



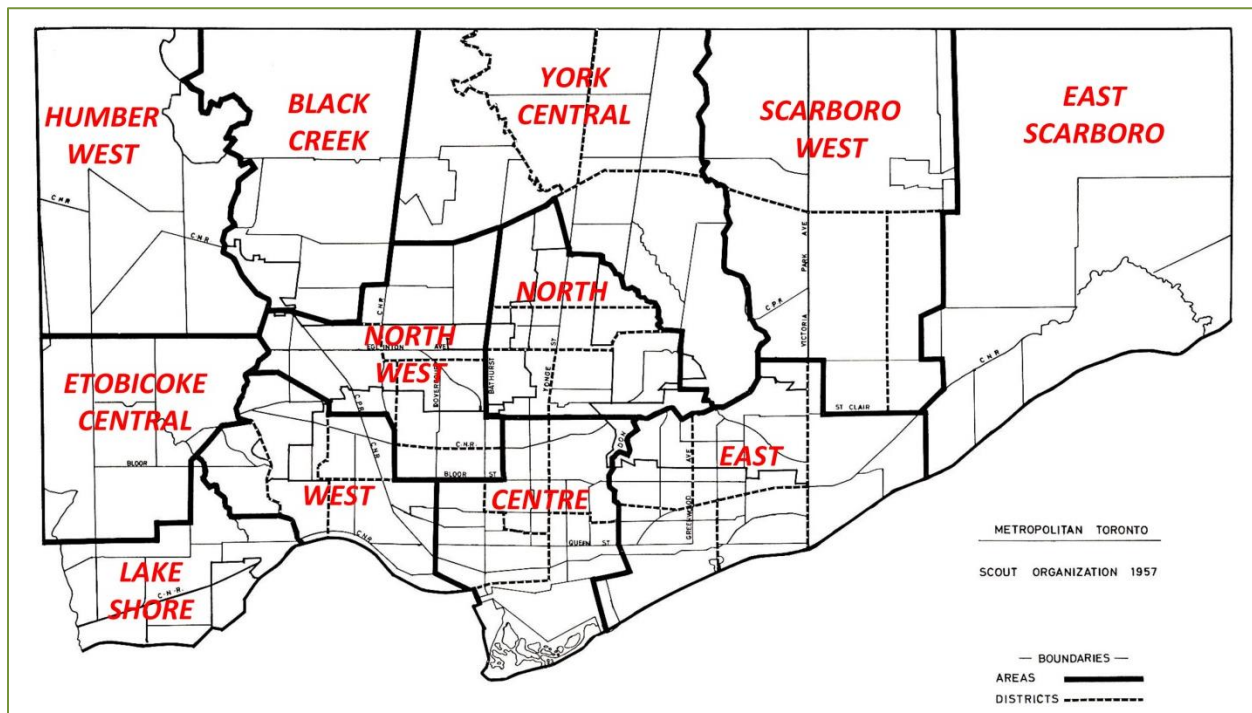
The Boy Scouts Association

GREATER TORONTO REGION

1162 BAY STREET – WALNUT 5-3425
TORONTO 5, ONTARIO

SCOUTING IN THE GREATER TORONTO REGION A MID-CENTURY DISTRICT RETROSPECTIVE (PART 2)

In Part One the focus was on Districts and Areas in the Metropolitan Toronto Area until restructuring on January 1st, 1957. The newly created Greater Toronto Region eventually contained 28 districts by 1959. The focus of this part is the early history of the Region and badge histories of the new districts. As like in Part 1, maps are available for viewing on the *Canadian Badgers Memorabilia Club* website.



Greater Toronto Region Area Organization January, 1957

CHANGES, CHANGES, CHANGES...

First the big picture...in 1954 Ontario comprised six compass oriented regions, except for the Toronto Metropolitan Region. Along with Toronto, the province was divided into the Central, Eastern, Northern, South Central and Western Regions. For the calendar year of 1956 Ontario consisted of eight Scouting Regions with the Western Region being split into North and South Regions. During 1957 Ontario's Regions transformed – boundaries were revised, names changed and two new Regions were created. The new Ontario Regions were as follows:

- Blue Water Region (formerly Western Region North with no changes to boundaries)
- Great Lakes Region (formerly Western Region South with no changes to boundaries)
- Greater Toronto Region (formerly Toronto Metropolitan Region or Areas with expansion)
- Green Acres Region (formerly South Central Region divided into two – along with Niagara Region)
- Lakeland Region (formerly Central Region with boundary changes North, East and West of Toronto)

- Niagara Region (formerly South Central Region divided into two – along with Green Acres Region)
- Northland Region (formerly Northern Region and reduced in size)
- Quinte Region (formerly Eastern Region divided into two – along with St. Lawrence Region)
- St. Lawrence Region (formerly Eastern Region divided into two – along with Quinte Region)

