

# CATARAQUI LOYALIST TOWN CRIER



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

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[www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch](http://www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KingstonUELAC>

## Upcoming Branch Events

**Saturday, September 23, 2023, 1:00 p.m.:** Our next regular meeting at St. Paul's Church Hall, 137 Queen Street, and on Zoom. Branch Historian Richard Parry UE will discuss "**The History of the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui and its associated Places of Worship.**" All welcome. Join the meeting by Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83741269744?pwd=Q0Rsd29yK3RkbVN4OHY3bno2S25LUT09>

**Saturday, November 25, 2023, 1:00 p.m.:** **Our Annual General Meeting.** It will also be a hybrid meeting, both in-person at St. Paul's Church Hall and online via Zoom. And, if more members do not step up to volunteer for the vacant positions on the executive, it could well be our last AGM, because without new volunteers, the branch will fade away. Please see the executive listing on page 10 to see what you can do. As well as those positions now shown as Vacant, we will need to fill Publicity and perhaps others as well.

The speaker will be our own Jean Rae Baxter, speaking about ***Battle on the Ice***, her newest book about the battle that took place on March 3, 1838, off Pelee Island.

## Activities of Other Groups

**Kingston Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society** will meet on **Saturday, September 16** at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Speaker Diane Duncan from Calgary will present "**The 50% -- The women in your family tree.**" You can pre-register at the link below. You'll receive confirmation of your registration plus the opportunity to add the meeting to your electronic calendar, if you maintain one in Google, Outlook or other calendar program. [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0uf-2rrTMrH9x2isJKq\\_-vtKlyUZNJKecF#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0uf-2rrTMrH9x2isJKq_-vtKlyUZNJKecF#/registration)

**Kingston Historical Society** meet at Kingsbridge Retirement Community and on Zoom on **Wednesday, September 20** at 7:00 p.m. (social time from 6:30). Despite their proximity to Kingston, Wolfe Islanders have long prided themselves on the distinctiveness of their island culture. Professor **Anastasia Riehl**, a linguist at Queen's, will report on her research into "Box Socials and Chicken Suppers: Learning about life and language on Wolfe Island". For the Zoom link, please email [kingstonhs@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonhs@gmail.com)

before 6 p.m. on the day of the meeting. At Anastasia's request, this program will not be recorded so this will be your only opportunity to hear it.

The **KHS meeting on October 18**, also at 7:00 pm, will have Suzanne Pasternak talk on "The story of Minerva, Canadian legend, heroine, the facts, the music... The dream", the story of Minerva McCrimmon, a 17-year-old ship's cook, who gallantly rescued the crew of a Canadian schooner wrecked off Oswego, New York, in 1882 and subsequent has become a feminist hero. Again, if you plan to attend via Zoom, email for the link.

On behalf of the Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, I would like to extend an invitation to you to join us for the Branch's 50th Anniversary celebration, which will take place Sunday 15 October 2023 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Wilson Room of the Main Branch of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library at 130 Johnson Street.

A small group of Kingston residents founded the Branch in 1973, which, coincidentally, was the same year as Kingston's tercentenary. The Branch also became part of the Ontario Genealogical Society, recognized as the authority and leader in all aspects of family history and research in Ontario, and preserving its genealogical heritage. Kingston Branch is primarily concerned with encouraging, supporting and promoting genealogical research in both Counties of Frontenac and Lennox & Addington.

By means of this invitation, you and any member of the Kingston & District Branch UELAC are invited to join us in the celebration and the cutting of the anniversary cake at 3 p.m. Please distribute this invitation to the membership as you wish.

To RSVP, please reply by email to Derrick Bouchard, the Branch Vice-Chair, at [KingstonViceChair@OGS.on.ca](mailto:KingstonViceChair@OGS.on.ca). Derrick can also answer any questions you might have prior to the event.

Thank you for considering this invitation, and we hope you will be able to join us at our Open House!

The above invitation was received by VP Anne Redish from Kingston Branch Chair William Cookman and extends to all members of Kingston and District Branch UELAC. If you plan to attend on **Sunday, October 15**, please do RSVP before that to the email address shown, so they can plan for numbers of attendees.

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*We regret to have to announce that the Lennox and Addington Historical Society has joined the list of societies which have ceased operation due to lack of volunteers. In our local area they join the Pittsburgh Historical Society which folded in 2021.*

*This does not affect the operation of the Lennox and Addington Museum and Archives, which remain open and available for research and which house the papers of the former Society.*

*For an overview of the accomplishments of the LAHS during its 116 years of existence, you can read an article from The Kingstonist online at <https://www.kingstonist.com/news/la-historical-society-closing-after-preserving-local-history-for-over-100-years/>.*

*Please give serious consideration to taking part in the operation of Kingston and District Branch UELAC so that we do not join the ever-growing list of defunct organizations.*

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Cheryl Lowrie, for successfully proving her descent from yet another Loyalist ancestor.



Cheryl, we look forward to a few paragraphs for future newsletters on each of the UEL lines which you've managed to prove. That represents a lot of work and commitment!

You must now have a favourite Loyalist ancestor ... is it John Percy, or someone else?

