



The Blazon

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

AUTUMN 2021

Vol. 16, No. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While we approach the third year of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, we are getting better at our handling of this epic event. Locally our restrictions have greatly improved with the over 75% of the B.C. population fully vaccinated and over 85% in the Yukon (as I write this in late October) And we are able to host a heraldry luncheon in Nanaimo of November 27; see page 15 for the notice and details.

The response to the 2021 Summer issue of the Blazon, featuring the sesquicentennial of B.C. joining the Canadian confederation was very positive. It was a special 24-page souvenir issue; I think it was one of very few public observances of our 150th birthday.

Speaking of birthdays, I have included the Royal Arms of Canada and we celebrate the centennial of our national arms. See page 2 For details.

I have also included other institutional birthdays of the Roayl Heraldry Society of Canada and the Statute of Westminster. Details are scattered throughout this Blazon issue.

Toronto branch has been busy with several presentations. See page 5 For details on an important event set of November 20, 2021.

Very soon we will be into the new year of 2022. In January the branch board will review the details of our 2021 Annual Report and this will include the branch financial details, assets and summary of 2021 activities. It will be mailed out in late January along with details and nomination forms for our 2022 branch executive election.

The Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday March 12, 2022. Our plan is to hold this event in Victoria B.C. The salient feature of this occasion will be the 40th anniversary of the B.C./Yukon branch. My cunning plan is to have a special Blazon issue featuring various members from our first 4 decades. We will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Society's Royal Warrant.

Other items in this issue include a remembrance of our late member, Gerald McKinnon, an interesting article on railway logos based on heraldry, a surprise for two members and a very interesting story of African heraldic art done by another of our branch members.

I look forward to seeing fellow members and guests at out Nanaimo luncheon on November 27. Don't forget to bring along you table shield and banners so we can add some heraldic colour to the Christmas decorations.

Steve Cowan
Branch President



Royal Arms of Canada
See page 2 For details



CENTENNIAL OF THE ROYAL ARMS OF CANADA

Gary Mitchell, Victoria BC



On November 21, 1921. His Majesty King George V proclaimed the Royal Arms of Canada with the colours of red and white as the official colours of Canada.

For nearly fifty years Canadians and the Government of Canada had debated, argued and cajoled each other and Westminster to formalize a “Royal Arms for Canada.” The lack of formal “Royal Arms” created a cluttered hodgepodge of provincial arms thrown together in an effort to visually create a sense of nationhood. These efforts failed! At the conclusion of the Great War, efforts were renewed to obtain Royal Arms for Canada. Clearly, it was felt the contributions, and the horrible sacrifices, of our armed services in the war effort should be acknowledged by the Imperial Government.

The College of Arms created the Royal Arms or properly termed, the Arms of His/Her Majesty in the Right of Canada. The RHSC website: heraldry.ca/contentarms_badges_royal_arms.php has a very good description of the Arms and the subsequent changes over the past 100 years.



It should be noted that upon the passage of the Statute of Westminster (December 11, 1931), the Royal Arms began to be used by the Government of Canada and its agencies to acknowledge Canada’s new status as a constitutional monarchy having King George V as the King of Canada.

Just before I end this article, one should note the change of harp in the original version and the 1957 version, many commentators do not note the stylistic change! Was the change made to recognize the accession of Queen Elizabeth II? If so, will we change it back in the future? And the maple leaf in base, went from Vert to Gules.

On November 21 raise a glass to celebrate the centennial of the Royal Arms of Canada and to the women and men whose sacrifices in the Great War acted as the catalyst.



Shown to dexter are the Arms from 1921 as completed by the College of Arms, London.

Above, the present design of the Royal Arms of Canada drawn by Mrs. Cathy Bursey-Sabourin, Fraser Herald of Arms at the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Notice the 1957 harp and maple leaf revision plus the addition of the circlet of the Order of Canada.



IN MEMORY



**Gerald Allan McKinnon, L.R.H.S.C.
1951 - 2021**

Branch member Gerald McKinnon passed away on June 30, 2021. A long time resident of Prince George B.C., Gerald has been a member of our Society and Branch since 2009.

Gerald's arms were Granted on September 15, 2014 Volume VI, page 443. Gerald was very keen on heraldry and had attended several branch events as well as the R.H.S.C. National Annual General Meeting in Edmonton 2010.

Gerald's interest in heraldry lead to him participating in the Education Program of the Society. He achieved his Level 1 in heraldry proficiency in 2010 and his Level 2 soon after in 2011. On July 31, 2013 Gerald was awarded his Level 3 and became a **Licentiate of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada**.

Besides having a keen interest in heraldry, Gerald was also a strong follower of genealogy and Scottish heritage; he had set up the **North American McKinnon Clan Society**, which to this day is a vibrant society commemorating Gaelic cultural knowledge.

Up to his death he remained the chief historian and he was a thorough researcher and a prolific writer. His published works include: The Shank Bone Papers, The End of an Old Song, The Small Regiment, A short History of the Lordship and Baronage of Nova Scotia, The Clan McKinnon, its Genealogy Lands and Arms, Biographies of the Officers of the McKinnon Clan, and How Heraldry came to the West Highlands of Scotland.

Gerald had served as a communications technician with the Canadian Armed Forces and saw active service in the Middle East earning medals for service in the Golan Heights.



Gerald McKinnon receiving his Certificate of Licentiate Accreditation from Branch President John Neill, F.R.H.S.C. (Hon) at the October 23, 2013 branch dinner.

