



# The Blazon

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

WINTER 2016

ROYAL HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA

Vol. 11, No.4

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



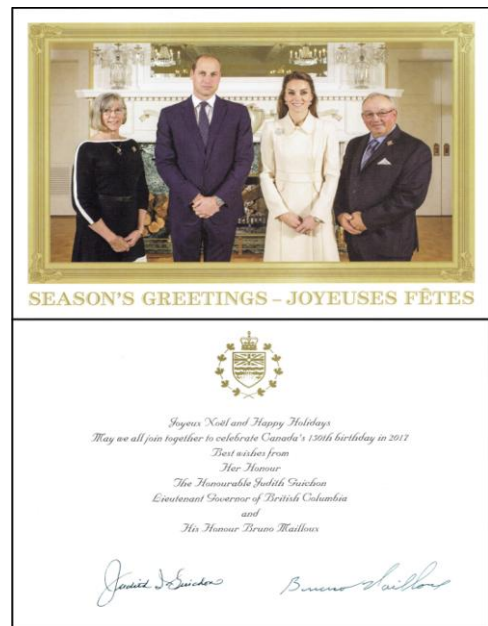
Now that the Holiday Season is over, I trust everyone had a safe and enjoyable time with family and friends. 2016 was an interesting year and I would like to thank the branch and board members who assisted me through my first year as your Branch President.

Over the Christmas period I have received several holiday greetings; one salient Christmas card was from our Branch Patron, Her Honour Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia from Government House in Victoria BC. The distinctive feature on this card is the photograph that includes our Royal Family members, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The second Christmas card of a very heraldic nature was a card from the Canadian Heraldic Authority (CHA) in Ottawa ON. This card was signed by various Canadian Heralds of Arms including the Chief Herald of Canada. While I received the cards, I want you to see them as I consider the cards as season's greeting to all Branch members. Our Branch Treasurer, Don Mayers and I sent out a Branch Christmas card to all members as well as to our Branch Patron and the CHA.

Before Christmas I sent everyone a heads-up about the date for our Branch Annual General Meeting set for Saturday 4 March 2017. Please refer to the separate notice and the registration form. As the tour of Government House will include the Royal Suites; we'll get to see where the Royal Family members from the Christmas card stayed during their recent visit to our Province.

You will also be receiving a separate Branch Annual Report. This is the fourth Annual Report and I want to carry on this item that John Neill started. We send copies to our Patron as well as the national executive of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada to inform them of our activities and finances.

2017 is the Canadian sesquicentennial. Our Branch will be active with Government house in featuring Canadian and



*Holiday Season card to the Branch members from Her Honour Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of BC and our Patron.*



Christmas card to the BC/Yukon Branch members from the Heralds of Arms of the Canadian Heraldic Authority in Ottawa ON.

British Columbian heraldry in celebrating our national 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. We're still working on the display details and your input, ideas and suggestions are always welcome. And we, the Branch Board, would be interested in hearing about any local 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in your community that we could help.

Articles and photos are always welcome. Don't forget we also have a national publication, *The Gonfanon* that needs our support. As a reminder: advertising of members' heraldic arts and activities is free of charge. Please contact our Editor, John Neill, to submit any ads. It's our way of supporting our members.

For those members interested in teaching heraldry at their local Elder College (for students aged 55 plus), I can assist you with a syllabus outline. These courses were popular in the Courtenay and Campbell River areas and are a great way to achieve our aim of promoting Canadian heraldry and we might even snag a member as well.

Steve Cowan, C.D., U.E., L.R.H.S.C.  
Lieutenant-Commander (Retired)  
Branch President.

## SOME INTERESTING HERALDIC WEBSITE LINKS

**Lesley Patten and Gary Mitchell**

During the winter season you may want to check out a few interesting heraldic websites, for education and for fun! Apparently there is some heraldry work straight from 'Middle Earth', the Lord of the Rings of J.R.R. Tolkien. You can read up on the similarities and differences at <https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1G1-350791917/tolkien-s-devices-the-heraldry-of-middle-earth>

Why not increase the knowledge and interest of the next generation of heraldists with these heraldic colouring books...