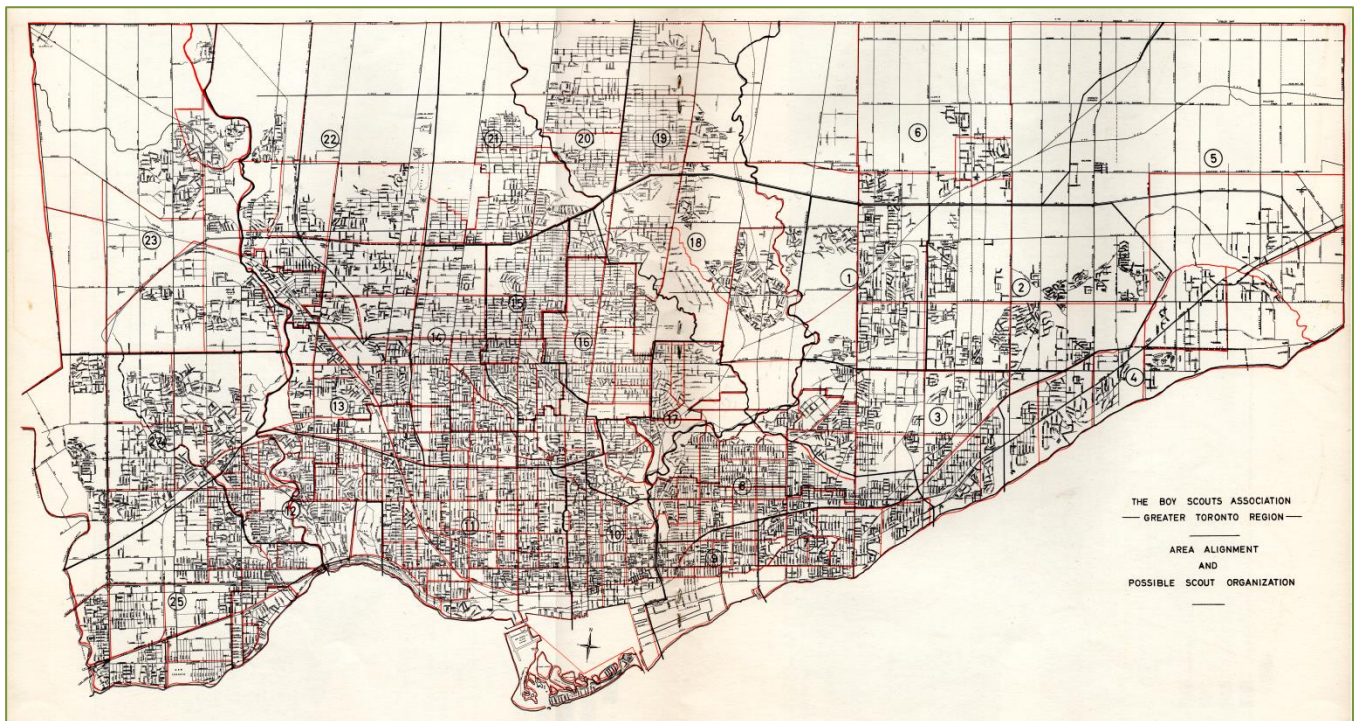
In 1962 The Northlands Region was divided into two with the northeastern section retaining the name Northland, and the new region adopting the name Mississagi.

In April 1956 key personnel of the Metropolitan Toronto Region were asked “to accept an experimental role in developing a pattern of Council operation in a large urban area.” Along with this, “two-level administration” and “committee-type organization” was to be implemented.

“Two-level administration is interpreted simply as meaning two levels of council organization within the Region operating above the Scout Group. This means that every Group in the Region is directly under an Area Council and that every Area Council is directly under the Regional Council. There are, therefore, no administrative divisions between the Group and Area, or between the Area and the Region.”¹ With this plan came special adaptations and approaches to size of areas and servicing. On January 1st, 1958 York Central Area corrected this type of issue by splitting into four smaller Areas¹. The Areas (eventually becoming districts by 1959) were: York Downs Area, East Willowdale Area, West Willowdale Area and Oriole Area.

“One of the prime objectives of the Greater Toronto Region during 1958 was the establishment of a “two level” system of operation. This has been successfully accomplished and is now in operation. Replacing the original fifteen Areas and twenty-one Districts, twenty-five Districts commenced operation on January 1, 1959.”²

Below the 25 Districts are shown on the Area Alignment and Possible Scout Organization map dated 1958. It is taken from “A Pattern to Serve Youth” report written for the Executive Committee of the Greater Toronto



Area Alignment and Possible Scout Organization map dated 1958, courtesy of Mighty Directories Ltd.

GREATER TORONTO REGION

1 - 1958 “A Pattern to Serve Youth” Report, Greater Toronto Region, The Boy Scouts Association, unpagged

2 - 1958 Annual Report, Provincial Council for Ontario, The Boy Scouts Association, page 11

Region. "Possible new areas are expressed as lines on the map separating some 25 areas which are composites of the individual charts and of others not included in this report. The final placing of lines was influenced also by other data and by past experience of Scouting in Toronto".³

"The year 1959 was a year of consolidation for the twenty-five Districts in the Greater Toronto Region. In addition three new Districts were formed making a total of twenty-eight."⁴ On the following page the 28 districts are shown on the District Boundaries map dated January 1, 1960.⁵ The rapid expansion of the Greater Toronto Region slowed down in 1962.