Source: BC/Yukon branch website



Hatchment of the Arms of Gerald Allan McKinnon as arranged by Lee Van Horne for display at www.bc-yukon.heraldry.ca/black-arms.php



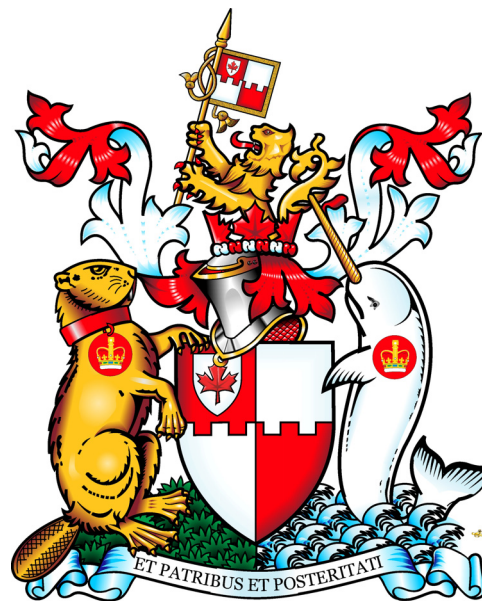
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

In Ottawa ON on October 26, 1966 we became the Heraldry Society of Canada, and who would have thought that 55 years later we would be adapting to life in a pandemic and staying in touch with members by Zoom rather than items being run off on a Gestetner duplicating machine.

We join with B.C.-born founding father, Gordon Macpherson, C.M., F.R.H.S.C., F.R.S.A., F.S.A. (Scot), Niagara Herald Extraordinary in marking our 55th birthday; maybe we can now get a seniors discount at a fine dining establishment.

By Royal Prerogative the Society was granted its Royal designation on March 20, 2002 and proclaimed at its annual general meeting held in Victoria B.C. on October 26, 2002.

(And our branch will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation as well as our Branch 40th birthday with a dinner in Victoria on March 12, 2022.)



Arms of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada. The original grant was March 6, 1972 by the College of Arms, London and a grant of new supporters and branch badges by the Canadian Heraldic Authority dated September 15, 2004.

TORONTO BRANCH

7th Annual Heraldic Studies Day

Saturday, November 20, 2021
9:45 a.m. 3:15 p.m.
(Eastern time)

Expand your heraldic knowledge and contacts.

For more details and to register go to:

www.torontoheraldry.ca/upcoming-events/event-five-ekasn

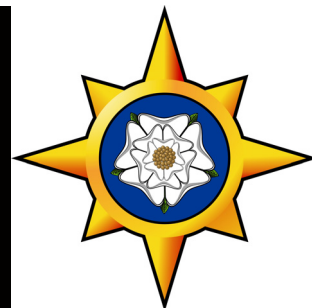
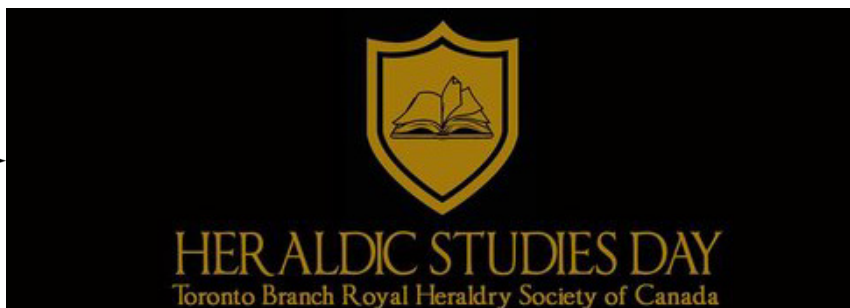
The presenters and their topics this year will be:

Dr. Bernard Juby, Hon.FHS (France) - The Heraldry of Badesley Clinton Moated Medieval Manor & Church.

Dr. Christopher McCreery, MVO (Canada), Private Secretary to the LG of Nova Scotia - Indigenous representation in Nova Scotia's Arms and Seal.

Mrs. Elizabeth Roads, LVO (Scotland), Secretary of the Order of the Thistle - Heraldry of the Thistle Chapel.

Mr. Bruce Patterson, FRHSC, (Canada), Deputy Chief Herald of Canada - A.L.C. Atkinson: Freelance heraldic designer in Western Canada.

