



The Blazon

Patron of the BC/Yukon Branch: The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

SPRING 2015

ROYAL HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Spring edition of the *Blazon*! Since my last message, a very successful Branch dinner was held at the Grand Hotel Nanaimo when our Patron, the Hon. Judith Guichon OBC was our guest of honour. Her Honour gave a short presentation on her recently granted coat of arms, presented a vice-regal medallion to Rideau Herald Emeritus and to the President, and after dinner socialized with Branch members before beginning her return journey to Victoria. Some photos of the event have been published in the Annual Report.

I would like to thank Tom Mercer, who has kindly agreed to step in as interim editor for this edition of the *Blazon*. We hope to produce it on a regular basis in the future. Our Society, British Columbia and Canada are celebrating a series of events over the next several years, including famous victories in World War One, the 50th anniversary of the adoption of our National Flag this month and the forthcoming 50th birthday of our Society in 2016 and Canada's 150th in 2017. All of these have heraldic significance and our Branch is spearheading a project to ensure that each event is marked in some appropriate way that also raises the profile of our Society to the general public. With this in mind, our Branch, through the creativity of several of our board members, have produced a pair of commemorative bookmarks that have been sent to Society members and other interested persons along with a letter outlining the project and its objectives. A copy of the letter can be found in this edition of the *Blazon*.

In other news, our forthcoming Branch Annual General Meeting is coming up on Saturday, March 21st at the Travelodge in Duncan. Our guest speaker will be board director Mr. Tom Mercer, who has kindly agreed to present an illustrated talk on *Heraldic Representation in Stained Glass*. As mentioned in the last issue, our Branch

will be hosting this year's National AGM and Conference, to be held at the Coast Victoria Harbourside Hotel and Marina. This event will take place from May 22 – 24 and a block of rooms at the hotel have been set aside for Conference delegates. Our Beley Lecturer will be Hugh Brady, vexillologist and Secretary of the American Heraldry Society who will speak on *Of Flags and Formalities: What the Mother Science of Heraldry Might Learn from Her Children*. and the after dinner Wilkes Lecturer will be Snawdoun Herald and Clerk of the Lyon Court in Edinburgh, Mrs Elizabeth Roads. Mrs Roads has chosen an intriguing title to her presentation: *Nothing is New under the Sun*. A Saturday afternoon visit has been arranged to Government House, to allow delegates the opportunity to admire the heraldry in the Rogers Window and staircase and also the Lawrence J. Patten Heraldry Exhibit in the Cary Mews. It is hoped Her Honour will be able to join us for that event. Further details and a conference package will shortly be made available and I look forward to seeing many of you there!

John W. Neill, President, BC/Yukon Branch



RETIRING A BORROWED HERALDIC DEVICE

Lieutenant-Commander Steve Cowan, C.D., U.E.
(Chair, RHSC Heraldic Arts Committee and Vice
President, BC/Yukon Branch RHSC)

In the naval history of Canada there have been two commissioned ships that have been named His Majesty's Canadian Ship COMOX (HMCS COMOX). The first ship was a Fundy-class ship that served in the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) from 1938 to 1945. While she has a unique pennant number of J64, like other RCN vessels she did not enjoy having an official ship's badge. It wasn't until after the Second World War that the modern system of ship badges in the RCN was developed, and the driving force to establish modern RCN ship badges was Lieutenant-Commander Alan Beddoe, O.B.E., R.C.N.R. who later became the Founding President (1966-1967) of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada (RHSC).

By the time the second naval vessel called HMCS COMOX was launched in 1952 the system of ships' badges was established in the RCN. COMOX (2) was a Bay-class minesweeper, pennant number 146, and served on the west coast of Canada until being transferred to the Turkish navy in 1958 and renamed TIREBOLU. While I do not have a date of when the Sealed Pattern of the official RCN ship's badge of HMCS COMOX (2) was signed, she did enjoy having an official ship's badge, as shown below.



