



The Blazon

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

WINTER 2019

Vol. 14, No. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You may recall from the Spring 2019 edition of the Blazon that Her Honour The Honourable Janet Austin, O.B.C. had become our Honourary Patron and was entitled to enhanced arms as the Vice Regal appointment for B.C. New arms have been granted and you can see and read details starting on page 2 with an article written by Robb Watt.

As you will see on page 6, our Branch has been honoured with a second Vice Regal Patronage appointment. While we have always included Yukon in our activities we never get to work closely together. I see local heraldic promotions being expanded to include our entire geographical area; we now enjoy Vice Regal Patronage over our entire Branch.

The Annual General Meeting in Parksville last March proved popular with branch member John Cave-Browne-Cave leading us through his heraldic family tree.

For our second event held in November at the Nanaimo Golf Course we had the pleasure of our Society's President Vicken Koundakjian, F.R.H.S.C., who came out from Ottawa. I found it very rewarding to spend time with Vicken to chat about our Society and discuss how

we can develop interesting ways to promote heraldry to Canadians; see page 10 for details.

Plans for this Branch to host the **2021** R.H.S.C. Annual Conference and General Meeting are have commenced. Target dates are from Friday 7 May to Sunday 8 May **2021** to be held in our Provincial Capital, Victoria. The year **2021** is significant for B.C. as this is our Sesquicentennial of joining the Canadian Confederation in 1871.

How can we celebrate the 150th anniversary? As we plan the **2021** event we welcome your ideas and suggestions. We want to include the numerous aspects of personal, municipal, institutional, educational, ecclesiastical and First Nations heraldry into our material and displays. This all leads to our aim of promoting heraldry to Canadian. And don't forget our second aim as to promote the writing and publishing of heraldic articles for our publications. New articles are welcome any time.

On page 11 I have listed some dates of important events.

Our 2019 Branch Annual Report will be out in January 2020.

Happy New Year,

Steve Cowan,
Branch President.



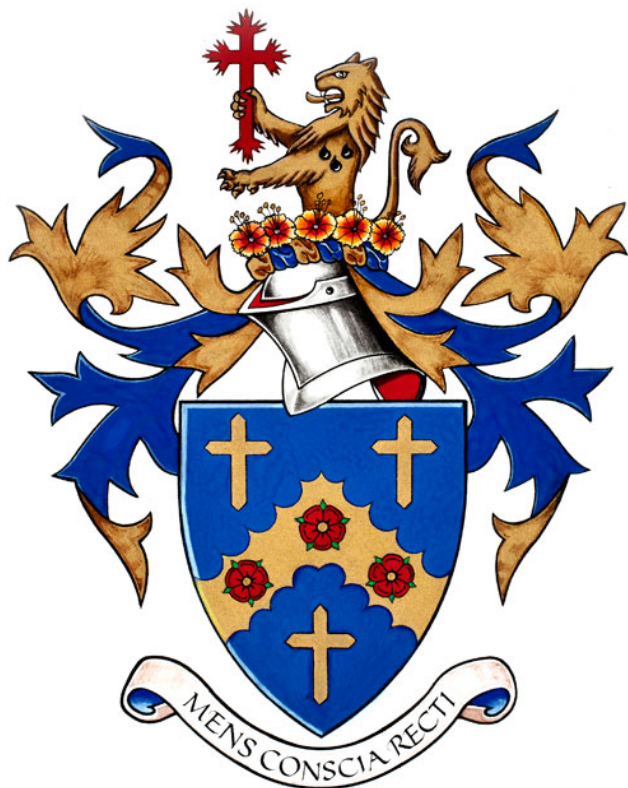


**ENHANCED COAT OF ARMS OF
THE HONOURABLE
JANET E. M. AUSTIN, O.B.C.
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia**

Robb Watt, North Vancouver

The granting of new arms to individuals in Canada is always a cause for celebration, especially when the grantee holds vice regal office. Such persons will have additional opportunities for the public display of the grant and over the term of their service we can anticipate that the new symbols will be seen in a variety of forms in Victoria and elsewhere.