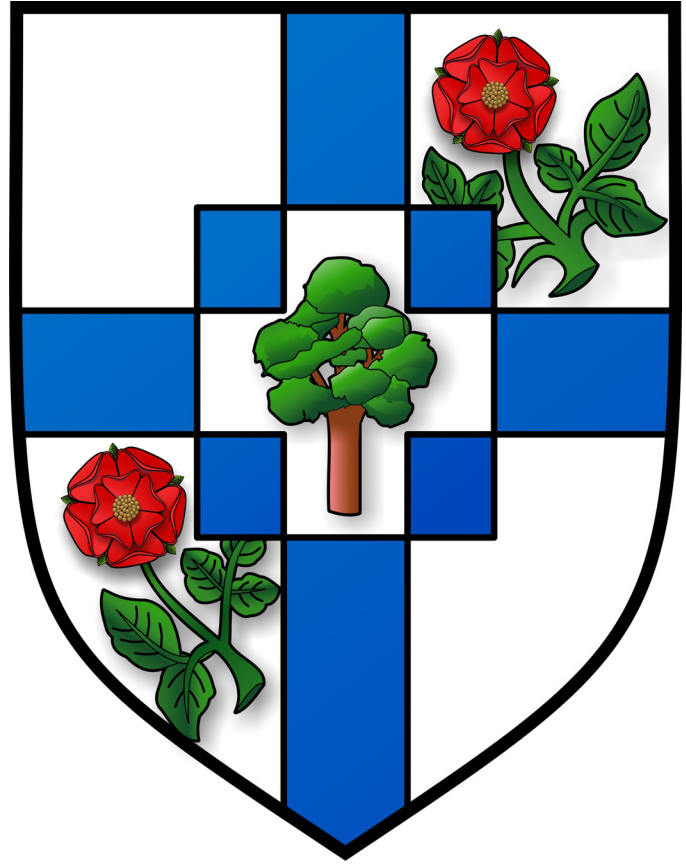




BRANCH SUPPORTER RECOGNIZED

Readers may recall in the previous issue of the Blazon that Robb Watt had three significant articles covering several decades of heraldic activity in Canada. And ensuring that the details were written properly and the spelling was correct was the outstanding effort of Robb's wife Alison Watt.

What members may not realize is that Alison has had a long-time relationship with our branch; Alison was the recording secretary at the first, and subsequent, meeting of the B.C./Yukon Branch. This was on February 20, 1982 and published in the Newsletter Volume 1 number 1 of March 1982.



Arms of Alison Watt originally recorded at the College of Arms, London, England, March 29, 1983, and subsequently registered with the Canadian Heraldic Authority Registration of Arms of January 20, 2017, volume VI, page 675 .



Alison Watt receiving her special table shield from John Cave-Browne-Cave

Photo credits: Robb Watt

In recognition for Alison's assistance in both current and past activities with our branch the board of directors had a table shield of Alison's arms made. On July 15 our special branch envoy, John Cave-Browne-Cave, dropped by the Watt household and made the surprise presentation to Alison. And pressed into duty as the official photographer was former Chief Herald of Canada and current Rideau Herald Emeritus Robb Watt.



Alison unmasked!



EMBLEMS OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

Lee Van Horne, Coombs BC



First logo from 1886

There is probably no province in this fair dominion of ours whose history has been shaped as dramatically as that of British Columbia, by the successful completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway. There is a strong likelihood that

we would not now be part of Canada, was it not for Craigellachie. Perhaps we would all be Americans or maybe even citizens of our own sovereign nation. Impossible to say. But as it turned out, we are now celebrating 150 years within Confederation! And so it seems appropriate that in this special year that we give a tip of the hat to the CPR for bringing our country together, by taking a short tour of the evolution of its logo.

During the construction phase between 1881 and 1885, the railway used no symbology at all. There were just the words Canadian Pacific Railway on the boxcars and cabooses. It was not until the CPR started getting significant paying traffic in 1886 that the first logo was designed, as depicted in the chief of this article. And it was designed solely to entice the public to take to the rails. The shield was chosen simply because it was a stock image in the printer's



1898 version

drawer. It was used primarily for public notices like advertising posters and schedules and rarely used for internal documents.

The logo quickly grew a beaver in the crest area and went through many small variations until, in 1898, it settled on the version shown at the bottom of the previous column, and stayed that way for over thirty years. The beaver was chosen because, even at that time, it was closely associated with Canada throughout the world.

Then came World War I, leaving in its wake a new changed world and it is not surprising that the CPR would come up with a new logo to reflect this. Here we still see the shield and beaver but the overall effect is very different. It was used just on the rolling stock. The previous version was retained for print material.



Rolling stock logo

This rolling stock logo was also used to honour and reward particularly deserving locomotive engineers. The engineer's name would replace CANADIAN PACIFIC and the logo would be attached to a locomotive assigned to that engineer and he would then become immortal. Company loyalty had its rewards.

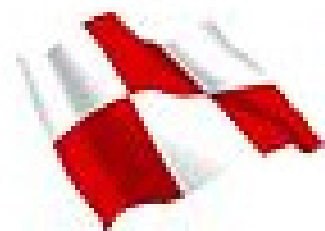
The first third of the twentieth century saw continual change and, amidst this change, the CPR saw great opportunities. As big as Canada was, it could not contain the ambitions of the company and, thus, it began to collect and build ocean steamships to add to its im-



1929 revision



pressive stock of steam locomotives. This was to meet two main markets – aristocratic tourists looking for adventure, and immigrants looking for a new life in a New World. Management hit the nail square on the head and the CPR vision turned into a colossal, global success. This needed to be reflected in the company’s logo and so a new graphic was composed in 1929, shown at the bottom of the previous page. So much for the beaver!



CPR ship house flag

As the fleet of steamships grew, there came a need for a house flag. The company’s president, William Van Horne (also an accomplished artist), quickly sketched a white and red

checkered banner that ended up flying on the aft mast of every CPR ship. He designed it so that it was recognizable even in calm winds.

After World War II, the beaver came back and cleaned up the logo. After a few minor variations, it settled as shown here and stayed that way through most of the 1960s. The printed Canadian Pacific changed to a written script, to reflect the company’s march into the modern world.



Post WWII logo

By 1968, CP had added trucking and flying into its modes of operation. And with other divisions in the mix, like Hotels and Telecommunications and Oil and Gas, a logo was needed that, with small variations, could be used by the various subsidiaries of the company. Thus was born the CP Multimark, shown at the bottom of the previous column. There was also a colour code: Rail was red, Ships were green, and so on. But the colour code was not rigidly used. Often, Ships would use blue, a colour that was reserved for the Transport and Express (trucking) division. Likewise, CP Air, which was given orange, sometimes stole the Rail’s red. It should be noted that CPR’s red was not just any red. It was denoted as Action Red, which was a bit on the dark side of red, an heraldic shade of red, you might say. So, this new logo had a big job to do, to represent a huge, multifaceted company. But there was a lingering question, where was the beaver?

