



Manitoba's First Mace

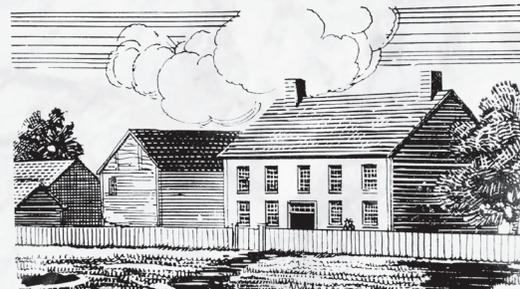
The original Manitoba Mace was primarily made from two unique pieces of wood. The head was carved out of the wheel hub of a Red River Cart by a soldier who served in General Garnet Wolsely's Red River Expedition during the Red River Resistance of 1870. The shaft of the Mace was made from a flagstaff used by the Canadian Militia during the Red River Resistance. The Mace was then gilded by Henry J.H. Clarke, the province's first Attorney General, who went on to become Premier from 1872 to 1874.

The Mace was first used on March 15, 1871 during the opening of the first Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, which took place at the home of A.G.B. Bannatyne, a Winnipeg entrepreneur who had previously been a member of the Council of Assiniboia, the legislative body that governed Rupert's Land prior to Manitoba entering Confederation. The wooden Mace survived a fire on December 3, 1873, and would go on to be used in four of the province's Legislatures.

Our original Mace retired in 1884 after 13 years of service, coming out of retirement 133 years later on the occasion of the celebration of Manitoba Day in May of 2017. Each year on or about Manitoba Day (May 12) this important historical artifact is used as part of the Legislature's sitting day to pay tribute to the rich history of our province.



Red River Cart

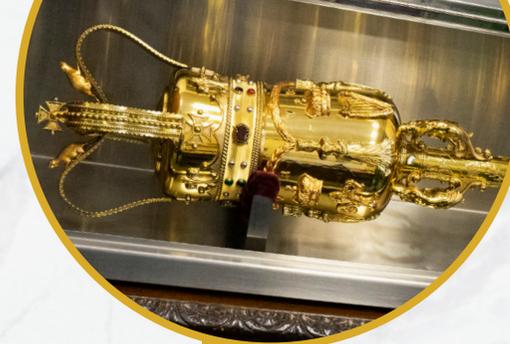


The home of A.G.B. Bannatyne, where the First Legislature met March 15th, 1871. Destroyed by fire December 3rd, 1873



The Mace Runner and Star Blanket Cushion

Each year on or about Manitoba Day (May 12) our original Mace is used as part of the Legislature's sitting day, along with items gifted to the Legislative Assembly from the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba – the Mace Runner and Star Blanket Cushion. The Mace Runner signifies "that as long as the grass is green, the waters flow and the sun shines, the sacredness of the Treaty shall be honoured."



Manitoba's Current Mace

The Mace is the symbol of authority of the House, and is carried each day into the Chamber by the Sergeant-at-Arms. Once the Speaker takes the Chair at the beginning of each sitting, the Sergeant-at-Arms places the Mace on the Table to signal that the House is in session. At the end of each day the Sergeant-at-Arms carries the Mace out of the Chamber to signify the end of the day's business.

The second and current Mace made its first appearance on March 13, 1884, at the opening of the Legislative Building that stood on Kennedy Street south of Broadway, when the Legislature convened for the first time in its fourth home. In January, 1920, the Mace accompanied the Legislature when it moved to its fifth and present home in the new Legislative Building on Broadway.

Manitoba's current Mace is 151.75 cm in length, 22 pounds and made of gilded brass.

The general design of Manitoba's Mace is similar to that used by the British House of Commons at Westminster, London.

The head is surmounted by the Royal Crown, with the fillet of its head-band studded with simulated emeralds, amethysts, garnets, aquamarines and rubies. The four arches of the Crown rise 6" above the head of the Mace, and on each arch is the figure of a beaver, Canada's faunal



emblem; at the junction of the arches is an Orb (a sphere or globe surmounted by a cross), a symbol of spiritual authority. The beavers on the four arches of the Royal Crown indicate that Manitoba is within Canada's Sovereignty.

Beneath the Crown, the head of the Mace is divided into four panels by female figures with foliated extremities; these panels contain the following embossed emblems; The Rose, Thistle, Harp and Fleur-de-Lis. Above each emblem is a Crown and above the crown are the initials V.R. (Queen Victoria Regina), indicating the sovereign during whose reign this Mace was procured.

The Rose, Thistle, Harp and Fleur-de-Lis, the national emblems of England, Scotland, Ireland, and France symbolize the four countries of origin of the men and women who laid the parliamentary and constitutional foundations of the Province of Manitoba.



John McDougall

John McDougall served as Sergeant-at-Arms for 50 years (from 1879 to 1929) and was the first Sergeant to carry both Manitoba Maces.