



# The BC Blazon

Newsletter of the British Columbia / Yukon Branch

Patron of the BC/Yukon Branch: The Honourable Stephen L. Point, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

Fall - Winter 2007

The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada

Vol. 2 No. 2 Issue 3

## The Heraldry of Government House

### Lieutenant Governor's residence rich in heraldic tradition

by Carl Larsen

Government House was chosen as a "must see" for delegates to the 41st annual conference held in Victoria in October because of its rich heraldic tradition. There were two areas of particular interest to us, the Rogers Window and the display of arms of Royal and Vice-Regal visitors.

#### The Rogers Window

The most prominent heraldic feature is undoubtedly the stunning Rogers Window, designed and created in 1990 by Christopher Wallis, FRHSC, RCAA, one of Canada's outstanding glass artists as well as a distinguished heraldist and member of the RHSC since 1967.

The original heraldic window was lost when Government House was razed by fire in 1957 and when it was rebuilt two years later, a window was constructed by the main staircase but filled with ordinary glass. It was not until the Honourable Robert G. Rogers became Lieutenant Governor (1983-88) and Chatelaine, Mrs. Jane Rogers learned of this omission that work was begun on what was to become the Rogers Window. It was her vision and initiative which launched the project. The Rogers window symbolizes the history and role of Government House in the life of the province, reflects British Columbia's close connection to the crown and honours our Governors and Lieutenant Governors since 1849.

The window cannot be viewed in its entirety from any one position due to its massive size. The lower half is visible from the top of the main staircase but in order to see the top half it is necessary to ascend another flight of stairs which we were unable to do on our tour.

The fourteen panels we viewed included the Royal Arms of both Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II, the arms of His Honour, Robert G. Rogers, the various arms of British Columbia and Canada and the arms of Victoria and the Hudson's Bay Company. Also displayed are the royal ciphers of all six of our



Privy Seal of Canada

#### Details of Rogers Window

Photos: D. Cvet



Arms of Robert G. Rogers Lieutenant Governor of BC 1983-1988



Arms of British Columbia and City of Victoria

# From the Desk of the Branch President

*Carl Larsen*



This issue of the BC Blazon is the second digital version we have produced and we hope you will like it. The upgrade to eight pages is due to a decision to combine two issues to end the year. This digital version reduces our stationery, printing and mailing costs very significantly which helps us to stay within our operating budget and avoid fee increases. As always, we look for your comments, positive or negative, in order to improve our communications to you. These can be sent to us at [rhsc.bc.branch@gmail.com](mailto:rhsc.bc.branch@gmail.com).

## The Conference

The big event of the year for the BC/Yukon Branch was organizing and hosting the 41st Annual Convention in Victoria which occupied much of our time and energy during the year. I am happy to report the conference was a resounding success from every perspective and you can read the detailed report in the current issue of the Gonfanon. The facility was superb, the food was excellent and the programme was well received, from the Friday night Beley Lecture to the Saturday AGM, to the Heraldic Colloquium, the tours of Government House and Christ Church Cathedral and finally the formal dinner on Saturday night. Even the weather cooperated giving us blue skies and sunshine.

I would like to express my personal thanks to all the members of the Convention Committee who contributed to our success; Shirley Greenwood, Allan Ailo (our conference art director), Laurie Patten, Graham Anderson, John Neill and Lee Van Horne. It was Lee who gave us an Internet presence with our own website to promote the conference and this will have far reaching benefits for the branch as he has now accepted appointment as Branch Webmaster. I also want to thank those other members who pitched in and helped during the convention itself.

Next year's convention will be in Montreal so look for the details in the not too distant future.

## Lieutenant Governor to be BC/Yukon Branch Patron

It is my pleasure to announce that His Honour, Stephen L. Point, OBC, recently appointed Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, has consented to be our Patron during his term of office. The CHA is presently working on a grant of arms for His Honour and when these are proclaimed in the spring they will be featured in the BC Blazon.