In the late 1970s CP started shedding assets, due to a general slowdown of the global economy. Over the following decade, this included most of the passenger rail business, much of the trucking, and all of CP Air. The multimark



CP
1997 version

outlived its purpose and, in 1987, was replaced with just the words CP Rail or variations of it. In 1997, the beaver came back, along with the shield, all in a gold form. During the next ten years, CP’s fortunes were turning upwards. But, in 2007, the beaver disappeared again, leaving only CANADIAN PACIFIC and CP as logos for another ten years. But finally, the indefatigable beaver, in 2017, made a triumphant comeback in a slightly more elaborate form compared to 1997, and what you see here is the company’s current logo. Interestingly, since the bea-



The Multimark from the late 1960s



ver's last return, the company's stock has risen from about \$30 to the current \$80 level!



CP

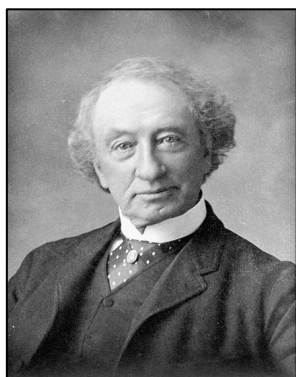
Another rendition of the current logo

Before we leave the beaver, perhaps some final thoughts about the current logo is in order. From close scrutiny, it seems likely that the artist was not heraldically trained. It does cause one to ponder what would the outcome be if it were otherwise.

Here, for the reader's consideration, is a variation with an heraldic bent, but still keeping to the overall design. Please send comments, suggestions, and critiques to the Editor.

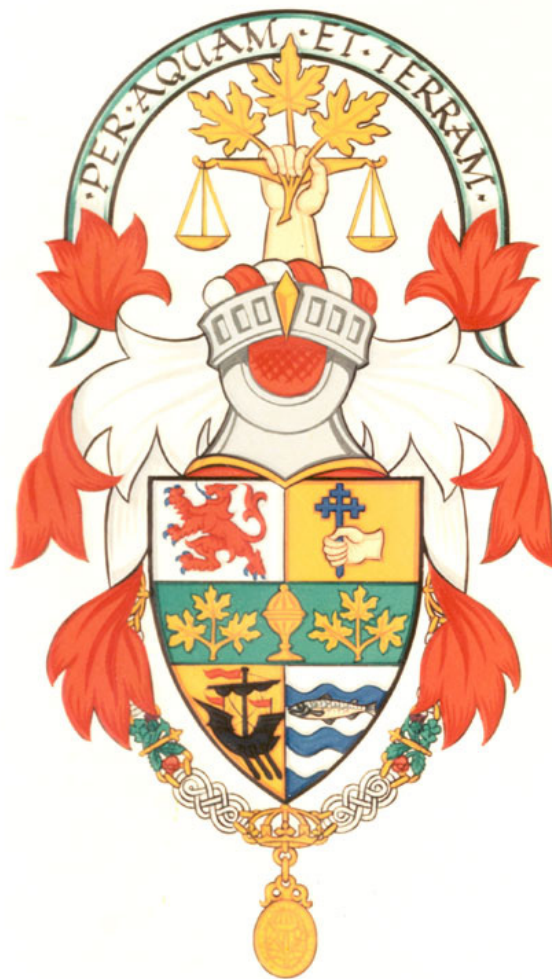
On that note, readers might be now a little hungry for real arms. While the CPR never had a grant of arms, there was some heraldry not far away in the form of armigerous executives. While today it would be rare for a corporate executive to bear arms, not so much 150 years ago. But before getting to CPR employees, there is one fellow that we need to consider first, as he was the one who initially kicked the ball in getting the railway built. He may have fumbled the ball a few times but, in the end, he carried it into the end zone. He was our first prime minister.

Surprisingly, Sir John A. MacDonald was never armigerous ... at least during his lifetime. He did display arms in his office and he did have a bookplate, but they were not his personally. They belonged to the chief of the Clan MacDonald of Sleat. Eventually, he had the dubious (and very rare) honour of receiving a personal grant from



Sir John A. Macdonald
Prime minister of Canada
1867 - 1873, 1878 - 1891
Source:
Library and Archives Canada

the Lord Lyon about a century too late, necessarily posthumously. It was, unintentionally, kind of a salute to his nickname of "ol' tomorrow". The arms were based on that of the aforementioned clan chief. Readers are encouraged to look up Sir John A.'s listing in the CHA's Register.



Arms of 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.

Now, let us visit the early presidents of the CPR, all instrumental to the timely completion of the railway. The first president was George Stephen. He had just stepped down from the presidency of the Bank of Montreal when he and a consortium of bankers and rail road tycoons formed the CPR. His time with this enterprise was very stressful but, in the end and as a result, he became Canada's first baron, Baron of Mount Stephen. The stained



George Stephen
First president of CPR
Source:
Library and Archives
Canada



Arms of
George Stephen
Source: Institute of Stained
Glass of Canada

glass arms shown here, and below, are found in the Mount Stephen Hall in the Banff Springs Hotel.

