

A SHORT HERALDIC GETAWAY

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We all enjoy a break from the usual routine; albeit a long vacation abroad or a short staycation (to use the phrase from “Corner Gas”). Living in sunny Comox we finally took off to see the upper part of Vancouver Island; we didn’t plan to get to the actual top of the Island at Cape Scott. That’s a bit too adventurous for us and having a face-to-face encounter with carnivorous wildlife would have made the hike a bit more challenging.

While it wasn’t the purpose of the trip, passing through several armigerous communities along the way made the trip a bit more interesting. A short 45-minute trip up the east coast of the



Southern approach to Campbell River BC on Highway 19A from Comox BC.

Photo from Google Maps.

Island is the City of Campbell River. Approaching from the south on Highway 19A is the armigerous welcome sign. The municipal arms are proudly displayed for all to see.

The municipality was incorporated on 24 June 1947. The arms were matriculated by the Court of Lord Lyon in Edinburgh, Scotland on 5 September 1987. This was a year before the Canadian Heraldic

Authority (CHA) was established. The CHA did design and approve the municipal flag in 1988. As typical with Scottish arms the motto is across the top of the arms.



The flag of Campbell River BC from 1988



The arms of Campbell River BC matriculated 5 September 1987

Carrying on north, our next stop was the Village of Sayward BC. And it’s armigerous! This small community of 317, from the 2011 census, is about 16 kms off Highway 19A and is located on Johnstone Strait, the body of water that separates Vancouver Island from the BC mainland at that point. As you approach the large bay you turn at the large welcome sign boasting the Village arms.



The arms of Sayward BC
Granted 21 October 1991



Welcome to armigerous Sayward BC
Photo by Steve Cowan

The village is named after American lumber merchant William Parsons Sayward who came to the Island in the 1850's. The Village was incorporate on 27 June 1968 and was granted arms by the CHA on 21 October 1991. Sayward is also one of the few armigerous municipalities in BC that have their arms on their website. Check out <https://www.sayward.ca/>. We also saw the arms on a sign for the Village maintenance yard but no flags seen.



The grant of arms of Port Alice
BC, out of public view.
Photo by Steve Cowan

Next, and last, of our exploration of armigerous communities on the upper part of Vancouver Island, is Port Alice BC. Some 36 kms from Highway 19A, the Village of Port Alice is tucked away on Neroutsos Inlet accessed by water from the west coast of Vancouver Island and the Pacific Ocean. Established in 1917 as a logging community, it was named after Alice Whelan, the mother of the lumber mill's founding brothers. It was incorporated as a Village on 16 June 1965 and was granted arms by the CHA on 5 May 1999. Unfortunately the arms are not on the large direction sign on Highway 19A. At the Village the arms were only shown as a small image on a historical information sign. I



The arms of Port Alice BC
Granted 5 May 1999

stopped at the Village office and was shown the actual grant of arms. Regretfully the framed arms were hidden away in a back office hallway; the observation was that the Village council office was too sunny for the document.

Adding a bit of heraldry was a nice benefit to exploring our Island. We also wandered Telegraph Cove, Port Hardy, Coal Harbour, Port McNeill and took the ferry over to Malcolm Island to wander around the Finnish village of Sointula. Alas, no municipal heraldry at these places but well worth the time to explore the less travelled northern communities of Vancouver Island.
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