HMCS DISCOVERY

COMOX. Not quite as obvious as the ship's badge for, say, HMCS DISCOVERY where the pun is a disc over the letter "Y"



HMCS COMOX (2)

The design of the ship's badge of COMOX (2) is a heraldic oddity being a rebus or canting; an allusional device or visual pun of a combination of objects whose names can be used to form a name or phrase. For COMOX (2) the pun is a cock's comb over an ox head alluding to

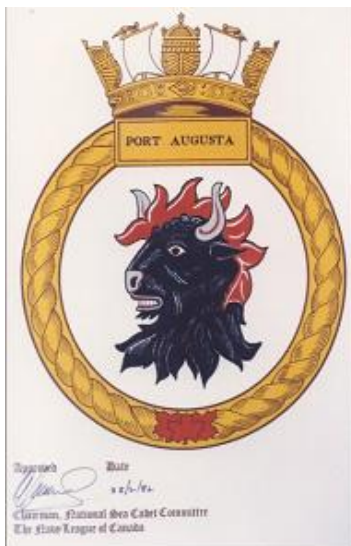
No RCN vessel has been named COMOX since COMOX (2) was paid off in 1957 prior to her disposal to the Turkish navy. Her ship's badge would have remained unused until, possibly, another vessel might be commissioned as COMOX (3).

In the late 1970s and early 1980s the Navy League of Canada, the civilian sponsor of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps (RCSCC), began to develop the artwork for the 200-plus sea cadet units across Canada. The RCSCC, named as such from 1942, is a youth organization that dates back to 1895 with the formation of the Boy's Naval Brigade. While the various units in the RCSCC have individual unit names, none enjoyed an official ship's badge until the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The formal Sealed Pattern for the various RCSCC units is issued by the Navy League of Canada. While the units of the RCSCC are staffed by officers of the Canadian Forces Cadet Instructor Cadre, the units are not commissioned like Naval Reserve Divisions; HMCS DISCOVERY in Vancouver BC for example. The members of the RCSCC are young men and women 12 to 18 years of age and are not members of the Canadian Armed Forces. The approval of the RCSCC unit badges lies with the civil sponsor, the Navy League of Canada, rather than with the military sponsor of the RCSCC, the Canadian Forces.

In 1982 a Sealed Pattern was issued by the Navy League of Canada for Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps PORT AUGUSTA, the sea cadet unit located at Goose Spit, Comox BC. The current RCSCC PORT AUGUSTA dates from 1964, although there had been earlier units of the

same name in Comox as far back as the Second World War (1939-1945). The ship's badge approved in 1982 was the badge of HMCS COMOX (2) simply re-named PORT AUGUSTA. The 'new' badge was used to embellish a variety of items from trophies to kisby rings and it was also engraved on a cutlass for use by the PORT AUGUSTA Guard Commander during formal parades. With the evolution of the sea cadet uniform from the 'square rig' to a military-style tunic, the various RCSCC units also wear a ship's badge on their tunic to compliment the unit name worn on the seaman's cap tally. Not surprisingly, the badge worn by PORT AUGUSTA sea cadets caused some confusion as no one really understood what it meant.



Original Sealed Pattern of
RCSCC PORT AUGUSTA

In the case of PORT AUGUSTA, the ship's badge, a pun of the name COMOX, didn't fit with the name PORT AUGUSTA. In May 2014 I was appointed as the Commanding Officer of RCSCC PORT AUGUSTA. I had previously been the Executive Officer of PORT AUGUSTA in 2003 – 2004 and, as a student of heraldry, I was curious about the history of the unusual ship's badge. As the new CO and being a member of the RHSC I thought I could correct the anomaly and create a badge more fitting to the unit's name.

In August 2014 I submitted to the Navy League of Canada the proposal and artwork for a new ship's badge. I had earlier sent the badge idea to Dr. Kevin Greaves, C.D., M.D., F.R.H.S.C., the RHSC Past President and current Chair of the Education Committee. Kevin had been the National Sea Cadet Chairman of the Navy League of Canada when the RCSCC badges were first considered and

developed. Besides the artwork, I also submitted the blazon to Kevin as part of my heraldry education development. Both the artwork and the blazon 'passed' Kevin's review. The Navy League of Canada approved the proposal and ship's badge design and issued a Sealed Pattern on 8 September 2014.



RCSCC PORT
AUGUSTA
New Ship's badge from
8 September 2014

On 4 November 2014 the new PORT AUGUSTA ship's badge was unveiled and the old badge retired. The occasion for the unveiling was special Ceremonial Divisions held at the Comox Centre Mall and was well attended by cadets, parents and friends, the Mayor of the Town of Comox, members of Comox Branch 160 of the Royal Canadian Legion and members of the Royal Canadian Naval Association. The Comox Legion also presented to PORT AUGUSTA a new naval cutlass with the new ship's badge etched onto the blade. Each PORT AUGUSTA sea cadet was issued a new badge to wear on their uniform.