In the case of Her Honour, unlike the vast majority of those appointed as Lieutenant Governors, she already possessed a coat of arms before her appointment; arms, crest and motto which she had inherited from her late father, Grey Howick Merivale Austin (1922-2013).



Arms of Grey Howick Merivale Austin (1922-2013) granted by the C.H.A. 15 September 2010, Volume V, page 551.

Her Honour was aware of the growth of heraldry in Canada through her father's interest in the subject. His own arms and crest, granted on the 15th of September 2010, are intriguing because they are based on a grant of the English Kings of Arms to one of Grey Austin's ancestors, the Right Reverend William Piercy Austin (1807-1892), first Bishop of Guyana from 1842 until his death and from 1884 until 1891 first primate of the Anglican Province of the West Indies. The terms of this English grant allowed all descendants of William Austin's grandfather, Col. Thomas Austin, to bear the arms suitably differenced. Grey Austin was one such descendant. The arms granted to him are shown here in an extract from the Public Register of Arms Flags and Badges of Canada. Mr. Austin, working with Dr. Forrest Pass, then Saguenay Herald, modified the ancestral grant to include, via colour and symbol alterations, references to his long career as a petroleum geologist, his lengthy residency in Alberta, his service in the Royal Navy in World War II and his Canadian born children and grandchildren. These arms were assigned to his daughter Janet by registration dated 15 March 2013.

When Janet Austin became Lieutenant Governor, on 24 April 2018, she became eligible to have these arms augmented with supporters and compartment and, if she desired, to vary them to reflect her own interests and career. Her Excellency the Governor General wrote to Her Honour and offered these additions.

It was at this point that I became involved. I had the pleasure and privilege of having come to know Janet Austin in the years immediately preceding her installation in the Legislature in Victoria through a number of meetings in Vancouver where her career had been based. In this way, I learned about Grey Austin's armorial project and the subsequent registration of a version of his arms to Ms. Austin. In turn, Her Honour learned a little about my career as a Canadian herald. Delightfully for me, the Chief Herald of Canada, Dr. Claire Boudreau asked me to help Her Honour explore the new armorial possibilities that lay before her.

Her Honour and I met in Vancouver on 30 July 2018. Early in our conversation it was clear that she wished to honour her late father's memory and

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his ancestral heritage in the West Indies by retaining the shield of arms granted to him and registered to her five years before. At the same time, she welcomed the chance to represent important elements of her work in the community before her appointment and to signal her service to the Province and its peoples as well as represent themes which were to be a central part of her service as Lieutenant Governor. In a wide-ranging discussion, she chose symbols to form a new crest and drew on several official provincial symbols for parts of her proposed crest and supporters. Overall, she wanted as much simplicity in the design as possible, and to continue the use of blue which is the dominant tincture in her father's shield.

So, after only several hours of conversation, I was able to send a summary of her preferences for her review. The shield, as noted above was to remain as already borne by her. For a crest, the province's official mammal, the Kermode or Spirit bear was shown upright with the upper part of the creature in natural colours, grasping a paddle held vertically with the blade upright. The paddle symbolized the First Nations in British Columbia with the vertical position referring to the traditional welcome offered by indigenous peoples when approaching a settlement while coming in peace. Around the neck of the bear was a collar of cedar bark, the 'Tree of Life' for First Nations and a second reference to them. Her Honour intended to develop several programs during her mandate to underline the importance of reconciliation with the province's First Peoples. Pendant from the collar was a triangle with the point downwards, coloured in blue. Prior to her appointment Her Honour's most recent work was as Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA, a position through which she was able to promote ideas of women in leadership roles, gender equality and social justice.

For supporters Her Honour chose the official bird of British Columbia, the Stellar's Jay in natural colours, with the symmetry of one on either side of the shield balancing the overall design well, with the striking colours of the birds relating strongly to the main colour in the shield. Service to British Columbia and Canada was to be represented by a collar composed of gold maple leaves and silver dogwood flowers around the neck of each bird. On reflection Her Honour decided to keep the compartment very simple, a grassy mound above blue and white waves of the sea, the grass set with ce-

dar and mayflowers, the latter in honour of her mother's birthplace in Nova Scotia.

