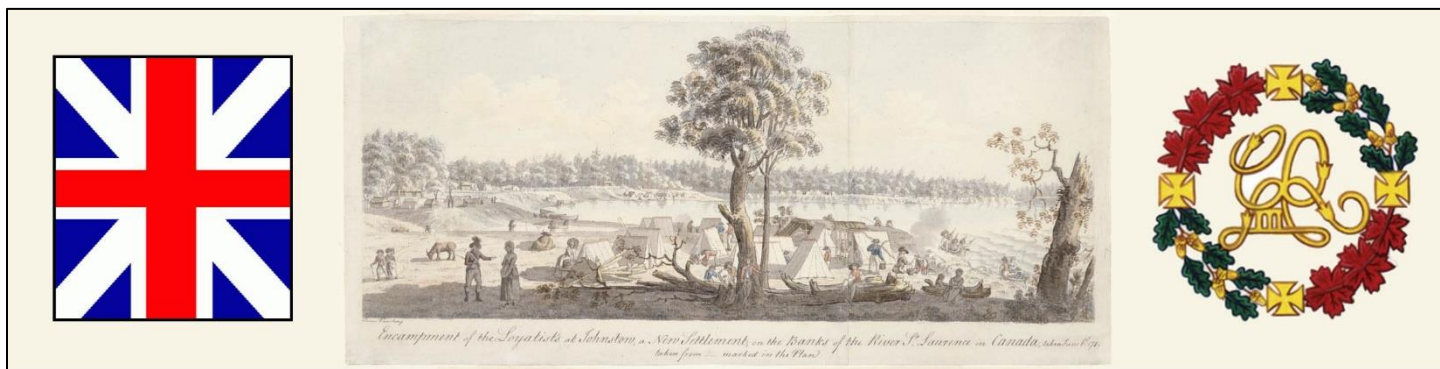


# THE ROYAL YORKER

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the 'United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (St. Lawrence Branch)*

∞ Summer 2018 ∞



## Who We Are

The association is dedicated to promoting the history of the United Empire Loyalists: North Americans who remained loyal to the Crown during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), and who later settled in Canada. The St. Lawrence Branch serves the Ontario counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, comprising the former "Royal Townships" of Lancaster, Charlottenburgh, Cornwall, Osnabruck, Williamsburgh and Matilda.

Branch Executive: President - Lorraine Reoch; Secretary - Darlene Fawcett; Treasurer - Michael Eamer; Genealogists - Lorraine Reoch & Darlene Fawcett; Social Convener - Ashley Harper; Newsletter Editor & Webmaster - Stuart Manson; Directors - Murray Barkley, Carol Goddard, Archibald McDonnell, William Patterson, Gordon Reoch, Sandra Shouldice, Michelle Walczak.

*Acknowledgement: The Ontario Ministry of Culture provides a heritage grant to the branch for its outreach program.*

## Where to Find Us

🖥 Branch website: [uelac.org/st-lawrence/](http://uelac.org/st-lawrence/)

📘 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StLawrenceUELAC/](https://www.facebook.com/StLawrenceUELAC/)

✉ Mailing address (Loyalist Resource Centre): P.O. Box 607, 3 Augusta St., Morrisburg, ON, Canada, K0C 1X0

## Upcoming Branch Events

**September 22, 2018 (6:00 PM):** Annual Banquet, St. Matthew's Church, 15 Memorial Square, Ingleside.

Please make a reservation before Sept. 15: Lorraine Reoch at (613) 821-2327 or (613) 294-4550, or [fancylass@hotmail.ca](mailto:fancylass@hotmail.ca). Speaker is to-be-announced.

**October 21, 2018 (1:30 PM):** Show & Tell, Hulbert Valley United Church, 11064 Hulbert Road, Brinston.

Our very popular "Show & Tell" meeting returns! Bring an item of interest, with a story to tell about it. This a fun meeting with lots of discussion.

## Newsletter Editor's Note

This edition of *The Royal Yorker* is special because it focusses attention on Indigenous issues. We all have a small part to play in the reconciliation between Canada's Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples; while our contribution is small, it is nonetheless important.