*This is a challenge for the rest of our readers: can you pick one Loyalist ancestor as a favourite, and write a short article telling us who it is, and why?*

## OUR SUMMER ACTIVITIES

### Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui

As part of the ongoing project to indicate all cemeteries where Loyalists are buried, our branch had been working with the Board of the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui and with members of the Canadian Fencibles Regiment [re-enactors] to get the necessary approvals to erect signs at the cemetery indicating that it is a Loyalist Burial Ground. The ceremony to unveil the signs was held on Monday, June 12, which for a number of years we have celebrated as "Loyalist Day in Kingston" since it falls on the same day that Governor Haldimand received permission from King George III to locate Loyalists at "Cataraqui and the surrounding area."

As luck would have it, after days of continuous sunshine, it rained on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony, which included brief speeches from several dignitaries, was held in the basement of the nearby church, formerly Cataraqui United Church and now the home of the congregation of St. Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Church. Over 50 people attended.



Participants: Phyllis Lewis, HCAC Board; Very Rev. Geoffrey Korz UE, Dean of Ontario, O.C.A.; Richard Parry UE, Master of Ceremonies; Debbie Smithyman, HCAC Board; Rev. Philip Wilson, Trustee of Hay Bay Church; Deputy Mayor Jeff McLaren; Branch President Miles O'Reilly; and six members of the King's Royal Regiment of New York.



Branch Historian Richard Parry acted as Master of Ceremonies.

The soldiers from the King's Royal Regiment of New York (re-enactors) really added to the sense of occasion. Their uniforms are different because of differences in rank.



Dean Geoffrey Korz welcomed us to what is now St. Gregory of Nyssa Church. It turns out that Rev. Korz is of Loyalist descent himself.



Councillor Jeff MacLaren, Deputy Mayor for the month of June, brought greetings from the City and spoke about the Loyalists coming to establish Kingstown.



Rev. Phil Wilson led us in a non-denominational prayer for all those buried in the cemetery.



Debbie Smithyman, a member of the Board of the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui, gave a brief history of the several congregations that preceded the current building, erected in the 1890s as Cataraqui Methodist Church after a previous building had burned. It became Cataraqui United Church in 1925 with church union, and now houses St. Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Church.

*All photographs on pages 3 to 6 were taken for us by Krissy Vanderhelm.*



Phyllis Lewis, another member of the board of the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui, expressed thanks to all who have been involved in this signage project for the past two years or more. She particularly mentioned the work of Sgt. Major David Smith, UE, of the KRRNY who unfortunately could not be present on the day. She noted that Ryan Leary, Senior Heritage Planner for the City, had been extremely helpful, as had Father Anderson of St. Gregory's Church who was also unable to attend the ceremony.



The signs had not yet at that point been mounted permanently in the ground but since the rain stopped just before the ceremony ended, a sign was placed upright and could be viewed in approximately its intended final placement, although it will likely be closer to the ground than in these photos.





*This photo by Nancy Cutway*

When properly mounted, the plan is that the sign will have duplicate sides angled to the street so they can be seen from each direction as one travels on Sydenham Road. It will also be closer to the road and lower to the ground. These original plans are subject to change as we have encountered a few challenges with the planned specific location. An update will follow once the final plan is determined.

## Canada Day in Bath

Members of Kingston and District Branch UELAC once again had a float in the Canada Day parade in Bath. Some also staffed a booth in the park, talking about the Loyalists to numerous visitors. Thanks to Ron Cairns for the following photos.

Thanks also to Ron and his family for decorating the trailer as the float.





*Derk Sherran, Ron Cairns UE, ? ?, Lorraine Sherran UE, Jean Rae Baxter UE*



Are you reading this newsletter as a black-and-white printed issue and wishing you could see all the photos in vivid colour? Just ask to switch to digital delivery. In future you'll receive a link to the PDF of the newsletter, which you can read in colour online and download it to your own computer or device, by about two keystrokes. Contact Membership Chair Lorraine Sherran at [sherren@csolve.net](mailto:sherren@csolve.net) or else tick "Digital Newsletter" when you next renew your membership.



If only the real Loyalists had been able to travel by camper van instead of leaky ships going up the east coast of North America to the St. Lawrence River, then upriver in small boats, portaging around rapids, back to the boats, ... or else overland through dense forests along meandering paths ... or however else they arrived in Canada. They would have been thrilled!

## REPORT FROM BRANCH GENEALOGIST, Anne Redish

Although some people step back from working on their lineage during the summer, other people have recently engaged in it! You can see that the UE ancestors are from a wide area of Ontario.

New members and others who have recently become involved in documenting their families include:

- **Stephen Vollick** to his ancestor **Isaac VAN VALKENBURG** UEL (Isaac VOLLICK) of Niagara;
- **Sharron Stone** to her ancestor **Phineas HURD** UE of Augusta Township, Grenville County, whose widowed wife was a **Hawley!**;
- **Jill Hall** to her **John PICKLE** UE of Fredericksburg;
- RMC student **Cam Manchester** to his **John HOLMES** UE ancestor of Kingston Township, who is connected to my family indirectly;
- **Cheryl Lowrie** worked diligently on her ancestor **John HORNING** of Kingston Township, neighbor of George Buck, but before completing the

final submission we learned from the National Genealogists that his claim to UE status was not clear enough, so she is taking up the search towards the connections to Kingston Township's **George BUCK** UE;

- **Nyla-Jean DeBoer** is working on a **James FORSYTH** UE of Niagara.

And there are numerous others just waiting for the receipt of Birth Documents from Provincial Offices, or time to complete their form, then they will be sent in! If you share an ancestor with any of the above individuals and wish to contact them, let me know.



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Branch Website: [www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch/](http://www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch/)

Branch Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KingstonUELAC>

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