

CATARAQUI LOYALIST TOWN CRIER



The Kingston and District Branch was granted its charter November 4, 1978.

Volume 42, No. 3 – June 2023

www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch

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Upcoming Events

Monday, June 12, 2023, 2:00 p.m.: Members of Kingston and District Branch, together with re-enactors from the King's Royal Regiment of New York, will participate in a ceremony at the **Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui, 965 Sydenham Road**, Kingston, unveiling signage about Loyalists interred there. This is also Loyalist Day in Kingston. Please attend in Loyalist garb if possible. We anticipate several dignitaries, so let's have a good turnout. (See page eight of this newsletter.)

Friday, June 16 – Sunday, June 18, UEL Heritage Park, Adolphustown. Our friends in Bay of Quinte Branch are celebrating "Thunder on The Reach," Loyalist Flag Day and Landing Weekend. Google "Thunder on the Reach" or see page ten of this newsletter.

Saturday, June 24, 2023, 3:00—5:00 p.m.: **St. Alban's Centre, Adolphustown.** While this is not an official branch activity, you are cordially invited to attend the launch of Jean Rae Baxter's newest book, *Battle on the Ice*, which deals with a major battle during the 1838 rebellion in Upper Canada, also known as the Battle of Pelee Island. Hosted by the Friends of St. Alban's.



CANADA DAY, Saturday, July 1, 2023 – Bath, Ontario

Kingston and District Branch will have a booth in the park. This offers an opportunity to speak with visitors about who the Loyalists were and what our branch does. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth from 9:00 am. Volunteers are also needed to ride on our float in the Canada Day Parade which starts at 1:00 p.m. **For a fun Canada Day activity, please contact Branch Historian Richard Parry as soon as possible, so he can schedule your participation. rparry30@gmail.com**

After all, if you've donned Loyalist-era clothing for the June 12th ceremony, you'll want to wear it again for another occasion. It's fun to dress up in clothing our ancestors might have worn!

FORT FRONTENAC: The Rise and Fall of New France's Key to the West

Presentation by Jean Rae Baxter UE

Summary and Appreciation by Nancy Cutway UE

Remnant of Limestone Curtain Wall (1675) at the intersection of Ontario Street and Place d'Armes in Kingston



Photo credit: Remnant of Curtain Wall: Canada's Historic Places. Fort Frontenac. National Historic Site of Canada

Jean Rae began with this photo, all that is now visible in Kingston of one of the early incarnations of Fort Frontenac. She stated that Fort Frontenac owed its creation to rivalry over trade routes and Indigenous trading partners between the English in the northern Thirteen Colonies and the French in New France. The main objective of explorers and traders from both European countries was beaver pelts.

Jean explained that the beaver has two layers of hair. The outer hair is coarse, but the inner hairs have small barbs which cling to

one another. The inner layer is thus easily felted together into a pliable and durable fabric. Since every gentleman wore a felted hat of some shape and description, beaver pelts were in great demand. (Working men wore cloth caps; one could differentiate gentlemen and officers by the nature of their hats.) Beavers had been greatly depleted in Europe, so North American pelts were highly valued.



Photo credit: Shutterstock. Stock photo.

The First Nations peoples who trapped beavers and traded their pelts to the Europeans were not as exploited as we might think at first glance; they highly desired the trade goods offered in exchange for pelts, such as rifles, brass kettles, cloth and other manufactured goods.

So as Jean stated, if not for the beaver, Fort Frontenac would not have been built. The beavers in what is now Quebec were close to extermination in some areas, and fur traders had to go further and further afield to obtain them. The English paid more to the Haudenosaunee and other nations than the French trading companies did, but their forts were further away from this area, in places such as Albany, and they expected the native trappers to travel to them.

Cavalier de La Salle was an explorer and adventurer, who had been appointed by the King to improve profits from the fur trade. The Company of 100 Adventurers had held a monopoly but they were losing money. LaSalle chose the site of Fort Frontenac, at the confluence of what are now known as the Cataraqui River and the St. Lawrence River,

Rene-Robert Cavalier de La Salle



LaSalle portrait from Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. II (1701-1740)

because of the location: Haudenosaunee traders would easily be able to bring their furs there by river, and the French would be able to store trade goods there, in a location much closer to the Indigenous camps than the forts in New York province.