Having recently become responsible for our branch website, I embarked on a program to add more content with a local flavour. I consequently researched, wrote, and added several new pages. One of these new pages is called "Indigenous Neighbours," which recognizes the fact that our branch operates within in the traditional territory of the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

The "Indigenous Neighbours" page also provides interesting primary-source information on Akwesasne participation on the side of the Crown during the American Revolutionary War, at a time when the community was more often referred to as St. Regis, after its village of that name. This includes the story of "Hotgouentagehle," said to be a chief from St. Regis, who was killed in action near Montreal when resisting the Rebel invasion of Canada in 1775.

You can navigate directly to the "Indigenous Neighbours" page of our branch website by following this link:

[http://uelac.org/st-lawrence/?page\\_id=323](http://uelac.org/st-lawrence/?page_id=323)

Please also take a peek at the new local content on the website in general, including the pages on "Wartime & Settlement" and "Loyalist Attractions of SD&G."

-Stuart Manson

## Newsletter Submissions

We're always keen to receive newsletter submissions from our membership. If you have anything to share, whether it be wee tidbits of information, photographs, and especially genealogical queries or articles, please contact the editor, Stuart Manson, at the following email address: [manson1763@gmail.com](mailto:manson1763@gmail.com).

## Branch President's Report



Greetings to all. I hope everyone enjoyed this beautiful warm summer. Just remember these days when it is snowing and blowing outside your window.

Our May meeting was well attended by our members, and we also had the mayors of South Dundas (Evonne Delagarde) and North Dundas (Eric Duncan) in attendance, as well as the clerk of North Dundas. At that meeting, Susan Peters, the archivist of the new Dundas County Archives, spoke about the archives and its planned incorporation of the UELAC St. Lawrence Branch Loyalist Resource Centre (see below for more information).



*St. Lawrence Branch President Lorraine Reoch (on the right) thanks guest speaker Susan Peters for her presentation.*

After the talk about the archives and resource centre, we had the induction of the new UELAC St. Lawrence Branch executive. See page 1 of this newsletter for their names and positions.



*Swearing-in ceremony of the new executive.*

Those executive members that were in attendance at the meeting are pictured below.

From left to right: Sandra Shouldice, Director; Gord Reoch, Director; Ashely Harper, our new Social Convener; Stuart Manson, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster; Lorraine Reoch, President, Michael Eamer, Treasurer; and Darlene Fawcett, our new Secretary.



I would like to say thank you to Carol Goddard and Jennifer DeBruin for the part they have played in the last several years in the St. Lawrence Branch. I would like to thank Darlene and Stuart for taking on the jobs left open by Carol and Jennifer. Also I wish to thank all the executive and directors for their time and energy they have given to the branch this year.

In late June, the annual picnic was held at McIntosh Park in Berwick, a wonderful spot with a very large gazebo, with many trees and beautiful grounds. It was a small crowd as it threatened rain in the morning and called for very hot weather. It did not rain, however, and under the gazebo it was very cool. The lunch was great, especially the hot baked beans and homemade bread.

In July, we set up our tents and had a display for the 1813 Chrysler's Farm re-enactment weekend at Upper Canada Village. Saturday's weather was very warm, but we managed to have lots of visitors. It was quieter on Sunday, as the temperature was in the high eighties. The re-enactors always put on a great show, with plenty of noise and smoke. This

year, with the dry weather, the organizers were afraid that the cannons would not be permitted to fire, so the rain on the previous Friday night was most welcome. The other displays were wonderful as well. The re-enactors are a brave group, living outdoors for two days.

Our Loyalist Resource Centre will be moving in the next few weeks or months. Our new location will be at the Dundas County Archives, 5 College Street, Iroquois, which is being set up now. We will be a large part of this operation. We are cataloguing all the books, family histories, records and wonderful finds. The packing has begun and the days are full. We received many applications for UE certificates this year, and they are still coming in.