These arms, shown below, are a mystery for they are purported to

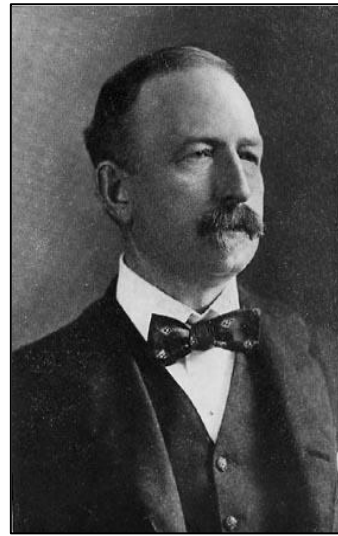


Mystery arms of
William Van Horne
Source: Institute of Stained
Glass of Canada

have belonged to William Van Horne, general manager of the CPR during the construction phase and, later, the president when George Stephen stepped down in 1888. The problem is that he was never armigerous. He had no time for pomp and pageantry or anything of similar bent and would never have applied for a grant. When queried on

the topic, he would jokingly quip, “A dinner horn pendant upon a kitchen door”, in testament of his legendary appetite.

William Van Horne
Second president of CPR
Source: CPR Archives



Thomas Shaughnessy
Third president of CPR
Later Baron Shaughnessy
Source: CPR Archives

Thomas Shaughnessy was the company treasurer during the construction phase, an absolutely critical position considering that the company was almost always in financial trouble until the line was finished. These financial troubles were caused by pushing iron through stone, across the Canadian Shield and through the Rocky Mountains, unprecedented feats that were a

lot more expensive than planned. Later, he became president when Sir William stepped down in 1899. It was his strong and steady presidential arm that kept the CPR well on course to an extensive global reach. Following in George Stephen’s footsteps, somewhat, he became in 1916 Baron Shaughnessy.



Arms of
Thomas Shaughnessy
Source: Institute of Stained
Glass of Canada

So, there we have some emblems and arms associated with the CPR. And similar to the CPR construction ending at Craigellachie B.C., this tour will end with an excerpt from an old Scottish poem celebrating a rock formation in Scotland not far from where George Stephen grew up.

*Great rock, by which the Grant hath sworn,
Since first amid the mountains born;
Great rock whose sterile granite heart
Knows not, like us, misfortune’s smart,
The river sporting at thy knee,
On thy stern brow no change can see,
Stand fast, stand fast, Craig Elachie!*



BRANCH MEMBER EARNS NATIONAL HONOUR



Dexter to sinister are Acting Mayor Rob Southcott, Don Mayers, Connie Mayers and Past-President John Neill. In the background is a photograph of the Arms of the City of Powell River B.C.
Photo credit: Steve Cowan

On Tuesday October 26, 2021 a special presentation was made at the City of Powell River BC Council Chambers. While the visit was ostensibly to view the Arms of the City, the real purpose was a surprise presentation of a certificate of Meritorious Service Award (M.S.A.) to branch member Don Mayers who resides in Powell River.

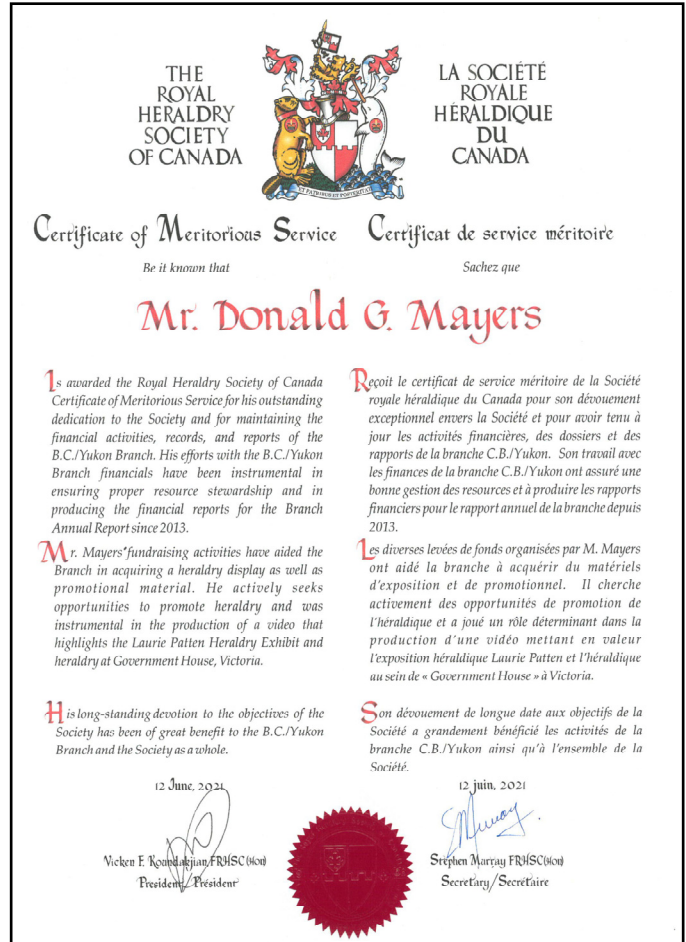
Pictured above is Acting Mayor Rob Southcott (on the left holding the dexter side of the frame) with Don Mayers (holding the sinister side); accompanying Don is Mrs. Connie Mayers who acted as our driver and tour guide for the day, and on the far right is John Neill, F.R.H.S.C. (Hon) who is our branch past president. Acting as photographer and master of ceremonies was branch president Steve Cowan.

