



The Blazon

The newsletter of the British Columbia/Yukon Branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada

SPRING 2018

Vol. 13, No. 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a dull start to June it looks like summer has arrived. In this issue there are several updates on recent events and honours.

The salient item of news is the change in the Vice-Regal appointment for the Province of British Columbia. On 20 March came the official announcement that **The Honourable Judith Guichon, O.B.C.** was retiring. I immediately wrote Her Honour to express our appreciation for Her Honour's patronage of our group.

I later received a reply from Her Honour, dated 9 April, expressing her pride with being associated with our Branch.

Our branch had previously presented Her Honour with a table shield; hopefully this will be displayed at her home as Her Honour returns to private life.

And we now have a new Vice-Regal with the appointment of **The Honourable Janet Austin, O.B.C.** as the new Lieutenant-Governor of B.C. The interesting aspect of Her Honour Janet Austin is that she is already armigerous; her arms were registered by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on 15 March 2013, Volume VI on page 217.

These arms were inherited from Her Honour's father, **Grey Howick Merivale Austin** (1922—2013) of Calgary AB.

THE ARMS OF THE HONOURABLE JANET AUSTIN, O.B.C.



Blazon Arms

Azure on a chevron engrailed between three Latin crosses Or, three roses Gules barbed Vert seeded Or;

Crest

Issuant from a wreath of dwarf poinciana flowers proper, a demi-lion Or charged on its shoulder with three gouttes de poix and holding in its dexter paw a Latin cross erablé Gules;

(continued on page 2)



Motto
MENS CONSCIA RECTI;

Symbolism

Arms

The arms and crest are based on an 1852 grant by the English Kings of Arms to the Right Reverend William Piercy Austin, Bishop of Guyana (1807-1892) and to other descendants of his grandfather Col. Thomas Austin (d. 1806). In this version of the arms, the blue field represents the service of Ms. Austin's late father, Grey Howick Merivale Austin, as an officer in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. The three wild roses represent the Province of Alberta, where the late Mr. Austin had resided for most of his life. The passion crosses commemorate the service of Bishop Austin to the Church of England in the Caribbean and South America and his term as prelate of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Crest

The cross of maple leaves indicates that these arms belong to a Canadian branch of Col. Thomas Austin's descendants; in addition, the maple leaves on the arms of the cross represent Ms. Austin's father's four Canadian-born children and four Canadian-born grandchildren. The three black drops honour her father's long career as a petroleum geologist. The wreath of Dwarf Poinciana flowers, the floral emblem of Barbados, represents her late father's Barbadian origins.

Motto

Meaning "A mind conscious of rectitude," this Latin phrase was first used by William Piercy Austin.

Text of the blazon and symbolism from the Public Register of the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

BRANCH PATRONAGE

With the recent change in the B.C. vice-regal appointment, we are required to re-apply for this patronage. This application is now underway. This will also include an update for Her Honour in our Lawrence Patten Heraldry Display at the Carey Mews. For new display details please refer to the outline on page 10 of this issue of the Blazon.

BC/YUKON BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Branch AGM was held at the Union Club of B.C. in Victoria on Saturday 10 March. What a great facility; thanks to **Branch Secretary Gary Mitchell** for using his club membership to arrange this location for us.



Armorial bearings of the Union Club of British Columbia. Granted 15 April 1916, Volume VI page 601 of the CHA Public Register



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The **Shirley Greenwood Guest Speaker** this year was **Dr. Andrew Andersen of Victoria**. Andrew gave a very informative one-hour talk on Eastern European heraldry and its influence in Canadian heraldry. Some of the nations covered were Poland, Russia, The Ukraine, Finland, The Baltic States and Georgia.

Besides viewing various arms from Eastern Europe the talk also featured Canadians who has aspects of this heritage in their Canadian arms.



Heraldic Achievement of Dr. Andrew Andersen. These arms are registered with The International Register of Arms, 28 November 2012. Registration No. 0242 (Vol.2).

In appreciation for his heraldic talk, Dr. Andersen was presented with a wall shield of his arms.



Dr. Andrew Andersen displaying the wall shield of his arms that was presented to him as the Shirley Greenwood Guest Speaker at our Branch A.G.M. 10 March 2018 in Victoria.

NEW BRANCH EXECUTIVE

As with the usual A.G.M. agenda, the new branch executive for 2018 was elected. When I say “new” it means for the new or current year. While we encourage all branch members to participate in running the Branch, it remains to the usual suspects to offer their continued spirit of volunteerism to run the branch. This year saw the return of **Dr. Darren George**, of Campbell River, to the Board as a Director At Large. The current Board is shown on page 10 of this Blazon issue.