<https://treeoflifeathome.com/product/knights-and-heraldry-coloring-book/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Heraldic-Colouring-Book-Colour-Chivalry/dp/099545213X>

<https://www.amberley-books.com/discover-books/general-history/general-history/heraldry-coats-of-arms-crests-and-seals-a-colouring-book.html>

Want to test your skills? Visit:

[http://www.funtrivia.com/quizzes/history/specialized\\_history/heraldry.html](http://www.funtrivia.com/quizzes/history/specialized_history/heraldry.html)

<http://www.yourchildlearns.com/heraldrygame/index.html>

<http://www.themcs.org/kidsheraldry.htm>

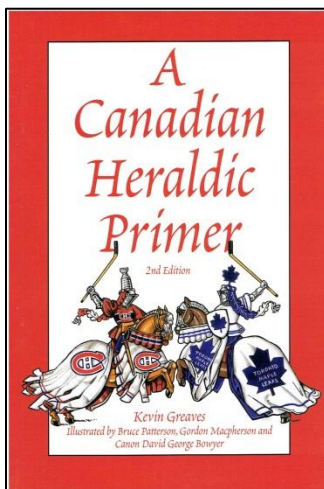
[www.nli.ie/heraldry\\_site/DesignyourownCoatofArms.pdf](http://www.nli.ie/heraldry_site/DesignyourownCoatofArms.pdf)

And finally, don't forget our Branch's own site for great links at <http://bc-yukon.heraldry.ca/links.php>

## LEARNING HERALDRY IN RETIREMENT

Steve Cowan

Since the mission of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada and its Branches is to promote the Art and Science of heraldry, particularly Canadian heraldry, and to encourage an interest in the subject among Canadians, I had approached the Comox Valley ElderCollege to be a volunteer. Elder College is a continuing education program for “students” 55 years of age and older. ElderCollege is designed for students who are looking for a unique community of adult learners. There are no exams, no grades, and no pressure; it's all about learning for fun! And you can the most fun when you are learning about heraldry, particularly Canadian heraldry.



My approach to offering to teach heraldry was to use our Society's educational program to develop a syllabus. The first course I offered to teach was a 2-session Short Course in February 2016 at the Courtenay BC campus of the North Island College. Since this was the first course in heraldry, a PowerPoint presentation was used to conduct the course and the Branch table-top display units and shields came in handy as visual references. As well, each class member paid for a copy of our Society's *Primer* so they could follow along and have for home reference. The fun part was the later portion of the second class where the students were given sheets of blank shields and colour markers to start the design of their own arms. All students were shown our website as well as that for the Canadian

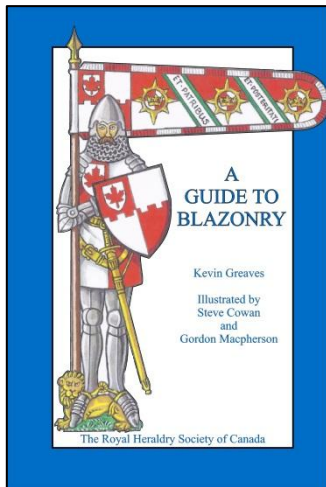
Heraldic Authority and they were encouraged to join our Society and to think about a petition for arms. From the course critique, it was evident that a longer course was needed due to the scope and range of the material covered.

For the autumn of 2016 a four-session course was developed and a second campus was added, Campbell River BC as well as Courtenay BC. Over the summer, I had time to refresh the subject material and to improve my lesson plans for the classes. And economy of scale applied as I could use the same material in both locations. The courses, run in October and into November, proved very popular. And, similar to the earlier shorter course, the final session had the students designing their arms on sheets of blank shields. They were encouraged to keep working on their designs should they wish to petition for a grant of arms. Besides using Society publications as classroom references, I also took along a selection contemporary heraldry books for use during each session.



ElderCollege heraldry course at North Island College Courtenay BC, October 2016.

Photo credit: Don Mayers



While I think that our mission was achieved, a true metric of the teaching success will be students joining our Society or making a petition for arms. My attraction to teaching in retirement facilities is that the older students can promote and explain Canadian heraldry and how arms can be passed to the children, grandchildren and, in some cases, great grandchildren of the “students”.

The one common item in the course critique was whether I could make the course longer - six, or maybe eight sessions. While I don't have the course booked for either location in the 2017 spring program, I am looking at doing these again in the autumn and I will be keeping it at a four session course.

ElderCollege has many campus locations around Vancouver Island including Courtenay, Campbell River, Alberni, Nanaimo, North Saanich, Duncan, Parksville and Victoria. Other BC locations include Sechelt, Delta, Chilliwack, Smithers, Hazelton, North Vancouver, West Vancouver and Powell River. There are other learning-in-retirement organizations in other communities throughout BC. If you are interested in running a course in your local community, I would be happy to pass along my information. Don't forget that the Society has an education program should you wish to have your heraldic knowledge recognized with certificates for the three levels of proficiency.