For a time, Her Honour was considering a new motto, but in the end decided to keep the one originally chosen by her ancestor, Bishop Austin, *MENS CONSCIA RECTI*, "A mind conscious of rectitude", because it was such an apt phrase to describe her father's approach to life, and a valuable guide for her Honour in her own approaches to service and outreach to the myriad of communities making up the peoples of the Province.

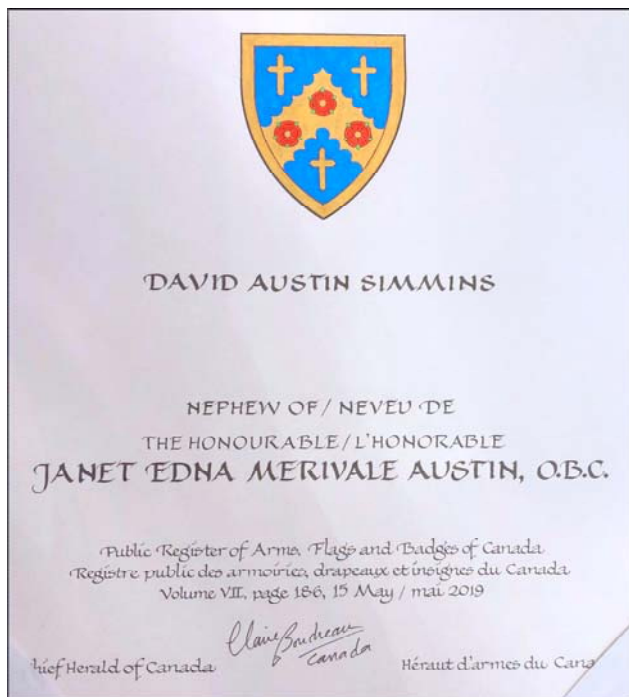


The new enhanced heraldic achievement of The Honourable Janet Edna Merivale Austin, O.B.C., Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Image courtesy of the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

The suggestions for new elements were sent to The Chief Herald in early August and returned with some refinements in early September.

With Her Honour's approval given, Dr. Boudreau authorized the preparation of concept art which

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Photograph of the Grant of Arms document of the differenced arms of David Austin, the nephew of The Honourable Janet Austin.

Photo credit: Robb Watt

was ready for Janet Austin's review in mid December 2018. Her Honour made some final decisions regarding the insignia to be shown pendant below her shield and confirming her desire to have her nephew David Austin Simmins, son of her sister Joan and brother in law Geoffrey as her heraldic heir. Preparation of the final art took place in the spring of this year and was ready by late May.

This Patent was proclaimed and presented at a special occasion during the Annual Conference of the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners at Queen's Park Legislative Building in Toronto on 10 June 2019. The proclamation was done by Assunta Di Lorenzo, the Herald Chancellor and Secretary to the Governor General and included not only the grant to Her Honour but to five of her colleagues; the Hon. Janice Filmon, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, the Hon. Margaret Thom, Commissioner of the North West Territories, the Hon. Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, the Hon. Rose Marie Bernard, Commissioner of Yukon, and The Hon. William Molloy, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. A day later, another new vice regal grant was proclaimed, to the Hon. Judy Foote, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The recipients of these new grants, which represented an enormous amount of design, consultation and art work by the Chief Herald and her fellow heralds and artists, were the focus of considerable interest by those at the conference. Her Honour has recently remarked to me that it was of course exciting to see her own grant in its final form but also fascinating to see and hear about the range of choices of symbols and colours by others in the vice regal family.

The augmented Austin arms were painted by Catherine Fitzpatrick, Coppermine Herald, one of two artists who are part of the heraldic team at the Canadian Heraldic Authority. The calligraphy on the Patent painting, seen here, was done by Doris Wionzek.

The design is powerful and simple, as her Honour's expressed desire in the late summer of 2018. At the centre is the ongoing celebration of her father's life, career and family heritage, a shield which recalls his ancestor's service to the Anglican church in the Caribbean in the 19th century. The crest, supporters and compartment draw on official British Columbia symbols for much of their inspiration, with a particular emphasis in the crest on the First Nations.

The arms will ultimately be found in The Public Register of Arms Flags and Badges of Canada, the online armorial of official Canadian heraldry. The page number is 186 in Volume VII with the date of the grant being 15 May 2019.

