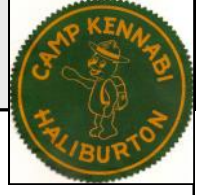




# THE HISTORY OF THE CAMP CRESTS

Part One: The Middle Years, 1982 – 1991 (Article by Ken Wrigglesworth)

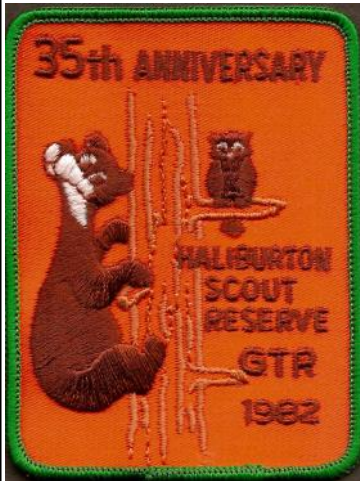


*This is the first of a series of articles covering the history of the crests at Haliburton Scout Reserve, from the first yellow felt circle with a green fleur-de-lis in 1947 to the on-going series of the “bear doing Camp activities” series that never seems to end. I*

*have made phone calls and had long chats with Staff Alumni and Badge collectors, and there is a lot of information and background concerning the dozens of crests that have been available over the years. For details about the early years of Camp Kennabi, Camp Kennaway, and HSR in the 1950s, I spoke to George Kerr (now aged 94!), Bruce Ryans, and Al Moore. I spoke to Ken Cooper about the 1960s to 1990, Doug Donald and Doug Gough about all the years, and half a dozen enthusiastic badge collectors who routinely keep an eye on eBay and Kijiji for the rare Haliburton Crests. But I will start the series of articles with the middle years, 1982 to 1991, mostly in honour of the recently deceased Bob Spencer, who was an influence in the design for these years:*

I've been interested in the crests from the Scout Reserve for years. Long after my years as a Scout, when I would enthusiastically trade and collect from camps and Jamborees, and drive my poor mother crazy with requests to sew them onto my campfire blanket, I would still pick up an HSR crest every year and add it to my stash. Those were the only badges I continued to collect, year-after-year, to present day. I had sold or given away the rest of my collection years ago. Part of the continued collecting of HSR crests is that the Scout Reserve is close to my heart (probably similar to all of you reading this article). The other reason is that during my teenage years on staff I was honoured to have designed 8 of the crests that were produced.

I'll credit Bob Spencer as my mentor to encourage me to approach Ken Cooper in the summer of 1981 with my first design idea. It was both Bob's and my first summers on Staff. Bob was the Administration Clerk, and it was my Staff in Training summer. Ken Cooper was the Director of Camping, and he would visit the camp weekly as part of his responsibilities in this position. I have to admit as a 15 year-old kid I found Ken Cooper a little intimidating, but I was impressed when I found out it was part of his job to come up with the crest designs and order for the GTR camps each year. So with Bob Spencer's encouragement, I screwed up my courage and approached Ken during lunch in the Hub toward the end of August to ask him if he was willing to take any design suggestions for the next year's crest. He told me sure, but he was leaving in 30 minutes, and wouldn't be back again that summer, so if I could come up with something fast, give it to him before he left that day.



Well, that was a bit of pressure. It's been over 30 years, but I still remember the creative process. I had to work within the format of the crests at the time: the camp's mascot, that chubby cartoon bear, doing one of the camp's activities that hadn't been featured on a crest in recent years, and the design had to be simple enough to be produced in two or three colours without too much detail. I grabbed a pencil, and a scrap of paper (in my memory it was a napkin) and I drew the bear in rowboat fishing: he was hooked into a nice bass doing a tail-dance out of the water. However, I remember not being happy with this sketch and crossing it out. I was surprised to see that it was eventually used 2 summers later as the design for the 1983 crest.

So sketch number one was a reject in my opinion, and there were only minutes before Ken left. I don't clearly remember why, but my next sketch had the bear climbing a tree, looking at an owl. One detail I do remember is that I drew the tree trunk before I drew the bear's head, so I