Governor Frontenac, remaining in Quebec City, wanted LaSalle to impress the Haudosaunee with the power of the French. Thus he had LaSalle invite a number of Haudosaunee chiefs to meet at Cataragui. They did come, and they set up camp at the foot of what are now Gore and Union Streets. The Indigenous chiefs watched while in just

five days LaSalle's soldiers built a wooden fort with a dry moat and a wall around it. Exchange of gifts followed, and probably both LaSalle and Frontenac would have considered this all a success.

LaSalle returned to France where the King was pleased with his actions and granted him the Seigneury of Cataragui: all the land around the fort was given to LaSalle and he could have developed it as farmland or rented it out to tenant farmers. LaSalle returned to Fort Frontenac and rebuilt it, this time in stone – presumably to demonstrate to the Haudosaunee that they intended to stay there forever.

However, LaSalle himself did not stay long in the area – he desired to follow the Mississippi River to its mouth. In 1678 he left on his journey of discovery. He later returned to France again, where he persuaded the King to provide four ships and almost 300 men for a new expedition. Unfortunately, one ship was captured by pirates, one sank, one ran aground and men from the fourth ship deserted. LaSalle was left with just 36 men in the Mississippi delta. He was murdered there by his own men, at age 44.

As a side note, Jean mentioned that LaSalle never married, but had a long-term relationship with Madeleine de Roybon d'Allonne, who lived with him at Fort Frontenac for a couple of years. She apparently loaned money to LaSalle, which probably was not a good long-term investment. After his death, she spent a year as a captive of the Haudosaunee before she returned to Montreal. She remained unmarried. There is a school in Kingston named for her.

Meanwhile, Governor Frontenac quarrelled with the Intendant, apparently over the beaver: Frontenac demanded an increase in the fur trade. There was fighting with groups of Haudosaunee. The Governor called another conference of chiefs.

Fort Frontenac was rebuilt in 1695: note the different layout in the sketch on the next page.

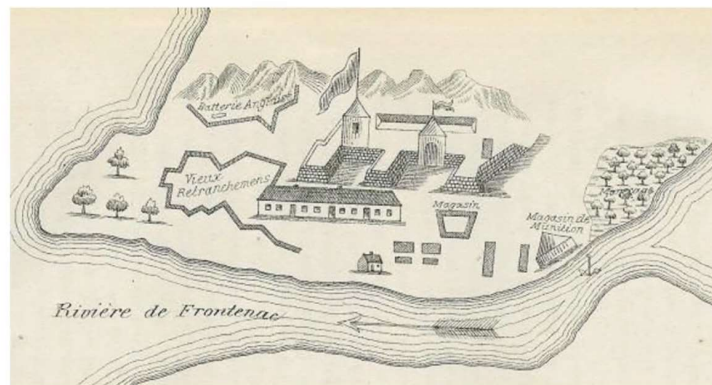
Map from the Archives Nationale de France



This map dates from 1685.

There was discussion about the “mountains” shown in this sketch which archaeologist Sue Bazely located and provided to Jean Rae Baxter. However, in the Q&A after Jean’s talk, one person wondered if that just showed the higher land as one heads up present-day Queen, Barrack or Ordnance Streets towards Montreal Street. Certainly there is a definite slope up from Ontario Street where the current Fort Frontenac is located.

Rebuilding of Fort Frontenac (1695)



Frontenac used the rebuilt fort in 1696 as his base for attacks out of the Fort against natives. He paid a bounty for Haudosaunee scalps. In 1698 the Haudosaunee appealed for peace. In 1701 the Great Peace was signed at Montreal, but not by Count Frontenac: he had died in 1698 at Quebec City.

Peace with the Indigenous people was good for the fur trade and also for settlement in the area, but rivalry with the English continued. In 1722 the English built Fort Oswego on the south side of Lake Ontario, their closest outpost to Fort Frontenac.

