

UELAC Honorary Vice-President Zig Misiak, MET, Brantford, Ontario

Had I known that retirement was going to be so busy I would have stayed working, that's for sure. One project seems to open the creative mind into another.

The Six Nations Iroquois Clans Program Teachers Guide/Resource has taken on a life of its own since its launch a year ago September 2008. Over 180 assorted institutions are using it across Canada and parts of the United States.

In keeping with my strong relationship and sincere interest in Six Nations history I have taken on the duties of being Chairman of the War of 1812 Committee, the 200th Anniversary, which includes Brantford, Six Nations, and Brant County.

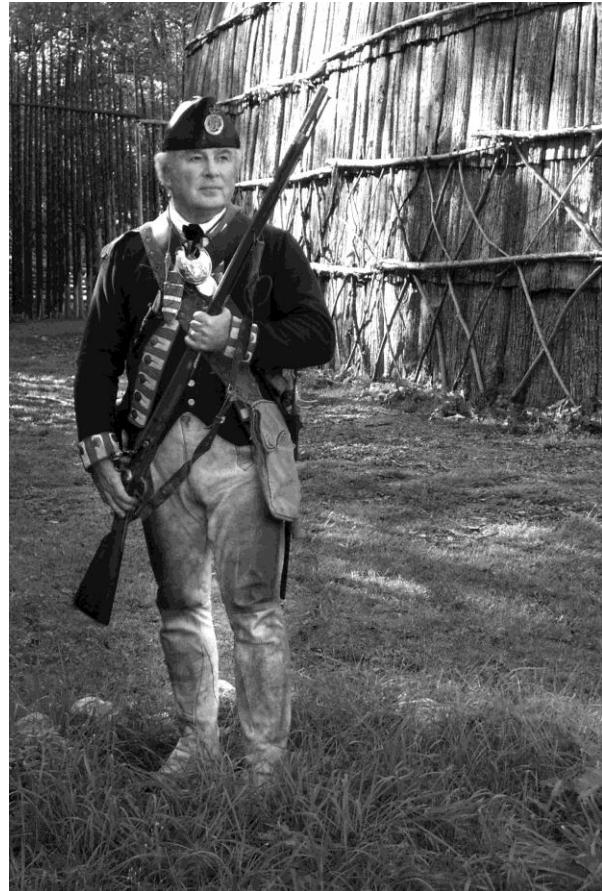
This role allows me to leverage my historical background with contemporary bridging within our communities. Simultaneously, I approached Chiefswood National Historic Site on Six Nations Territory along the Grand River proposing a project called *Four Directions Youth Program*. This program is well outlined and known to the UELAC as the UELAC has taken a most significant role tying the past into the present, supporting the program and looking for donations to get it off the ground, hopefully in 2010.

Throwing myself into the research mode once again, I have uncovered a great deal of information related to the War of 1812, in particular a raid by General McArthur on what was then in our area both a county and Six Nations Territory. We can lay claim to General Brock, Tecumseh, William Caldwell of Caldwell's Rangers, John Norton and John Brant, son of Joseph, all being in the area and contributing substantially to our collective history.

I saw an opportunity to create a "children's" book version of the raid on the Grand River. With the aid of Scott Paterson's talent as an artist, I hope to publish it by the end of October 2009.

Once again I bridge our communities and always manage to bring Butler's Rangers into the scene in this case via William Caldwell as he was a Butler's Rangers. What an amazing fact of history. Caldwell, a former Ranger, formed a company of Rangers for the War of 1812 and, just like Butler's, had a unique and close relationship with the First Nations.

We have started work on creating a re-enactment group of Caldwells in support of the 200th War of 1812 anniversary. Constantly working towards opportunities focusing on education and the youth, I managed to squeeze in a DVD project to be launched before October 2009. Nineteen people were interviewed. Walter Gretzky due to his father being in WW1, two individuals from the Six Nations due to their on-going alliances and support during war time as well as seventeen other individuals, mostly of Polish Vets, but including RAF, Royal Navy, and Canadian Army. This is a not for profit venture created



to support not only Remembrance Day, November 11th of each year, but encourage teachers to use this DVD to support their existing curriculum.

And yes, absolutely yes, am I ever proud and very vocal about my role as Honorary Vice-President of the UELAC. The UELAC role is so important to the preservation of valuable elements in our national history. That's why I am so pleased to see that the 200th Anniversary of 1812 will be yet another beacon we can rally around. - Zig Misiak - www.realpeopleshistory.com

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