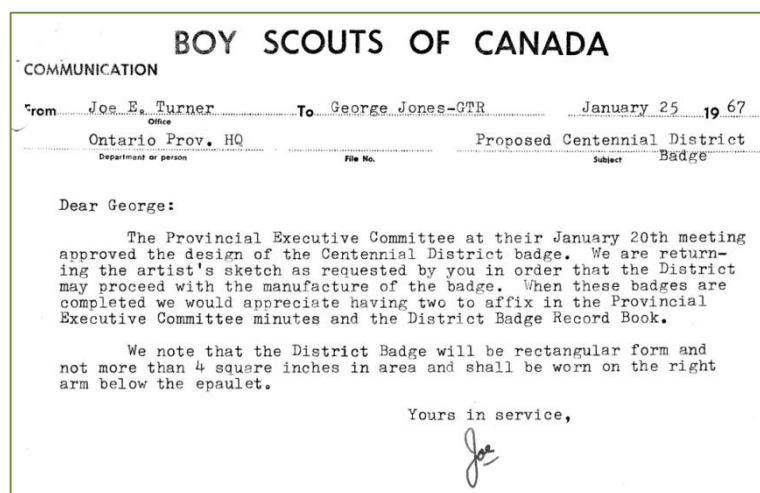
In 1966 extensive surveys were done by the Organization and Expansion Committee and was decided that some of the Districts should join together. Cathedral and Stanley Park Districts became York-Garrison District, and York Downs and West Willowdale were joined to make Centennial District. These changes came into effect on January 1st, 1967. ❀

REGION & DISTRICT BADGES

Pictured on The Greater Toronto Region early badges is the "new" City Hall. Construction began in November, 1961 and the building officially opened on September 13, 1965.



During the 1960's Toronto Districts proposed new badge sketches that were submitted for approval. District badges were first accepted by the Regional Executive Committee and then needed approval by the Provincial Council. The Greater Toronto Region submitted two or three copies of the finished badge to the Ontario Regional and Provincial Offices. Badges did not exceed four square inches in area and were rectangular in form. District badges were worn on right arm immediately below the epaulet and group flash. ❀