-Lorraine Reoch

## The Lyrics to "God Save the Queen"

All know the first verse of "God Save the Queen":

*God save our gracious Queen!*

*Long live our noble Queen!*

*God save the Queen!*

*Send her victorious,*

*Happy and glorious,*

*Long to reign over us,*

*God save the Queen.*

But are you aware of the unusual and amusing lyrics in the second verse? They are as follows:

*O Lord our God arise,*

*Scatter her enemies*

*And make them fall;*

*Confound their politics,*

*Frustrate their knavish tricks,*

*On Thee our hopes we fix,*

*God save us all!*

Needless to say, that second verse is not sung too often!

## Signposts

“Signposts” is a recurring feature in *The Royal Yorker* that points to a current place name in our region that has Loyalist origins. In this issue we depart ever-so-slightly from that theme, but remain true to its spirit.

Located along the western boundary of Glengarry County is a slender stretch of land with a unique history. Known as the “Indian Lands” the parcel’s name originates from events that occurred in the period between the end of the American Revolutionary War (1783) and the beginning of Loyalist resettlement (June 1784). But first, we must go back in time even further...

The Indigenous history of our region obviously pre-dates European settlement by quite a large margin. The Village of St. Regis had been formally established in 1755, across the river from the future south-east corner of Cornwall Township. Oral history and archaeological evidence indicates, however, that Indigenous people - specifically Iroquoian, also known as Haudenosaunee - used the land well before the time of contact. The Mohawks of Akwesasne, centred around the Village of St. Regis, are the heirs of that long history.

In 1783, the American Revolutionary War was over. The peace treaty was signed, and colonial administrators in the remaining bits of British North America hastened to arrange the resettlement of thousands of refugee Loyalists. In Quebec, Governor Frederick Haldimand sent surveyors into the upper St. Lawrence River valley, and into the Great Lakes watershed, in order to survey lands fit for this purpose. Prior to occupying and settling this land, in accordance with British colonial policy Haldimand made land cession treaties with local Indigenous peoples. He neglected to do so with the Mohawks of Akwesasne, however, and the leaders of that community were quick to address this error.

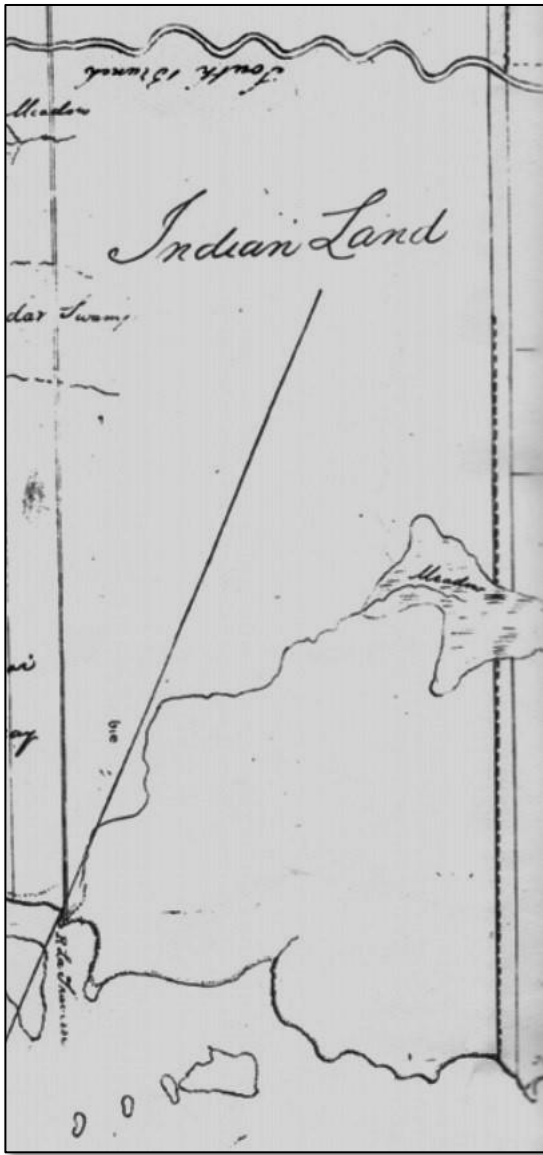
When surveyor boots were on the ground, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence opposite St. Regis in March 1784, the Mohawks of Akwesasne appealed directly to Sir John Johnson, the Loyalist leader and Superintendent General of Indian Affairs. Johnson met with the leading men of the village of St. Regis

on the matter, when he was at the future site of Cornwall. He reported on these events to Governor Haldimand, in a letter dated March 11, 1783. Johnson wrote:

*“...I was awaited upon by a great number of the chiefs and warriors of that village who had watched my arrival. After the usual ceremony they began by approving of my endeavours to re-establish those unfortunate people [the Loyalists] who had followed my example and shared my fate in the service of our King and country, at the same time they said they thought it would be unjust in their father [the King] to take away from them, who had acted by our desire, in the same cause, the lands they had always looked upon as theirs, to make up the losses he had been the cause of, to others, without being consulted or our intentions even made known to them - they hoped, as I was appointed for the management of their affairs, that I would not see any injustice done them, in that I would represent their claim to Your Excellency...”*

After considering the chiefs’ and warriors’ concerns, Johnson and Haldimand claimed they had no knowledge or evidence of Indigenous ownership of the lands on the north shore. Nevertheless, they agreed to honour the claim. Negotiations ensued, resulting in a treaty arrangement. It granted the Mohawks of Akwesasne compensation, in the form of parcels of reserve lands to supplement their land at the Village of St. Regis. One of these additional parcels was the slender strip on the western boundary of what became Glengarry County.





A detail from 1786 McNiff map of the southern part of the area then known as the “Indian Lands,” between Cornwall and Charlottenburgh Twps.

The long parcel was legally an “Indian reserve.” The Mohawks of Akwesasne used the land primarily for revenue-generation purposes: Loyalist and later immigrant farmers leased the lands, in some cases for years or decades. Eventually, the Mohawks “surrendered” that part of their reserve lands in 1847. (In this context, “surrender” is a legal term referring to a community’s agreement to release their interest in land.)

Legally, the area is still known as the “Indian Lands.” For example, if you conduct research at

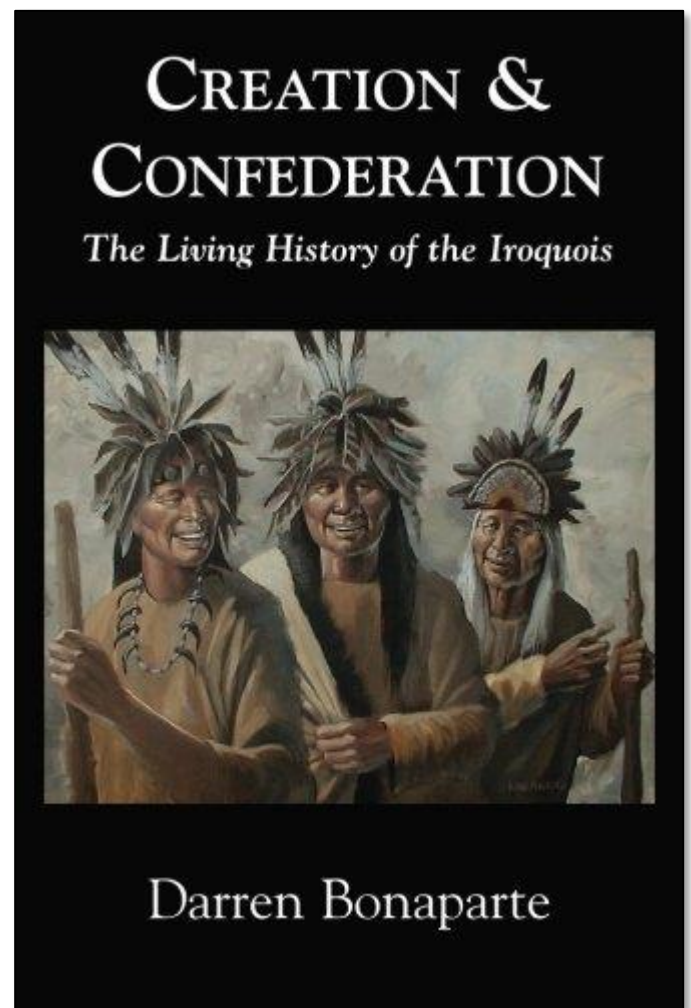
Glengarry County’s Land Titles Office in Alexandria, you’ll encounter the term, as it remains an essential component of land parcel legal descriptions.

