

COAT OF ARMS: *The Armorial Achievement of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors*

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Early in 1992 the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors celebrated the centenary of its formation. Some time prior to that when this milestone was looming on the Association's horizon it was suggested to Edward W. Bowyer, an O.L.S. operating in Markham, Ontario that an appropriate way for this professional organization to commemorate this important anniversary would be through a grant of arms. Accordingly, he passed the idea along to the group's executive which took it up and, in due course, letters patent granting an armorial achievement and badge were presented to the Association by the Chief Herald, on Friday March 6th, 1992, during their Centenary Meeting.

In creating these arms the concepts 'Ontario', 'Land', and 'Surveying' needed to be conveyed. Hence, one finds the green field of the shield bearing Ontario's floral emblem encircled by a length of traditional surveyor's chain. The joined links speak of the unity and strength of an association of surveyors. The green background denotes land while the trillium identifies these arms as belonging to a distinctly Ontario organization. Naturally, in this modern age, surveyors make much use of the scientific and technical advancement in instrumentation and computers available to them, but the chain of a type used by Ontario's earliest practitioners of this discipline provides an immediately recognizable symbol for this profession. Even the 'O' for 'Ontario' may be discerned in the chain's configuration on the field. The tinctures or (gold) and vert (green) are inspired by those of Ontario's arms and provide a subtle link to the province.

The external elements were also chosen for their surveying and provincial significance. The dexter (the *holder* of the shield's right) supporter is an osprey, a raptor native to the province noted for its acuity of sight and accuracy in hunting its prey. When soaring high above it 'surveys' the terrain below. The sinister (the *holder* of the shield's left) supporter is a stag of the sort employed in the provincial arms. Both supports wear collars of



surveyor's chain and both uphold another distinguishing element, the ranging rod, an instrument used in the surveyor's task.

The compartment is a piece of meadow or grassy land in which on the sinister side has been embedded a surveying stake marked with a Roman numeral 'C' denoting one hundred, the number of years the association has been in existence.

Above the helm mantled vert and or with a wreath of the same colours is placed as crest comprised of an osprey's head and neck collared with a length of surveyor's chain issuing out of an 'Ontario coronet.'

The motto, "Agnoscamur Eventu" (we shall be known by the results) is a statement of the high standing and regard the Association places on the professional capabilities and services of its membership.

Recorded on page 143 of Volume II of the Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada and dated 12

February 1992 the achievement is blazoned as follows:

Arms: Vert a trillium flower Argent (silver) barbed and seeded Or encircled by a surveyor's chain Or;

Crest: Above a helmet mantled Vert doubled Or wreathed of those colours out of a coronet rimmed Or heightened with maple leaves Gules alternating with trillium flowers Argent an osprey's head Argent gorged with a surveyor's chain Vert;

Motto: AGNOSCAMUR EVENTU

Supporters: On a grassy mound dexter an osprey sinister a stag both Or gorged with a surveyor's chain Vert and upholding a range rod Or. The sinister side of the mound featuring a surveying stake Argent incised with the Roman Numeral C Sable;

Badge: A trillium flower Argent seeded Or encircled by a surveyor's chain Vert.