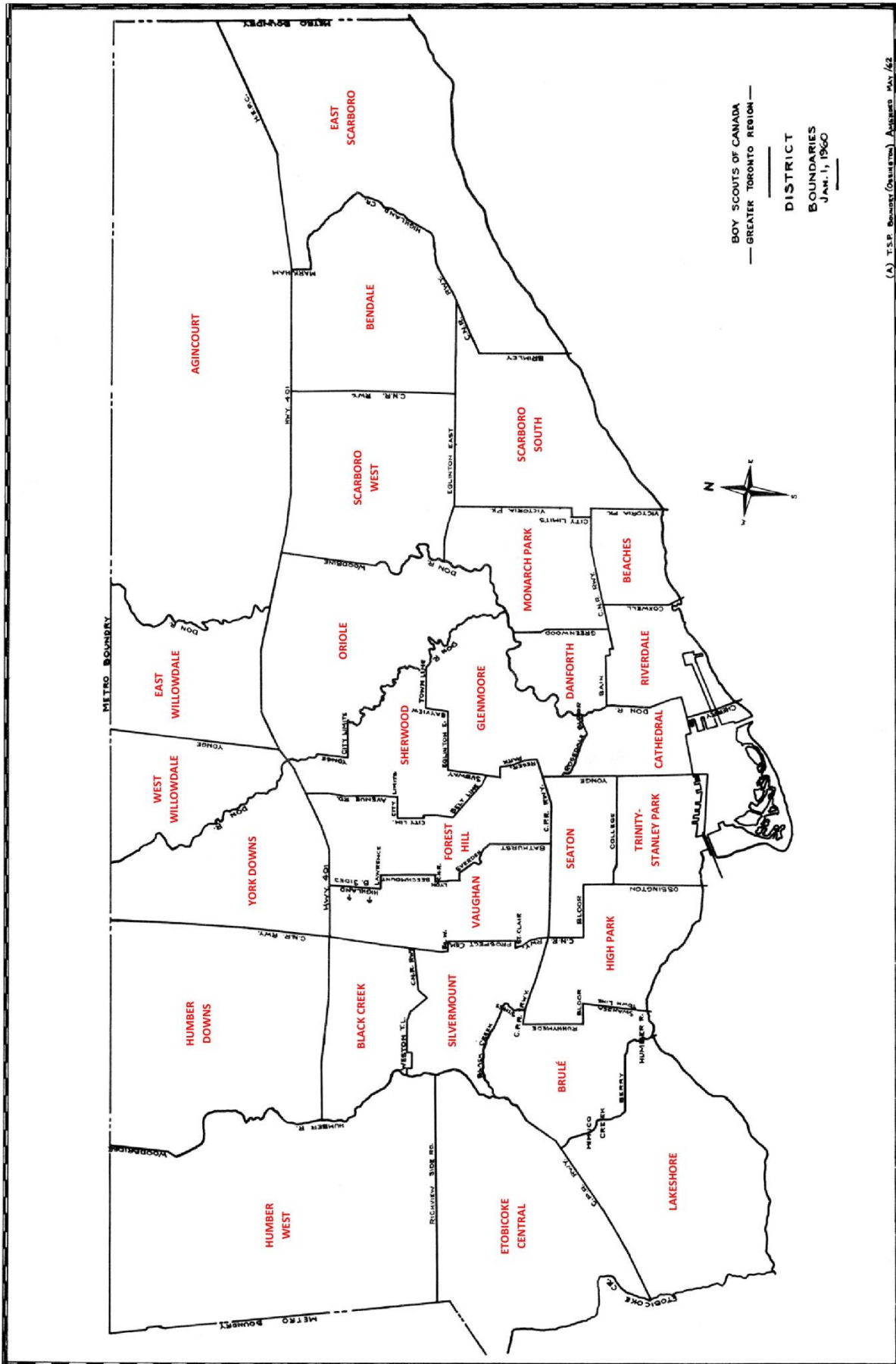


Example of correspondence between Provincial Executive Committee and GTR

GREATER TORONTO REGION

- 3 - 1958 "A Pattern to Serve Youth" Report, Greater Toronto Region, The Boy Scouts Association, unpagued
- 4 - 1959 Annual Report, Provincial Council for Ontario, The Boy Scouts Association, page 13
- 5 - 1963 The District Committee Handbook, Greater Toronto Region, The Boy Scouts of Canada





BOY SCOUTS OF CANADA
 DISTRICT
 BOUNDARIES
 Jan. 1, 1960
 ——— GREATER TORONTO REGION ———

(A) T.S.P. Boundary (Original) Adopted May 1960

BADGE HISTORIES OF THE GREATER TORONTO REGION – 1960'S

Badge histories that follow are taken from *The Boy Scouts Association (Ontario) Provincial Advisory Committee for Ladies' Auxiliaries – Literature for the Use of Regional Representatives* notes, the *Canadian Badgers Memorabilia Club* website and Edward Stepowski. Where available the acceptance and approval dates are provided. In **bold** are the future geographic histories of the Districts after the 1960's.

AGINCOURT

The arrows symbolize: (a) the battle of Agincourt, France, after which the village was named and (b) that this country was first occupied by Indians. The wheat symbolizes the past importance of this area in wheat production. The star is set on high for aspiration.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – October, 1960

Approved by Provincial Council – December, 1960



BEACHES

For as many years as Toronto has been a city, the "Beaches" has been that part of Lakeshore stretching from Woodbine Avenue to Victoria Park Avenue. It was natural therefore to name the Scout District "Beaches". The symbols shown depict those items associated with the pleasure playground of thousands.

The gull, boat, water and sand are all basic and yet totally necessary in depicting the story. The sailboat denotes that this area of waterfront is a pleasure area rather than commercial. The land area is the colour of sand which is self-explanatory.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – October 17, 1963

Approved by Provincial Council – November 15, 1963

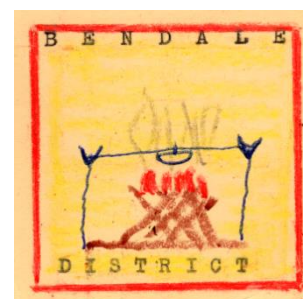
Reorganized as part of WOODBINE



BENDALE

The following is the original badge sketch and description submitted by the District. It was revised to only show a campfire.

The kettle burning over the open campfire represents early Indian history and folklore. Much of this has been pieced together by Archaeologists and historians from the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum as a result of excavations that produced many relics around an old Indian ground at Tabor Hill in the heart of Bendale.



Original artwork submitted

The early Indian believed that the brave had two souls. One departed at the instant of his death, and the other when his remains were finally buried. On his death his body was placed on a platform for burning at the time of "the feast of the souls" or as they said "at the time when they stirred the fire under the kettle". This was done periodically and many bodies were burned in a mass ceremony. The kettle over the open fire was also used to burn the sacred tobacco for the members attending the Council fire.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – October, 1961

Approved by Provincial Council – October 20, 1961

Absorbed by WEST SCARBOROUGH



BLACK CREEK

This design depicts Black Creek, a tributary of the Humber River, for which the District derived its name. The design has been modernized by the addition of colours. It replaces the former District Badge showing an Indian Head, two teepees, a small river and trees.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – April 19, 1962

Approved by Provincial Council – April 27, 1962

Reorganized as part of HUMBER VALLEY & TRI-YORK



BRULÉ

The feather symbolizes the dealings of Etienne Brulé with the Indians and the pioneer axe depicts the main building aid of the early explorers.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – August 16, 1961

Approved by Provincial Council – September, 1961

Merged with ROYAL YORK to form OLD MILL



Original artwork submitted

CATHEDRAL

Cathedral District derives its name from the notable churches within the district which include: The Cathedral Church of St. James, St. Michael's Cathedral, Grace Toronto Church (formerly St. Andrew's Church), Metropolitan United Church and St. George Greek Orthodox Church. The badge consists of gothic castle windows and a green fleur-de-lis representing the Scouting Movement. *(Edward Stepowski)*

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – December 10, 1964

Cathedral and Trinity-Stanley Park Districts merged January 1, 1967. They became York-Garrison District.

Merged with TRINITY-STANLEY PARK to form YORK GARRISON (1967)



CENTENNIAL

The central figure of the badge is a red maple leaf superimposed upon a black ground. A border of gold in a freely curved outline surrounds the badge. The word "Centennial" is inscribed in gold on the black ground beneath the maple leaf.



