

## SEA CADET BADGE PROJECT

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One on-going heraldic art project that the Society has been working on since 2012 is the Sea Cadet Badge Project. The aim of this project is to spread word of our Mission to a focused group, The Canadian Cadet Movement, by enhancing their heraldic artwork.



HMCS GATINEAU (left) a destroyer of the RCN from 1959 to 1996 and RCSCC GATINEAU (right) a sea cadet unit located in Gatineau QC.

in heraldry Kevin oversaw the development of the ships badges for the sea cadet units; this led to compiling the ship badges into a large poster that still attracts the interest of sea cadets to find their ship's badge. The poster showed the 218 ship badges of the sea cadet units and cadet summer training centres across Canada in the 1980's.

Each unit has a ship's badge based on the outline for ship badges used by the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN); and this design is based on ship badges of the Royal Navy (RN). A similar design outline is used by other Commonwealth member navies like New Zealand and Australia and, to some extent, India, Pakistan, South Africa and Nigeria, for instance. The basic concept of our ship's badge is a rope coil border around a heraldic design and surmounted by a rostral or naval crown above a name box. To distinguish RCN from RN ship badges three maple leaves are added to the base of the coil. To differentiate between RCN and RCSCC ship badges the RCN maple leaves are Or; the RCSCC maple leaves are Gules, as shown above for HMCS GATINEAU and RCSCC GATINEAU. An additional feature is that RCSCC ship badges all use Sable for the name text in a space Or whereas the RCN badges use a variety of tinctures for the name and space and reflect the livery colours of each ship. For both RCN and RCSCC ship badges the coil border and crown are Or with sails Argent in the crown. The jewels in the crown are also Or.

As part of the BC/Yukon Branch special heraldry display Mr. Laurie Patten, F.R.H.S.C., S.H.A. put together in 2012 and unveiled at the national Annual General Meeting in Nanaimo BC, I was tasked with completing the artwork for the naval, military and air force unit badges shown on the display panels. As a result of this work Kevin proposed that I assist him with the expansion of the sea cadet badge project. Since

During the 1970s, before he became active in the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada (RHSC) in 1982, and subsequently as President of the RHSC in 2001, Dr. Kevin Greaves, C.D., M.D., F.R.H.S.C. was very active in the Canadian Cadet Movement. Kevin was a Canadian Forces (CF) officer with the Cadet Instructor List. As a Reserve officer he worked with the youth of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps (RCSCC) and at one time was the Commanding Officer of RCSCC SENECA, the sea cadet unit at Caledonia, ON. After his service as a CF officer he became a senior executive with the Navy League of Canada, the civil sponsor of the RCSCC, and served as its Sea Cadet Chairperson. From his earlier interest



RCSCC CRESCENT

Bolton, Ontario

**BLAZON:** AZURE, A CRESCENT ARGENT CHARGED WITH A MAPLE LEAF GULES.

**Significance:** The badge is that of HM CRESCENT. The crescent refers to the name while the maple leaf indicates that the ship was transferred to the RCN from the RN under the same name.

An original Sealed Pattern and the accompanying blazon from 1982 of RCSCC CRESCENT of Bolton ON.

the poster was published in the late 1980's several new sea cadet units had been created and the art work of their ship badges was needed for our website.

My interest in naval and sea cadet unit badges dates back to 1996 when I became the Commanding Officer of RCSCC CAPTAIN VANOUVER located aboard HMCS DISCOVERY in Vancouver BC. There were no quality images of the CAPTAIN VANCOUVER ship's badge or other sea cadet units available. My tutelage under Laurie for both vector art and heraldry, and my desire to have quality images of sea cadet ship badges, saw me help Kevin complete the art work of the 41 sea cadet ship badges created since the 1980's. This took from the summer of 2012 to the spring of 2013.

Our aim was to make quality images available to all sea cadet units across Canada. The uses of these images ranged from coloured badges for recruiting flyers and posters to grayscale images to use in photocopying to line drawings for screen printing t-shirts; lots of applications to help the sea cadets take pride in their units.



Artwork of RCSCC GRENVILLE, Kelowna BC. Original Sealed Pattern of 1982 with a distorted image (left) and new artwork (right) as now shown on the RHSC website.



The other aspect was to get the sea cadets, young women and young men aged 12- to 18-years of age, to become aware of the heraldry of their unit badges and their history and heritage. Cadets can access our site to see their badge as well as its blazon and to learn its significance. And this applies to their officers to promote the awareness of heraldic art in general and the RHSC in particular.

Having all the "new" units completed I then started on the remaining "old" unit badges. While the sea cadets can trace their history back to 1905 (my sea cadet unit in Vancouver dated from 1918), it was the work done by Kevin and his Navy League Badge Committee in the 1970's and 1980's that saw each sea cadet unit being issued a Sealed Pattern for each unit badge. Each unit at the time was issued a

copy of its Sealed Pattern but over time the details became less available or lost and units were having difficulty in getting good images. In several cases the image copies became distorted like the one shown here for RCSCC GRENVILLE and were not acceptable for full use.

I am using CorelDraw to recreate each badge. Some, like CRESCENT shown above, are relatively straight forward; some like GATINEAU or GRENVILLE, shown here, are more complicated. Of the 235 current sea cadet units across Canada I have now done the vector artwork for 123 units; about 52%. As I complete each piece of artwork our Webmaster, Mr. David Cvet, F.R.H.S.C. (Hon) uploads the image and replaces it on our site, [www.heraldry.ca](http://www.heraldry.ca). I have done all of British Columbia, most of Quebec and various units throughout the other provinces.

Work on this project continues; I would like to have all the sea cadet unit badges finished by mid-2015. I am also making sea cadet units aware of their badge to draw attention to our site as we make more Canadians aware of our Society and to take an interest in heraldic art.

#### References:

The Insignia and Lineages of the Canadian Forces Volume 2, Part 1, Extant Commissioned Ships A-AD-267-000/AF-002 dated 8 January 2001.

The Navy League of Canada, Administrative Orders, Annex E Corps Badges and Heraldry NL(E) 21 dated 1 November 2009

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