-Stuart Manson

## The Bookshelf

“The Bookshelf” is a recurring feature in *The Royal Yorker*. Here we examine books of interest - old or new - whose subject matter is dear to our hearts: The early history of our region, genealogy, the American Revolutionary War, and related topics.

In this issue we crack open a book that’s somewhat different from the usual type of volume reviewed in these pages: *Creation and Confederation: The Living History of the Iroquois* by Darren Bonaparte. The author is a Mohawk writer, artist, and storyteller from Akwesasne.



*Creation and Confederation* describes the oral and written history of the Iroquois Confederacy, or more accurately, the Haudenosaunee, comprised of six separate but linguistically and culturally similar nations: Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora.

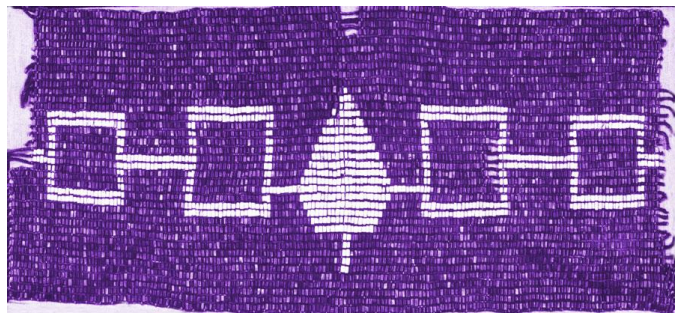
The book also relates their creation story and other elements of spirituality, such as the Sky Woman, from whom all living creatures originate. Bonaparte relates these stories in an informative and entertaining style.

One chapter that I found particularly interesting compares a topographical feature in the Mohawk Valley of New York State - called Anthony's Nose - to the shape of a turtle. One of the matrilineal divisions within Mohawk society is the Turtle Clan, which historically were grouped near this spot. Also, the concept of "Turtle Island," in which the land mass of the continent is supported on the back of a turtle, is also an important element of Haudenosaunee culture, making the shape of Anthony's Nose even more intriguing.

Many pages of the book are devoted to the origins of the confederacy, which formed long before Europeans came to the Americas. The original confederacy comprised five nations (the Tuscarora joined in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, to make it six), located in the Finger Lakes and Mohawk River region of what is now New York State. A man named Deganawidah (the Great Peacemaker) is central to this story. He initiated the process of unifying these once-warring nations. Deganawidah may have been born near the Bay of Quinte, in the region that is now the Province of Ontario.

A common theme in the book is the idea that the creation and confederation stories of the Haudenosaunee have evolved over time. For example, when a large group of Haudenosaunee moved from the United States to Ontario (the Grand River Reserve near what is now Brantford and the Tyendenaga Reserve near the Bay of Quinte) following the American Revolutionary War, "they needed to culturally connect themselves to their new location," Bonaparte suggests, "so they unconsciously searched the storyteller's pouch..."

The book ends with a history of wampum belts, which are central to the history of the Haudenosaunee. These belts, created from white and purple sea shells, communicate information and record important events.



*Creation & Confederation: The Living History of the Iroquois* can be purchased directly from the author, via his "Wampum Chronicles" website:

<http://www.wampumchronicles.com/>

-Stuart Manson

## Loyalist Plaque Re-Dedication in Cornwall and Announcement of UELAC 2021 Annual Conference

On August 12, the old Historic Sites and Monuments Board plaque commemorating Loyalist settlement in our region was re-dedicated in a ceremony at the Cornwall Community Museum. The ceremony was a joint production between the SD&G Historical Society, the group who operates the museum, and the UELAC. Here are some photos of the event, courtesy of Jennifer DeBruin.