Some of the BC/Yukon Branch executives are also active with the National Board of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada. For instance; Branch



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President **Steve Cowan** is the Chair of the RHSC Bursary Committee; Director **John Neill**, who is the Editor of the BC Blazon is also the Editor of the RHSC newsletter the Gonfanon as well as the RHSC heraldry publication Heraldry In Canada; and Branch Secretary **Gary Mitchell** is also a member of the RHSC Honours and Awards Committee.

All branch members are welcome to contribute to the branch board activities. You can be a member or a helper with any of our projects. The board doesn't want to keep all the fun in promoting heraldry to its self.

A GRANT OF ARMS FOR BRANCH MEMBER STEVE COWAN

The day before the A.G.M. in Victoria I was pleasantly surprised to pick up the famous C.H.A. wooden box from my local Post Office. This was my grant of arms and I was able to unveil the arms at our Branch gathering in Victoria on 10 March.

Blazon of the arms:

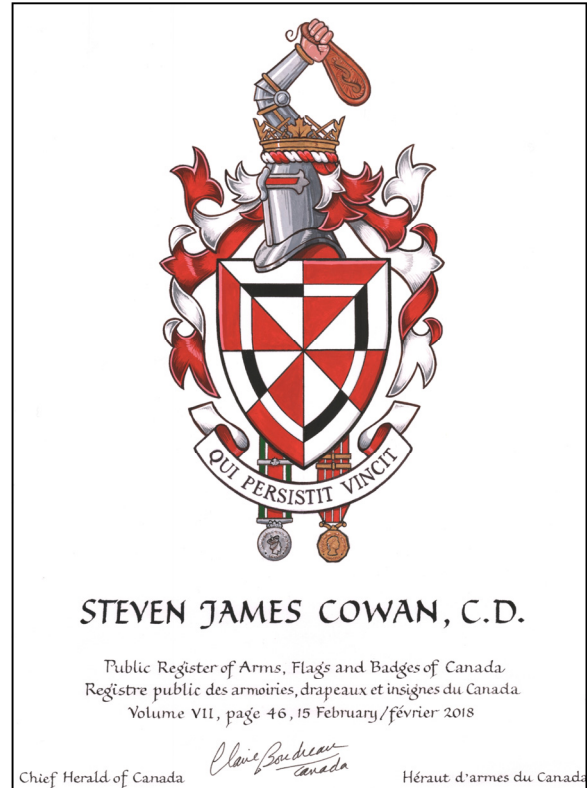
Gyronny Argent and Gules an orle gyronny Sable and Argent.

Blazon of the Crest:

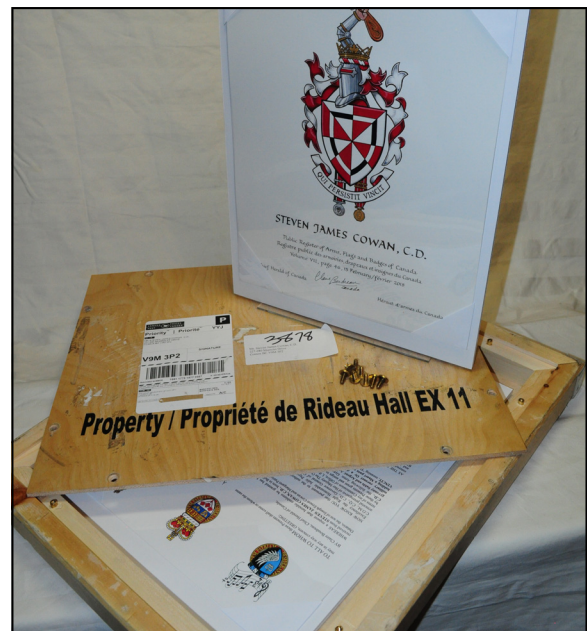
Issuant from a Loyalist military coronet Or a dexter arm embowed vambraced and holding a Maori patu proper.

The tinctures represent my life in Canada (Argent and Gules) and New Zealand Sable and Argent) with the divisions of the sub-ordinaries representing the various career and military service I have done on both countries.

The crest invokes my Canadian and British military heritage as well as New Zealand.



Artwork of the C.H.A. Grant of Arms for Steve Cowan. This original hand-painted artwork was done by heraldic artist Desirée Kern.



The opened wooden shipping box from the C.H.A. containing the various pages of a grant of arms plus printed copies and a CD of the images.