The blazon enshrines the grant that was developed first, with minor variations when granted, in discussions with Her Honour in July 2018.

It reads,

Arms: Azure a chevron engrailed between three Latin crosses Or, three roses Gules barbed Vert seeded Or,

Crest: A demi-Kermode bear gorged of a collar of cedar bark proper pendant therefrom a triangle reversed voided Azure and holding a paddle its blade upwards proper,

Continued on page 5



Supporters: *Two Stellar's jays proper each gorged with a coronet of maple leaves Or and dogwood flowers Argent, standing on a grassy mount set with cedar branches and mayflowers proper above Barry wavy Argent and Azure,*

Motto: MENS CONSCIA RECTI

For the heraldic heir; *The Arms within a bordure Or.*



Robb Watt with The Honourable Janet Austin holding the revised Grant of Arms of Her Honour that features the new Supporters and Crest.
Photo credit: Robb Watt



Ice sculpture created by Harold Sawatzky of the enhanced coat of arms of The Honourable Janet Austin, O.B.C.

Photo credit: Government House, Victoria BC

All members of the Society, especially those in British Columbia are delighted to see these new arms join the ever-growing body of Canadian heraldry and to express our appreciation to Her Honour for the great interest she has shown throughout the process of augmentation. We wish her years of enjoyment of this symbol of family, career and service.

(Editor: For those new to our Society and Branch, Robb Watt is formally know as Rideau Herald Emeritus Robert Watt, L.V.O., A.I.H., F.R.H.S.C. Robb was the first Chief Herald of Canada, 1988 to 2007, and saw the creation of the Canadian Heraldic Authority in 1988. Robb was the President of the R.H.S.C. 1987-88 and he was our first BC/ Yukon Branch President in 1982. Internationally, Robb is the current President of the Académie Internationale D'Héraldique.)

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting with Her honour at Government House to view the various parts of the Letters Patent before arrangements for framing. Here are several photos from that meeting, on 29 October. Her Honour and I discussed ways in which she might begin to use these arms as her term continues. While no decisions have been made, she is actively considering featuring them in number of ways. The final Patent has given her a great deal of pleasure and she looks forward to making them more visible and more widely known. The first step was taken by her staff on

November 2nd when Harold Sawatzky of Langley created a beautiful carving of the arms in ice for the Gala Ball held at Government house that evening. This excellent carving is shown here.

Happy New Year!
It's membership renewal time.
Payment can be arranged through
our national website at
www.heraldry.ca