## 2008 Dues

The dues for 2008 are payable on January 1st and have been set at \$99 including the \$20 branch fee. There are various ways to pay. You may forward a cheque directly to Branch Treasurer, Laurie Patten at his new address: 123 - 6325 Metral Drive, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6P9 for the full amount. You can also pay online using Paypal, Visa or MasterCard by going to the website: [www.heraldry.ca](http://www.heraldry.ca) Welcome / Royal Heraldry Society of Canada / Application for Membership/Renewal. Whichever method of payment you choose, we urge you to pay in January to provide funds early in the year to allow the branch to operate.

## Plans for 2008

Your Executive will be meeting in the new year to plan out our 2008 activities and if anyone has ideas as to what should be included please let me know. We are thinking about having an interesting guest speaker for one of our meetings as well as a possible heraldic tour in Victoria. Additional objectives will be to continue to build membership on the Lower Mainland and Webmaster Lee Van Horne has some interesting ideas for developing our website so stay tuned as we enter the New Year.

## Portable Heraldry Exhibit Moves Forward

*by Carl Larsen*

The first panel of the Portable Heraldry Exhibit was on display at the conference and attracted a lot of attention. This was completed in time for the conference by Laurie Patten and is the first of five panels designed and to be built by Laurie to portray the art, science and craft of heraldry, particularly as it is evolving in Canada.

The panels are to be lightweight, easy to assemble and disassemble for shipment anywhere in Canada for heraldic displays presented by the branches or other sponsors. Sources of funding for this national project are being explored and need to be firmed up before construction can continue on further panels.

David Cvet, 1st Vice President of the Society and Past President of the Toronto branch, has already booked this first panel as part of their display at the Royal Ontario Museum early next year.



Photo: D. Cvet





1890s arms of Canada

*The Heraldry of  
Government House  
- con't from Page 1*



A. Allo

The Rogers Window

reigning monarchs since 1837 and the various Great Seals of British Columbia and Canada. There are also panels representing the forest industry and honouring the First Nations people. At the very bottom of the panels is a list of all Governors and Lieutenant Governors and their places of residence in New Westminster, Carey Castle and Government House in Victoria.

At the base of the Cross of St. George is a fess dancette with elements symbolizing the forests and mountains of the Province. The seal and arms on the bottom panels are set upon green mounds surrounded by water that alludes to the site of Government House. The mounds are strewn with dogwood and violets and around the base are wild flowers of British Columbia.

This tour left us looking forward to another occasion when we might view the upper section of the window where there are five additional panels of interest.

All in all this is a most beautiful heraldic treasure and all British Columbians should be grateful to Mrs. Rogers, as the inspiration for the project, and to Mr. Wallis for the creativity and artistic talent to make it a reality.

**Display of Heraldic Shields**

A tradition developed at Government House to display in the Main Dining Room, the arms of all Royal and Vice-Regal overnight guests. The first shield in the collection is dated 1876 and commemorates the visit of The Right Honourable the Earl of Dufferin, Governor General of Canada (1872-78). The first royal guests came in 1901, Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later King George V and Queen Mary). The Queen and Prince Phillip first visited in 1951 and the lozenge of HRH Princess Elizabeth and the shield of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh now grace the collection. 2006 marked the latest royal and vice-regal visitors, Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince Edward, Duke of Wessex and Sofie, The

Countess of Wessex, and the current Governor General, Her Excellency Michaël Jean.

There are now 43 shields in the collection which have all been relocated to the wall beneath the Rogers Window and along the main staircase. Over the years, many of the shields had deteriorated and Laurie Patten, Canada's finest heraldic craftsman, created an entirely new set to replace them. He has also undertaken to provide new ones as required.

Taken together, the Rogers Window and the collection of shields at Government House form an important part of the history and heraldic legacy of British Columbia.