The name Centennial suggested the use of Canada's national emblem – the red maple leaf – as the central figure on this badge. This was used to represent the individual Canadian boy.

The gold border depicts the many goals which surround him. The black ground figuratively portrays the strivings through which a boy must pass before he reaches his goal.

This badge in its contemporary design symbolically portrays Canada's youth and implies that the Scouting movement is one of the means through which a boy can mature to a worthwhile citizen and eventually reach his goal.

The badge was designed by Robert Gilligan, the former A.D.C. (Scouts) for the West Willowdale District and first came off the loom on February 24th, 1967.

Additional notes from Canadian Badgers Memorabilia Club magazine:

This district came into being during the reorganization of Greater Toronto Region in 1966. It encompassed both York Downs and West Willowdale Districts. The wavy gold border on the outside of the badge represents worldwide Scouting, while the black background represents the world-wide brotherhood of Scouting. The red maple-leaf represents Canadian Scouting. Originally, in the first run of this badge, a gold border surrounded the

leaf, the idea being to confine the badge to Scouting in Canada. In subsequent runs, the gold border was dropped, giving the badge more of a universal flavour in the eyes of the designer. The original badge is now widely sought by varieties collectors. *(Mark Allen Weinberg)*

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – December 8, 1966

Approved by Provincial Council – January 20, 1967

Merged with DOWNSVIEW to form BROWNSEA

DANFORTH

The design depicts a bridge symbolizing the Price Edward and Leaside Viaducts, which cross the Don River. The Beaver is from the City of Toronto, and the Bulldog from the East York Township Coats of Arms. Danforth District services parts of both municipalities.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – October 15, 1964

Approved by Provincial Council – November, 1964

Absorbed by GLENMOORE & TADEAC



EAST SCARBOROUGH

No info at present.

Merged WEST SCARBOROUGH with to form SCARBOROUGH



EAST WILLOWDALE

The Three Willow Shoots symbolize the three Sections of the District (Newtonbrook, Lansing, Willowdale), plus vitality and progress, bound together through the Carrick Bend, symbolizing Brotherhood, Strength and Unity. Combined they represent "progress in strength and unity and brotherhood". The badge is red with yellow band and lettering and brown and white willows.

*With additional notes from **Canadian Badgers Memorabilia Club** magazine.*

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – June, 1960

Approved by Provincial Council – June, 1960

Merged with DON VALLEY EAST to form WILLOW VALLEY

ETOBICOKE CENTRAL

At sundown on September 19th, 1615, a French man named Etienne Brulé completed his tour through a section of Canada which was to become known, in part, as Etobicoke Township. Our District "Etobicoke Central" is only a part of that township and the name "Etobicoke" is an Indian name, meaning "the place where the alders grow", The Indian spelling and pronunciation was "Wah-do-be-kaung".



In our Crest there is an Indian who reminds us of Savigon, a young Canadian Indian Brave, who visited and toured Paris, France; while Brulé visited and toured Canada in that year of 1615, in much the same way as our exchange visits are arranged from time to time in Scouting. Probably the major differences in such a trip were the lack of preliminary correspondence, poor health, food and sanitary conditions aboard the ships of the seventeenth century. Champlain would be amazed at the improvements of this day and age.

The half-moon in our Crest is a reminder of the evening Campfire where men of all nations have sat watching and singing, as the moon quietly and peacefully settled in the west; a tradition and pastime which is much older than Scouting, dating back to the very earliest time of mankind, probably even before the fire itself.

Reorganized as part of THE ALDERS, HUMBER WEST & ROYAL YORK

FOREST HILL

The drawing depicts the Casa Loma, which is located in the south end of this district, and is probably one of the best known historical landmarks in Toronto, possibly the whole of Canada.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – December 12, 1963

Approved by Provincial Council – January 17, 1964

Reorganized as part of CHIMO, GLENMOORE, SHERWOOD & TRI-YORK



GLENMOORE

Glenmoore District badge is made of three symbols that are representative of the three definite areas which make up the district.

1. The AIRCRAFT which represents the Leaside area is symbolic of the old Leaside Aerodrome which was located on the east side of Laird Drive, the site of the present industrial area.
2. The ROSE which represents the southern portion of the district which is known as Rosedale.
3. The TRAGEDY AND COMEDY masks which represent the legitimate theatre (the Crest) which is a part of culture of the north-west part of the district.



Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – December 12, 1963

Approved by Provincial Council – January 17, 1964

Replaced by East York

HIGH PARK

In the year 1873, the property now known as High Park was deeded to the City of Toronto by Mr. John George Howard. This is now one of the best known Parks within the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto, and is located in High Park District, after which the District was named. The symbol depicted on the badge is the carved log, which is situated at the High Park Avenue entrance on Bloor Street.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – June 14, 1962

Approved by Provincial Council – June 27, 1962

Reorganized as part of BRULE, FORT YORK & GRENADIER



HUMBER DOWNS

The compass on the left side of the emblem depicts the fact that the District is in the northern part of the Greater Toronto Region and lies in that part of the city known as Downsview. The trees and hills show that the District is bordering on the Humber River is both hilly and woody. The open spaces, rolling hills and green belts are portrayed along with the compass representing the ever-questing nature of the Scout Movement.



