

The Flag and Arms of Flamborough

Granted by the Chief Herald of the Canadian Heraldic Authority on April 15th, 2011

Presented to the community at the Carlisle Golf & Country Club on April 29th, 2011

On September 14th, 2009, the *Flamborough Heritage Society* formally petitioned Claire Boudreau, Chief Herald of Canada, for a Grant of Arms which would "... reflect the former Town of Flamborough and its rich heritage so that we can better educate residents in the region."

This petition came eight years after the amalgamation with Hamilton and the feeling was that a grant of arms (including a flag) would be a great way to highlight and preserve Flamborough's distinct identity within the City of Hamilton.

The first meeting of the committee was held at the "Kirk Room" of Waterdown's Royal Coachman on January 2nd, 2010, to brainstorm the themes that would be reflected in the Arms: Trees, Water, People and Growth. Following that meeting, gatherings were held across Flamborough over the next year to be as inclusive as possible. Thanks to a wonderful partnership with the *Flamborough Review*¹, numerous articles were published encouraging people to offer their suggestions to the committee.

A visit was even paid to the *Canadian Heraldic Authority* in Ottawa to meet with Dr. Forrest Pass (Saguenay Herald), the herald assigned to the file.



A banner created by artist Andres Correa, unveiled at the Harry Howell Arena on November 10th, 2012

¹ Newspaper of Flamborough from 1918-2023.



To create the motto, all schools in Flamborough were encouraged to have their students participate in a contest shepherded by committee member (and Waterdown District High School student) Kyle Menagaldo – The penultimate version of the motto read “United We Thrive Against Hamilton,” so the committee diplomatically suggested a shorter version!

The final design for the Flamborough Flag was hotly debated – a final vote was held at the Clappison’s Corners Tim Hortons over five different designs, including a modified version submitted by the Committee Chair. The modified design was selected after a narrow 5-4 vote!

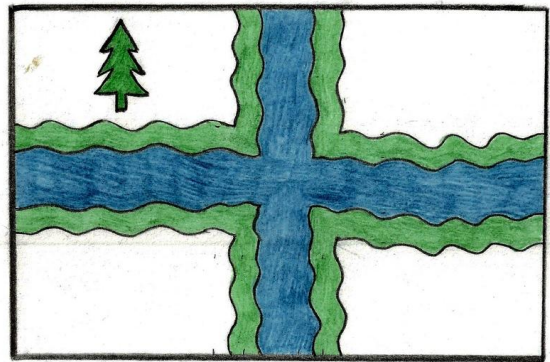
Since the Town of Flamborough no longer existed, the Chief Herald of Canada granted the arms and flag to *The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society*. A ceremony was held at the Carlisle Golf and Country Club on April 29th, 2011, that saw Flamborough’s local symbols proclaimed by the Right Reverend Bishop Ralph Spence, Albion Herald Extraordinary and Canada’s foremost vexillologist. Since early 2016, the original Grant of Arms presented at the *Carlisle Golf & Country Club* has hung proudly at the *Flamborough Archives* at the Waterdown Branch of the Hamilton Public Library.

Symbolism of the Flamborough Flag

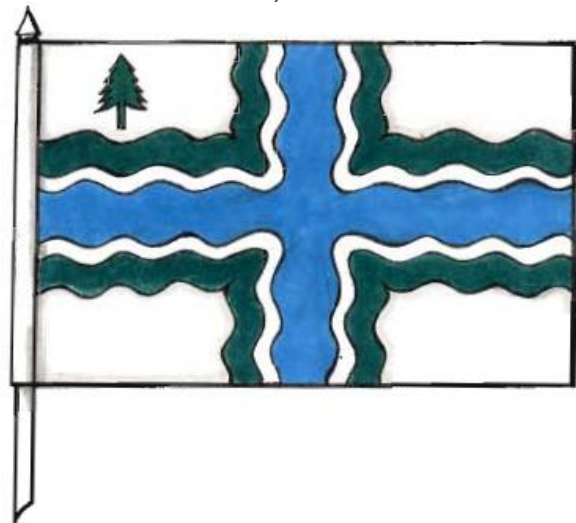
A simple, yet striking design based on the Flamborough coat of arms, also granted by the *Canadian Heraldic Authority*. As with the arms, the number four figures prominently.

Divided into quarters the flag represents the original municipal entities that made up the Town[ship] of Flamborough: The Village of Waterdown and the Townships of East Flamborough, West Flamborough and Beverly.