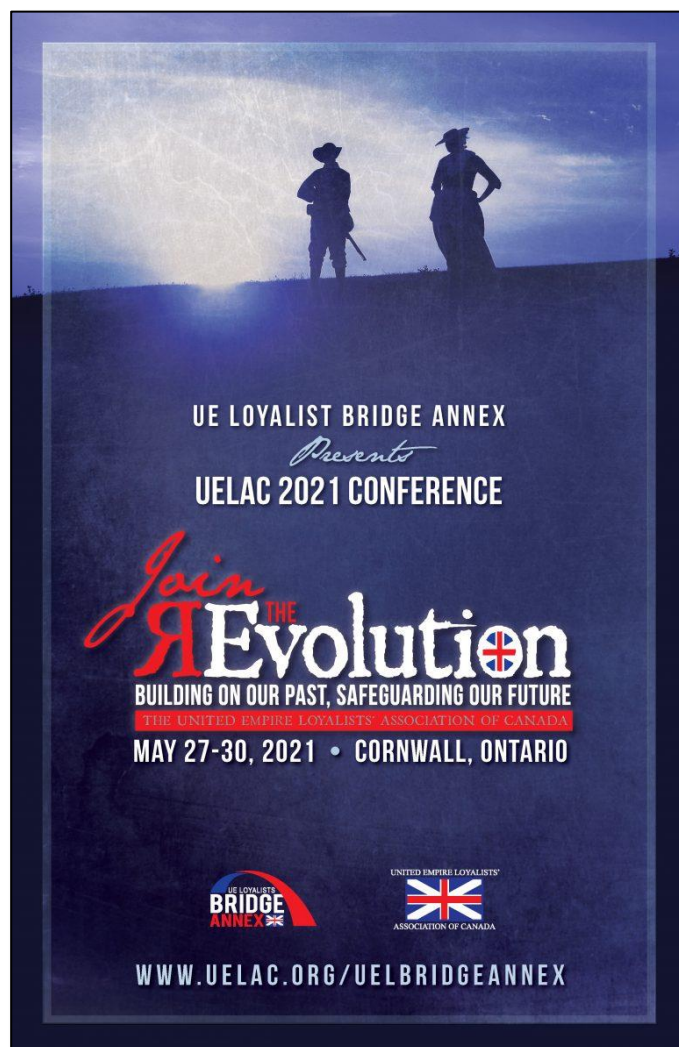




More information on the highly-successful ceremony is available in the newsletter of the UELAC Loyalist Bridge Annex Branch, who spearheaded the event. It can be viewed by following this link:

[https://www.uelac.org/UELBridgeAnnex/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Issue1\\_Aug18-1.pdf](https://www.uelac.org/UELBridgeAnnex/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Issue1_Aug18-1.pdf)

The event also featured the announcement that Cornwall will be the location of the UELAC's annual conference in 2021:



## Preview of a New Branch Project: Loyalist Burial Sites

The executive of the UELAC St. Lawrence Branch has approved a branch project in which we will erect plaques commemorating Loyalist burial sites within our catchment area. There are quite a few!

Executive member Stuart Manson will be taking the lead on this project, which will begin with two plaques funded largely by the Edgar family (represented by James Edgar). This is a long-term project. We will be exploring any funding opportunities and sources available to us.

The plaques will be stone mounted on a steel stand, similar but not identical to the one pictured below. Naturally, the inscription will cite the St. Lawrence Branch.



The first two cemeteries to be thus commemorated will be those surrounding Trinity Anglican Church in Cornwall, and St. Andrew's United Church in Bainsville. More information will be provided this fall, in the next issue of *The Royal Yorker*.

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## The Last Word

"With a heart most sensibly affected by the misfortunes of our fellow creatures, I sincerely condole with you for the loss of so many Chiefs and Warriors who have unfortunately fallen in the course of the unhappy war which has but too long subsisted between us and our countrymen. I do therefore, on the part of the King your Father and all his faithful subjects, with this belt I wipe away the blood of your relatives and friends that has been shed and stained the country around you, that it may no longer prove a source of affliction to you or be hurtful in your sight. And with this belt I collect their scattered bones and carefully bury them so deep in the earth, that they never more will be seen to offend your eyes."

-A speech by Sir John Johnson, Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, to the loyal Six Nations (Iroquois or Haudenosaunee), delivered on 23 July 1783 at Fort Niagara. The style of this speech, and its use of extensive metaphors, was very common in the period.

The next issue of *The Royal Yorker* will be published in November 2018.

