



ARMORIAL BEARINGS of the CITY OF BELLEVILLE

Shield : Gules a Chevron barry wavy Argent and Azure between three bells Or on a Chief of the last a Book closed bound Azure edged Gold between two Grand Trunk Locomotive Engines tempore 1877 affronty upon rails with sleepers proper.

Crest : Within a Mural Crown of Stone environed by a circlet of Maple Leaves in their Fall tints a demi Beaver proper and demi Lion Or supporting between them a Staff Azure ensigned by a Maple Leaf Gold and flying therefrom a swallow-tailed Pennon of St. George, Mantled Gules doubled Or.

Supporters : On the dexter side a Mohawk Brave habited and accoutred as for war and on the sinister side a Settler of the early nineteenth century habited and holding in the exterior hand near the blade an Axe.

Compartment : Comprising a grassy mount per pale with ploughed ground all proper.

Motto : Loyalty, Tradition, Progress.

City of Belleville

DESCRIPTION OF ARMORIAL BEARINGS

In 1978 Belleville celebrated its Centennial as a City. The historical enthusiasm generated by that event encouraged the Centennial Committee and City Council to consider seeking approval from Her Majesty's College of Arms for the granting of Armorial Bearings to the City. A committee of citizens suggested suitable subjects for the design, the proceeds of Centennial Year events provided funding, and City Council made a formal request to the College of Arms.

The Armorial Bearings granted to the City officially on January 8, 1982, are rich in symbolism.

Shield

1. The blue waves indicate the historical importance of the Moira River, the Bay of Quinte, and Lake Ontario, with respect to the movement of lumber, agricultural produce, other goods, and people; the Moira provided power for our earliest industries.
2. The bells are symbolic of the City's name, reflect the prominence of pioneer merchant and teacher William Bell (although the community was named after Anna Bella Gore, wife of Lieutenant-Governor Francis Gore), and symbolize the rich musical and artistic heritage of the City. They also suggest that the citizens have a sense of humour.
3. The closed book symbolizes the religious, educational, and literary achievements of our citizens. Albert College, Sir James Whitney School, the Ontario Business College, and Belleville Collegiate Institute and Vocational School are some of the historic schools. Susanna and Dunbar Moodie, William Canniff, and Wallace Havelock Robb are among the prominent writers.
4. The Grand Trunk Railway engines symbolize the important role that Belleville played in the development of that railway (the predecessor to the Canadian National Railway), Belleville being a divisional point from early days. They also represent the several other railways that serve(d) Belleville and transportation generally, since the City is an important trucking centre.

Crest

1. The maple leaves in their fall tints suggest the beauty of the surrounding countryside.
2. The beaver typifies the community's industry.
3. The lion is emblematic of the Crown, the source of law, order, and justice. It also suggests that Belleville is the county town for Hastings County (known at one time as the Victoria District).
4. The gold maple leaf is emblematic of Canada.
5. The cross of St. George alludes to patriotic, fraternal, and other societies and individuals involved in the betterment of Belleville.

Supporters

1. A Mohawk brave and an early settler symbolize the friendship that has existed between the people of Belleville and the Mohawks of Tyendinaga for almost 200 years. An outstanding example of this cooperation happened at the height of local unrest in 1837, when the Mohawks arrived in Belleville to "persuade" the citizens to remain loyal to the British Crown. The arrows symbolize the military tradition of our people, both native and non-native.
2. The pioneer symbolizes not only the Loyalists who began to arrive about 1784, but also later settlers who came from the United States, the United Kingdom, continental Europe, and all parts of the world, making Belleville a cosmopolitan centre. The pioneer's axe also represents the industrious nature of our citizens and the axe factories and other industries that have been important.

Compartment

The ground upon which the Indian and settler stand represents the change in land use, from virgin grass and woodlands to ploughed and furrowed fields.

Motto

This reflects the City's Loyalist origins and continuing LOYALTY to Queen and Country; the sense of TRADITION found in many individual buildings, streetscapes, parks, and museums; and the PROGRESS that has marked our history.