



# THE HISTORY OF THE CAMP CRESTS

Part Two: The Next Middle Years, 1992 – 2001 (Article by Jeremy Debling)



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *This is the second 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 continue to make phone calls and have 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. The last issue started with what I called the "Middle Years, 1982 – 1991", which covered the years I was most familiar with, because I designed most of those crests. But I started there mostly in honour of the then recently deceased Bob Spencer, who was an influence in the design for many of those crests, and a avid and enthusiastic badge collector. We continue in this edition with an article by Jeremy Debling ('87-90), who took over designing the crests when mine ran out. His ten years of crests were also influenced by ideas from Bob Spencer, as he describes here in his article:*

When Ken Wrigglesworth told me about his idea for a history of the HSR Crests, I was excited and intimidated by the prospects. Like everything at HSR, I feel like such a small contributor to such a rich tapestry. Whether you consider Staff Plaques, or Individual Plaques, or Yearbooks, there has been a long list of amazing artists and talented people contributing to the memories of HSR.

I know I became interested in HSR Crests when I first saw the Star Hike Crest in 1986. I remember liking it a lot because of the beautifully contrasting colours, and the fact I liked Star Hikes. I also remember a small portion of the details that I think crest collectors know way too much about. I believe the crest was so popular that there was a reprint, and one had a black back and one had something else. Bob Spencer would know all this stuff. I remember watching the Patch Swapping in the Hub and thought, maybe I should get involved. I also remember Bob giving new collectors badges to start them off. He was a good mentor, and I have fond memories of many of the things he helped to inspire, such as the Pike's Peak Plaques in 1988 with Ken Wrigglesworth's amazing crest, and then the 1986 Trapper's Cabin plaque, as well he influenced the design of Ken's Trapper's Cabin Crest.

As Ken has indicated I had the great fortune to contribute to the history of the HSR Crests by helping to design the crests from 1992 – 2001. I still can't believe I did that many of them. As my career as a counselor and instructor wound down at HSR, I became interested in contributing some of my own designs. In all honesty I can't quite remember if I was asked by Bob or if I volunteered, I just remember Bob being involved. However it was to be a few years before my first design was made, as there were a few of Ken Wrigglesworth's still to be made.

I read Ken's article with great interest and regret I don't have any original sketches saved, however I did manage to find a scrap piece of paper with crest ideas jotted down. I also loved his line about "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 thought that would be the case for me as well, but more on that subject later.



The first couple of designs were fairly easy, as I had been thinking about them for a while. In 1990, in my final year of Staff, I remember it being the "year of the loon" (in my mind only perhaps). I had created the loon paddle plaque and snorkeling island had the nest. I remember thinking I wanted to incorporate a loon into the design. The HSR bear was sacrosanct and always there, along with the "GTR", Year and "Haliburton Scout Reserve". I wanted to have a design of a bear watching a loon. I remember using a canoe, rather than a row boat due to space constraints. I was very pleased with the way it turned out. The second crest was a Survival Crest. I remember Morgan Illsley saying: "There should be a Survival Crest". I tried to design a crest with the survival debris-shelter in mind, but thought that perhaps people would recognize a lean-to better. The bear was placed in front cooking a fish over a fire.

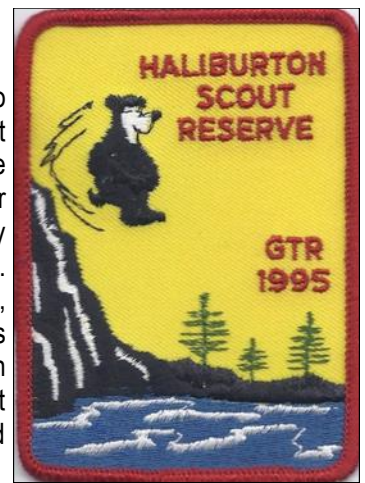


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The 1994 crest was my first of several attempts to introduce a bevy of colour to a crest. I remember it also being the first of many of my crests to earn me laughter and possibly ridicule. I had imagined a bear sitting on a stump watching a sunset. I guess in my naivety, I forgot how a Scout's mind really works. Imagine my surprise when I saw the same design, but the bear was sitting on a Thunder Box. I guess that would be a nice place to do one's business. In



1995, I designed a crest which I knew everyone wanted to do, but no one had really thought it would be approved: the HSR bear jumping off a cliff! This was meant to be the cliff at Mislaid Lake. Honestly, I wasn't sure it would be okay, but I guess someone saw the logic in it.