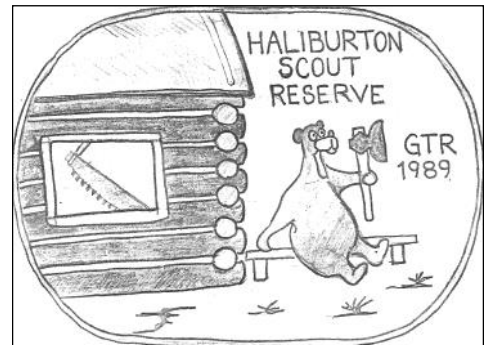
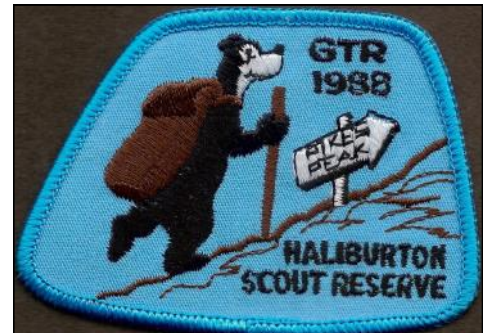
forgot to leave room for the bear's snout. As a compromise I drew the bear with his head turned away from the tree, but his eyes still looking at the owl on an opposite branch. I distinctly recall that I figured if this sketch were accepted as the design, the graphic designer at the company that made the badges would fix it up. I got my pathetic sketches to Ken Cooper as he was getting in his car to head back to Toronto; he thanked me but said he wouldn't promise they'd be used, but he would consider them.



## HISTORY OF HSR CRESTS (continued from page 1)

I have to admit I was surprised and proud that my design was produced the next year for the 1982 crest, and there were no changes from rushed sketch I had submitted to Ken the summer before!

After that, I didn't do any crest designs for a few years. It was in 1985 I gave Ken three more designs that appeared on the 1986, 1987, and 1988 crests, the themes being "Star Hike", "Kayaking", and "Hiking to Pikes Peak". Then in 1986 when Bob Spencer was back again on staff after taking a break for a few summers, I collaborated with him on a few more designs. One idea that I had always wanted to do was to feature the unique program of the Trapper's Cabin, but this had always been a tricky subject because of the amount of detail required, and the number of colours that could be incorporated. I was also the Trapper that summer, so it was important to me to include this theme on a crest. I remember doing several different sketches of the cabin from different angles, but they were always too detailed and complex to reproduce as a crest. It was Bob who suggested only showing part of the cabin, so that the bear wouldn't be too small on the crest. The final design submitted showed the bear sitting on a bench near the front corner of the cabin, holding a lumberman's broad-axe, while through the window of the cabin a two-man cross-cut saw can be seen, to show some of the items in the Trapper's cabin collection. This design appeared on the 1989 crest.



(continued on page 3)

Above are examples of the 1986, 1988, and 1989 crests with the original sketch/artist concept for the 1989 "Trapper's Cabin"

## Alumni Players Needed for 2014 Cricket Match



Coach Gord is calling for all Alumni players to meet at the Mill site at HSR around 1:00 pm (well, before 1:30 pm for sure) for Team Try-outs (well, proving that you are breathing and capable of some movement) on Sunday August 10, 2014.

Not sure you know how to play? Here as all you have to know:

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each player that's in the side that's in goes out, and when a player is out he/she comes in and the next player goes in until he or she is out.

When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you get players still in and not out.

When a player goes out to go in, the players who are out try to get the player out, and when the player is out he/she goes in and the next player in goes out and goes in.

There are two people called umpires who stay all out all the time and they decide when the players who are in are out. When both sides have been in and all the players have out, and both sides have been out twice after all the players have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game!



## THE HISTORY OF HSR CRESTS, Part 1

The summer of 1986 was also the first summer that the Friday evening, camp-wide, camp fires were held on the former site of Tent City (A.K.A. "Ten S.I.T.s"), and renamed Smokey Hollow, so I did a sketch of a Stetson-wearing, guitar-playing, extra-chubby bear near a camp fire. This design was eventually used as the 1990 crest.

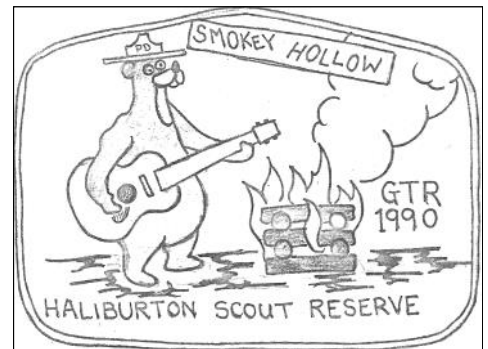
The final design I did was to commemorate the weekly Regatta, which had never been done to date. I wanted to show the Queen Boat race, which was always the final event of the Regatta, "the big race", but here too the challenge was how to show this on a crest. Again it was Bob Spencer's influence to suggest not showing the whole boat, but to crop the action and only show a portion of the Queen boat, with only a few Scouts (bear cubs) showing, instead of a whole crew of paddlers. So this is what I came up with for the 1991 crest: a big chubby "Skipper" bear standing in the stern of the Queen Boat holding the sweeping paddle, and two "scout" bear cubs paddling.