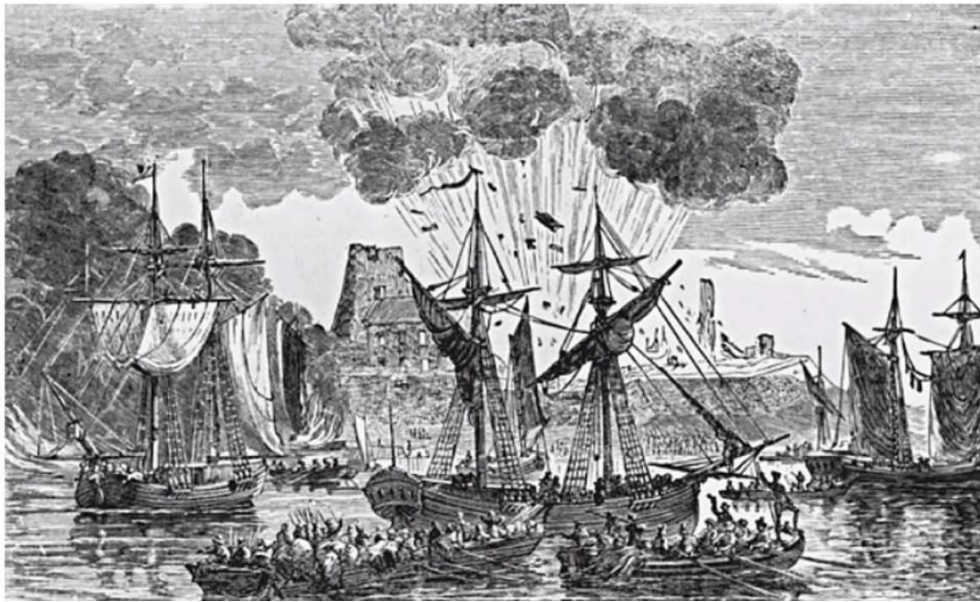
By 1736 there was a noticeable decline in the number of beaver pelts brought to Fort Frontenac. There were also problems with trade goods not arriving from France in a timely fashion. The cost of maintaining the forts was growing.

In the 1740s the French added new guns and new barracks to Fort Frontenac.

In 1756 General Montcalm arrived at Fort Frontenac from Quebec, in order to attack Fort Oswego. He captured it, and 1600 British prisoners were marched north to be held in Fort Frontenac for a time. Presumably there was a lull in the fighting and those men

were released, but perhaps they were among the 3000 men led by Major-General John Bradstreet against the garrison of 110 men in Fort Frontenac in August 1758.

The Attack on Fort Frontenac, August 1758



From Tuttle's Popular History of the Dominion of Canada (1877). Queen's University Archives.

Fort Frontenac fell to the British. The men of the garrison were allowed to depart to Montreal, and Bradstreet's men destroyed the fort.

The area of Fort Frontenac and Cataraqui were basically deserted for 25 years. After the American Revolution, the British built Fort Haldimand on Carleton Island in the St. Lawrence River. However, after the Treaty of Paris was concluded, Carleton Island became a possession of the USA, and the British had to vacate. Governor Haldimand ordered Fort Frontenac to be rebuilt, large enough to hold 500 men. Meanwhile, Surveyor General John Collins laid out the plot of King's Town on land purchased from the local Haudosaunee people. In 1783 Michael Grass and his companions arrived to begin settling in Kingston. (Michael Grass had served under Bradstreet in 1756, so he knew the area, which is probably why he applied to come here.)

After the War of 1812, the British used the site of Fort Frontenac to erect the Tête du Pont barracks between 1821 and 1824. Most of the remaining French fortress was removed for this construction. As Jean said,

“After the British Imperial Forces withdrew from most Canadian locations in 1870-1871, the Canadian Militia authorized the creation of two batteries of garrison artillery and the “A” Battery School of Gunnery, which evolved into the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA). The Tete-de-Pont Barracks now bears the name Fort Frontenac, but it is by no means the original fort.”

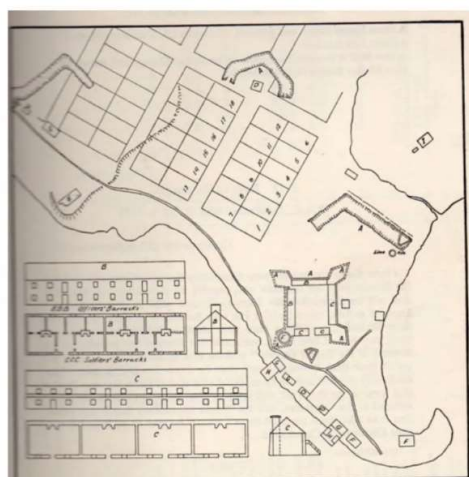
In 1923 the location of Fort Frontenac was designated as a national historic site. It is now used as the Canadian Forces Staff College.