The board of the BC/Yukon branch had nominated Don for the M.S.A. following Don's retirement from the key post of branch treasurer. Don had held this position since 2013; the honour had been approved by the R.H.S.C. national board meeting held after the 2021 on-line Annual General Meeting this past June.



Mr. Don Mayers

Don has agreed to stay on the branch board as a director; he can't get away that easily from our activities. A copy of Don's M.S.A. certificate is shown. An image of this as well as other Society honours earned by various branch members will be shown on our branch website as details are gathered.



The Arms of the City of Powell River BC were seen but this was only a photographic copy of the original Arms. The Arms are dated December 31, 1969 and were issued by the College of Arms, London, England.

We enjoyed discussing the Arms with Acting Mayor Southcott; we are curious where the original Grant may be and Mr. Southcott will be seeking location details. More to follow in later issues of The Blazon.



A framed photograph of the Arms of the City of Powell River B.C. that hangs in the council chambers.
Photo credit: Steve Cowan



AN INTERVIEW WITH BRANCH MEMBER JOAN MERRINGTON

Steve Cowan, Comox BC



I first met Joan at a branch heraldry gathering in New Westminster B.C. in late 2009; I was a new member and only knew a few members here on Vancouver Island. I travelled over to the mainland with fellow member John Neill who introduced me to several members at the luncheon and presentation. I should have paid a bit more attention when introduced to Joan as she has a very interesting story about life and heraldry in Africa.

As we approach the 40th anniversary of our branch early next year I thought I would research the heraldic activities of members, and particularly those members I did not know very well. Joan had relocated from Langley to Victoria; I knew, like me, she also has an interest in vexillology as well as heraldry. I thought it would be a different aspect for an article in the Blazon if I wrote about the details of an interview with Joan. So, tape recorder going and a prepared list of question ideas, we chatted away for 1½-hours. Here is Joan's story.

Joan's family emigrated from the British Isles to South Africa in the 1820s. Joan was born in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) as her parents had moved there in the 1920s. Joan's father was a telegraphist and worked for the post office as well as the railway. Her mother was a nurse.

During part of World War II Joan was with her father living in Beira, a large seaport on the coast of Mozambique (refer map). Her father was then a telegraphist with the harbour authority and the railway; he would take Joan to the harbour docks on the weekends as a treat and they were keen to identify the various national flags of the foreign ships in port. She learned quite a lot about international flags that started a life-long interest in vexillology.

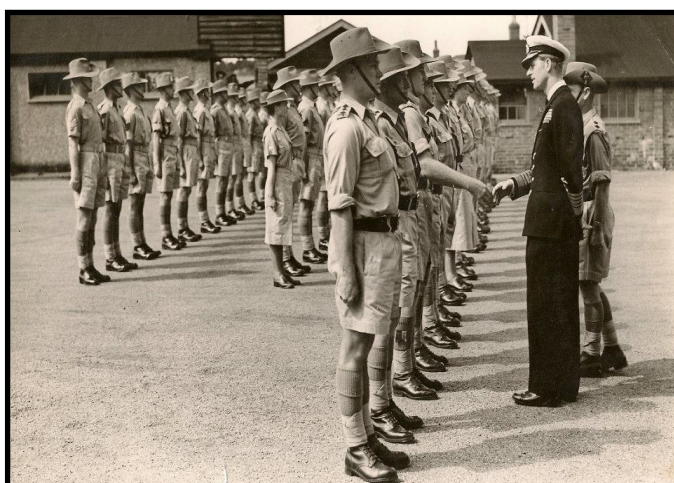


Map of southern Africa showing the nations of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa mentioned in Joan's story.

Image source: cropped portion of a map of Africa found at geology.com.

The Portuguese, also interested in heraldry; hosted a visit to Beira by the president of Portugal. There were a lot of decorations and national symbols on display and that was also the beginning of Joan's interest in heraldry.

Returning to Southern Rhodesia, Joan went to a convent school at Mutari (on the eastern border of Zimbabwe with Mozambique.). From school Joan moved to the capital city Salisbury (later Harare) and was employed as a cartographer for the South Rhodesian government.



In the foreground is Captain Gordon Merrington, a territorial officer with the South Rhodesian army, being inspected in London by H.R.H. Prince Philip at the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Photo: courtesy of Joan Merrington



Joan married Gordon Merrington, a town planner where they worked together for the government. Gordon was also an officer in the territorial forces; in his 30-year military career he was an air observation officer for the artillery. Later he became the head of the Rhodesian Intelligence Corps and achieved the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Joan stopped work when she had her first child. And during this time there were advertised competitions in Salisbury for coats of arms for the suburbs. She entered several and, to her surprise, Joan won several of them. She then got a call from Mr. Michael Jones, late of the British Army, and he asked Joan if she would like to be a founding member of a heraldry society in Rhodesia.



An undated photograph of Joan Merrington discussing heraldry with local residents including Mr. Michael Jones, founding president of the Southern Rhodesian Heraldry Society, on Joan's left.

Photo: courtesy of Joan Merrington

Joan joined the Rhodesia Heraldry and Genealogy Society in 1976. The demand for artwork at the time was for heraldic certificates that were registered with the government through the department that handled patents and trademarks. Southern Rhodesia had made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965, becoming the Republic of Rhodesia. Prior to becoming the Republic of Zimbabwe in 1980, Joan had been involved in some Rhodesian army heraldry as well as calligraphy for municipal certificates.



