



The Blazon

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

SUMMER 2017 ROYAL HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA Vol. 12, No.2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The rain last Sunday at the Battle of Britain parade at 19 WING Comox was the harbinger of the autumnal equinox and the end of a long hot summer. British Columbia has had its heaviest season of forest fires and more that 100 fires are still burning. We drove to southern Alberta and back for a family gathering in Taber AB (check out the interesting details of the municipal arms at www.taber.ca). The journey there via the Kootenays was very enjoyable; even snagged a heraldry booklet at a used book store in Kaslo BC. The return trip in mid-July saw heavy smoke at Osoyoos BC; the smoking coming south from the fires burning in the Thompson Region.



Governor General Designate Julie Payette had her first audience with Her Majesty The Queen on September 20, 2017. The meeting took place at Balmoral Castle, Her Majesty's summer residence in Scotland.

Photographer: External source from www.gg.ca

Reference: AP168771164920

On the heraldry front we await the installation on 2 October of Governor General Designate Julie Payette as our new Governor General and the unveiling of her arms. Traditionally, the Governor General is also the Patron of the Royal Heraldry Society. During the autumn a new Vice-Patron will also be appointed following the retirement of Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin from the Supreme Court bench by 15 December 2017. The Chief Justice has traditionally been our Vice-Patron.

The notice on our 21 October black tie dinner was distributed earlier this month; we look forward to seeing you there. Our next significant event is our Annual General Meeting. While no date or location has been determined by your Branch Board, I envision we will again use an early March of late February date in 2018, while a location in Victoria might expand our heraldic contacts.

Don't forget to consider articles for our Branch publication, *The Blazon*. Our editor, John Neill, is always interested in getting news or details from members to help spread the word about heraldry

Steve Cowan, L.R.H.S.C, Branch President

HERALDRY FOR THE HEREAFTER

With the modern development of heraldry in Canada, all Canadians can petition for a grant of arms regardless of gender, and with the evolution of Canadian heraldry and the establishment of the Canadian Heraldic Authority (CHA), all Canadians have an opportunity to pass an honour from our Sovereign onto their children and future generations. A quick check in the Public Registry of the CHA shows an amazing array of arms that include cadet shields as armigers look to include arms in their heritage and legacy. While future generations may enjoy the inheritance of arms, and their continuance, your arms can also continue to be seen after you are gone.

Dating back several centuries, arms for the departed can be seen in ‘hatchments’. A 16th century derivation of the word ‘achievement’, these are diamond-shaped boards that display the arms of the late armiger. These hatchments have customarily been displayed at the doorway of the armiger’s residence and at their church. The black background of a hatchment can have a white division to indicate a surviving spouse.

While not a common practice in Canada, examples can be found throughout the British Isles. Historical examples of hatchments used in Canada include the those in Saint Paul’s Anglican Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The church was built in 1750; prior to the American Revolutionary War and a century before Canadian Confederation. In the photograph of the church interior you can see several hatchments on display, easily identified by their lozenge shape. The hatchment in the dexter chief of the photograph is that of Brigadier-General Charles Lawrence (14 December 1709 – 19 October 1760), a British military officer who also served as Lieutenant Governor and subsequently Governor of Nova Scotia. The hatchment says ‘Governor Charles Lawrence’ and is simply dated ‘1760’.



Hatchments hung in Saint Paul’s Anglican Church, Halifax NS.
Photo credit: www.stpaulshalifax.org



Hatchment of Captain T.C. Pullen
Artwork by Gordon Macpherson CM, FRHSC, FRSA,
FSA (Scot) Niagara Herald Extraordinary BRANCH

A modern example of a Canadian hatchment is that of Captain Thomas Charles Pullen, O.C., D.S.C., C.D., R.C.N. Captain Pullen was the 4th President of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada. His hatchment was unveiled in Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa ON, on 27 October 1991 during a special service on the 25th anniversary of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada.

An example of a hatchment of a fellow Branch member is that of another naval officer, Commander Evan Petley-Jones, C.D., R.C.N. Evan was a very keen member of the Society; both his sons as well as his grandchildren are armigerous. A tree of his family arms is very impressive and an exciting example of the use of Canadian cadet arms; but that's another story. Evan's hatchment can be seen in Saint Paul's Anglican Church in Nanaimo BC.



Hatchment of Commander Even Petley-Jones
Artwork by Laurie Patten FRHSC, SHA and Steve Cowan CD, UE, LRSHC, SHA.



Hatchment of Commander Even Petley-Jones displayed in Saint Paul's Church, Nanaimo BC.
Photo by Steve Cowan

For armigerous couples, the background of the hatchment has a different design. Local BC member, Major Alex Greenwood passed away in 2012. Alex was a very dedicated member of our Society and his wife, Shirley Greenwood, F.R.G.S., F.R.H.S.C. (Hon.), is also armigerous and another hardworking Branch member.

