

**Thursday, July 24, 2008**

Summary of meeting with Robert D. Watt, Rideau Herald Emeritus

Mr. Watt explained the history of heraldry and its contemporary applications. The coat of arms is used to express the character, personality and perhaps mission of the institution. It will be a "symbol of identity" of Capilano University.

**Coat of Arms:**

- It is a grant of honour from the Canadian Crown.
- If we hire an external artist (e.g., First Nations) s/he will have to relinquish copyright to the Crown in order to grant the coat of arms to Capilano.
- The structure of the coat of arms includes only one required element, the shield.
- Additional elements may include the motto, crest (above the shield), and the supporters (on either side).
- Animals rather than humans should be used as the supporters. The animals can be mythical or real or in combination. Either way they can be aesthetically stylized. Symmetry is not a requirement, but is preferred.
- The shield can be divided into sections – no specific number is prescribed.
- The shield is a portrait of the institution at a point in time.
- Colour in the coat of arms can be adjusted to provide varying interpretation.
- Simplicity is preferable in the design, including the use of colour. One colour is possible, which would allow for ease of reproduction. A simple design will contribute to a greater sense of timelessness.
- Institutional input is required before the final coat of arms is approved.
- The internal discussion should focus on the ranking of design elements in terms of importance.

Examples of possible design elements suggested by the committee:

- Incorporation of a Sea to Sky regional theme
- Learning and students
- History of development from school district entities and provincial designation
- Natural themes of forest and water
- Animals: salmon, bear, cougar, eagle, deer, crows
- Provincial elements: dogwood
- Focus on symbolic rather than realistic design elements
- Maintain a focus on the dignity of the overall design

Mr. Watt's comments regarding design elements:

- The crest can include an evocation of the surrounding landscape.
- Traditional elements can be stylized
- Modern elements can also be included (binary elements and computer chips were mentioned as examples)

### Other items:

- A flag and a badge can be created out of the shield.

### Motto:

- Need not be in Latin. Better to use English, so students can immediately understand the motto. UNBC did put their motto in a First Nations language.

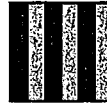
### Logo:

There was discussion and consensus that incorporating elements of the existing logo is a good idea (i.e., how to combine elements reflecting past history and future status as a university):

- Regarding design of the coat of arms and the logo, Mr. Watt appreciates the “family relationship” between the two.
- Part of the coat of arms can be used in or could become the logo design.
- If the coat of arms is designed properly, a separate logo design will not be necessary.
- There is versatility in the use of the coat of arms. Mr. Watt mentioned that you can “take it apart and put it together again” in support of logo design and other uses, too (e.g., badge). Different versions can be used for different uses, and that there is a “hierarchy of use”. Examples: Township of Langley and Justice Institute
- The coat of arms can be put anywhere on anything. The respect afforded the coat of arms is in the quality of the design and the materials used.
- Mr. Watt recommends using the same colour in the logo and coat of arms.
- The colour blue has no meaning in heraldry, although we can give it meaning. There are two heraldic shades of blue, azure and blue celeste. An older version of the current Capilano logo was shown as an example of the use of two shades of blue.



2010-01-01 10:00:00



**Robert D. Watt**

*LVO, MA, AIH, FRHSC, FHS (Hon)*

**Rideau Herald Emeritus /Héraut Rideau émérite**  
of the Canadian Heraldic Authority  
de l'Autorité héraldique du Canada

3421 Emerald Drive  
North Vancouver, BC  
V7R 3B6  
Canada

Tel./Tél.: 604 980-5012  
Email/courriel: [robertdwatt@hotmail.com](mailto:robertdwatt@hotmail.com)

**Armorial bearings proposed for  
Capilano University  
North Vancouver, British Columbia**

by Bruce Patterson, Saint-Laurent Herald, and Robert D. Watt, Rideau Herald Emeritus,  
September 26, 2008

**Technical Description (in blazon, the language of heraldry)**

- Arms (shield):** Azure ~~four~~ salmon in Coast Salish style in annulus Argent, a chief embowed per fess embowed Bleu Céleste and Argent;
- Crest (above the shield):** (*Upon a wreath Argent Bleu Céleste and Azure*) A stack of two books Argent bound Azure their bases affonty;
- Supporters:** Two bears Azure winged Bleu Céleste, ~~each gorged with a wreath of maple leaves and dogwood flowers~~ Argent and standing on a rocky mount proper;
- Motto:** *to be determined;*
- Badge:** *Optional, to be determined;*
- Flag:** *Optional, to be determined.*

**Description and Symbolism**

**Arms:** The main part of the shield is blue and on it are ~~four~~ salmon forming a circle. The salmon are white and in the Coast Salish artistic style. The top third of the shield is set off by a line that arches downwards to the centre, and this section is divided by a similar line half-way up, the upper part being light blue and the lower white.

\* The salmon are an important feature of local wildlife, and are here shown in the artistic style of the original inhabitants of the North Shore area. By forming a circle, they refer to the life cycle of salmon migrating from rivers and streams to the ocean and back inland again. As such, they illustrate the idea of the journey of learning, a journey that continues through life. The circle is also an important symbol of life and learning in many First Nations cultures.

~~The upper part of the shield alludes to the famous Capilano Suspension Bridge, a notable local feature bearing the name also used by the university. It conveys the idea of education serving as a bridge linking areas of knowledge and bringing together those involved in education.~~

Blue, white and light blue are the colours that have been used by Capilano College, the university's predecessor body. The placement of the colours conveys the idea of the "sea-to-sky" location of the university.

\* **Crest:** A stack of two books with blue binding and white pages, their bottom sides visible. This is set on a wreath of twisted cloth in white, light blue, and blue.

The books are a traditional symbol of education, and the arrangement is inspired by the corporate emblem used by Capilano College.

\* **Supporters:** On each side of the shield is a bear in blue with light blue wings ~~and a wreath of maple leaves and dogwood flowers in white around its neck~~. They stand on a rocky base.

Bears are another local creature. In local First Nations mythology bears are symbols of strength and are a link between the natural and supernatural realms. In mediaeval bestiaries, bears were said to give shape to their own young, and therefore bears can represent the "forming" of the young, a metaphor for education. The wings refer to the idea of aspiration and can allude to ravens, another local creature immortalized in First Nations mythology and associated with intelligence and creativity. ~~The maple leaves and dogwood flowers make reference to the fact that the university is located in Canada and British Columbia.~~ The rocky base refers to the nearby coastal mountains that are such a dramatic aspect of the local landscape.

**Motto:**

**Badge:**

**Flag:**



# THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

## His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston



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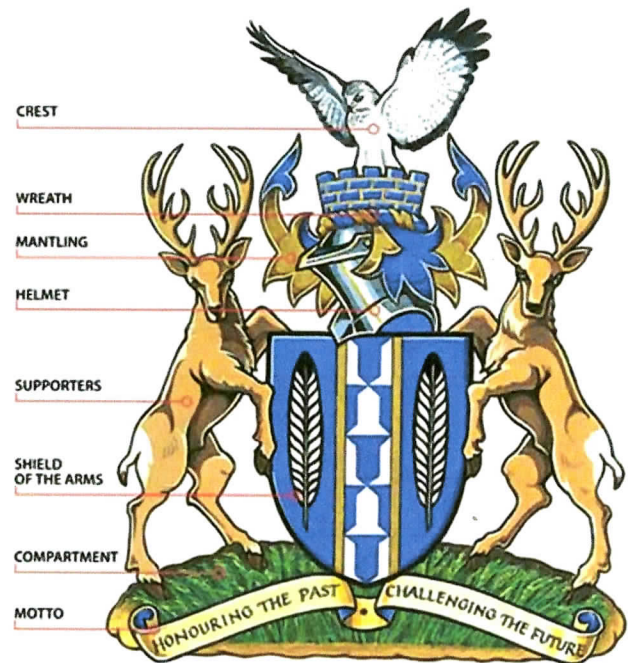
[Reference Material](#)

### Components of a Coat of Arms

A coat of arms is centred on a shield and may be displayed with a helmet, mantling, a crest and a motto. A grant of supporters is limited to corporate bodies and to some individuals in specific categories.

Many grants also include a flag or a badge. A badge is a heraldic emblem distinct from the arms.

(Image on right: The Coat of Arms of the Town of Penhold, Alberta)



Date modified: October 28, 2013

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### Governor General to Unveil Our Coat of Arms

By [SHELLEY KEAN](#) | *Published:* MAY 9, 2011

Please join us as we welcome His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, to Capilano University for the unveiling of our Coat of Arms.

Thursday, May 12

Multipurpose room in the Sportsplex

4 – 4:20 p.m.

Please be seated by 3:50 p.m.

*Light refreshments to follow*

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**His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston  
Speech on the Occasion of the Coat of Arms Presentation  
to Capilano University  
Vancouver, Thursday, May 12, 2011**



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**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

As Governor General and Head of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, it is a great privilege for me to be here to present the recently-granted arms of Capilano University. Speaking as someone who has spent over four decades working in the academic world, it is fitting that my first presentation ceremony of corporate arms is to a university.

As you can see, the simple yet original design combines traditional symbols of learning with references to Capilano's spectacular natural setting between the mountains and the ocean. Its winged bear supporters demonstrate that one of the strengths of heraldry is its ability to transform the familiar into something of imagination. At the centre of the arms is a salmon rendered in a West Coast First Nations style, a reminder of the special connection the university has enjoyed with local First Nations communities since its creation in 1968.