Jeremy Debling, who will provide details of design inspiration in a future article, designed many of the crests of the 1990s. He did share that the 1996 crest was also a collaboration with Bob Spencer. Bob provided one of his favorite American council stripes, which depicted a brilliant sun set. Jeremy used this as a reference, and included the HSR Bear in silhouette against the colourful background of the sunset sky.

*(More to come next issue)*



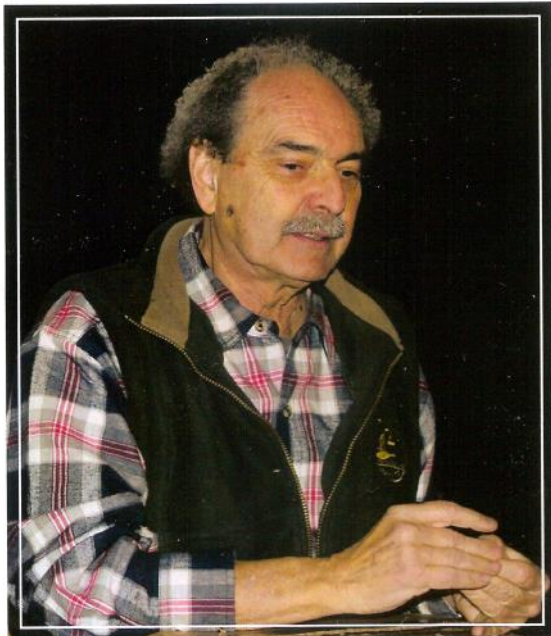
A variety of crests with original art. Notice the note by Ken Cooper to "Add a Red Life Jacket" to the 1987 kayaking bear.



The 1996 crest above was designed by Jeremy Debling and inspired by the favorite BSA Council stripe supplied from Bob Spencer's badge collection. Jeremy designed 10 HSR Crests from '92 to 2001.

**Note:** the following two brief articles originally appeared on page 3, Issue 66 of the “ Alumni Thunderbird” Newsletter, Summer 2014 edition. It has been included here to give context to the references to Bob Spencer in Parts 1 and 2 of the History of the Crests of HSR series

### **Gone Home: Bob Spencer**



It is with great sadness that we let you all know: Robert Richard Spencer in his 69th year on January 11, 2014, at St. Josephs Health Center Toronto, has gone home. He was the beloved husband of Eleanor Spencer, brother of Joan Long (Fred), son in law of Mary Whitwell, brother in law of Shirley Randle ( David) Lois Whitwell and Walter Whitwell. Robert was involved in Scouting since the age of 8 and received his 50 year Service Award in Scouting and the Bar to the Silver Acorn. He taught for 45 years for the Toronto School Board at King Edward Public School.

In Lieu of flowers Donations can be made to the Haliburton Scout Reserve Staff Alumni Bursary Fund.

### **HSRSAA Bursary Fund – Donations in memoriam.**

(Gordon Fleming ('84-'88) – Bursary Chair - [bursary@hsrsa.ca](mailto:bursary@hsrsa.ca))

As you know, the Haliburton Scout Reserve Staff Alumni Association established a Bursary award in 1998, which would be awarded on merit each year to a current staff member who would be starting or returning to post-secondary studies following the summer.

Traditionally, the Bursary is funded by special fund-raising activities such as golf tournaments, bowling nights, 50/50 draws and other monies designated by the Alumni Executive Committee. The Bursary fund has also occasionally benefited from generous individual donations.

It was with mixed emotions that we learned, following the passing this winter of Scouter Bob Spencer (81; 86-95), that his widow Eleanor and her sisters Lois and Shirley Whitwell ('81-'11) determined that in-memoriam donations should be directed in his name to the HSRSAA Bursary fund.

As a dedicated educator and a committed Scouter, we are sure that Bob would have been very appreciative of this decision and touched by the ensuing generosity of his friends, neighbours and colleagues in education and Scouting.

100% of the donations we receive go to successful applicants from the HSR staff, in recognition of his or her contributions to Scouting in general and HSR in particular. We will be presenting the 2014 award in Bob's name, which we believe is a fitting tribute to his own commitment to education, service to Scouting and contributions to the Haliburton Scout Reserve.

Should you wish to contribute to the HSRSAA Bursary Fund, donations in any amount are always welcome and can be sent (to the order of HSR Staff Alumni Association) to: