was published last month by Wiley. One of his backburner projects has been researching the colonial men who served as Brant's Volunteers.

Steve is descended from one, Daniel Rose UEL, who settled at the top of the Niagara Escarpment during the war. His presentation today is his correction of the biography of the Brant Volunteer Archibald Thomson.

Membership Renewal Time!

The membership period for the Grand River Branch UELAC is now open! We invite you to renew or join us for another year of learning, connection, and Loyalist heritage. Your membership helps support our programs, speakers, and community outreach.

👉 Sign up today and be part of preserving and celebrating our shared history!

You can **join or renew online at UELAC.ca** or **complete the attached form and send it in with your payment.**

We look forward to seeing YOU in 2026-sign up today.

Janet Parsons UE
 Membership Chair
 Grand River UELAC

Thank you for joining the Grand River Branch UELAC. We hope you enjoy our many activities.

Can you help? We need you.

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The Grand River Branch has some very important positions falling vacant for 2026. Without members stepping forward to fill these positions our Branch is in very great risk for the future. You will already see this with the moving of the November meeting from hybrid to zoom only. Hybrid meetings can only take place if there is someone to man the technology. If you have tech skills or know someone who does we would very much like to hear from you.

The nominating committee will be looking for volunteers to fill several vacant positions for 2026. The team will be looking for members to fill the role of Vice President., Treasurer, and Outreach as well as Zoom Manager and Webmaster and Social Media

Please contact: Deb Blair at dbla83@gmail.com or Janet Parsons at janfarm@fibreop.ca or Judy de Korte at judydekorte@execulink.com .

UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF THE MABEE/SECORD PLAQUE



Donna Bousfield UE, Mike Bouk UE, Bob Rennie UE

On the pleasant September 27th 2025 afternoon a group of descendants, friends and researchers gathered to officially unveil and dedicate the fine plaque overlooking the Turkey Point Marsh in Lake Erie. The plaque honours all Loyalists, but in particular the Mabee's and Secord's who settled on these very lands. It is known that somewhere in the immediate vicinity lie the remains of any number of these Loyalist.

After the presentation of the colours (flag bearers- Donna Bousfield UE, Mike Bouk UE, and Bob Rennie UE) and singing of God Save the King, Grand River Branch member and past president, Paul Smith UE, a descendant of these families ...

presentation, Rev Malcolm Muth UE, dedicated the plaque followed by prayer and the singing of the National Anthem, O Canada.

Those gathered were invited to the Marsh View Restaurant just a short distance from the site, to enjoy refreshments and a time of sharing, reminiscing, and visiting.



Reverend Malcolm Muth UE



Paul Smith UE



Judy de Korte UE and Heather Smith UE

August Meeting at the Canadian Military Heritage Museum

As you can see from the pictures those who were able to attend enjoyed the tour and visit.



In September we were privileged to hear our guest speaker Naomi Norquay, a Professor Emerita and Senior Scholar of the Faculty of Education OISE/University of Toronto, who spoke to us about “Old Stock Canadians: The Black Settlement on the Durham Road, Artemesia Township, Gray County”. Our speaker became curious about these settlers when she lived in a home on land previously owned by a black preacher and really delved into the history during her doctoral studies. In the mid 1800’s 50 acre lots were offered if they cleared 12 acres and built a house on sight unseen land which turned out not to be prime farmland. There were 3 types of settlers, the transients who arrived and stayed for about 2 years, the sojourners who stayed about 10 years and the persisters who became the founding families of the area along the Durham Road. Remaining landmarks are the schoolhouse, the black schoolhouse which was actually an integrated school, the remnants of cedar rail fences from Virginia and the ancient apple trees

If you missed the meeting and want to learn more there are several web site links on the Durham Road Black Settlement web-page with photographs written by Naomi Norquay.



Norfolk County Announces 2025 Dogwood Award Recipients:

Norfolk County is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2025 Heritage & Culture Dogwood Awards, which recognize individuals and groups who have made exceptional contributions to preserving and promoting local heritage.

This year, two Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented:

- Ron Anderson, UE, former Councillor for the City of Nanticoke, is recognized for his lifelong advocacy for the preservation of Norfolk County’s built heritage and his continued promotion of Norfolk’s history through his publications.
- Betty Chanyi, former Norfolk County Councillor, is posthumously honoured for her lifelong dedication to her community and local heritage. Betty passed away in 2024, leaving behind a legacy of civic engagement and cultural stewardship.

Two Group Awards will also be presented:

- Walsingham Women’s Institute, established in 1939, has played a vital role in heritage preservation and charitable initiatives across the community.
- Friends of the Educational Archives, formed to preserve the archives of the Norfolk Board of Education, the group has spent nearly three decades ensuring the educational history of Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk counties remains accessible to the public.

