

## Sir John Johnson Branch Annual General Meeting, Saturday, 16 June 2012

My wife, Grietje, and I had the pleasure of attending the annual banquet and general meeting of the Sir John Johnson Branch this past weekend. We were hosted by Adelaide Lanktree and Louise Hall who took time out of their home renovations and gardening to share news about their progress on their 2014 project: restoring the Sir John Johnson Vault. The countryside in the Eastern Townships of Quebec was picturesque under clear blue skies and warm temperatures. We met at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall on



Montgomery Street in Philipsburg, now St. Armand. This major project for 2014 is well underway. The Mont St. Gregoire property has changed hands a number of times since the first thoughts of restoring the family vault were spoken. This site is the only non-native cemetery in Quebec to be declared an historic site. Presently CIME (*Centre d'interprétation du milieu écologique du Haut-Richelieu*), an organization founded in 1981 with the mission of protecting and valorizing Mont St. Gregoire, owns the land where the Johnson Vault is located. Exciting news came forth recently from Raymond Ostiguy who found an 1833 document that appears to grant a right of way across the property to reach the family vault. CIME had co-operated with the groups who wish to restore the vault in that it is providing parking space between the road and



In-coming Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch President, Gerry Thomas UE,  
with Heritage Branch President, Robert C. Wilkins UE,  
Sir John Johnson Branch Immediate Past President, Rod Riordon UE,  
Grietje McBride UE, and Dominion President, Robert C. McBride UE.

the vault for future visitors. The government of Quebec does not restore historical monuments but will allow the Sir John Johnson Branch and supporters to build a face replicating the front of the monument and using the original door with a suitable inscription above it. Plans for the design of the vault face and materials to be used in its construction are now being considered. This project, begun in 1998, has involved two archaeological digs and the participation of several agencies with a common goal. It is remarkable how much can be accomplished with tenacity and co-operation!



Adelaide Lanktree UE and her sister, Louise Hall UE, hosted Grietje McBride UE and Bob McBride UE at their home in Farnham, Quebec, surrounded by beautiful gardens.

Our UELAC Publicity Chairperson, Fred Hayward, is seeking news about your 2014 Branch project. As soon as he receives your plans, he will post them online and hopefully these projects can be celebrated by all. Projects form the backbone of active branches and provide opportunities for the general public to see what we do and perhaps become involved in living our Loyalist history.

Robert C. McBride UE,  
UELAC Dominion  
President.