## FLAG DESIGN COMPETITION

For those members with an associated heraldic interest in flags, the study of vexillology, you may want to try your hand as a local BC competition. Gabriola Island, part of the Regional District of Nanaimo, is seeking creative designs for a unique Gabriola flag. It should reflect the island's history and culture, and be a colourful symbol for both annual visitors and long-time residents. As we have no members living on the island you can mail designs to The Gabriola Museum, P.O. Box 213, 505 South Road, Gabriola BC V0R 1X0, or e-mail a digital design to [info@gabriolamuseum.org](mailto:info@gabriolamuseum.org). Deadline is 15 March 2017. The winning design will be unveiled in May on the Victoria Day holiday weekend. The winner will not only see their creation flying over Gabriola, they will enjoy bragging rights as well as having their design featured in a Society publication. (Article details from the 22 November 2016 issue of the *Gabriola Sounder*.)

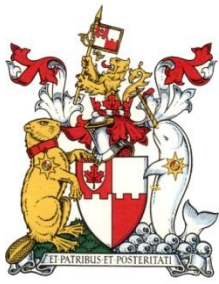
## 51<sup>st</sup> NATIONAL RHSC CONFERENCE, VANCOUVER, BC

The Nation Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held in North Vancouver BC from **Friday 5 May to Sunday 7 May 2017**. The venue for this event is the Pinnacle Hotel at the Pier, 138 Victory Ship Way, North Vancouver.

Vancouver Branch RHSC is organizing this salient event in the 2017 heraldic calendar. The themes of First Nations Emblems and Canada 150 for the conference and further information on this will be forthcoming. Various local sightseeing events are being planned. While we await the official notice with cost and RSVP details, please block these dates. Luckily we don't have too far to travel, so plan now.

While our Branch is not involved with the planning we have offered Vancouver Branch our support and have made various display items available for their use. This should be a colourful weekend.





# The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada



British Columbia / Yukon Branch

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

## OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The formal notice for our BC/Yukon Branch AGM will be going out to you along with our Branch annual report and 2017 Branch Executive nomination form. In the meantime, the details of our AGM are as follows:



**Maclure Room Government House**

DATE: Saturday, 4 March 2017

TIME: Gather from 12:15 noon

PLACE: Government House, 1401 Rockland Avenue in Victoria, British Columbia. It is a 20-minute walk or a five-minute drive from downtown. Free parking is available onsite. Buses on Victoria Regional Transit routes 11 and 14 stop on Fort Street at Joan Crescent, three blocks from Government House.



PROGRAMME: The following events are scheduled:

- 12:15 noon      Begin to arrive at Government House;
- 12:30 pm        Lunch in the Maclure Room located on the lower floor;
- 1:30 pm         Tour of the first and second floor (suites) including the Royal Suites;
- 2:15 pm         AGM in the Maclure Room. Non-participants are welcome to explore the grounds while the Branch members complete the Annual Reports and Election of the 2017 Board; and
- 3:30 pm         Depart Government House



**Drawing Room at Government House**

COST: \$25.00 per person, payable in advance. Cancellation policy is Friday February 24. Address for payment and RSVP form will be in the AGM notice.

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

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**THE BLAZON**

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2016 Branch Executive  
BC/Yukon Branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada

President:	Steve Cowan, C.D., U.E., L.R.H.S.C., Comox BC (250 890 0225)
Vice-President:	Tom Mercer, Victoria BC
Secretary:	Gary Mitchell, Victoria BC
Treasurer,	Don Mayers, Courtenay BC
Past President:	John Neill, M.S.A., Campbell River BC
Directors:	Lesley Patten, Victoria BC
	Lee Van Horne, Coombs BC
	David Hjalmarson, C.D., Duncan BC
Editor of BC Blazon:	John Neill, M.S.A., Campbell River BC
Branch Webmaster:	Lee Van Horne, Coombs BC
Heraldic Advisor:	Laurie Patten, F.R.H.S.C., S.H.A., Nanaimo BC (ex officio)
Nominating Committee:	Shirley Greenwood, F.R.G.S., F.R.H.S.C. (Hon.), Nanoose BC (ex officio)



**[www.bc-yukon.heraldry.ca](http://www.bc-yukon.heraldry.ca)**  
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Articles always welcome. Send to: [bc\\_yukon@heraldry.ca](mailto:bc_yukon@heraldry.ca)

