



# The Blazon

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

WINTER 2018

ROYAL HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A belated Happy New Year! We're already 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the way through the year. By now you would have received the items for our 2018 Annual General Meeting for 10 March. This is being held at the Union Club of British Columbia on Gordon Street in downtown Victoria. We have our Branch secretary, Mr. Gary Mitchel to thank for arranging this at his club and I certain everyone will enjoy the comfort and ambiance of the Union Club. If you have not received or seen the AGM notice, it has been included in this copy of the BC Blazon.

We had wanted to have four copies of the Branch newsletter out; one per season. The snag is getting material for publication. In the last issue I had included a short story of a trip to the upper reaches of Vancouver Island; I wrote this from a heraldic angle for the interest of members. If you are out and about or you spot an item of heraldic interest please think about dropping our Editor, John Neill, a line. We can help with any writing assistance as required; even help with adding any photos you have taken.



*Christmas card to us from the CHA*

Over the holiday period at Christmas I received a card from the Chief Herald, Dr. Claire Boudreau, and her Heralds of Arms at the Canadian Heraldic Authority in Ottawa. I took this as a card to all our BC/Yukon Branch members. Please check out the new Governor-General's Coat of Arms developed by the CHA; you can find details and

access to the CHA at [www.gg.ca](http://www.gg.ca).

With the approaching AGM you also have an opportunity to join our branch board of directors. New ideas as always welcome as we strive to achieve the aim of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada to promote Canadian heraldry to Canadians.

If you are interested in conducting a heraldry presentation to a specific group or to the general public, please keep in mind we have a PowerPoint presentation available. It can be adjusted to suit your audience.

In late April we will have a branch heraldry table at the Qualicum Beach Family History Society Conference. This is being held at the Beach Club



*Arms of our new Governor-General, the Right Honourable Julie Payette  
C.C.. C.M.M.. C.O.M.. C.O.. C.D.*

Resort, in Parksville BC, on Friday 20 April and Saturday 21 April. While this is a gathering of genealogists, both local and from away, heraldry is closely related to genealogy. From doing various presentations with the QBFHS, we have been asked to have an information booth at this event. It should be fun and I am looking for volunteers for either day or both. If you want to attend for the genealogy check out the details at [www.qbfhs.ca](http://www.qbfhs.ca).

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

## A SHORT TOUR OF THE BLAZON ARCHIVE

Reaching the 50<sup>th</sup> issue milestone seems to be a good time to talk about one of your branch's projects, the archiving of past issues of the *Blazon*. As the number of issues grow, so does the value of the branch's publication, particularly in documenting heraldry in BC and the Yukon. Preserving this valuable asset, and making it readily available, is of considerable concern to your board.

For the first half of its life so far, the *Blazon* was mailed out to members in forms varying from simple newsletters to high quality, glossy issues filled with colourful heraldry. With the advent of e-issues in 2007, it was an easy matter to start archiving these newer Blazons onto our branch website, a practice still done to this day. Greatly supplementing this growing archive is an on-going project of scanning and incorporating into our website the older, paper issues (issues published before 2007). This project is almost complete, with eight issues left to be done.

Current and archived issues of the *Blazon* had always been for 'members eyes only'. However, in 2017, the branch board decided to release the archive to the general public. (Recent issues – those belonging to the most recent volume – are still restricted to current branch members.) So, what can be found in this archive? What follows is a short tour of what can be discovered within the many pages of our branch heritage, broken down under the various editors.

### **The Robb Watt Era (1982 - 1986)**

If you are interested in branch history, there is no better place to start than with the very first issue (March 1982) put out by the *Blazon's* creator, Robb Watt, which documents the first meeting of BC members of the Society. The issues immediately following this inaugural issue follows the birth process of our branch. (In an issue quite a bit later, Spring 2017, there is a summary of this beginning history titled *Branch Beginnings*.) Many of these issues also show examples of heraldry as can be found while travelling in BC.



### **The Rean Meyer Era (1997 - 2001)**

Rean Meyer was a prolific writer and many of his issues were quite substantial. Some were over 20 pages long and touched upon many aspects of heraldry. The branch's activities and events were well documented in these pages, but he definitely did not confine himself to provincial borders. Rean had his causes, too. He would often take up arms against the misuse of arms and titles. Check out Autumn 1999 (p.9) and Winter 2001 (p.6) as he swings his battle pen.