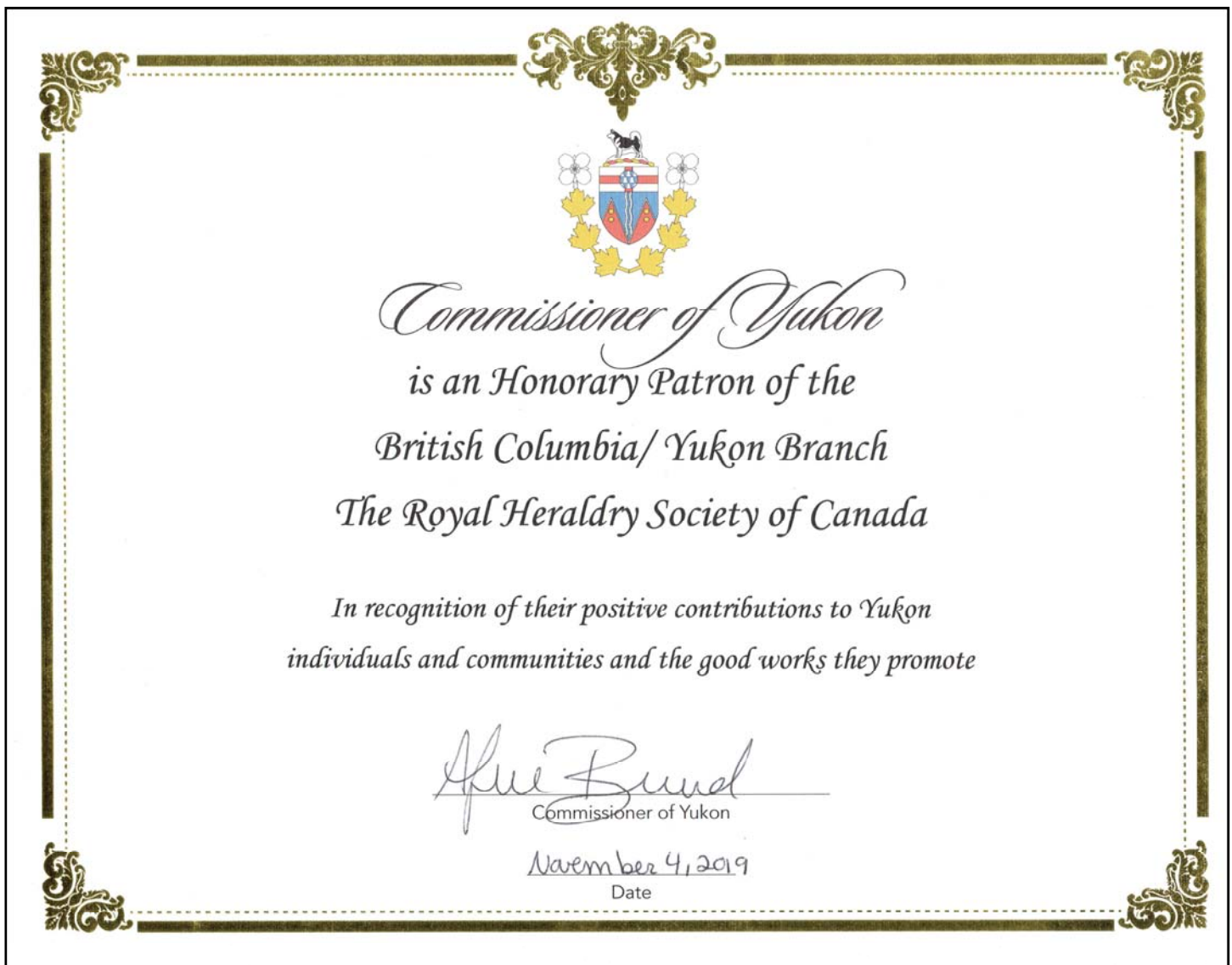
YUKON VICE REGAL PATRONAGE

In the previous issue of The Blazon (Volume 14, number 2) details of the new arms for Her Honour The Honourable Angélique Bernard, O.Y., the Commissioner of Yukon were shown and described. Copies of The Blazon were mailed to Her Honour in Whitehorse and a reply message from Her Honour's Secretary encouraged our application for Honourary Patronage. The Branch Board passed a motion desiring this patronage and an application form was promptly dispatched.

At our Branch heraldry luncheon in Nanaimo on 24 November I had the pleasure of announcing that we now enjoyed the patronage of the Commissioner of Yukon effective 4 November 2019. I have shown, below, a copy of the formal certificate received from Her Honour.

The Patronage of the Commissioner of Yukon gives our Branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada a unique status; we are the sole Branch within the Society to enjoy Honourary Patronage of two concurrent Vice Regal appointments. As our Branch covers two geopolitical areas of Canada, we are under the Distinguished Patronage of Her Honour The Honourable Janet Austin, O.B.C., Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia as well as Her Honour The Honourable Angélique Bernard, O.Y., the Commissioner of Yukon.

(Below - copy of the Yukon Patronage certificate)





FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION AND THEIR HERALDRY

Gary Mitchell, Victoria

We, as a nation, honour the thirty-six individuals who created Canada out the quagmire of British colonial outposts which survived the first civil war in the Americas (commonly called the American Revolution. While researching the life of John Hamilton Gray, who is the only Father of Confederation who died in the West, in fact, in Victoria. Please note there were two John Hamilton Grays as Fathers, this is the New Brunswicker of the pair). During my research, I found to my dismay four Fathers of Confederation were granted armorials by Queen Victoria; I knew Sir John Alexander Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper were so honoured but Sir George-Etienne Cartier and Alexander Tilloch Galt were a surprise. I knew Tupper was made a baronet – Tupper of Armdale in 1888 and Macdonald's second wife was raised to the peerage in 1891 to recognize his achievements as Baroness Macdonald of Earncliffe but Cartier was created a baronet – Cartier of Montreal in 1868! What a surprise!