Their marshalled arms were the first arms of a couple impaled by the Canadian Heraldic Authority. For a concept hatchment for Alex, the

background is per pale Sable and Argent; to the sinister in the Argent division may be found the spousal arms of Shirley, with Alex's achievement shown in the centre and the RHSC arms to the dexter, in recognition of his membership in our Society.

One practice the BC/Yukon Branch has implemented is to show a hatchment for our late armigerous members. This can be seen online at the Branch website at <http://bc-yukon.heraldry.ca/black-arms.php>. While you may or may not have a church where your arms can be seen, you can rest in peace assured that your hatchment can be seen online and available to everyone.



Hatchment of Major Alex Greenwood
Artwork by Laurie Patten FRHSC, SHA and Steve Cowan CD, UE, LRSHC, SHA.

This would make an interesting project for the Society to have a hatchment as part of the national members roll. And having a hatchment ready may be part of your estate planning; an item in your will.

Steve Cowan

ECLIPSED DEVICES

Members of our Branch were treated this Summer to a heavenly display of an almost-total eclipse of the sun. A lucky few made the 500km trip south to Oregon to experience the real deal, a total eclipse and all this makes one wonder if arms were ever granted that were inspired by a solar eclipse. Surely, such a dramatic celestial event would find a prominent place on some deserving shields. Well, apparently, on not many.

A search of officially granted arms came up with just one hit, belonging to Stephen Cripps, a fellow Canadian in New Brunswick. In this case the 'eclipse' was found in the crest, not on the shield. The blazon includes: "...a sun in splendour Or the centre half eclipsed sable charged with a horseshoe counterchanged".

Since no symbolism is available, it is not clear whether or not a solar eclipse is to be inferred. So, what thinks the readership? Is there a solar eclipse occurring in the crest?

Since the 'normal' world of heraldry does not seem to be impressed with eclipses, it was found necessary to branch out to alternate universes. Here is one that depicts a partial eclipse, which is surprising. Why go half measure? And yet, it works. It comes from the Game of Thrones world and represents the house Pryor of Pebble. Notice that the mantling violates the tincture convention. It works in this case as, presumably, the heraldist wished to give a sense of 'twilight' in the periphery of the actual eclipse.

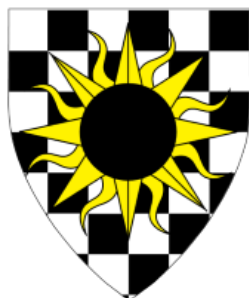


Let us now go to another world, that of the SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism). The SCA has a huge armorial amongst its various kingdoms. Here are a couple of shields selected from random.



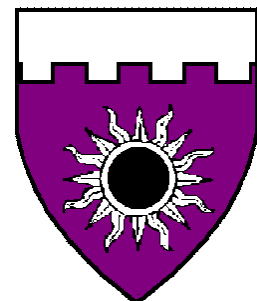
Agememnon Platolithidae has a nice, simple blazon:

"Checky Sable and Argent a sun Or eclipsed Sable."



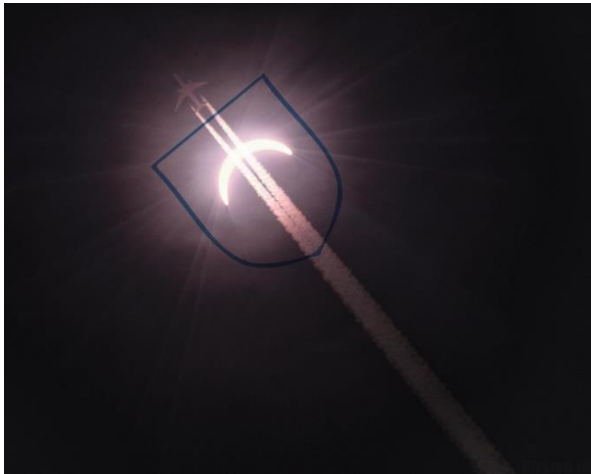
Ivan Grimbeam's shield, like that of Pryor, uses purpure to symbolize twilight.

Now we come to a remarkable photo that was fabricated from two photos but is still amazing. Two posters on Reddit were discussing what the blazon would be if a shield was drawn around it. (Don't heraldists have better things to do?)



Impeesh suggested:

"Sable a crescent inverted overall two piles invected and inverted all Argent."