### The Laurie Patten Era (2002 – 2006)

When Laurie took over the editorship, there was a huge change in style. Wordy articles were replaced with, surprise, surprise, heraldry – colourful, dramatic heraldry on every page. A hallmark of his issues were front pages completely covered by a branch member's recently granted arms. Unfortunately, these issues have not yet been scanned, but they are next on the list. See, below, an example of one of Laurie's covers.



*An example of one of Laurie Patten's front covers, depicting the achievement of branch member James MacKendrick, who passed away the following year.*

### The Allan Ailo Era (2007 - 2013)

The biggest change that happened when Allan took over was that the *Blazon* would no longer be delivered by Canada Post. The cost of postage had become prohibitive and we were forced to embrace technology. The *Blazon* finally joined the 21<sup>st</sup> century and became a digital publication.

The articles were mostly written by Carl Larsen, who was the branch president through much of this period. His articles touched on many heraldic topics. There was one theme, however, that came up a number of times. Carl would take up arms, not against the misuse of arms as Rean did, but against the replacing of perfectly good and properly granted municipal arms with squiggly-line logos. If you are concerned about what is happening with municipal arms, these would be good articles to read. Check out the first one, Winter 2007.

**The Darren George Era (2014 - 2015)**

When Allan left to become president of the Vancouver branch, there was a mad scramble to find a replacement editor, at which point Darren George stepped to the plate and, with much help from branch president John Neill, prevented a break in publication. Darren was only editor for a short time until John took over.

**The John Neill Era (2016 - present)**

Eventually, John traded in the president's gavel for the editor's pen. Under his watch, the pool of writers widened somewhat, creating a wider range of writing styles and topics. In his first year as editor, he pumped out four issues, which had never been done before. See Spring 2016 for an interesting article on the Von Schuckmann arms. If any of this has piqued your interest, you can find the archive on our website at [bc-yukon.heraldry.ca](http://bc-yukon.heraldry.ca)



**Epilogue**

As noted above, this project is not complete. Besides there being issues still to be scanned, there are also some issues that we do not have at all. Members who would like to help out in this project are encouraged to look through their back issues and see if they have any of the following:



- Spring/Summer 2000
- Spring 2001
- Winter/Spring 2004
- Summer/Fall 2004

If you hit treasure, please contact the editor!

Acknowledgements are made to Carl Larsen and John Neill for being the forerunners of this archive project.

*Lee Van Horne*

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Our RHSC Branch will be manning a heraldry information and display booth 20 and 21 April 2018. This will be at the genealogy conference organized by the



being held in Parksville BC.

If you can help the conference attendees by answering questions about Canadian heraldry this is an opportunity to promote Canada's best kept secret.

If you can spare any time during either of the days please contact our coordinator at [BC\\_Yukon@heraldry.ca](mailto:BC_Yukon@heraldry.ca).

**STUDENT MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT**

Don't forget, the RHSC has adjusted the membership fees for students; it is \$35 for full-time students - with no age restriction!



All you need is to provide a copy of your International Student Identification Card as issued by a Canadian educational institution.

## HERALDIC STAINED GLASS DOWNUNDER

While I lived in New Zealand from 1970 to 1980, I hadn't been back there for nearly twenty years. I used the occasion of visiting family in Australia to also visit cousins and friends in Auckland. The city has changed quite a bit and it was interesting visiting old haunts, one of which was the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Located in a park domain in downtown Auckland, this large structure is considered one of the finest Greco-Roman style buildings in the Southern Hemisphere. It was built in 1929 through public subscription of Auckland residents in remembrance of the sacrifice made during World War One as the third Auckland museum. It is not a war museum; it is a war memorial museum and, as such, has a wide variety of cultural and heritage displays that also includes some areas of military remembrance. Around the exterior are 44 WWI battle scenes in the frieze.



*Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland NZ, built 1929.  
Photo from: [www.authors.org.nz](http://www.authors.org.nz)*

I often visited the Museum and recall helping as a volunteer sorting some of the military artifacts to make space for new items. The purpose of my recent visit in November 2017 was to discuss heraldry with Mr. Roger Barnes, Treasurer of the Heraldry Society of New Zealand. I had made contact with Roger before I left sunny Comox and we

arranged to meet. Roger drove us to the Museum and we entered through the new underground parking area and new modern visitor entrance that were completed as part of the recent renovations and developments. We set off to explore the ground floor of the museum, making our way to the large columned front entrance area (as seen in the photo, above). In the main foyer the light spilled down from the huge heraldically decorated stained glass skylight four floors above. Once on the top floor we got a better view of the skylight details.

Around the four sides of the skylight are arranged sixteen shields of the arms of prominent nations and former colonies of the British Empire. Some of the arms were easily identified, like Great Britain, Canada and New Zealand. Some took a little research to get the right name. Malta was easy, as was India. It was fun getting the correct name for the right shield. The background shadows obscured some of the shield images, such as the one for Gibraltar. Plus there were more colonies not included.



*Main entrance skylight  
Photo credit: Daniel Vorndran*

*Original arms of New Zealand (1911)  
to dexter – replaced with the current  
version in 1958  
(NZ Government)*





Straits Settlements Malaya Ceylon India



Newfoundland South Africa Kenya Gibraltar



Australia New Zealand Great Britain Canada



Malta Jamaica Fiji Channel Islands

*Cropped panels from the stained-glass skylight at the Auckland War Memorial Museum illustrating and identifying the arms.*

*Photos by Steve Cowan*

Around the mezzanine floor were various memorial panels and displays relating to WWI. There were also several large maps that showed the principal engagements of the war, and around these maps were the various arms of British dominions and colonies. This made for an interesting collection of colourful arms of former colonies that are mostly now independent nations, and mostly still within the Commonwealth.



*One of the large wall maps: note the national arms in chief and base.*

*Photo by Steve Cowan*

The Arms of allied nations were also included in several displays. As a world war, the 1914 -1918 Great War included allied nations not typically associated with this conflict. Below are some of the allied nations' arms from Central and South America.



*Some of the allied nations' arms displayed on walls near the heraldic skylight. The names shown here are Uruguay, Brazil, Cuba and Panama from the Western Hemisphere as well as Poland from Europe.*

*Photo by Steve Cowan*

My visit to the Auckland War Memorial Museum was very interesting and led to a unique behind-the-scenes archival viewing that will be explored in another article.

*Steve Cowan*



## NOTICE OF 2018 BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

Below are the details for our Branch event:

**DATE:** Saturday, 10 March 2018

**TIME:** Gather from 12:15 noon

**PLACE:** Union Club of British Columbia, 805 Gordon Street in Victoria, British Columbia. The Club is in downtown Victoria with public parking nearby.

**PROGRAMME:** The following events are scheduled:

- 12:15 noon Begin to arrive at The Union Club;
- 12:30 pm Lunch in the our designated meeting room;
- 1:15 pm The Shirley Greenwood Guest Speaker Lecture - Dr. Andrew Andersen. While much of our heraldic heritage is of United Kingdom and Western European origins, the topic of the Shirley Greenwood Lecture will be the influence and use of Eastern European heraldry in modern Canadian heraldry.
- 2:00 pm Annual General Meeting. Non-participants are welcome to explore downtown Victoria while the Branch members complete the Annual Reports and Election of the 2018 Board; and
- 3:00 pm Depart the Union Club



Arms of the Union Club of B.C.

**COST:** \$25 per Person. Cheque payable to RHSC BC & Yukon Branch to be received by no later than Friday, 2 March 2018. Please complete the RSVP form below and mail in with your cheque.

**Guests welcome** to attend the Luncheon and The Shirley Greenwood Lecture.

<p>TO: RHSC – BC/YUKON BRANCH, c/o Mr. Tom Mercer          2117 Sayward Street, Victoria BC V8R 3T4      E-Mail: tmercer@shaw.ca</p> <p>Yes, I will be attending the luncheon on 10 March 2018</p> <p>Enclosed in my cheque for \$ _____ (\$25.00 per person)</p> <p>Names of attendees: _____</p> <p>Telephone number or email: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cheque payable to RHSC BC &amp; Yukon Branch</p>
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**THE BLAZON**

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