HRH  
The Princess  
Elizabeth  
1951



HRH  
The Duke of  
Edinburgh  
1951



TRH The Duke  
& Duchess of  
Cornwall and York  
1901



TRH The Earl  
& Countess  
of Wessex  
2006



The Rt. Hon.,  
The Earl of Dufferin  
1876



The Rt. Hon.  
Michaël Jean  
2006

Artwork: L. Patten



# National Conference Photos



Members giving their full attention to the speaker at the AGM



David Hjalmarson and Carl Larsen

National President  
Allan Bird  
and  
Chief Herald  
Claire Boudreau



Allan Bird with Lynn and Laurie Patten



Master of Ceremonies David Rumball  
and branch president Carl Larsen



Robb Watt takes a moment to appreciate  
his gift of an engraved silver plate



Clockwise from left John Neill, Duane Galles, Allan Ailo, Serge Malaison,  
Carolle Ailo, D'Arcy Boulton, David Hongisto, Graham Anderson





C. Larsen



C. Larsen

Arriving at Government House for the tour



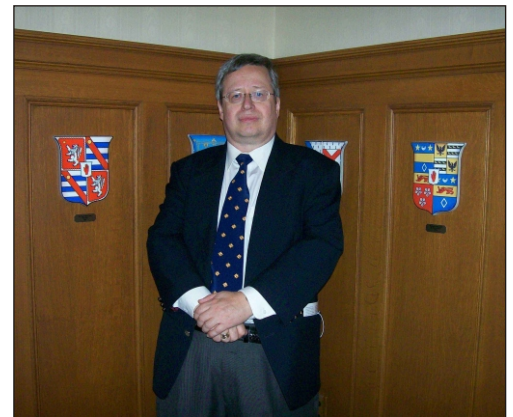
C. Larsen

Jonathan Carrothers conducting the tour of Christ Church Cathedral



A. Ailo

The impaled arms of Rt. Rev. Arthur Winnington-Ingram, on the Cathedral wall



Allan Ailo, branch vice-president, (and your humble Editor/Art Director) pauses from admiring Laurie Patten's shields on the main staircase in Government House.

*The arms of Earl Grey are on the left and arms of The Earl of Dufferin on the right.*

Br. Seán Beahen and Br. Shane Bengry at Government House



C. Larsen



Arms of City of Victoria



A. Ailo

Branch webmaster Lee Van Horne

## Welcome to New Members

We are very pleased to welcome Br. Seán Beahen UE, OSBCn and Br. Shane Bengry UE, OSBCn into membership in our branch. Both Séan and Shane are full time students in Vancouver and attended the recent conference in Victoria. They are looking forward to participating in Society activities during the forthcoming year.

# Grant of Arms for Christmas

by Carl Larsen

We understand that a grant of arms has been made, apparently by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, which is attracting attention from heraldists and others around the world. Because of its uniqueness and high level of interest, we are pleased to present both the blazon and artwork in the event you have not yet seen them. We invite our reader's comments which can be sent to [rhsc.bc.branch@gmail.com](mailto:rhsc.bc.branch@gmail.com) and will be published in the next issue of the BC Blazon.

**Arms:** Argent on a fess gules between two Christmas trees and a Christmas sleigh all proper, three gifts Argent wrapped ribbons Or.

**Crest:** Upon a torse Argent and Gules a Santa's hat proper.

**Supporters:** On a compartment of ice and snow, two reindeer proper gorged with Christmas ribbons Gules.

**Motto:** MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



## City of Surrey Selecting Logo

by Allan Ailo

Sadly, the city of Surrey is the latest municipality to fall prey to marketing madness by adopting a logo to replace their municipal arms. Surrey residents are being asked to vote for one of three choices, retaining the arms not being one of them.

A desire to create a visually attractive image for the city is certainly commendable. Unfortunately, however, it seems to be an article of faith that in order to do so, the arms must be replaced by a logo. Why is it that no one could conceive of keeping the arms or the badge as the main element of the visual identity plan?

One can always rely on the politicians or bureaucrats to provide justification by reading from the standardized marketing script. In this case, Mayor Dianne Watts offers her view that, "The logos are fresh and progressive." City Spokesman Darryl McCarron stated that the arms have an "institutional feel" and are easily confused with other arms. He went on to say that they are "producing something that is unique to Surrey. It has a more welcoming and contemporary feel". Oddly, I fail to see how the creative leap of using the letter "S" makes logo number 2 "unique to Surrey". One also wonders how anyone could possibly consider that rather menacing looking "shredder" logo to be welcoming.