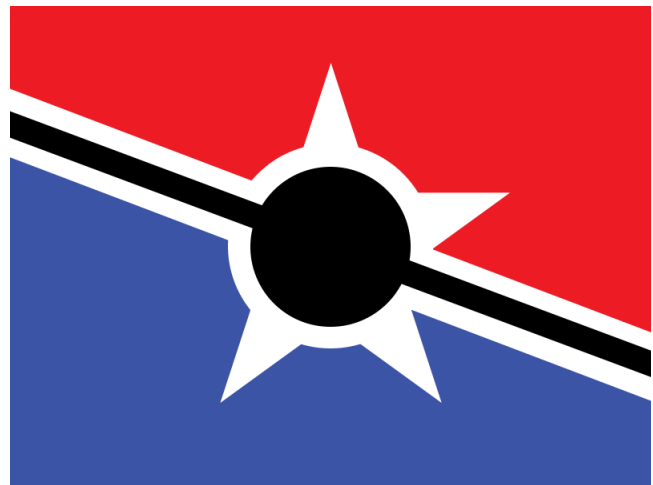
CorvosKK countered with:

"Sable a pallet Argent charged throughout with a pile of the first overall a crescent reversed of the second."

So, are these guys on the right track? Which is better?

Let us finish off with a flag that represents the August 21st eclipse. This was composed by iotafox of Reddit, inspired by the logo of the Great American Eclipse website. It would seem that iotafox is a competent vexillologist. The design is relatively uncluttered but holds a lot of symbolism.

Lee Van Horne



HERALDRY EXHIBITIONS

Branch members participated in manning our Branch heraldry exhibition at the following events:

5-6 August 2017 – Nautical Days in Comox BC. Our heraldry display was part of the history and heritage displays of the Comox Archives and Museum Society. We had the use of one of the new civic function rooms located at the Comox Marina.

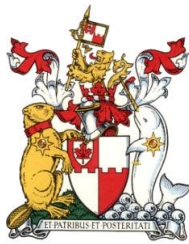
9 September 2017 – REXSPO – 19 WING Community Day at the Canadian Forces Fitness and Community Centre at 19 Wing Canadian Forces Base COMOX, Cape Lazo BC.



Branch heraldry display at the Comox Nautical Days
Photo by Steve Cowan



Branch heraldry display REXSPO
manned by Steve Cowan (left) and John Neill (right) Photo by Lewis Bartholomew



The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada



British Columbia / Yukon Branch

Patron - The Honourable Judith Guichon, O.B.C.
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

ANNOUNCING OUR 2017 ANNUAL BLACK TIE DINNER

Date: Saturday October 21st 2017

Time: Cash Bar 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm

Place: Oceanfront Suites at Cowichan Bay

1681 Cowichan Bay Road

Cowichan Bay, BC

Phone: 250 751 1000 or 1 800 663 7898

Web Site: <http://www.oceanfrontcowichanbay.com/>

For those who would like to stay overnight, we have reserved a block of 10 one-bedroom King & Double Queen Suites at the Oceanfront Suites at Cowichan Bay, available until October 9th 2017 at a price of \$159 (reg \$188). To claim a room from the Block, you must call the Hotel before October 9th 2017 and reference the Block under the name of the **Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, BC/Yukon Branch**. All remaining rooms in the complex have been reserved by another customer and they are looking for additional rooms, so if you will require a room we suggest booking before the Room Release Date of October 9th, 2017.

Dress: Black Tie, Military or Highland Dress and Decorations

Cost: \$75 pp (including a bottle of red & white wine at each table of 6 people & a glass of port for toasts).

Shirley Greenwood Lecture Guest Speaker: Dr. Andrew Andersen

While our heraldic heritage is of United Kingdom and Western European origins, the topic of the after-dinner talk will be the influence and use of Eastern European heraldry in modern Canadian heraldry.

Dr. Andrew Andersen was born in Russia in 1959 in a family of mixed Baltic German and Polish descent and grew up in Siberia and Latvia. At the age of 15 he became interested in heraldry under the influence of his family history. Since then his research base has grown significantly, and he also became an amateur heraldic artist.

Andrew received his Master's degree and Ph.D. from Moscow State University in History and Political Science. His Ph.D. thesis analyzed the US role in the Vietnam War (1962-75) and its mass media coverage. At the beginning of the Perestroika, Andersen left the USSR and settled in Germany, where he worked for Schleswig-Holstein Academy of Economics and Management in Kiel (Schleswig-Holstein, Germany). In 1994, Andrew Andersen emigrated to Canada. Between 1994 and 2003, Andrew taught History and Political Science at Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria while doing intensive research into the dynamics of the political situation and conflicts in various unstable areas of the world. In 2003 he became a National Fellow at the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary (Canada).

Andrew has written a number of books and articles for national and international professional magazines on ethnic, territorial and ideological conflicts, as well as on other international security-related issues, with emphasis on the South Caucasus. He also teaches a number of history-related courses at the Department of Continuing Studies at the University of Victoria and works as a translator.