Jean's presentation was very interesting and informative. Like a true descendant of her Loyalist forebears, she persevered despite technical problems with the internet in the church sanctuary. Those of us listening on Zoom were able to hear most of the talk, and the in-person audience were pleased to be there.

I have attended a few functions at Fort Frontenac but have always recognized that the original French forts must have been quite different in structure and function than the current buildings even though they share the name.

Jean Rae was able to include several maps and paintings of early Kingston in her presentation, which made it very colourful and visually interesting. We thank her for sharing some of them here.

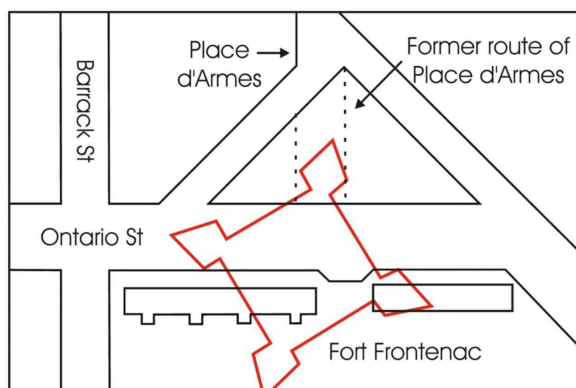
Plan of old Fort Frontenac and Town Plot of Kingston



PLAN OF OLD FORT FRONTENAC AND TOWN PLOT OF KINGSTON, 1784. [Reproduction of a copy from an original by Lieutenant John Frederick Holland, Royal Regiment of New York, Public Archives of Canada. A note signed "Fred^r Haldimand" and dated October 15, 1784, appears on the plan: "The first Town Lots and Streets are to be laid down as expressed upon the Plan and according to their Numbers each lot being one Chain or 66 feet in front by 2 Chains or 132 Feet in Depth. The remaining Ground to be laid out in the same Manner according as the Shape of the Ground will admit of, and to be drawn for together."]
 KEY: A, ruins of old French works; B, C, barracks; D, King's houses; E, hospital; F, King's storehouses; G, Inhabitants' houses; H, wharfs; I, King's stables.

From Public Archives of Canada.

Map location of Fort Frontenac, overlaid on Map of Modern Kingston Streets



Map courtesy of Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mary Jo Van Order, on proving her descent from Loyalist **Matthew Van Order**.

Presumably Van Order Drive in Kingston is named after a member of Matthew's extended family, if not for the Loyalist himself.

Mary Jo, who joined Kingston Branch in 2022, makes her home in Victoria, BC. It's interesting how far Loyalist descendants have spread across the country.

We gratefully acknowledge a Heritage Organization Development Grant from the Ontario government which has assisted in the production of this newsletter.



Supplied photograph.

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HERITAGE
CEMETERY AT
CATARAQUI



*The Board of the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui,
Kingston and District Branch of the
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada,
and members of the King's Royal Regiment of New York
cordially invite you to attend
the unveiling of signage
designating the cemetery as a
Loyalist Burial Ground
on Monday, June 12 (Loyalist Day in Kingston *)
at 2:00 p.m. at 965 Sydenham Road, Kingston.
Light refreshments to follow.*

In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held in the church hall adjoining the cemetery.

** On June 12, 1784, Governor Haldimand received confirmation from King George III, "His Majesty approves the plan you have proposed for settling some of the Loyalists at Cataraqui and places adjacent."*

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
LOYALIST DAY AT THE
HERITAGE CEMETERY AT CATARAQUI
AT 2:00 PM ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023
FOR THE UNVEILING OF A SIGN
DESIGNATING THE CEMETERY AS A
LOYALIST BURIAL PLACE.**

In particular, if you are descended from

ROBERT GRAHAM

MICHAEL GRASS

ANTHONY MCGUIN

JACOB POWLEY

who are the known UELs buried there, we would be especially pleased to welcome you there. If you are descended from any of those four, even if you will not be able to attend, please contact Branch Historian Richard Parry as soon as possible, at rparry30@gmail.com.