Photo credit: Steve Cowan



NATIONAL R.H.S.C. ANNUAL MEETING AND EVENTS

Over the weekend of 4 through 6 May, two members of the BC/Yukon Branch Executive attended the national A.G.M. of the R.H.S.C.

This was held in Toronto at the Royal Military Institute of Canada. It was an amazing location in downtown Toronto; the multistoried building was full of military heraldry as used in medals, badges, plaques and ship badges along with a large collection of military memorabilia and weapons.



The Heraldic Achievement of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, Toronto where the 2018 events were held. The arms were granted 14 November 1990, Volume II, page 50 of the C.H.A. Public Register of Arms.

John Neill and **Steve Cowan** also attended the national board meetings held before and after the national A.G.M. It was not all work and no play; the Friday evening was the Vice-President's reception followed by the featured George Beley Lecture.



Ilona Jurkiewicz giving the 2018 George Beley Lecture to R.H.S.C. members and guests in part of the R.C.M.I. library, Toronto ON.
Photo credit: Debbie Morgan-Greenshields

This year it was by well known heraldic artist, and R.H.S.C. member, **Ilona Jurkiewicz** F.R.H.S.C., S.H.A., past president of the Toronto Branch RHSC and heraldic artist for the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Ilona's lecture was titled "The Lion and The Eagle: Brief History of 900 years of British Polish Relations". The presentation was given in the fifth floor library of the R.C.M.I.; the rooms of the library were adorned with thousands of books on shelves reaching what seemed some five metres high.



R.H.S.C. members and guests enjoying a reception at the R.C.M.I. library before and after the featured 2018 George Beley Lecture.
Photo Credit: Debbie Morgan-Greenshields



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Everyone had plenty of time to explore the amazing R.C.M.I. library during the reception and both before and after the Beley Lecture.

FORMAL RECOGNITION FOR BRANCH MEMBER

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting it was announced that BC/Yukon Branch member **John Neill** had been elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada.

This well earned honour for John includes a proclamation as well as the presentation of an insignia to be worn on a ribbon around the neck. It was during the pre-dinner President's Reception at the 2018 A.G.M. that John was recognized.



John Neill receiving his Honorary Fellows insignia from R.H.S.C. President Edward McNabb, assisted by R.H.S.C. First Vice-President Vicken Koundakjian; standing to dexter is the Registrar of the RHSC College of Fellows, Dr. D'Arcy Boulton who made the formal proclamation..
Photo credit: Johanna Raso

John, who is our current Branch Past President, joins the College of Fellows along with other current BC/Yukon Branch members as **Shirley Greenwood**, F.R.H.S.C.(Hon), F.R.G.S. and **Laurie Patten**, F.R.H.S.C., S.H.A.



Some of the diners at the A.G.M. dinner.
Photo Credit: Jim Greenshields

CHIEF HERALD'S PRESENTATION

The guest speaker at the 2018 R.H.S.C. Annual Conference dinner was **Dr. Claire Boudreau**, F.R.H.S.C., A.I.H., Chief Herald of Canada. Rather than give a talk to everyone after the meal, Dr. Boudreau gave a presentation beforehand as part of the President's Reception. And as Dr. Boudreau was also proclaiming some members' grant of arms, she was dressed in her Tabard; very impressive.

What Dr. Boudreau talked about was very dynamic as the new public information booklets on Canadian heraldry were show to our members and guests.



Covers of the two new heraldry booklets recently developed by the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

Images courtesy of Chief Herald C.H.A.



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One of the new C.H.A. booklets is titled “Tell Your Story” and explains personal arms and how they apply to Canadians. The second booklet is “Dare To Stand Out”. This is heraldry that applies to organizations, institutions and municipalities across Canada.

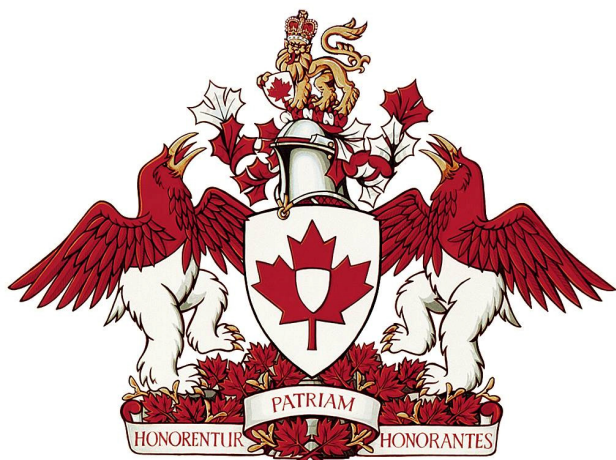
Both booklets offer a fresh and contemporary look at heraldry; it uses text and images that offer heraldry as a way to recognize individuals, their family and the many groups we are involved with as citizens of Canada.