In part 1 of this series of articles, Ken Wrigglesworth briefly introduced the crest from 1996. This crest was indeed inspired by Bob Spencer as I watched him trading BSA Council Strip Patches. I remember him showing me a very colourful one, with purples, reds, yellows and set at night. This crest was like the 1994, a sunset theme, but perhaps on the other side of twilight. Mostly I remember trying to match the colour and design of that council patch. As Ken can attest to, one of the limiting factors on the crest design was the use of about 4 embroidered colours. Well the black and white of the bear typically accounted for two of them. The other design limitation was the amount of stitching. Typically the stitching was less than 50% or so on a coloured backing. However for some reason in 1996, the entire backing was stitched in purple. I believe this was the intent to replicate a feature of the typical BSA council patch. I seem to remember Bob being a huge advocate of this crest design despite all the stitching and perhaps the increased costs associated with that. The shape of the crest was also meant to mirror the BSA council patch, but I tried to make it more angular with sharper edges so it wasn't an exact copy, just maybe "inspired by". This turned out well in my mind and was one of my favourites.



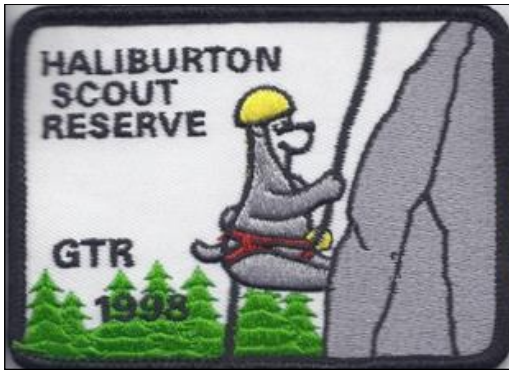
Next was 1997. What can I say about that one? It was definitely my favourite and I was very flattered to hear from Ken Wrigglesworth that it was one of his as well. I wanted this one to be meaningful as well since it was the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Camp. By 1997, I was thick with the HSR Alumni Membership and attending a large number of Alumni functions. As everyone remembers, one of the first sights when arriving is the impressive totem pole in the parking lot. I think I remember hearing it called



"Sydney Joe", but I can't recall why. This has long been one of the symbols of HSR, and has featured prominently as a design element in several things at camp, not the least of which being Gord Fleming's (and company) beautiful Staff Plaque of 1987. I had considered for some time of trying to incorporate this other camp symbol with the HSR bear on a crest. I had struggled with an idea for a while. I finally came up with an almost cartoonish idea: the bear embraced by a wing of the totem pole. More than that, I thought of a sharing of cultures. Canada's native peoples (totem pole) sharing and partners with Canada's Boy Scouts (the Bear). Perhaps I was just thinking too much. To try and further this idea I had them in switched hats. The bear was portrayed wearing a simplified native head dress (sorry for any PC issues here) and the Totem Pole wearing a Boy Scout beret. In the end I think it was one of the more successful crests in my repertoire.

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And again as Gord Fleming, Archery Instructor, has taught me, what goes up must come down. The good design of 1997 was followed by a not quite as successful one in 1998. By this time the rappelling programme was in full swing at HSR, and I thought it was time for it to be represented. The idea was good I guess. A bear rappelling down a cliff face, complete with a climbing harness and helmet (safety first right!). I mean what could possibly go wrong? The trees!! "Them darn trees!!" Another oversight on my part! I mean, who would have thought they were anything but trees in the background?..... Oh yes, well, Scouts might consider exactly what the tree tops were pointing into! I guess it's kind of funny now. But where were the badge company's graphic designers when they were needed for editorial clean up, huh? Probably having a good laugh with everyone else!



The crest for 1999, was another simple concept and design after the elaborate one of two years before. The thought was to create a crest to commemorate the orienteering programme. A programme with its own history, a programme I believe forgotten for a while and then revived. The bear is depicted on the ground with a walking stick and a back pack and the points of a compass are depicted around the edge of the border. Not one of my better efforts.

When I sat down to complete the crest for 2000, I wanted to create something colourful again. I

had an idea of the bear in a canoe, at night (I know, no canoeing at night), with the Northern Lights in the background. I seem to remember this was based on another BSA Council Patch design in terms of the way the pattern was stitched on. I had envisioned a bluish background with lights of green, blue, white. I was very disappointed with the way it turned out. But unfortunately not every crest is going to be a homerun.



The last crest I had the opportunity to design was the one for 2001. There had been other crests using sailing as a theme, but it had been a while (26 years!). I remember towards the end of my Programme career cleaning out old spinnakers from some storage area and recalled their colours. In my design I tried to harness my father's passion for sailing and his need for speed and tendency to try to make his extremely underpowered sailboat exceed its actual limits. I thought of a sailboat bearing down on the viewer, with main, jib and spinnaker sails billowing out. I made it a red boat to try and represent those old red sailboats we used to have and I never got to try. I think we called them "Flippers", but I am not positive if that's what they actually were. I do remember Colin Sears sailing one of them.



I had a wonderful time contributing my 10 designs to the long legacy of almost 70 years of HSR crests. I hope that the collectors like at least some of them. Hopefully I will be remembered for the successes 1996 and 1997 as opposed to the unintentional humour of 1994 and 1998!

*(More "Crest History" to come next issue)*