Certificate awarding Joan Merrington her Licentiate as a Heraldic Painter issued by the Rhodesia Heraldry and Genealogy Society dated May 16, 1979. The certificate is signed by Chairman William Jervois and President the Marquess of Winchester.

Photo: courtesy of Joan Merrington

From her skilled work as a heraldic artist and calligrapher the Rhodesia Heraldry and Genealogy Society awarded Joan a Licentiate as a Heraldic Painter in 1979 (copy of the certificate is shown above).

In 1980 the nation changed its name and government and the Republic of Zimbabwe was created. Prior to this Gordon had been offered a job in Namibia to develop low cost housing for the refugees that were made homeless by terrorist activities. He postponed the new job until the Zimbabwe government came into power.

Joan was still involved with heraldry and assisted the new incoming Zimbabwe government in designing their new arms. The interesting aspect was the new Zimbabwe authorities wanted the red star



Arms of the Republic of Zimbabwe as signed by the President of Zimbabwe on September 21, 1981. Joan Merrington was the heraldic artist who painted the original Arms. Image source: Wikipedia

and an AK-47 military assault rifle on the shield; the heraldry society convinced them to place these behind the crest and shield and to add a hoe in satire with the rifle. Joan was the original artist of the new arms of the Republic of Zimbabwe and these were proclaimed by the Zimbabwe president on September 21, 1981. It was shortly after this date that Joan and Gordon moved to Namibia.

While Gordon was busy helping homeless refugees, Joan was busy doing heraldry; one interesting item was helping with the design of all new



Joan in her home in Cape Town, South Africa, holding the framed artwork of the Arms of the Republic of Zimbabwe with a framed image of the arms and flag of the Republic of Namibia in the background. Photo: courtesy of Joan Merrington

insignia for the Namibian army. As Namibia had become its own separate republic from South Africa the army needed new badges. Joan became the person to consult about heraldry. One thing led to another and Joan met with the minister of information about a coat of arms for Namibia. She became part of the committee, that also included the chief herald of South Africa, Frederick Brownell; her recommendation to use the flag of Namibia for the shield was accepted. Joan also enjoyed working on the Oryx for the supporters and the fish eagle that represented the peoples of northern Namibia.



Arms of the Republic of Namibia. Joan Merrington was a member of the design committee and painted the original Arms. Image source: From the official release of the artwork of the flag and arms of Namibia by Joan Merrington.

While in Namibia Joan furthered her artistic education by enrolling in a variety of art courses through UNISA, the University of South Africa.

With the completion of Gordon's employment in Namibia they moved to Cape Town, South Africa. Gordon became a city councillor and Joan carried on with heraldry and expanded her activities into vexillology.

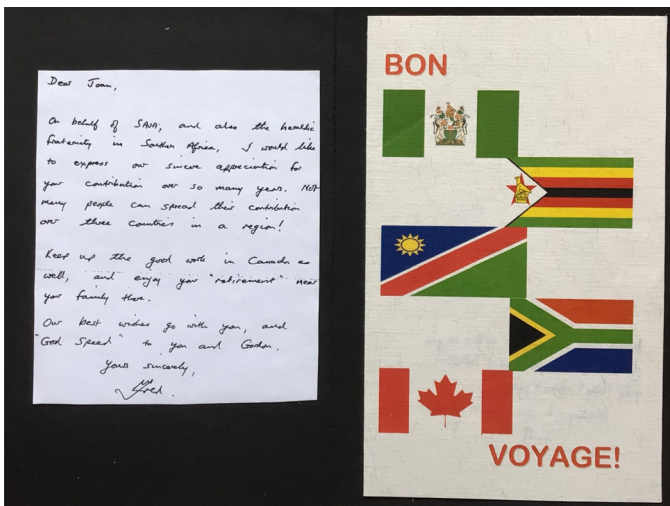


Joan became an outside source for assisting local authorities and libraries in heraldry. In 1998 she was appointed to the Heraldry Council (that approved new arms) and the Heraldry Committee (that assessed heraldic designs) of the Bureau of Heraldry of South Africa.

With the transition of a new government in South Africa a competition was held for a new flag. Joan was one of twelve finalists; the final design was by Frederick Brownell. Joan's interest in flags continued and in 1997 she helped organize and host the international convention of the International Flag Association in Cape Town.



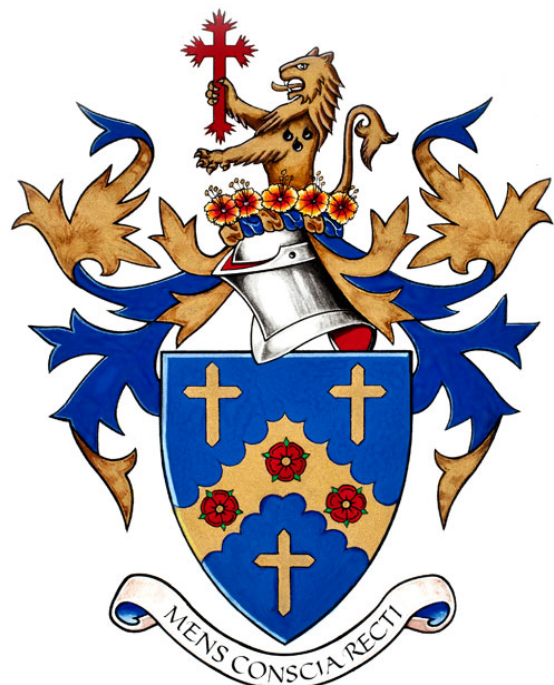
Joan in her studio working on the artwork on the grant for John Stephen Carbone in 2009. Joan was a heraldic artist for the Canadian Heraldic Authority from 2008 until 2017. Photo: courtesy of Joan Merrington



