



Fidelity

*United Empire Loyalist Association of
Canada
Toronto Branch*



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UELAC National Conference

By John Warburton UE

Past Toronto branch president John Warburton was one of the delegates to the 2006 National Conference, held in Toronto, and provides his report of some of the highlights.

Friday morning we took "A Capital Bus Tour". On our way to St. James Anglican Cathedral, we passed the home of Wm. Snider (SUE), the Tollkeeper's cottage, Fort Rouille, the Scadding cabin and many modern sites, some with Loyalist connections. The Cathedral tour included many Loyalist highlights linked to the families of Stephen and William Jarvis, McDonnell, Ryerson, Ridout, Stuart, Denison, Van Koughnet, Inglis. As well, early founding Association members were noted; the Cawthras and Chadwicks both have memorial plaques in the church.



Fort York photo courtesy Karen Windover

As we worked toward St. James Cemetery we saw Toronto's first post office, the Bank of Upper Canada and the site of Upper Canada's first Parliament buildings. Once at the cemetery, we viewed the gravesites of Loyalists William Jarvis, William Dummer Powell, John McGill, James McCauley and Samuel Smith. We returned to the Holiday Inn with a greater understanding of how the thriving metropolis of Toronto had begun as a small town with many Loyalist connections.

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Fall 2006 Branch Meetings



After a summer break our speaker series resumes in September. We will be trying something a little different this fall and so September's meeting will be held on the afternoon of **Sunday, September 17th** with refreshments at 1:30 p.m. and the meeting proper beginning at 2:00. Our speaker will be **Ron Dale**, Superintendent of Parks Canada – Niagara National Historic Sites of Canada, War of 1812 author and expert.

At the outbreak of War of 1812, the York region was not as densely populated as was the Niagara region. While many sons of Loyalists were of military age, many of the residents of York were relatively recent immigrants from the U.S.—born under the Republic and often the sons of men who had been on the Rebel side during the Revolution. General Isaac Brock was unsure how they would react if and when an American army invaded. Would they fight to defend their new land, would they remain neutral or would they turn coat and help the invaders?

We all know how the battle ended but what is the story behind it? Come and hear *"Upper Canada Preserved: the York Militia at the Battle of Queenston Heights"*.

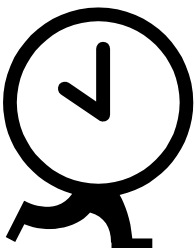
On **Sunday, October 15th** we have the pleasure of welcoming **Gavin Watt** to regale us with *"Some Fascinating Stories About Royal Yorker Soldiers"*. Refreshments will be served at 1:30 p.m. and the formal meeting will begin at 2:00.

The speaker for our meeting on **Wednesday, November 15th** has not yet been finalized. Look for details in the next issue of Fidelity.

The monthly meetings are held at the branch office at **40 Scollard Street, Suite 300**. Scollard Street is three short blocks north of Yonge Street from Bloor. The **#6 Bay Street bus** stops at Bay and Yorkville, which is only one short block from Scollard Street.

Members are welcome to come early for refreshments and to peruse the library and to meet fellow members before the formal meeting starts. There is metered parking on the street and several parking lots in the neighbourhood. Once in the lobby, **buzz #1500** for access to the building and to the branch office. We hope to see you at a meeting soon.

Summer Branch Office Hours



We would like to remind members of the Toronto branch office hours.

The office is open and staffed **Mondays** and **Thursdays** from **10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Please call ahead if you are planning a visit as hours may vary during holiday periods.

Report on UELAC AGM

By Karen Windover UE

Toronto Branch President Karen Windover submitted this report on the AGM.

An important part of the UELAC National Conference is the Annual General Meeting or AGM. This year's AGM was held on Saturday, June 3rd.

The AGM is similar to the one held by our branch in January of each year. It is in this forum that the new officers are elected and the Association's business is discussed.

It was nice to see a full slate of delegates from Toronto Branch and a number of our members who attended because of their interest in the organization.