A SHORT HERALDIC GETAWAY

We all enjoy a break from the usual routine; albeit a long vacation abroad or a short staycation (to use the phrase from ‘Corner Gas’). Living in sunny Comox we finally took off to see the upper part of Vancouver Island, but we didn’t plan to get to the actual top of the Island at Cape Scott. That’s a bit too adventurous for us and having a face-to-face encounter with carnivorous wildlife would have made the hike a bit more challenging.

While it wasn’t the purpose of the trip, passing through several armigerous communities along the way made the trip a bit more interesting. A short 45-minute trip up the east coast of the Island



Southern approach to Campbell River BC on Highway 19A from Comox BC.

Photo from Google Maps.

is the City of Campbell River. Approaching from the south on Highway 19A is the armigerous welcome sign. The municipal arms are proudly displayed for all to see.

The municipality was incorporated on 24 June 1947. The arms were matriculated by the Court of Lord Lyon in Edinburgh, Scotland on 5 September 1987. This was a year before the Canadian Heraldic

Authority (CHA) was established. The CHA did design and approve the municipal flag in 1988. As typical with Scottish arms the motto is across the top of the arms.



The flag of Campbell River BC from 1988



The arms of Campbell River BC matriculated 5 September 1987

Carrying on north, our next stop was the Village of Sayward, which is armigerous! This small community of 311, from the 2016 census, is about 16 kms off Highway 19 and is located on Johnstone Strait, the body of water that separates Vancouver Island from the BC mainland at that point. As you approach the large bay you turn at the large welcome sign boasting the Village arms.



The arms of Sayward BC
Granted 21 October 1991



Welcome to armigerous Sayward BC
Photo by Steve Cowan

The village is named after American lumber merchant William Parsons Sayward who came to the Island in the 1850s. The Village was incorporated on 27 June 1968 and was granted arms by the CHA on 21 October 1991. Sayward is also one of the few armigerous municipalities in BC that have their arms on their website. Check out <https://www.sayward.ca/>. We also saw the arms on a sign for the Village maintenance yard but no flags were seen.



The grant of arms of Port Alice BC, out of public view.
Photo by Steve Cowan

Next, and last, of our exploration of armigerous communities on the upper part of Vancouver Island, is Port Alice BC. Some 36 kms from Highway 19, the Village of Port Alice is tucked away on Neroutsos Inlet accessed by water from the west coast of Vancouver Island and the Pacific Ocean. Established in 1917 as a logging community, it was named after Alice Whelan, the mother of the lumber mill's founding brothers. Port Alice was incorporated as a Village on 16 June 1965 and was granted arms by the CHA on 5 May 1999. Unfortunately, the arms are not on the large direction sign on Highway 19. At the Village the arms were only shown as a small image on a historical information sign. I



The arms of Port Alice BC
Granted 5 May 1999

stopped at the Village office and was shown the actual grant of arms. Regrettably, the framed arms were hidden away in a back office hallway; the observation being that the Village council office was too sunny for the document.

Adding a bit of heraldry was a nice benefit to exploring our Island. We also wandered Telegraph Cove, Port Hardy, Coal Harbour, Port McNeill and also took the ferry over to Malcolm Island to wander around the Finnish village of Sointula. Alas, no municipal heraldry exists at these places but it is well worth the time to explore the less travelled northern communities of Vancouver Island.

Steve Cowan L.R.H.S.C.
/heraldic artisan



HERALDIC BOOKENDS



Ideal for office,
study or library

Choose from solid
walnut, oak or cherry
in two styles

Desktop style

Price includes
original artwork

Shield size is
12.1cm by 15.2cm
(4¾" by 6")



Shelf style

Call 250 890 0225 or email:
stevecowanartist@yahoo.ca

www.stvecowan.ca

THE BLAZON

President – Steve Cowan C.D. U.E. L.R.H.S.C. S.H.A.

Tel: +1 250 890-0225 bc_yukon@heraldry.ca

Editor – John W. Neill F.R.H.S.C. (Hon.), M.S.A.

© 2017, The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, British Columbia/Yukon Branch, unless otherwise indicated.

<http://bc-yukon.heraldry.ca>



BOARD MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA / YUKON BRANCH

President: - Steve Cowan C.D., U.E., L.R.H.S.C., S.H.A.

Vice-President: - Tom Mercer

Past-President: - John W. Neill F.R.H.S.C. (Hon.), M.S.A

Hon. Secretary: - Gary Mitchell

Hon. Treasurer: - Don Mayers

Webmaster/Director: - Lee Van Horne

Blazon Editor/Director: – John W. Neill F.R.H.S.C. (Hon.), M.S.A.

Director: – Lesley Patten

Director: - David Hjalmarson C.D.