Members of the next generation of other Loyalist families also rest in that cemetery, such as Nicholas Herchmer and members of the Purdy, VanAlstine and Wartman families.

The Cemetery is at 965 Sydenham Road, Kingston.

We are grateful for the participation of members of the King's Royal Regiment of New York [reenactors] who will provide music and colour for the ceremony.

We are also very grateful for the work and cooperation of the Board members of the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui and the staff of St. Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Church, now worshipping in the former Cataraqui Methodist/United Church.

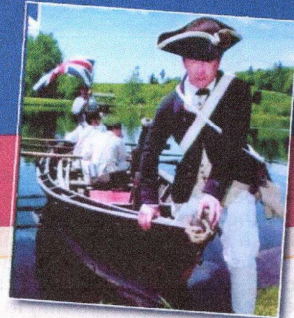
Please attend in Loyalist-era attire if possible.

LOYALIST LANDING WEEKEND

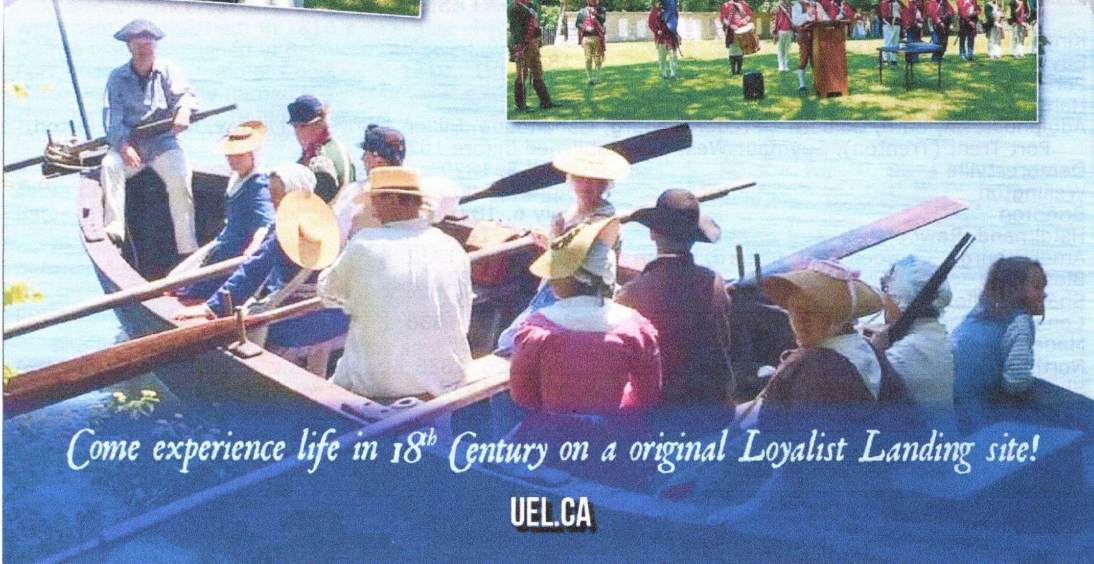
Thunder On the Reach

FRIDAY, JUNE 16th - SUNDAY, JUNE 18th

THE UEL HERITAGE PARK & CENTRE IN ADOLPHUSTOWN • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



- **FRIDAY** Night will feature Gunboat Battle on the Reach at 8pm.
- **SATURDAY** at 2pm will be a re-enactment of the Loyalist Landing in Adolphustown in June of 1784 as well as the drawing of lots by the Loyalists.
- **SUNDAY** Church Parade to St. Alban's following by a Service at 11:00am. 1pm will be the UEL Flag Raising at the UEL Cemetery in the Park.



Come experience life in 18th Century on a original Loyalist Landing site!

UEL.CA

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Kingston and District Branch UELAC members are particularly invited to attend the activities on Sunday, June 18th. A representative of our branch will be laying a wreath at the Loyalist Memorial on your behalf. This is another time when you are welcome to wear your Loyalist attire.