The meeting was quite long owing to by-law changes. There appears to be some confusion as to what should be a by-law and what should be a procedure. This is not unlike the situation currently being experienced by our branch. It certainly makes for lively debate ! But what it means for us is that we must strive to move forward without getting bogged down in semantics, in order to preserve the integrity and intentions of our purpose.

The new Executive for the next year was announced. **Peter Johnson, U.E.**, a former member of Toronto branch, has been elected as Dominion President. **Myrna Fox, U.E.** is now "retired" from the Dominion level and should be a more familiar face at our Branch. **Gordon Coyne, U.E.** remains as a Dominion Trustee. But perhaps the most pleasant surprise is the election of **Diane Reid, U.E.** (our Social Committee Chair), as Dominion Secretary. Toronto branch interests are well represented at the Dominion level.

On behalf of Toronto branch, I submitted our name to play host for Conference 2014. It was on May 27, 1914 that the Dominion of Canada passed "An Act (chapter 146 4 - 5 Geo V. 1914) creating the UELAC". The Act made provision for the Association to operate in all the provinces and territories with the "chief seat in Toronto". We have an excellent opportunity to celebrate the 100th anniversary in a way sure to be remembered for years afterwards!

A&P/Dominion Tapes Fundraising

Once again, Toronto branch has enrolled in the A&P/Dominion Save-a-Tape program.

Each \$450 worth of tapes that we submit gets us one dollar, so every tape counts! This year, we have decided to raise funds with a specific goal in mind. Our travelling display, which helps us to explain who we are, is in need of refurbishment.

The Save-a-Tape program is an easy way for us to raise the extra funds. If you can't make it into the office, please mail your tapes in. We will send you back some stamps and an envelope so that you can help the branch with this fundraising project.



Using Maps in Family History Research

Author, researcher and genealogist **Fawne Stratford-Devai** gave a truly outstanding talk at the May 17th monthly meeting. Her topic was “Using Maps in Family History Research”. Using (sometimes humorous) examples from her own family tree, Fawne illustrated how maps are an integral part of solving the genealogical puzzle of one’s family history. She gave concrete examples of the kinds of information that can be gleaned from maps and practical applications of that information. There was helpful information on how to get started and where to find the maps one needs.

Various examples were used to demonstrate the difference between cadastral maps (showing boundaries of administrative units) and topographic maps (showing features of the land). There was even a discussion, for those who are slightly mathematically challenged, of the difference between large scale and small scale maps!

Finally, Fawne provided a list of some key map websites which she has graciously allowed us to reproduce here:



Fawne Stratford-Devai

The Changing Shape of Ontario – Early Districts and Counties (Archives of Ontario) The geographic boundaries within Ontario (Canada West and Upper Canada) have changed greatly over the years in response to population growth and administrative needs. Take the time to learn more about these changes – including the maps detailing them at www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/maps/index.html

In Search of your Canadian Past: <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/CountyAtlas/> from McGill University, a searchable database derived from published county atlases between 1874 and 1881. Searchable by property owners’ names or by location. Township maps, portraits and properties have been scanned, with links from the property owners’ names in the database.

Canadian Geographical Names database. Gazetteers and Place Name Locators: Current and historical names can be searched in English or French for physical features as well as populated places and undersea features. <http://GeoNames.NRCan.gc.ca>

National Atlas of Canada Online: <http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/index.html>

Canada at Scale (National Archives): <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/maps/index-e.html>

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Maps (continued)

Historical Atlas of Canada (University of Toronto): Online Learning Project:

<http://mercator.geog.utoronto.ca/hacddp/page1.htm>

Canadian Topographical Maps: <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/mapping/default.asp>

Canadian Railroad Historical Association. Includes a section on researching your railway relatives <http://www.exporail.org/>

Fire Insurance Mapping (Toronto Public Library):

http://vrl.tpl.toronto.on.ca/helpfile/hi_f0002.html

Ontario Locator (Ontario GenWeb): <http://www.geneofun.on.ca/ontariolocator/>

Canadian Panoramic Maps – Library of Congress:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/pmhtml/canmap.html>

Archiving Early America – Maps:

<http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/maps/index.html>

Library of Congress – The American Revolution and Its Era: Maps and Charts:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/armhtml/armhome.html>

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection – Historical Maps of the U.S.:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/histus.html>

UK Old Maps: <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>

Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies click on maps:

<http://feefhs.org>

Our thanks go to Fawne for sharing her time, knowledge and enthusiasm with us.