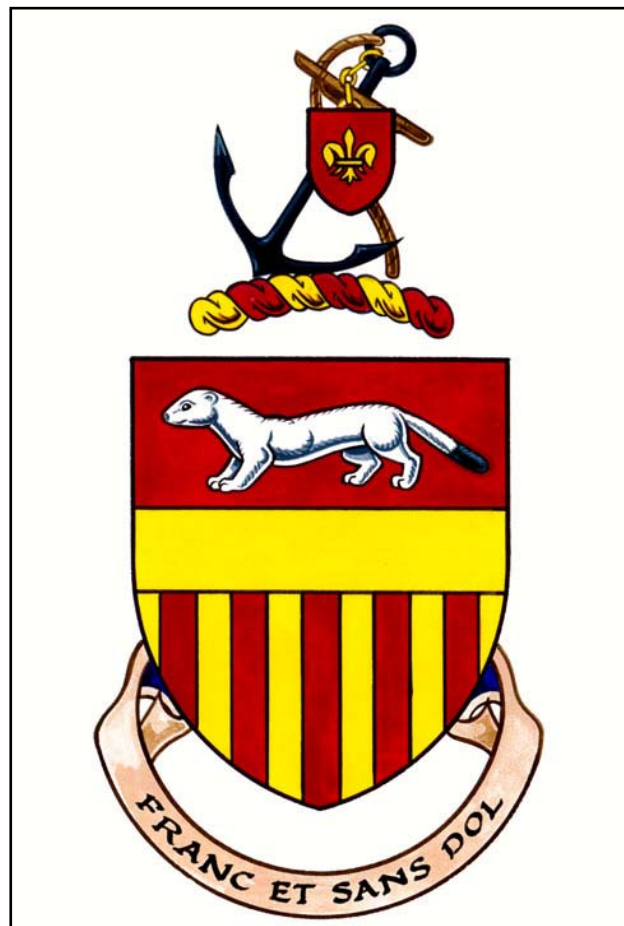
To their credit, the Canadian Heraldic Authority has seen all of the below mentioned armorials transferred from the College of Arms and Lord Lyon Court to the CHA's public registry in the past decade.

The arms are listed in order of their original registration:

The Honourable Sir George-Etienne Cartier, 1st Baronet of Montreal, P.C. (1814-1893). Arms were granted 8 August 1868 by the College of Arms, London, England. The arms were registered with the C.H.A. on 15 January, 2015, volume VI page 478.

Blazon

Arms: Per fess Gules and Or a fess Or in chief an Ermine passant proper in base five pallets Gules;
Crest: An anchor in bend sinister Sable cable proper pendent therefrom by a chain Or an escutcheon Gules charged with a fleur-de-lis Or;
Motto: FRANC ET SANS DOL ("Frank and without deceit")



Arms of The Honourable
Sir George-Etienne Cartier,
1st Baronet of Montreal, P.C.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt, G.C.M.G., C.B., P.C. (1817-1893). Arms granted by College of Arms, London, England on 10 February 1879 (Arms, Crest and Motto) and 20 February 1879 (Supporters). The arms were registered with the C.H.A. on 15 January 2015, volume VI page 482.

Blazon

Arms: Per fess Gules and Or in chief an open book between two thistles slipped and leaved and in base a ship sailing on waves proper;
Crest: In front of a demi-archer proper habited Vert drawing a bow and arrow proper, a thistle slipped and leaved proper;
Supporters: Two caribou proper each gorged with a chain Or pendent therefrom an escutcheon Gules charged with a cross patté Argent;
Motto: SEMPER PARATUS

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Arms of The Honourable
Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt,
G.C.M.G., C.B., P.C.



Arms of The Right Honourable
Sir Charles Tupper. 1st Baronet of Armdale,
G.C.M.G., C.B., P.C.