The name of the District is a combination with the Humber being taken from the Humber River which borders the District on the west and from Downsview in which the District lies as part of Metropolitan Toronto.

*With additional notes from **Canadian Badgers Memorabilia Club** website.*

Reorganized as part of DOWNSVIEW & HUMBER VALLEY

HUMBER WEST

The District was established in October 1954 by the Provincial Council for Ontario, having decided the Humber Valley District was too large. Accordingly the Humber Valley District was split into three Districts, of which Humber West was one. The District Emblem of the Old Humber Valley District was built around an Indian Theme and the Provincial Council ruled that it not be used by any of the three new Districts.



Accordingly, in 1955 Humber West District held a competition from May until September, open to all boys and Scouters, to submit their design in colour of a District Emblem suitable to the locality. In this manner, it was felt the design would be representative of the Groups wishes.

At the time of the Competition, it was decided by the District Executive Committee, that the Indian theme was desired, due to three factors:

- The Township of Etobicoke used an Indian on their crest.
- The District Campsite, Oba-Sa-Teeka, was to be based on an Indian theme.
- The territory of the District being so close and bounded by the Humber River, an ancient waterway used by the Indians.

The District Emblem was approved in October 1957 from a design submitted in the Competition and modified slightly as to design and colour. As the Groups had been re-numbered in February 1957, it was agreed that the design of the Group Number would be made in conjunction with the District Emblem for wear by all uniform personnel in the District.

The Emblem consists of an Indian Head front view, full face, with black hair braided on each side, wearing one red and white feather, with the name Humber West in red printing on each side of the feather. The embroidered Indian Head is mounted on a buff coloured background with a green border.

Approved by Provincial Council – December 17, 1957

LAKESHORE

The feature part of the design is a leaping salmon. Primarily this is of historical significance as it was along our shoreline the Indians gathered to catch this fish as a supplement to their diet.

There is an important conservation reminder to us in this selection of the salmon as well, it reminds us of the natural resources and wildlife which has been squandered in the past and now must be guarded.

In the background is depicted the shoreline to indicate our District name "Lakeshore".

The colours were selected to portray the details in as natural appearance as possible and to give a pleasing contrast to the colours of our uniforms.

Scouting started in the area in 1924, with an association formed in 1950 & a district formed in 1959. This badge arose from a design contest for Scouts in 1960. It includes a salmon which were plentiful at the time in the Marie Curtis Park area, the clear blue waters of Lake Ontario & the hills that reached down to the lake. The district boundaries were the QEW to the north, the Humber River in the east, the Etobicoke Creek in the west and Lake Ontario to the south.

*With additional notes from **Canadian Badgers Memorabilia Club** website.*

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – June 18, 1964

Approved by Provincial Council – August 28, 1964

Absorbed by THE ALDERS.



MONARCH PARK

No info at present.

Reorganized as part of GLENMOORE, TADENAC & WOODBINE



ORIOLE

Oriole District derives its name from the old thriving industrial and farming community which was located along the East Don River. The Baltimore Oriole is represented on the District badge. The Baltimore Oriole, in black, orange & white is shown standing on a brown twig. ``Starting in 1984 the Toronto Region Conservation Authority began a long-term rehabilitation programme aimed at improving the wetlands and restoring the cover to the parklands'' in this region. Quote from the *Hiking the GTA website*



With additional notes from *Canadian Badgers Memorabilia Club website, The Scout Leader Vol. 41/9,*

and Edward Stepowski

Merged with SHERWOOD to form SUNNYBROOK

RIVERDALE

The National Song of Canada, which has been sung in all parts of the world wherever Canadians have gathered, was written by Alexander Muir who was born in Lesmanahagow, Lanarkshire, Scotland in 1834 and died, a very famous man, in Toronto in 1906.



In October 1867, while walking with a friend in a garden on Laing Ave., a Maple Leaf fluttered down from a tree and landed on Mr. Muir's coat, he tried to flick it off but it still remained.

On leaving, Mr. Muir's friend suggested that he write a poem about the Maple Leaf. Two hours later the lines that made Mr. Muir famous and were later set to music by him, were finished. At the time of writing he lived near the corner of what now is Pape and Queen Streets.

He became Master of a tiny School at Sproat and Leslie Streets, then called Leslieville in 1860, and served in that capacity until he retired in 1870.

It is interesting to note that the 45th Toronto Troop, the oldest Riverdale District troop has had its Headquarters in Leslie Street School since October 1919 and one of its Scoutmasters is very proud of the fact that his grandmother attended Leslie School when Alexander Muir was the Principal. An illustration of Alexander Muir, along with a history of "The Maple Leaf Forever" hangs on the walls of Leslie Street School alongside of the Honour Roll of students who served in the First and Second Great Wars, many of them members of the Boy Scout Movement in Riverdale District, and quite a number of whom passed away in defense of Our Country, often referred to as the "Land of the Maple" and commemorated by the famous song "The Maple Leaf Forever".