Special Sale—Loyalist Lineages II

Toronto Branch offers you the opportunity to obtain this high quality, hard cover bound two-volume set at an exceptional price.

One Set \$ 62.50 per set

Three or more sets \$ 31.25 per set

Terms: set orders only

Taxes as applicable and postage / shipping charges are extra and not included.

Don't delay! Contact the branch office today for more details.



Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar 2006

By Martha Hemphill UE

Durham Region Branch OGS hosted Seminar 2006 on the weekend of May 26th, 27th and 28th at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Durham College Campus, Oshawa. Toronto Branch UELAC was well represented by having our display in the main hallway of the building leading to all the events. Participants must have passed by several times a day and many stopped to ask questions. We hope to see some of them as future members!

It was also a great pleasure to see some of our branch members who aren't able to attend our regular monthly meetings:

Heather Graham Smith, Roger Reid, Lorna Laughton. There were also a lots of familiar UE faces from across Canada too!

Several of our branch volunteers were also first time attendees of Seminar and eagerly signed up for the lectures, which were excellent. Our thanks go out to **John Warburton, Karen Windover, Del Jackson, Kathie Orr, Linda Young** and **Martha Hemphill** for their assistance at the booth.



(More photos on the next page)



At left: **John Warburton** provides assistance at the Toronto branch booth.

Photo courtesy Martha Hemphill

OGS Seminar (cont. from previous page)



At left: Murray LeMasurier and Karen Windover

Photo courtesy Murray LeMasurier.

At right: Attending Seminar 2006 was **Lorna Laughton** of Calgary, the daughter of the late **Arliss** and **Marjory Flint**, past executive members of Toronto branch UEL.

Photo courtesy Murray LeMasurier.



At left: Another view of the Toronto branch display.

Photo courtesy Martha Hemphill

UELAC National Conference

(cont. from page 1)

Friday evening we had a tour and dinner at historical Fort York. Our tour included an artillery display put on by the Fort Guard. After the meal, a grand costume parade was held complete with fifers and a colour party. Joe Gill of the "Friends of Fort York" talked about his organization and told us how we could help.

Toronto 2006 Conference United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

The conference wrapped up on Sunday with a trip to Black Creek Pioneer Village. We paraded to the worship service held in the Fisherville Presbyterian Church. It was a stirring experience as our voices filled the packed little building. Afterward, we stopped at the Roblin Mill (formerly located in Ameliasburg in Prince Edward Co. Ontario). The Roblins were a Loyalist Family by way of Grass and Van Alstine's Associated Loyalists. On our way to the Victoria Room for lunch, we paused to see a few buildings that stand on their original sites. The first (1816) and second (1832) Stong houses along with the smokehouse, apple cellar and grain barn (1825) were all fascinating.

The Honourable Peter Milliken, Hon. President - UELAC spoke with us briefly before we enjoyed a delicious meal. Kelly Bennett, a Loyalist descendant and UELAC Scholarship winner, spoke after lunch. She was excellent and kept the audience spellbound with her talk about "Becoming Daughters of the Empire: The Loyalist Refugee Women's Experience in Upper Canada, 1783-1812."

The day ended with the passing of the Loyalist flag to next year's host, Bicentennial Branch from Windsor. They have a great programme planned. See you in Windsor in 2007!

The Next Issue



The next issue of Fidelity will be the August/September issue. The deadline for submissions is **Sunday, August 13th**.

Submissions can be emailed to susan.ellsworth@omd.com or mailed to her attention at the branch office.

Thanks for technical assistance go to **Kathie Orr UE**.