Dr. Boudreau showed slides of the various pages from both booklets; both are in our official languages. All members and guests at the dinner were given copies of the booklets.

In a later discussion with Dr. Boudreau, she explained that this booklet will be revised again soon to show different arms of Canadians featured in the booklets.

CANADIAN HERALDIC AUTHORITY BIRTHDAY

And speaking of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, 4 June celebrates the 30th birthday of the creation of the C.H.A!



Arms of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, granted 15 January 1994, Volume II Page 281 of the C.H.A. Public Register.



Attending our dinner was Mr. Robert Watt, L.V.O., F.R.H.S.C., A.I.H. the first Chief Herald of Canada and Claire Bourdrea, Ph.D., F.R.H.S.C., A.I.H, our second and current Chief Herald of Canada. Dr. Boudreau is wearing the tabard of the Chief Herald of Canada
Photo credit: Johanna Raso

The creation of the C.H.A. was one of the three aims of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada when the society was formed in 1966. It only took another 28 years until that particular aim was achieved.

We would like to thank the Authority for its work in developing our unique Canadian heraldry. And we wish the Authority continued success in promoting heraldry to Canadians. We are unique in the Commonwealth with having our own heraldic authority.





OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our national gathering always includes a Board of Directors meeting the day before and the day after the Annual General Meeting. The pre-A.G.M. board meeting is designed to finish off any outstanding items to clear the desk, so to speak, before the new Board is elected at the A.G.M.

The post-A.G.M. meeting, on the Sunday morning after the formal dinner, is to welcome the returning and new Board members. This meeting also se-

lects and confirms the R.H.S.C. members for the various volunteer positions on the numerous national committees that help us towards achieving the Society aims.

The emphasis is on volunteerism as this is the Canadian spirit that greases the cogs and wheels of our operation.

Any offers of help and assistance are welcome not only in the national activities but also on the local Branches.



This group photograph taken 4 May 2018, is some of the 2017-18 R.H.S.C. Board members who were able to attend the 2018 Conference and A.G.M. in Toronto. These members also make up part of the 2018-19 R.H.S.C. Board. For a review of the complete current listing of the Executive and Board members with position titles please consult the directory at www.heraldry.ca. In this group photograph are shown:

Front Row: Steve Murray (RHSC Secretary), Edward McNabb (RHSC President), Vicken Koundakjian (RHSC 1st Vice-President) and Jason Burgoin (2nd Vice-President).

Back row: Ian Steingaszner (RHSC Treasurer), D'Arcy Boulton, J. Robert Walsh, Robert Frank, Johanna Raso, Steve Cowan, John Neill, Kevin Greaves and Michael Dan.

Photo credit: Don Williamson



PARKSVILLE GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

Several Branch members assisted with our heraldry display and booth at the recent genealogy conference in Parksville.

On Friday 20 April and Saturday 21 April our table display units, selection of shields and heraldic genealogy charts were seen by the conference attendees. We shared a common display room along with several booths that featured genealogy publication and research services.



Branch member David Hjalmarson discussing heraldry and genealogy to a conference attendee.

Photo credit: Steve Cowan



The branch display with genealogy charts.

Photo credit: Steve Cowan

OUR REVISED MEWS DISPLAY

With the relocation of the Laurie Patten Heraldry Display at our facility at the Cary Mews, Government House, Victoria BC, we had an opportunity to rearrange some of the heraldic material. Since our available space did not permit a walk-around of the multi-panel unit, the display team of **Director Lesley Patten** and **Vice-President Tom Mercer** made some cunning changes. With the assistance of Chief Herald Dr. Claire Boudreau, we have used several pages from the new C.H.A. booklets to add to our display.



Lesley Patten and Tom Mercer with our Laurie Patten Heraldry Display including some of the C.H.A. booklet page panels.

Photo credit: Tom Mercer and Lesley Patten

Everyone is welcome to visit the BC/Yukon Branch heraldry display at the Cary Castle Mews and Tea Room, Government House, Victoria BC, May 22, 2018 to August 31, 2018 Tuesdays to Saturdays 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (closed on holidays).



THE BLAZON

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.

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



Articles are welcome for submission to the Blazon Editor

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2018 BOARD MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA / YUKON BRANCH

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Director: – Lesley Patten

Director: - David Hjalmarson, C.D.

Director: - Darren George, Ph.D., L.R.H.S.C.