BLAZON: *Per fess wavy Sable and Barry wavy of six Argent and Azure; a chief dancetty Argent, and over all a topsail schooner rigged and flagged proper.*

SIGNIFICANCE: The mountains are the Beaufort Mountain range (named after Rear Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort K.C.B., F.R.S., F.R.G.S., R.N., Chief Hydrographer of the Royal Navy) that overlook the Comox Harbour and is the background for the Comox Valley, the home of the City of Courtenay, Town of Comox and Village of Cumberland. The water represents the Comox Harbour, originally named Port Augusta. Port Augusta was named by Captain (later Vice Admiral Sir)

George Richards (K.C.B.,) R.N., for Augusta Baynes, the young daughter of Rear Admiral Sir Robert Baynes K.C.B., R.N., the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Station 1857-1860.

The sailing vessel, a topsail schooner, is from the badge of the Town of Comox and represents the naval and maritime history and activity on the Comox Harbour (Port Augusta) and the association of the Town of Comox and 189 RCSCC PORT AUGUSTA.

After 32 years of using a borrowed heraldic device, RCSCC PORT AUGUSTA now has her own ship's badge that depicts her name.

References:

- ① Image from www.readyayeready.com;
- ② Department of National Defence, Directorate of History and Heritage, Official Lineages, Volume 2: Ships; Part 1: Extant Commissioned Ships;
- ③ RHSC Ship Badge Project; personal collection of RCSCC Sealed Patterns from the Navy League of Canada;
- ④ Letter 4470-1000-1-1404 (CO 189 RCSCC) from Commanding Officer 189 RCSCC PORT AUGUSTA to President, Comox Valley Branch – Navy League of Canada dated 24 August 2014;
- ⑤ E-mail 9 September 2014 from National Office, Navy League of Canada with attached copy of Sealed Pattern created 8 September 2014.

AN ARMORIAL SAUCE TUREEN

John W. Neill

In the last issue of the *Blazon*, I wrote about a soup tureen with an interesting past; in this article, I write about the soup tureen's 'little brother', the sauce tureen. This example was acquired in London and dates from 1804, being made by the London silversmith William Hunter II. As with the soup tureen, its style is somewhat unusual for the period, the neo-classical or 'Adam' style being much more fashionable at this time. The style of handle chosen for the tureen is also unusual, if elegant, and several years ago I chanced upon a reference to their likely inspiration, the mid-first century BC Tivoli hoard of Roman table silver. This hoard was found in the 1770s in an olive grove near Tivoli and provided a model for designers who wished to capitalize on the taste for antiquities, developed

as a result of the aristocratic Grand Tours and the recent discoveries at Pompeii and Herculaneum.



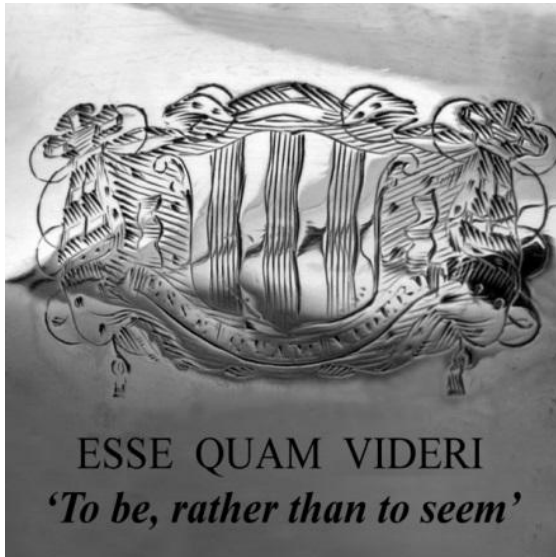
Sauce tureen by William Hunter II



Mid-First Century BC Tivoli Hoard

Apart from its unusual handles, the sauce tureen also displays on both flanks *On a robe of estate Argent three pallets wavy Gules* the arms of the Downes family, of Great Melton, Norfolk. Markings on the tureen's lid indicates this example was originally one of a set of eight such tureens – a considerable number for all but the grandest households. Another unusual characteristic of this piece, and which is generally confined to sauce tureens and entrée dishes, is the use of the crest-finial. This presents one of the few occasions in the present day of being able to

experience a crest in all three dimensions! Here we have in 3D form a wolf's head Argent charged with a mullet, the Downes family crest. This item has been known to hold *Sauce velouté* on the occasion of present-day dinner parties and when not in use does admirable duty as a table centrepiece and an item of functional heraldry!



