



THE HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA

HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA - B.C./YUKON CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER Vol.1. No.1. March 1982

Record of first meeting - 20 February, 1982

The meeting was held at the home of past director Robert Watt, F.H.S.C., at 986 Canyon Boulevard, North Vancouver. It marked the first time that a regional group of Society members had met together outside the bounds of the Annual General Meeting. Invitations were sent to the 29 individual members of the Society living in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. Acknowledgements were received from 27 and of these 13 were able to be present. Several of these travelled some distance. It was clear from the written letters of regret that even those not present were very keen about the idea of a regular meeting of the regional group. Members present for this historic occasion were:

Irene Alexander, North Vancouver
Bill Amos, Richmond
Graham Anderson, Shawingan Lake
Geroge A. Brown, Langley
Ron Crawley, Vancouver
Tony de Cosson, West Vancouver
Michael Halleran, Victoria
Marven Manuel, North Vancouver
Murray Mitchell, Langley
Dr. Earle MacPhee, Vancouver
Lawrence Patten, Nanaimo
Robert N. Thompson, Fort Langley
Robert D. Watt, North Vancouver

Special guest:

Mrs. Jennie M. MacPhee

Acting as secretary for the meeting:

Alison J. Watt

An informal business meeting was preceded by a buffet lunch beginning at 1:00 p.m. This proved a good opportunity to exchange ideas about various heraldic topics and to outline how an interest in heraldry developed. The host had set out a small display of heraldic reference works, copies of patents with particular interest to British Columbians and examples of the menus from HSC annual dinners in 1978, 1980 and 1981. Graham Anderson very kindly brought the original patent for the arms recently granted by the English Kings to Shawingan School, while Ron Crawley brought the design he has prepared for the badge of the Vancouver Militia District. Even

before the informal meeting started, it was obvious that many members had, in the words of one, found heraldry to be a very "lonely" hobby until now and were very pleased to have a chance to meet fellow enthusiasts.

Following lunch, those present gathered for an informal discussion chaired by the host. The discussion centred on the topic of a Canadian heraldic authority, the prospects for the 1983 convention being held in Vancouver and the timing and location of the next meeting of the group.

1. Canadian heraldic authority. Mr. Watt emphasized his belief that only a concerted and systematic effort involving all members would bring the Society close to achieving one of the principal objectives set forth in the constitution. During discussion it became clear that most members were unaware of the actions taken by the Society to date on the subject, and in particular, most were not aware of the presentations made to the Applebaum-Hebert Committee. Mr. Watt described his recent discussions with Mr. Applebaum and Col. Bernier and Mr. Thompson gave his views on the degree to which the Governor-General could or would act independently of the senior civil servants in the Secretary of State's ministry. He felt strongly that the Society being now more mature, was in a strong position to influence these senior bureaucrats. One member wished to know how South Africa had established its heraldic authority. Mr. Patten suggested it should be possible for each member in the region to canvas municipalities in a given area to discover the possible use, by such bodies, of a separate Canadian authority. This was part of a larger discussion on the number of assumed versus lawfully granted arms in the province and the exact status of an English or Scottish grant in Canadian law. Overall, concern was repeatedly expressed that the Directors should be communicating with members much more fully on this and other topics.

Finally, it was moved by Dr. MacPhee: and seconded by Robert Thompson as follows:

1. That the Directors use whatever means at their disposal to try and ensure that the Applebaum-Hebert cultural policy review committee makes a formal recommendation in favour of establishing an independent Canadian heraldic authority.
2. that the Directors provide more information to the members on this particular issue and specifically, that the Society's brief to the Applebaum Committee be published.
3. that B.C./Yukon members, working in their own area, establish the degree to which municipalities would use a Canadian authority and that similar research be undertaken across Canada

CARRIED

2. 1983 Convention. It was moved by Laurie Patten, seconded by Murray Mitchell that,

The meeting express to the Directors their feeling that any national society in Canada should move its annual convention

away from Ontario and Quebec from time to time and further that a strong desire to welcome fellow members to this part of Canada exists, as well as the willingness to organize an interesting programme; therefore this group extends a formal invitation to hold the annual meeting in Vancouver in 1983.

CARRIED

Considerable discussion followed about the format and content of such a conference. Ideas put forth included:

- a) location: Hotel Vancouver;
 - b) walking tour;
 - c) exhibit at Museum and publication, display of as many original B.C. related patents as possible;
 - d) boat trip to Victoria - reception at Government House;
 - e) B.C. Government to sponsor annual banquet;
 - f) uniqueness of involving native groups because of the tremendous native heraldic tradition;
 - g) possibility of support from the B.C. Heritage Trust.
3. Miscellaneous / Ongoing meetings. Discussion then turned to a variety of topics including the wealth of expertise present in the group around which to build regular sessions. Specifically mentioned were Ron Crawley, Bill Amos and George Brown on military heraldry; Irene Alexander as an heraldic artist and Laurie Patten who has a full introductory lecture complete with slides. George Brown spoke for several in suggesting that a small newsletter would be a good way of keeping in touch. Robert Watt said he would try to send out the record of the first meeting in that sort of format. Michael Halleran suggested that one good way of increasing local interest in heraldry was to set up a course at one of the junior colleges, an idea eagerly seconded by Irene Alexander and Laurie Patten. Dr. MacPhee wanted to have further clarification of the present fee scales in Edinburgh and London and several members were able to provide him with some information. Robert Thompson asked Robb Watt about the authority under which Fellows were created by the Society, as part of a related question on whether the Society operated under letters patent issued in Ottawa. This led several members to ask whether anyone had ever seen a copy of the HSC constitution and it was agreed that Mr. Watt would ask for a copy of it and the by-laws. As the meeting drew to a close it was also agreed that the group would plan a meeting for September in Victoria.