Named after Norfolk County’s official flower, the Dogwood Awards were established in 2007 to honour excellence in local heritage and culture. Presented annually, the awards recognize grassroots efforts that help preserve and celebrate Norfolk’s unique identity.

The 2025 Dogwood Awards ceremony will take place on Sunday, November 16, at 2:00 p.m. at the Waterford Heritage & Agricultural Museum. All are welcome to attend and celebrate the achievements of this year’s honourees.

Daniel G. Wiest, Owner & Publisher
Dan Wiest Around The Community

Grand River Branch, United Empire Loyalist’s Association of Canada

MEMBERSHIP FORM for 2026

You may submit this form or you may simply join on-line at UELAC.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 by regular mail ()
- b. National semi-annual issues of the Loyalist Gazette by email () or by regular mail ()

Membership Type (√)

- a. Individual Membership - \$55.00 () After July 1st - \$35.00 ()
- b. Family Membership - \$85.00 () After July 1st - \$57.50 ()

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 National membership fees to another Branch. Branch where full member _____

For American Members –If paying online through UELAC.ca the currency conversion is automatic, and you will pay in Canadian funds. Paying by cheque...we ask that you pay your membership fee in American funds.

Payment Methods (√). Payment by credit card or by PayPal is only available on-line at UELAC.ca

- a. Cash ()
- b. By cheque () Make cheque payable to **Grand River United Empire Loyalists**

Send application and payment to -

Janet Parsons UE, Membership Chair, 38 Second Street, Sturgeon Falls, Ontario P2B 3A8

Phone (705) 499-5544; email: membership.grandriver@uelac.org

Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you for joining the Grand River Branch UELAC. We hope you enjoy our many activities.

Minutes of the Grand River Branch UELAC Meeting

Sun., Oct. 19, 2025 Best Western, Brantford ON

Six members met at the Brantford Best Western to share a meal at Myra's. Unfortunately with so few in attendance we were required to pay full freight for the meeting room. At 1:30 John Reynaert established the Zoom link and we were able to chat with nine others until President Doug Loucks called the meeting to order at 2:00.

The Colours were presented and the Royal Anthem was sung. Doug read the Haldimand Tract Land Acknowledgement then led us in a Loyalist Prayer.

Our program chair, Deb Blair then introduced our guest speaker Naomi Norquay, a Professor Emerita and Senior Scholar of the Faculty of Education OISE/University of Toronto, who spoke to us about "Old Stock Canadians: The Black Settlement on the Durham Road, Artemesia Township, Gray County". She became curious about these settlers when she lived in a home on land previously owned by a black preacher and really delved into the history during her doctoral studies. In the mid 1800's 50 acre lots were offered if they cleared 12 acres and built a house on sight unseen land which turned out not to be prime farmland. There were 3 types of settlers, the transients who arrived and stayed for about 2 years, the sojourners who stayed about 10 years and the persisters who became the founding families of the area along the Durham Road. Remaining landmarks are the schoolhouse, the black schoolhouse which was actually an integrated school, the remnants of cedar rail fences from Virginia and the ancient apple trees.

Following a brief Q and A, Deb thanked our speaker and we took a short recess.

President Doug Loucks recalled the meeting for the business portion and began by thanking John for his technical support and regretfully accepting his resignation from this position. The agenda was approved as were the minutes of the last meeting.

Bill Terry, our Corresponding Secretary reported sending a sympathy card to Steven Powell of Prince Edward Island on the passing of his father David Powell UE whom some of the members present remembered as well as his wife Doris who predeceased him.

Bill also reported on the unveiling of the Mabee/Secord plaque on September 27. Haldimand Norfolk MPP, Bobbi Ann Brady brought greetings from the province and Counselor Chris Van Passen represented Norfolk County. About 70 people including many descendants of the Mabees and Secords were in attendance. Following the unveiling many moved on to the Marshview Restaurant for food, drink and chat.

Treasurer Steve Bowley reported that he had sent an updated budget and a draft of the bylaws to the executive which will be reviewed at the executive meeting November 10, 2025.

Deb Blair reviewed the meeting dates for 2026 and they are all on Saturdays beginning with the Annual meeting March 21, April 18, May 23, June 20 (Loyalist Day), July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21.

Under business arising Doug mentioned that we are looking for assistance to operate the technical equipment to keep the Zoom meetings available. It was suggested that we might find/hire a student to tackle this job. It was left to be discussed at the executive meeting Mon., Nov. 10 at 9:00 a.m.

Following the singing of the National Anthem, the colours were retired and the meeting adjourned.

Judy de Korte Secretary

Contact Information

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Zoom Coordinator Vacant	vacant
Chaplin: Reverend Doug Loucks UE	e-mail: dougloucks@gmail.com



This is the last newsletter of the year so on behalf of the Grand River Branch I wish you a Happy Holiday Season filled with love and laughter, health and happiness.
See you next year. Bev