N.B. The Scoutmaster referred to is Mr. Len Varey of the 45th Troop. Also, Laing Ave., along with the Maple tree marked by a small plaque, is situated in the approximate centre of Riverdale District.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – June 14, 1962

Approved by Provincial Council – June 27, 1962

Reorganized as part of TADENAC & YORK

SCARBORO WEST

This crest shows a Viking ship sailing towards the Scarborough Bluffs. It has a blue background, the bluffs yellow with green top. The ship is brown and yellow. The waves are white.



History behind this crest goes back to the days of the Vikings. It is reliably reported that the Vikings landed many years ago on a portion of England which they called Skarthi, after one of the Viking chiefs. This later was transcribed to Scarborough. Thus the Viking ship in this crest.

When John Graves Simcoe first sighted the bluffs of Scarborough, Ontario, he was impressed on how much they resembled the crests of Scarborough, England. Thus came the name of Scarborough, Ontario, and thus the bluffs in this crest.

It is also reported that the Vikings visited The Great Lakes many years ago which further ties this history together. The picture of the bluffs is taken from that which is a part of the Township of Scarborough Coat of Arms.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – April 19, 1962

Approved by Provincial Council – April 27, 1962

Merged with SCARBOROUGH SOUTH to form WEST SCARBOROUGH

SCARBOROUGH SOUTH

The sheaf of wheat was, for many years, part of the Scarborough Township crest. The Scout badge depicts Scouting in the Township.

The badge adopted by the District in March 1959 (approximately) was in the form of a shield. In March 1964 the shape was changed to a rectangle.

There is no record of this badge having been forwarded to the Provincial Council for approval.

Merged with SCARBORO WEST to form WEST SCARBOROUGH



SEATON

The name of the District is taken from the farm village called Seaton which lay at the crossroads of what is now Bathurst and Bloor Streets.

The village was named in honour of Sir John Colborne, First Baron of Seaton, and His Majesty's appointed Governor of the Province of Ontario 1828-1836.

The District crest bears four heads of Barley to be emblematic of the farm village of Seaton, bound together with the village's name and surrounded by the Fleur de Lys emblematic of Scouting.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – December 12, 1963

Approved by Provincial Council – January 17, 1964



Original badge description submitted April 1963:

Seaton Village was the heart of the present Seaton Scout District, and was named after Lord Seaton, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. It was incorporated into Toronto in 1874.

The suggested crest represents the arms of the Seaton Family, which is now extinct.

The colours of the Crest are correct as shown in Burke's Peerage, except that the lower part of the Shield will be changed to a white background and the bugles will be yellow. The crest will be made to conform to the standard size and shape.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – April 18, 1963, May 31, 1963

"The sketch of the proposed Seaton District Badge was approved at the Provincial Council Meeting on May 31st 1963, on the condition that approval is secured from the College of Arms as per Bill Henderson's letter to them on May 8th."

Editor's note: by the correspondence given, it appears the original sketch was not approved; furthermore, Lord Seaton was not the first Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Reorganized as part of FORT YORK, GLENMOORE, GRENADIER & YORK

SHERWOOD

Historical Significance

The Badge consists of three related symbols: firstly, the arrow representing the early history of the area when an Indian Huron village occupied part of the area; secondly, the three flame symbols; these represent an incident during the period of settlement, expansion and development in the area. This incident was the burning of Montgomery's Tavern during the Rebellion of 1837 (this building occupied the present site of Postal Station K, Montgomery and Yonge). The Tavern was the headquarters of William Lyon Mackenzie and his rebels who wished to overthrow the Upper Canada Government, ruled by an influential clique known as the Family Compact, and set up a more representative form of government. However, on their march down Yonge Street they were met by troops and scattered after a few shots. The troops burned the Tavern and Mackenzie fled to the U.S. This incident may seem somewhat farcical today but helped bring about the famous Durham Report three years later which laid the foundation for self-government for the two Canadas and eventually to Confederation. Hence the burning of the Tavern leads naturally to the third symbol, the Mace of the House of Commons, representing self-government and authority.

This is part of Canadian History and is unique to Sherwood District.



Scouting Significance

Significance to Scouting is achieved in several ways. First, the Scouting colours of red, green and yellow are prominent in about equal proportions. The three tongues of flame symbolize the three parts of the Promise, and the flames leap upward as do our Aims. Fire itself is significant of purity through cleansing, and of the warmth of human companionship. The arrow reminds us of the straight path through life which is part of Duty to God, its ten feathers of the ten parts of the Scout Law. The Mace is a reminder of our duty to the Queen and our elected government: it also dates from the days of knighthood when it was a weapon and represented what the knights stood for - honour, loyalty, helpfulness, kindness, courtesy, brotherhood, obedience, thriftiness and cheerful courage - all Scouting qualities.

Finally the name SHERWOOD is united with the overall design of the badge by the impaling arrow.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – October, 1961

Approved by Provincial Council – October 20, 1961

Merged with ORIOLE to form SUNNYBROOK



Original artwork submitted

SILVERMOUNT

The name Silvermount is uniquely appropriate preserving as it does some of the local history and geography dating back about three-quarters of a century. The name is derived by taking the first part of the name Silverthorn and the first part of the name Mount Dennis, these two well-known communities forming the largest part of the Silvermount district. The two districts are contiguous and were separated only by the Black Creek Valley and two railway lines - the McTier division of the C.P.R. and the Collingwood line of the C.N.R. - a division which has long ceased to be significant.