The Right Honourable Sir Charles Tupper. 1st Baronet of Armdale, G.C.M.G., C.B., P.C. (1821-1915). Arms granted by College of Arms, London on 7 August 1886 (Arms, Crest and Motto) and 28 August 1886 (Supporters). The arms were registered with the C.H.A. on 15 June 2015, volume VI page 511.

Blazon

Arms: Per fess Azure and Or on a fess Ermine, between in chief two boars passant Or and in base a sprig of mayflower slipped and leaved proper, three escallops Gules;

Crest: Upon a grassy mount Vert a greyhound stantant Sable charged with two escallops Or and holding in its mouth a sprig of mayflower slipped and leaved proper;

Supporters: Two greyhounds Sable each collared and pendent therefrom an escutcheon Or charged with a sprig of mayflower slipped and leaved proper;

Motto: L'ESPOIR EST MA FORCE ("Hope is my strength")

The Right Honourable Sir John Alexander Macdonald, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., P.C., Q.C. (1815-1891). Arms granted by the Court of the Lord Lyon, Edinburgh, Scotland, 28 May 1970. The arms were registered by the C.H.A. on 15 March 2013 volume VI page 214.

Blazon

Arms: Quarterly: first, Argent a lion rampant Gules armed and langued Azure; second, Or a dexter hand couped fessways proper holding a cross-crosslet fitchée Azure; third, Or a lymphad sails furlled and oars in action Sable flagged Gules; fourth, barry wavy of six Argent and Azure a salmon naiant proper; overall on a fess Vert a covered cup between two sprigs of three maple leaves Or;

Crest: A dexter forearm couped palewise proper the hand holding a balance fesswise together with a sprig of three maple leaves Or;

Motto: PER AQUAM ET TERRAM;

Symbolism

Arms: The four quarters are the arms of the chief of Macdonald of Sleat, which Sir John A. Macdonald used during his lifetime; for example, on his bookplate. The additional fess contains two sprigs of maple leaves to indicate his Canadian and On-

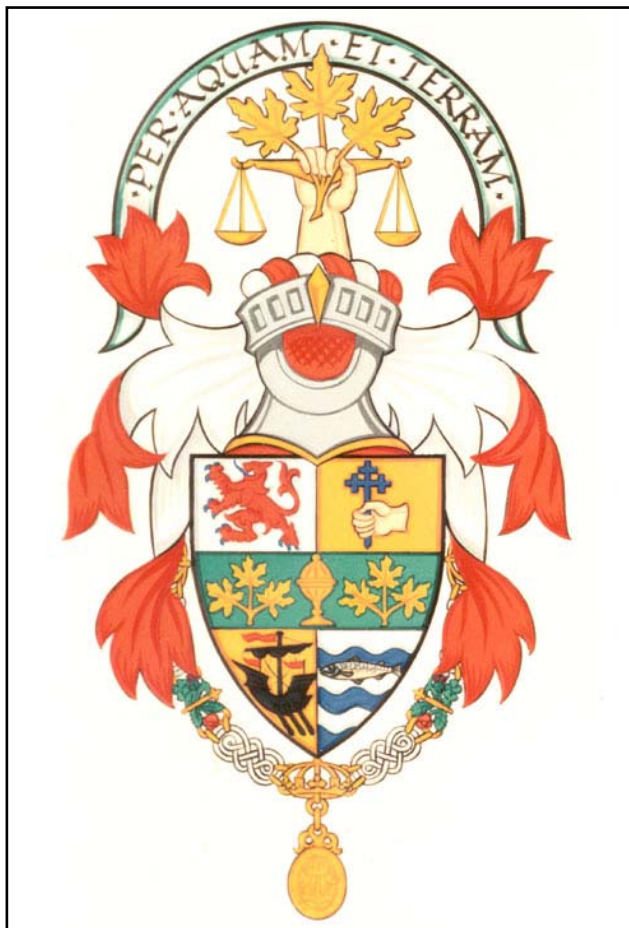
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tarian identity, and a covered cup that honours his mother's Scottish family of Shaw, whose arms bear such cups.

Crest: The hand is a traditional element of a Macdonald crest and was used by Sir John during his lifetime. The maple leaves symbolize his Canadian identity. The scales represent his profession as a lawyer.

Motto: Latin for "By sea and land".