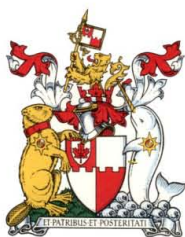
Farewell card from the South African Vexillological Association bidding Joan and Gordon Merrington a Bon Voyage upon their move to Canada. Singed May 2005 By Frederick Brownell, SAVA President. Photo: courtesy of Joan Merrington

In 2005 Joan and Gordon moved to Canada to be near a daughter in Vancouver BC and a daughter in Seattle WA. Gordon died within two months of moving to Canada. While living in Langley BC Joan joined our Society in 2007; she put "heraldic painting" as an interest on our form and she subsequently received a letter from the C.H.A. asking for samples of her work; Joan was a freelance heraldic artist with the C.H.A. from 2008 to 2017.

One interesting link that Joan has with our branch is that she was the artist of the Grant of arms for Grey Austin. Our Distinguished B.C. Patron is the daughter and heir of these arms, Lieutenant-Governor Janet Austin O.B.C. Thank you, Joan.



Arms of Grey Austin, father of our B.C. Distinguished Patron and Lieutenant-Governor Janet Austin. Joan was the heraldic artist of these arms as Granted September 15, 2010.



The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada

British Columbia / Yukon Branch

Under the Distinguished Patronage of

Her Honour
The Honourable Janet Austin, O.B.C.
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



Her Honour
The Honourable Angélique Bernard, O.Y.
Commissioner of Yukon

HERALDRY LUNCHEON

DATE: Saturday, 27 November 2021

Download this form at:

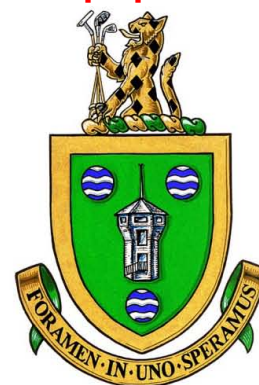
<http://bc-yukon.heraldry.ca/events.php>

TIME: Gather from 12.00 NOON

PLACE: NANAIMO GOLF CLUB, 2800 Highland Blvd., Nanaimo BC V9S 3N8.
Complimentary parking available onsite. Location map can be seen at www.nanaimogolfclub.ca/Contact_Us.

PROGRAMME: The following events are scheduled:

- 12:00 NOON Begin to arrive at the Nanaimo Golf Course;
- 1:15 pm A table service lunch in the our designated meeting room;
- 3:30 pm Depart the Nanaimo Golf Course.



COST: \$25 per Person. E-mail attendance, meal selection and e-transfer of payment to bc_yukon@heraldry.ca no later than Friday, 19 November 2021. Please include names with meal selection in the e-transfer message or return the form separately by e-mail.

INCLUDES: Your choice of a plated table meal of chicken or halibut or Sirloin Steak; a vegetarian/vegan meal is also available; salad and dessert also included. And wine is also provided at each table.

COMPLIMENTARY FERRY TERMINAL TRANSPORTATION: Members and guests coming over on the ferry from Horseshoe Bay as foot passengers will be provided with complimentary transportation from the Departure Bay ferry terminal off the 12:20 pm arrival. Return transportation is also included to make the 3:20 pm departure.

Guests welcome to attend the luncheon

Please provide the following details either in the e-transfer payment message, or as a separate e-mail to the branch address of: bc_yukon@heraldry.ca

Name	Meal selection of Chicken/Fish/Steak/Vegetarian/Vegan	"Yes" for ferry taxi
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Download this form at: <http://bc-yukon.heraldry.ca/events.php>

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS WILL BE OBSERVED



90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATUTE OF WESTMINSTER

December 11, 1931 is the date of a little known event in Canadian history—The Statute of Westminster. Its significance in our national story is this is when we became a sovereign nation in our own right; it made our parliament responsible as our national authority; the Great Seal of Canada is the symbol of this authority.



The seal shown above is that of King George V and was used from 1912 to 1940 when a new Great Seal was made for King George VI. This was subsequently replaced in 1955 for Queen Elizabeth II, The Queen of Canada.

PLANNING FOR 2022

The branch board has set Saturday March 12, 2022 for our branch Annual General Meeting for Victoria BC. And we will also hold our formal dinner that same evening with the theme of celebrating our 40th anniversary as a branch and 20th anniversary of our Society’s Royal Warrant.

This is also Commonwealth Day weekend so who knows who may attend our dinner.

The AGM notice will go out with our 2021 Annual Report in January 2022. Always looking for members who may be interested in assisting our branch board and executive.

THE BLAZON

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

Tel: 250 890 0225 bc_yukon@heraldry.ca

Editor - John W. Neill F.R.H.S.C. (Hon.)

© 2021, The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, British Columbia/Yukon Branch, unless otherwise indicated.

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



Articles are welcome for submission to the Blazon Editor

bc_yukon@heraldry.ca

2021 BOARD MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA / YUKON BRANCH

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

Vice-President: - Tom Mercer

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

Hon. Secretary: - Gary Mitchell

Hon. Treasurer: - Brian Hutchison

Webmaster/Director: - Lee Van Horne

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

Director: – Lesley Patten

Director: - David Hjalmarson, C.D.

Director: - Don Mayers

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