Mount Dennis, the older of the two communities, was settled in the latter part of the 19th century, probably because it was served by the Toronto Suburban Railway running from Toronto Junction in the Village of West Toronto north to Weston and Woodbridge. Mount Dennis had a school as early as 1891. The name came from the farm of Mr. Dennis which lay in the Eglinton Flats, the origin of the name Mount is obscure but may have come from the fact that the land rose sharply from the Black Creek Valley and from the Flats of Mr. Dennis` farm.

The Silverthorn district was developed much later. It was subdivided a few years before World War I. Most of it was the Silverthorn farm whose farmhouse and orchard stood on the hill near what is now the northwest corner of Blackthorn Avenue and Rogers Road.

In the early days silver birches were not uncommon in the bush that covered the north part of Silverthorn and around the rim of the flats which was Mr. Dennis` farm. There was a magnificent stand on the slope north of Venn Crescent which was destroyed when Eglinton Avenue was put through. Another characteristic was the profusion of hawthorn trees and hedges which in the spring were a mass of white blossoms and in the fall rich in their abundance of bright red hawthorn berries. These bushes were probably brought by English settlers who first came to the area.

Scouting had an early start in Silvermount. During World War I, Mr. Diamond started the 29th Troop in Calvary Anglican Church which later grew into the 28th Troop under Scoutmaster James Milligan. The 39th Mount Dennis Troop was an active organization at least 45 years ago. It is significant that some of the Scouts of those former days are still active in Scouting in the district.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – June 14, 1962

Approved by Provincial Council – June 27, 1962

Reorganized as part of BRULE, CHIMO, HUMBER VALLEY & TRI-YORK

TRINITY-STANLEY PARK

This design depicts a Block House and Flag Pole at Fort York, which is located within the District boundaries and is well known as one of Toronto`s historical landmarks.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – October 15, 1964

Approved by Provincial Council – November, 1964

Trinity-Stanley Park and Cathedral Districts merged January 1, 1967. They became York-Garrison District.

Merged with CATHEDRAL to form YORK GARRISON (1967)



VAUGHAN

Vaughan Road follows a route of the old creek bed of Black Creek. In the early 1840`s people used the creek bank as a path to go from Davenport Road and Bathurst Streets across to Eglinton Avenue and Dufferin Street, where there was an inn called Halfway House.

The road continued in a north-westerly direction eventually bisecting Yorkville and Vaughan Townships. In the springtime the road became muddy, so planks were placed down to make the going easier. The road was known as the Vaughan and Yorkville Plank Road. Vaughan Township was opened in 1792 and named after Benjamin Vaughan, one of the British commissioners who signed the Peace Treaty of 1783 with the U.S.A. In the early 1900`s the "Yorkville Plank Road" was dropped and it became known as Vaughan Road.



The symbols on the badge depict the plank road, the Halfway House and the House gate.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – October 14, 1965

Approved by Provincial Council – November, 1965

Reorganized as part of CHIMO & TRI-YORK

WEST WILLOWDALE

The West Willowdale badge retains the colours of the old York Central Badge, and has a willow tree with ten branches, representing the ten Scout Laws, and lines dissecting which are symbolic of its two main boundaries, Yonge Street and Steeles Avenue.

Approved by Provincial Council – May, 1958

West Willowdale and York Downs Districts merged on January 1, 1967. They became Centennial District.

Merged with YORK DOWNS to form CENTENNIAL



YORK DOWNS

This badge contains the white Rose of York Central Area of which it was a part. The ten coniferous trees represent the ten Scout Laws and Ontario's forests, with an upward bar dividing the badge, signifying the "Scout Trail".

Approved by Provincial Council – May, 1958

York Downs and West Willowdale Districts merged on January 1, 1967. They became Centennial District.

Merged with WEST WILLOWDALE to form CENTENNIAL



YORK-GARRISON

This design represents the historical background of the District which originally was a military garrison and which was the scene of many military actions before growing into the great metropolis of Metropolitan Toronto.

Old Fort York and the old and new Armories are within the District boundaries as a reminder of the military history of our city.

Accepted by Regional Executive Committee – June 15, 1967

Approved by Provincial Council – July 12, 1967

Reorganized as part of FORT YORK, GLENMOORE & YORK



REFERENCES:

1957 Annual Report, Greater Toronto Region, The Boy Scouts Association

1957, 1958, 1959, 1962 & 1966 Annual Report, Provincial Council for Ontario, the Boy Scouts Association

1958 "A Pattern to Serve Youth" Report, Greater Toronto Region, The Boy Scouts Association

1961 Scouting Trails 1910-1960, Provincial Council for Ontario, Boy Scouts of Canada

1963 The District Committee Handbook, Greater Toronto Region, The Boy Scouts of Canada

2000 Celebrating 90 Years of Scouting in Ontario, Provincial Council for Ontario, Boy Scouts of Canada

Canadian Badgers Memorabilia Club magazine and website

Literature for the Use of Regional Representatives folder, Provincial Advisory Committee for Ladies' Auxiliaries, The Boy Scouts Association, not dated (circa 1960's)

Hiking the GTA Oriole – Ghost Towns of the GTA

Wikipedia website

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