At the centre of the flag four waterways converge, representing Grindstone, Bronte, Spencer and Fairchild Creeks. The representation of water also highlights the four waterfalls of the region: Great Falls, Tew's Falls, Borer's Falls and Webster's Falls. By their convergence, they represent the amalgamation of the three townships with the village of Waterdown to create the Township (later Town) of Flamborough in 1974, as well as the motto of Flamborough: *United we thrive*.



(top) The first rendering of the Flamborough Flag created for the vote at the Clappison’s Corners Tim Hortons. (bottom) The final design rendered by the Canadian Heraldic Authority.



Green bands represent the strong agricultural heritage of the region, as well as the green belt.

The pine tree symbolizes the original stand of pine trees of the region - largely white pines. Trees were a common symbol in the various seals of the original townships and white pines are very important to Flamborough's Treaty partners (The Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation).

It should also be noted that the official colours of the former Town[ship] of Flamborough were blue, green and white.

Some Fun Facts about the Flamborough Flag:

- *The flag was permanently raised over Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Tree at Memorial Park, Waterdown, July 1st, 2012. It remains flying to this day.*
- *First flown at Waterdown District High School on May 10th, 2011 (removed by the school board in 2017)*
- *During a 2015 meeting in Dublin, students from Waterdown District High School presented the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Kevin Vickers, with a Flamborough Flag.*
- *Three prototypes of the Flamborough Flag were originally created and presented to Bishop Ralph Spence, Waterdown's legendary Ernie Weeks, and the Arms Committee Chairperson.*

If you want your own Flamborough Flag, visit the Flamborough Heritage Society at www.flamboroughhistory.com.



The Symbolism of the Arms of Flamborough



The most important part of any coat of arms is the shield. The other elements around the shield are optional, however, they need to follow very strict guidelines of heraldic design.

The Shield: A white shield with a green pine tree between two blue wavy triangles, rising from the base with their points converging toward the top of the shield.

The top portion of the shield is green with a triangular notch in the middle, pointing upwards, charged with two gold crowns of maple leaves. This section recalls the dormer of an Ontario Cottage, a nineteenth-century vernacular architectural style common throughout Flamborough. A dormer also appears in the logo of *The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society*. The shape also recalls a plough moving through green turf, a reference agriculture and the early settlers of the area.

The coronets depict the human history of the area, as well as its connections with the British and Canadian Crowns.



The pine tree appeared on a number of previous seals and arms of Flamborough's communities and represents the white pines that use to dominate the landscape. White pines are important trees to Flamborough's Treaty Partners, the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

The four wavy lines represent the four major waterways (Grindstone, Bronte, Spencer and Fairchild Creeks) and waterfalls (Webster's, Tews, Borers and the Great Falls) of the region. By their convergence, they represent the amalgamation of the three townships with the village of Waterdown to create the Township (later Town) of Flamborough in 1974, as well as the motto of Flamborough: *United we thrive*.

Crest (top of the coat of arms): A representation of the "Cobblestone Bridge" at Webster's Falls - a major landmark in the Flamborough region.

Supporters (animals on either side): On the left side of the shield is a horse and on the right a great blue heron. Both are wearing a medallion around their necks, depicting a blue arrowhead. They stand on a platform representing the Niagara Escarpment, charged with three red trilliums rising from a bed of green violets.

The horse symbolizes the early settlers of the Flamborough area and the continuing importance and contribution of agriculture. It also illustrates the importance of the horse in development of the area and is also a reference to the iconic Rockton World's Fair. The Great Blue Heron is a common sight in the area marshes and along the waterways of the community. In particular, the heron represents the Beverly Swamp.

The arrowheads represented on the supporters' medallions reflect that Flamborough is located on Indigenous Territory and remains in Treaty relationships with the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Other Nations connected with this land include the Neutral and Wendat Nations.

The Compartment (base of the arms): Solid limestone represents the Niagara Escarpment. The eastern green violet represents the Beverly Swamp, which is home to a provincially significant concentration of the rare flower.

The trillium is the provincial flower of Ontario and the red variety is found in abundance in the Flamborough area. The number of trilliums represent the three areas (Dundas, Aldershot & Clyde) that have been annexed from Flamborough by surrounding municipalities (except Dundas which became independent).

Motto: "UNITED WE THRIVE" - developed by students from Greenville Public School and Rehoboth Christian School, as well as Kyle Menegaldo.