In contrast, the arms have very clear and unique symbols relating to Surrey. As the beaver has been a

corporate symbol for most of Surrey's history, it was chosen as the main element in the arms by a Committee of Council in 1986-1987. The two wavy bars of argent and azure represent the two main rivers in the municipality, the Serpentine and the Nicomekl. The five mullets or in chief refer to the city's five historic town centres. In base is an image of the Peace Arch monument which marks the international boundary that is Surrey's southern border. The main tinctures of vert and or were selected to represent the land and economic wealth.

The city council of 1987 could not have conceived that the twentieth anniversary of the coat of arms would be celebrated by unceremoniously dumping it on the trash heap of history. One doubts that the "fresh" new logo du jour will last even that long.

*Quotes from The Province, Nov. 22, 2007, Page A9  
Logos from [www.surrey.com](http://www.surrey.com); Arms artwork: A. Ailo*



Arms of City of Surrey



# Attributed Arms Part I - Holy Arms

by Carl Larsen

Medieval heralds observed that all persons of consequence in their society were armigerous, so it followed that so too were important pre-heraldic historical and religious figures. Arms were devised for saints, martyrs, the apostles, the disciples as well as Old Testament prophets and kings. Illustrated are the attributed arms of Christ displaying the Instruments of His Passion. For the Virgin Mary several arms were devised and two of the most beautiful are shown here. The first depicts a heart, winged in allusion to the angel of the Annunciation, pierced by a sword, all on a blue shield to signify piety. The second depicts three white Madonna lilies in a gold vase, also on a blue field. It is widely believed that white Madonna lilies, the most enduring symbol of Mary, is where the armorial fleur-de-lis has its origins. Finally, because of the season, we include the

attributed arms of the Three Magi, or Wise Men of the Nativity, and leave it to our readers to interpret the symbolism and send us an email with your conclusions and we will publish them in the next issue.



Jesus



Arms attributed to Mary



Balthasar



Casper



Melchior

Illustrations: A. Ailo

## Another Farewell to Arms

### BC government abandons coat of arms in favour of logo

by Allan Ailo

To quote Yogi Berra: “It’s déjà vu all over again”. Our last issue brought you the story of the elimination of the civic arms from public view in Vancouver and their replacement by a new logo. Now the process is being repeated by the provincial government.

The elimination of government arms has become a trend in the public sector, with certain individuals making it their mission to eliminate coats of arms with a zeal not seen since citizens of eastern Europe took to the streets to tear down symbols of the fallen communist regime. Sadly, our elected representatives accept the advice of these individuals, seemingly without questioning their agenda.

In this case, what was designed to be a tourism marketing device (apparently its original intent in 2004) is now set to encompass all departments and aspects of the B.C. Provincial government.

Over the past century, since the shield, based on a design by Victoria Clergyman Arthur Beanlands, was granted by King Edward VII on March 31, 1906 (augmented and granted on October 15, 1987), the provincial arms have had many applications. The more enduring images are those set in stone, in the walls of buildings. Arms can be found on the Parliament buildings in Victoria, former government edifices such as Sinclair

## Erratum

Due to a technical difficulty, last issue’s print edition contained a lead article that had the wrong text on page 2. The article is printed here in its entirety. Your editor apologizes for the inconvenience.

Centre in downtown Vancouver and even on the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver (dating to 1938). These examples will still be there in the coming decades, but the arms on government vehicles, ferries, SkyTrain cars and, of course, business cards, letterheads and signage will, sadly, fade away much sooner.

The concept of businesses having a corporate identity started to become widespread in the 1960s, while the current saturation of logos and the mania of consumers displaying prominent logos to identify their allegiance to consumer products, dates back only about twenty five years. The origins of coats of arms dates back 900 years. Before approving new logos to replace arms, government decision makers should be asking themselves which device will likely be more enduring.

The new marketing mix for branding the province also includes a slogan: “The Best Place on Earth”. While logos and slogans, in the right circumstances, are very useful marketing tools, they are not always appropriate. Consider, for example, the rather mixed message being conveyed if the new logo and slogan were to be adopted by the B.C. Corrections Branch and applied over the gates of provincial prisons.