Arms of The Right Honourable
Sir John Alexander Macdonald,
G.C.B., K.C.M.G., P.C., Q.C.

Today only the Tupper baronetcy is extant; in the 1890s, the family moved out West and began a law practice in Victoria and Vancouver; descendants continue to practice the law and have served with prominence on the Law Society of British Columbia; the 6th and current baronet lives on Vancouver Island. I acknowledge with gratitude the Shields, Blazons and Symbolism sections were obtained from the Public Registry of Arms for Canada.

Celebrate the beauty, imagination and practicality of heraldry.



TORONTO BRANCH PHOTO CONTEST

Open to all R.H.S.C.
members.

Deadline 31 January 2020

First place prize: \$50 &
your photo as the
featured cover of the
Hogtown Heraldry.

For rules and entry form go to

[https://toronto.heraldry.ca/misc/
photoposter2.pdf](https://toronto.heraldry.ca/misc/photoposter2.pdf)



SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO NANAIMO

Lee Van Horne, Coombs

Our 2019 Fall Luncheon was held at the Nanaimo Golf Course on 23 November. While the weather was cold and a bit wet it did not deter branch members and guests from coming from various Vancouver Island locations as well as branch members who came over from the Lower mainland.

Branch president Steve Cowan opened the post-lunch activities by welcoming everyone. He made a few announcements including the Branch's now having a second Vice Regal Patron, The Honourable Angélique Bernard, O.Y., the Commissioner of Yukon. (See page 6 for more details.)

Steve then introduced Robb Watt, Rideau Herald Emeritus, to say a few words. Robb was asked to speak as he was able to describe the new enhanced arms of our B.C. Vice Regal Patron, The Honourable Janet Austin, O.B.C. Her Honour, who was already armigerous, had recently been granted Supporters and a new Crest. Robb was the designer of these enhanced arms. (See page 2 for the full article on these new arms.)



Arms of the Nanaimo Golf Course granted 17 August, 1995 Volume III, page 41 of the CHA public register.

One interesting aside mentioned by Robb was that it was some 25 years ago he was at the Nanaimo Golf Course to proclaim their grant of arms.

Steve then introduced our Greenwood Heraldry Lecture guest speaker, our Society's national president, Mr. Vicken Koundakjian, F.R.H.S.C., of Ottawa.

Vicken laid out the future plans of the Society, including enhancement of the Bursary programme. The current R.H.S.C. Bursary is with the Ontario College of Art and Design University in

Toronto. The expansion of the bursary program is planned for educational institutions in B.C. and western Canada. He also announced that badges for various positions within the national executive, including the fellows, have recently been granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

www.bc-yukon.heraldry.ca has more event photos and details.



Photograph of the Grant of Badges of the Officers and Fellows of the Society. Refer Volume VII page 183 of the Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada. Photo credit: Lee Van Horne.



Society President Vicken Koundakjian and Part President Robb Watt enjoying a moment to catch up on Society business. Photo credit: Lee Van Horne.

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R.H.S.C. President Vicken Koundakjian holding the special presentation crystal hatching of his arms present by Branch Vice President Tom Mercer.

Photo credit: Lee Van Horne



Detail of the engraving featuring the hatching of the arms of Vicken Koundakjian. .

Photo credit: Lee Van Horne

BC/Yukon Branch Activity dates

27 February 2020
Heraldry Presentation
Probus Club, Comox B.C.

3 March 2020
Heraldry Presentations
Whitehorse Yukon

7 March 2020
Branch
Annual General Meeting
(afternoon)
&
Formal Dinner (evening)
Victoria B.C.

6-7 May 2020
R.H.S.C. Annual Conference
Montreal Quebec

21 November 2020
Autumn Branch Event

7-8 May 2021
R.H.S.C. Annual Conference
Victoria B.C.

As details for the various events are confirmed a notice will be sent to all branch members. **All Branch events are open to guests** (with the exception of the Branch A.G.M. on the afternoon of 7 March 2020).



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.

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

Tel: 250 890 0225 bc_yukon@heraldry.ca

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

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



Articles are welcome for submission to the Blazon Editor

bc_yukon@heraldry.ca

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