A PATTEN-TO-PATTEN PRESENTATION

Shirley Greenwood

When my late husband Major Alex Greenwood joined the BC/Yukon Branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada and first saw Laurie Patten's coat of arms featuring, appropriately, a *patten Or* in base, not only was Alex a member of The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers (*arms to top sinister*), he had actually acquired at auction many years previously a patten dated 1753. For the unfamiliar, a patten is a clog-type shoe made

of solid wood and usually fitted with a metal heel. This was worn as an undershoe by ladies travelling by coach, who would wear the clog under their shoes so that they did not get caught up in the muddy streets of those days. Laurie had never before seen a patten and Alex felt that when he passed on that Laurie, having the patten connection, was the right person to inherit it.



Shirley Greenwood presenting the patten to Laurie Patten.



The arms of Lawrence John Patten

Multi-year Anniversary Program – Commemorative Bookmarks

Dear Member,

The two Branches of the Royal Heraldry Society in British Columbia and the Yukon are pleased to announce a Multi-Year Anniversary Program in commemoration of the following five events:

- **100th Anniversary of the Great War**
- **50th Anniversary of the Adoption of Canada's National Flag in February 2015**
- **50th Anniversary of the Foundation of the RHSC in October 2016**
- **150th Anniversary of Confederation in July 2017**
- **150th Anniversary of British Columbia's joining Confederation in July 2021**

Publications including brochures, articles on symbols and national/provincial identity, etc. will be part of this initiative. In this regard we are pleased to announce the first two in a series of commemorative bookmarks, a useful handout tool which illustrates and illuminates these symbols of identity. The first bookmark is to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of Canada's National Flag on February 15th 1965. The second bookmark is meant to honour the 19 infantry battalions that were raised in British Columbia and sent overseas to Europe; nine fought in the Great War earning some 142 Battle Honours and are perpetuated in present day BC regiments.



National Flag of Canada
Day is February 15.

The National Flag of Canada was first flown on February 15, 1965.

The design of the National Flag of Canada required a new heraldic design called a Canadian pale.



Pale

The centre portion of a pale was increased from one-third to one-half of the width to make a Canadian pale.

Examples of various flags used in Canada

The National Flag of Canada is red and white, the official colours of Canada as appointed by King George V in 1921, with a stylized 11-point red maple leaf in its centre.



English Canada to 1606



French Canada to 1763



British Canada from 1606



British Canada from 1606



Canada to 1965

Published by the BC/Yukon Branch and the Vancouver Branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada to commemorate significant events in Canadian history.

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Heraldry - the floral border in the garden of history.
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British Columbia in the First World War (1914-1918)



(Canadian flag during World War One)

Of the 19 infantry battalions that were raised in British Columbia and sent overseas to Europe, 9 fought earning some 142 Battle Honours and are perpetuated in present day BC regiments.

Unit	Division and Brigade	Divisional patch
2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles	formed 7 November 1914 3rd Can. Div. / 8th Inf. Bde.	
7th Battalion (1st British Columbia)	formed 2 September 1914 1st Can. Div. / 2nd Inf. Bde.	
16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish)	formed 2 September 1914 1st Can. Div. / 3rd Inf. Bde.	
29th Battalion (Vancouver)	formed 7 November 1914 2nd Can. Div. / 6th Inf. Bde.	
47th Battalion (British Columbia)	formed 7 November 1914 4th Can. Div. / 10th Inf. Bde.	
48th Battalion, later named 3rd Pioneer Battalion	formed 7 November 1914 3rd Can. Div. HQ	
67th Battalion, later named 4th Pioneer Battalion	formed 20 April 1915 4th Can. Div. HQ	
72nd Battalion (Seaforth Highlanders)	formed 10 July 1915 4th Can. Div. / 12th Inf. Bde.	
102nd Battalion (Northern B.C.)	formed 22 December 1915 4th Can. Div. / 11th Inf. Bde.	

Soldiers from these BC units earned a total of 9 Victoria Crosses amongst the many decorations awarded during The Great War.

Published by the BC/Yukon Branch and Vancouver Branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada to commemorate significant events of British Columbia in Canadian history.

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A total of 2,500 copies of each bookmark have been printed and a copy of each are being mailed to all members of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada in BC & the Yukon, as well as National Board members and committee chairs. Should any member be a participant in a community based Flag Day event on February 15th, a limited supply of the Flag bookmarks can be made available. Requests should be emailed to BC/Yukon Branch Secretary, Don Mayers at mayersdg@telus.net. The Battalion bookmark will be distributed to regimental units & museums throughout British Columbia. We wish to thank the Royal Bank of Canada for their \$500 volunteer Grant which will go towards covering printing costs associated with these two bookmarks.