**Col. Philip (Pip) Despard Pemberton Holmes,**  
DFC, CD and AdeC  
1924 – 2007

In memory of our long time branch member Pip Holmes, an officer, a gentleman and a distinguished British Columbian who passed away on May 15th.

As a Wing Commander in the RCAF during World War II, Pip flew 33 missions in Halifax and Lancaster bombers, was awarded the DFC, and never failed to bring all his aircraft and crew back safely. When Pip was granted arms in August 2003, his crest included a Lancaster aircraft propeller in honour of his service.

Following the war, he joined Pemberton, Holmes Ltd., a real estate firm founded by his grandfather. In both his business and personal life he believed strongly in demonstrating the highest standards of citizenship, and was a proud Canadian.

Pip was President of the Air Force Association of Vancouver Island and the first commanding officer of an RCAF Auxiliary Reserve Squadron as well as Honorary Colonel of 11 (Victoria) Service Battalion. He also served with distinction in many business associations.

He was as Honorary Aide-de-Camp to many of British Columbia's Lieutenant Governors including the Honourable Iona Campagnolo, who described him perfectly at a dinner in his honour in 2006 as "a model of civility, restraint, loyalty, duty and a certain undefined elegance to which all of us aspire and we salute you on behalf of all those you have served" and then she proposed a toast "to a great partnership: Colonel Philip 'Pip' Holmes and his love, Catherine Holmes and the Crown of British Columbia."

Her Honour said it well, and all who knew him say, "Hear, hear".



RCAF  
433 Squadron



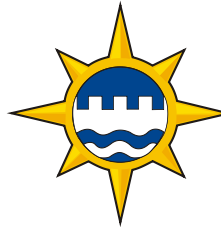
11 (Victoria)  
Service Battalion

# New Quebec City Branch Now Official

by Allan Ailo

The official announcement of the creation of our newest branch in Quebec City was made by Allan Bird at the National Conference dinner on October 13, with Serge Malaison, the branch president, in attendance.

That evening, while chatting with Serge, Allan Ailo sketched the design shown below for a proposed branch badge using the colours of Quebec's flag to depict the St. Lawrence River below the walls of the city. Quebec is the only walled city in North America. The design, will go to the National Board of the society for approval next month.



Proposed badge design



Serge Malaison

Photo: D. Cvet

## Editor & Art Director: Allan Ailo

*RHSC Website:* [www.heraldry.ca](http://www.heraldry.ca)

*Branch Website:* [www.bc-yukon.heraldry.ca](http://www.bc-yukon.heraldry.ca)



## BC/Yukon Branch Board of Directors

Carl Larsen  
604 817 0563

*President*  
[queensknight@gmail.com](mailto:queensknight@gmail.com)

Allan Ailo  
604 515 1360

*Vice-Pres. & Education Committee Chair*  
[allan\\_ailo@telus.net](mailto:allan_ailo@telus.net)

Shirley Greenwood, FRGS  
250 468 9770

*Secretary*  
[shirlgrr@hotmail.com](mailto:shirlgrr@hotmail.com)

Laurie Patten, FRHSC  
250 756 2143

*Treasurer & Past President*  
[patten@shaw.ca](mailto:patten@shaw.ca)

### Directors

Graham Anderson, FRHSC, Cowichan Herald Extraordinary

John W. Neill

Lee Van Horne

Gary Mitchell

*Membership Chairman*

*Webmaster*

© 2007, The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, British Columbia/Yukon Branch, unless otherwise indicated. Subscription rate: free to members and associates of the Branch. Our material may be quoted, unless otherwise indicated, without written permission in non-profit venues, but correct attribution is required. The material in The BC Blazon does not necessarily represent the views of The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, the BC/Yukon Branch or the Editor.

Income tax receipts are available for any donations to the Society. Contact the Treasurer or the Secretary at their e-mail addresses or telephone numbers on the list above. Donations may be designated for specific purposes.

The BC/Yukon Branch meets at least three times a year including the AGM and Annual Black Tie Dinner. Lectures and exhibitions are held whenever the opportunity arises. For membership information please contact either the Branch President or Secretary.