Since its creation in 1988, the Canadian Heraldic Authority has become internationally recognized for bringing a distinctive approach reflective of modern Canadian society to an art form that has existed for many centuries. Approximately 2,000 grants and registrations of arms have been made during the past 23 years, including about 50 new heraldic designs for Canadian universities.

I am honoured that someone who has played such a key role in the development of Canadian heraldry is participating in today's ceremony: Robert Watt, a resident of North Vancouver, who served as the first Chief Herald of Canada from 1988 to 2007. Mr. Watt, who now holds the title of Rideau Herald Emeritus, currently works as a Citizenship Judge, and we are delighted that he was able to arrange his schedule to be with us today, having just come from duties in Kelowna.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, I delivered an installation speech entitled, "A Smart and Caring Nation: A Call to Service." I spoke about wanting to promote a smart and caring nation. A nation where all Canadians can grow their talents to their fullest. A nation that increases and applies the knowledge of its citizens to improve the human condition of all.

To achieve this vision, I outlined three pillars. One of these pillars is to reinforce learning and innovation, a priority I know is particularly valued by all present today.



My visit this afternoon and the beautiful new emblems that we are unveiling pay tribute to the amazing growth of this institution over 40 years, its commitment to teaching in both established and new fields of study, and the important role it plays in the North Shore community and in post-secondary education in British Columbia.

I invite you to take a look at the splendid letters patent document on which the coat of arms and badge appears, and I hope the university will make good use of these emblems in the years to come.

Thank you.



[Capilano University > News](#)

## Canada's Governor General unveils Cap's new coat of arms

May 13, 2011



Anyone passing through Capilano University's Library Square on Thursday, May 12 may have noticed that the Canadian flag had a very regal looking replacement.

The Governor General's standard was flying high, announcing the impending visit of His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada.

His Excellency's motorcade pulled up in front of the Birch building at 3:40 p.m. precisely and right on cue, 25 children from the Capilano Children's centre waved their Canadian flags to greet "this very special person" whom they had been expecting. The Governor General, who was met by Capilano's president, Dr. Kris Bulcroft, very graciously

introduced himself to the youngsters and expressed his delight when one of them proudly showed off her new shoes. He helped another to her feet when she accidentally tipped over.

While this was all just a prelude to the main event – the unveiling of our new coat of arms – it certainly provided an insight into the kind heart of the man who currently represents Canada's sovereign. In fact, everyone associated with the Governor General's office, from the RCMP officers, to his assistants, media relations personnel and secretary, Mr. Stephen Wallace, were congenial, considerate, and generous from their first moment of contact with Cap to their last.

The unveiling ceremony of our coat of arms was short but very sweet, made all the more so due to the presence of Robert Watt, Rideau Herald Emeritus. Robert is a longtime North Vancouver resident and citizenship judge, who just prior to Cap's event was in Kelowna, swearing in more than 150 people as new Canadians. He had also served as the first Chief Herald of Canada from 1988 to 2007, and was a history instructor at Capilano College in the 1960s.

This formal gesture at Capilano was the final dot on the bottom of an exclamation mark that has been our journey towards our new university designation. Dr. Bulcroft gave a detailed description of the coat of arms, including the graphics and motto that translates into *Through learning to a greater good*.

"Significant internal consultation took place with all input received from many campus constituencies," she said, before introducing Robert Watt who read the proclamation text. The crowd of about 80 guests, including students, alumni, employees, board members and elected officials, then heard from the Governor General.

"Speaking as someone who has spent over four decades working in the academic world, it is fitting that my first presentation ceremony of corporate arms is to a university," His Excellency said. "As you can see, the simple yet

original design combines traditional symbols of learning with references to Capilano's spectacular natural setting between the mountains and the ocean. Its winged bear supporters demonstrate that one of the strengths of heraldry is its ability to transform the familiar into something of imagination. At the centre of the arms is a salmon rendered in a West Coast First Nations style, a reminder of the special connection the university has enjoyed with local First Nations communities since its creation in 1968."

Cap's coat of arms is one of about 50 new heraldic designs for Canadian universities created since 1988, when the Canadian Heraldic Authority was established.

"My visit this afternoon and the beautiful new emblems that we are unveiling pay tribute to the amazing growth of this institution over 40 years, its commitment to teaching in both established and new fields of study, and the important role it plays in the North Shore community and in post-secondary education in British Columbia," His Excellency said. "I invite you to take a look at the splendid letters patent document on which the coat of arms and badge appears, and I hope the university will make good use of these emblems in the years to come."

Submitted by: Public Affairs Office

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[North Vancouver](#) | 2055 Purcell Way, North Vancouver, British Columbia Canada V7J 3H5 Tel: 604.986.1911  
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