Acadian Flag Is 100 Years Old

Marie Babineau (Mrs. Alphee Belliveau) is to the Acadians what Betsy Ross is to Americans and their flag. She is credited with the making of the first Acadian tri-color with gold star in 1884 after LaSocite St. Jean Baptiste de Quebec had moved for a national holiday for Acadians. The first stirrings of that movement had been four years earlier in 1880 when August 15 was decided upon.

It was in those years that Acadians wanted to stand out amongst their Canadian counterparts. It was the first time Acadians were assembling since the dispersion at Grand Pre. Julia Albert, author of a Madawaska history prepared for that town’s Centennial in 1969, wrote “the star is symbolic of Mary, Stella Maris, who guided the outcasts through storms and sufferings. The blue field it rests upon represents the persons consecrated to her; while the papal colors, gold and white, show their inviolable attachment to the Holy Mother Church.”

Julia DiFillin, a descendant of the Acadians, holds the Acadian tri-color flag.

The three vertical colors of the flag are blue, white and red. The red band is not explained but is expected to be remnant of the mariners attachment to the motherland across the Atlantic Ocean in France. The blue band, upon which rests the gold star, is a touch of Mary and more of the Acadians attachment to her.

The flag, since 1884 and even before possibly in the minds of these outcast people, became a rallying point for the dispersed. They were in Prince Edward Islands, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and down the eastern seaboard of the fledgling United States.

Since 1978, when the flag flew over Maine’s capital on Acadian Day-June 28, the flag has become a rallying point of Acadians in the St. John’s Valley and its Acadian Festival. Every spring, shortly after May 1, the flag starts appearing atop buildings, on flagpoles and in many windows.

As Acadian Festival week comes closer the number of flags multiply. It has made its way, in a few short years, from a banner that a few could relate to one that is known across the state of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick.

It has taken its place in the Acadian Festival and become the rallying point of modern Acadians as it had become for Acadians rallying to themselves in 1883. During the festival itself, the flag will adorn churches, businesses, streets and prow of canoes making the annual symbolic crossing of the St. John River to the flats at St. David Village.

The Acadian Flag is the fabled Acadie.

REAGAN COAT OF ARMS – This coat of arms, discovered by genealogist Hugh Peskett in Paris, was certified to John O’Reagan, a distant cousin of President Ronald Reagan, in 1712. These are the arms of the O’Reagans who descend from Riagain, nephew of King Brian Boru of Ireland.
Notes from Grace Rogers Cooper NAVA President

Martin Francis wants you to know he is a Collector. For more than ten years he has collected flags, posters, charts, photos, and other educational material relating to the United States flag and to U.S. history. But he does not collect just for his own pleasure, he uses his collection to stimulate interest in the history of the flag. Martin has set up extensive displays in a number of public places in his home area of San Leandro, California... libraries, schools, city hall, department stores, and so forth. For his efforts he has received the Freedoms Foundation Award and the Valley Forge Honor Certificate. Martin will be attending NAVA 18 and setting up an exhibit of his collection. He will be happy to tell you about what he has done, in Vancouver, or write to him 964 Dowling Blvd., San Leandro, CA 04577. Thanks Martin for letting us know what you are doing, Vexillologically speaking.

Flagpole refurbisher is his own sales staff

CLEVELAND—Jack Burris, 47, says you have to talk to the man at the top when you're soliciting business as a flagpole refurbisher. Burris travels from city to city looking for flagpoles in need of repair. He goes to the person in charge of the building and asks for the job. He says it's usually easy to get work if you get past the secretary who wants to know, "Do you have an appointment?" or "What do you want to see him about?" Burris says his masterpieces include poles at the U.S. Supreme Court, the Senate Office Building and the National Geographic Society, all in Washington, D.C.

from: USA TODAY (6 August 1984)

NAVA 18 VANCOUVER British Columbia October 5, 6, 7, 1984

Saturday Evenin', we'll circle the wagons for a real finger-lickin' WESTERN BARBEQUE at Benjamin Stables Trail Town (Hay-wagons will pick us up at the RAMADA, really). Casual-wear will be in order and should include a jacket or sweater... just in case. For a small extra charge, family and guests may enjoy the Barbeque with us NAVAs. Family members and guests of registered NAVAs will have access to indoor swimming, horseback riding (instructors, if necessary), and a nearby super shopping mall complete with fun center and theatres.

Lak ah say... Pahdner... KANSAS CITY is lookin' for YOU.

*NAVA Special, $42 plus tax, single or double occupancy.

Woody Ridgway

NAVA 19 BRINGS ITS '85 INTERNATIONAL FLAG SHOW TO KANSAS CITY

And PAHDNER... Kansas City is countin' on YOU. Bring the family... or a friend... or both, and come enjoy a quickie vacation right here in the big middle of the U.S.A., where the WEST really began. K.C.'s RAMADA INN SOUTHEAST has 50 spacious rooms set aside for NAVAs and their guests. Lovely, English-style RAMADA SOUTHEAST, at I-435 & 87th, is snuggled between SWOPE PARK... the second largest city park anywhere... and BENJAMIN STABLES "TRAIL TOWN" (in case you have a hankerin' to saddle up, Pahdner). You won't believe you're only minutes from downtown. NOTE: To take advantage of special NAVA rates, for October 11th, 12th, & 13th, 1985, you must make reservations 30 days in advance.* Reservations after September 11, will be at RAMADA's regular rates.

