



Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Coat of Arms, Flag, and Badge

It was shortly after the creation of Niagara Region in 1970 and the amalgamation of the Town and Township of Niagara that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's previous "crest" was introduced. The history behind its development is somewhat unknown; however we do have information on the crest's symbolic interpretation.

While the previous crest served as a proud corporate symbol through the years, it was not a true Coat of Arms as prescribed by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, a branch of the Governor General's office. Therefore, it could not be legally entrenched as a formal symbol of our community.

In January 2013, Lord Mayor Dave Eke approached the Heraldic Authority about the creation of a Town flag. At that time, we were advised by the Office of the Chief Herald that it would be necessary to create a new Coat of Arms in line with their heraldic guidelines. Elements of which would then be used in the design of the flag.

Upon approval from Town Council in March 2013, the Chief Herald's office was formally petitioned to produce a historically-recognized Coat of Arms and flag. It was important to us that we did not abandon the concepts from the original crest, but rather modernized them as part of the time-honoured traditions of heraldic design.

On December 10, 2013, exactly 200 years to the day of the Burning of Niagara in 1813, Lord Mayor Dave Eke and the Right Reverend Ralph D. Spence, Albion Herald Extraordinary, officially unveiled the Town's grant of armorial bearings, which includes the new Coat of Arms, flag, and military badge. These three components now comprise the Town's official Letters Patent.

It was fitting for the Town to introduce a symbol of hope and promise on this day to commemorate the rebirth of our community from the ashes of war and in celebration of 200 years of peace with our neighbours to the south. Upper Canada's first capital now has a formal Coat of Arms and proudly flies its new flag.

See below for the Symbolism of our Armorial Bearings.



CANADIAN HERALDIC AUTHORITY

AUTORITÉ HÉRALDIQUE DU CANADA

SYMBOLISM
OF THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF

SYMBOLISME
DES EMBLÈMES HÉRALDIQUES DE

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
ONTARIO

Arms: The colours refer to the Royal Union Flag. The mace, a gilt wood object dating from 1792, indicates that Niagara-on-the-Lake, known then as Newark, was the first capital of the province of Upper Canada. The maple leaf coronets further this allusion and indicate the town's Canadian identity.

Crest: Brock's Monument is an important local landmark, commemorating the Battle of Queenston Heights in 1812.

Motto: This existing town motto alludes to the local fruit industry.

Supporters: Lions were used with the town's previous arms adopted c. 1970. The green colour of the ribbons around their necks is associated with Butler's Rangers, who settled in the Niagara area following the American Revolutionary War. Gorgets were worn by British Army officers until 1830, and the one on the lion thus alludes to the regiment's leader, Colonel John Butler, the founder of the town. The other lion wears a medal as a reference to the medals bearing the King's effigy given to First Nations chiefs in recognition of their alliance with the Crown, and acknowledges the support of the First Nations during the War of 1812, which helped to build a peaceful foundation in the area for the years to follow. The Royal Union Flag of 1707 is used as a symbol of Loyalist heritage and recalls the United Empire Loyalists who settled what is now Niagara-on-the-Lake. The stylized water represents Lake Ontario and the Niagara River, and the base pays tribute to the importance of the local fruit and wine industries.

Original concept of Bruce Patterson, Deputy Chief Herald of Canada, and Ralph Spence, Albion Herald Extraordinary, assisted by the heralds of the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

Painter: Debbie MacGarvie

Calligrapher: Shirley Mangione

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Armes : Les couleurs sont celles du drapeau royal de l'Union. La masse, objet en bois doré qui remonte à 1792, indique que Niagara-on-the-Lake, connue à l'époque sous le nom de Newark, a été la première capitale de la province du Haut-Canada. Les couronnes de feuille d'érable accentuent cette allusion et reflètent l'identité canadienne de la ville.

Cimier : Important point de repère local, le monument Brock commémore la bataille des Hauteurs-de-Queenston en 1812.

Devise : La devise actuelle de la ville, qui signifie « Fructueux ensemble », fait allusion à l'industrie fruitière locale.

Supports : Les lions ont été utilisés dans les armoiries antérieures de la ville, adoptées vers 1970. La couleur verte des rubans entourant leur cou est celle des uniformes des Rangers de Butler, qui se sont établis dans la région du Niagara à la suite de la Révolution américaine. Le hausse-col était porté par les officiers de l'armée britannique, et celui qu'arbore le lion est une allusion au chef du régiment, le colonel John Butler, fondateur de cette ville. L'autre lion porte une médaille qui rappelle les médailles à l'effigie du roi remises aux chefs des Premières Nations en reconnaissance de leur alliance avec la Couronne, et témoigne du soutien des Premières Nations durant la guerre de 1812, ce qui a aidé à jeter les bases d'une communauté pacifique dans la région au cours des années suivantes. Le drapeau royal de l'Union de 1707 symbolise l'héritage des Loyalistes et rappelle les Loyalistes de l'Empire-Uni qui se sont établis dans ce qui est maintenant Niagara-on-the-Lake. L'eau stylisée représente le lac Ontario et la rivière Niagara, et la base se veut un hommage aux industries fruitière et vinicole locales, dont elle souligne l'importance.

Concept original de Bruce Patterson, héraut d'armes adjoint du Canada, et de Ralph Spence, héraut Albion extraordinaire, assistés par les héralds de l'Autorité héraldique du Canada.

Artiste-peintre : Debbie MacGarvie

Calligrapher : Shirley Mangione

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Bruce Patterson
Registrar / Garde de l'armorial