NAVA 19 - FRIDAY, October 11th, 1985. The excitement of greeting NEW MEMBERS and GUESTS... the warm refurbishing of old friendships... always sets the tone for our OPENING CEREMONIES. And ALWAYS, the evening is too soon over.

NAVA 19 SATURDAY, October 12th, 1985 Saturday morning we'll start with a visit to the LIBERTY MEMORIAL for a fascinating overview of Downtown K.C. Next we'll visit the home-office showplace of the World famous HALLMARK CARDS, then stop for a luncheon/lecture at the Renowned NELSON ART GALLERY.

Saturday afternoon, it's back to the RAMADA for the labor we love... FLAGS... and MORE FLAGS.

Ramada Inn Southeast
PIZZA: The Flag Connection

The earliest form of pizza dates back to the Stone Age, when the Etruscans of northern Italy ate a crude, flat bread that they flavored with a variety of toppings after baking it. Hundreds of years later, the Greeks brought the dish one step closer to the pizza we know when they began to bake the bread with the topping already in place.

In the 18th century, the Neapolitans of Italy introduced the tomato as a pizza topping. Until that time, tomatoes were thought to have been poisonous. Not long after the Neapolitans discovered that tomatoes were safe to eat and delicious, they became a standard ingredient in pizza recipes.

The familiar cheese pizza did not appear until about 100 years ago. One Raffaele Esposito made a pizza topped with tomatoes, basil and mozzarella cheese for the queen. He chose these ingredients for the topping because their colors represented the red, green and white of the Italian flag.

Pizza came to America with the wave of Italian immigrants around the turn of the century. The first pizza shop in America opened in New York in 1905. The popular specialty of pizzerias spread, especially in the northeast, where many Italians settled.

The dish became popular on a nation-wide basis right after World War II due, in part, to the demand created by returning U.S. servicemen who had eaten pizza in Italy. Today, pizza is one of the most popular dishes among Americans.

— Ron Berthel 8/25
Licenses taken with symbol  

BC flag not so proud

Have you ever glanced uneasily at our British Columbia flag and felt that there was something odd about it—something not quite... right?

If you have, then rest assured that you are at least justified.

Word has come from the Flag Shop that the BC Flag—the proud symbol of our glorious province—is proportioned all wrong.

When W.A.C. Bennett decreed that it should be in proportions of 3:5. That meant that if the flag was 10 feet long, it would be six feet wide and would thus be proportioned properly (see figure one).

But something went wrong. When Eastern Canadian manufacturers fitted the flags to their silkscreens they made them in proportions of 2:1. This meant that if the flag was 10 feet long, it would only be five feet wide and would be out of proportion (see figure two).

Fig. 1

The missing foot in width creates some odd effects. In the correct flag, the wavy lines depicting the Pacific Ocean are properly spaced, the sun's rays are long and the Union Jack at the top is correctly proportioned.

In the incorrect flag, however, the lines are crowded together, the rays are shortened, and the Union Jack is stretched out of proportion.

There have been other unnecessary licenses taken with our flag over the years. A black line has been added to the base of the sun's rays (figure two) and black has been added to the official flag colours of blue, red and yellow as a border wherever two colours overlap.

The change in proportion came about, it seems, because the Canadian flag was designed with proportions of 2:1 and all the provincial flags were made to match.

Now, the Canadian flag looks fine at 2:1—that was the way it was designed. Our flag, however, looks odd.

Protocol demands that no flag flying on the same level as the Canadian flag can be larger in size but this does not mean the flag must be of the same proportions.

The Flag Shop has written to Jim Chabot, Minister of Government Services, informing him of the error in our flag.

Hopefully it will be rectified before Expo 86, when the world arrives to witness our wounded symbol. But until something is done, we shall just have to suffer in silence every time our poor flag is raised above us.

North American Vexillological Association
Oaks, PA 19456

MARK A. LISS D/B/A
HERITAGE FLAG CO.
P. O. BOX 31521
HOUSTON, TX 77231
When NAVA's Membership List was compiled, several listings were inadvertently left out. Please note that the following should be included:

BRANNON, CHARLES ERIC  
435 MARTHA ST., COTTAGE HALL  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

FAIRBANKS, DANIEL  
5372 COULTER LANE  
OXFORD, OHIO 45056

FALLON, JOSEPH E.  
131 PURCHASE STREET  
RYE, NEW YORK 10580

FALLOWS, TIMOTHY JOHN  
224 SKIPTON ROAD  
HARROGATE HG1 3HB ENGLAND

FERRIGAN III, JAMES J.  
365 2ND AVE., #6  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94118

FLAGS INTERNATIONAL  
10845 U.S. HIGHWAY 20  
OSCEOLA, INDIANA 46561

FLICHER, ANDRE  
35 RUE PARISIS  
F 28100 DREUX, FRANCE

FRANCIS, MARTIN  
AMERICAN FLAGS & HISTORY  
964 DOWLING BLVD.  
SAN LEANDRO, CALIF. 94577

FRANKE, PAUL C.  
CHIEF PETTY OFFICER  
4280 SALT LAKE BLVD.  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96818

FUHR, SCOTT  
4019 LLYDE LANE  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36106