

ARMS

The arms of the City (City Crest) are described as follows: "A gold kingfisher on a blue shield surmounted by a golden mural crown issuing from which is a natural sprig of maylowers in bloom. The shield is supported on its right (on the left as one faces it) by a deep sea fisherman with a codfish hanging from his right hand and on its left by a Naval seaman of the Period of adoption (circa 1860). The motto is to be shown below on a ribbon or scroll as "E MARI MERCES", which may be freely translated as "WEALTH FROM THE SEA".

MACE

The Mace carried by the Mace Bearer was presented to the City of Halifax in 1950 to commemorate the 201st anniversary of the founding of the City of Halifax. The Mace is the gift of the Royal Canadian Navy to mark its long association with the City of Halifax. It was prepared in H.M.C.S. Dockyard, Halifax by naval craftsmen, and depicts the mural on the Coat of Arms of the City, which marks Halifax as a fortified city. Coats of Arms of Canada, the Province of Nova Scotia, the City of Halifax, and H.M.C.S. Stadacona appear below the mural crown. Beneath the Coats of Arms are plaques depicting the sails of a British man-of-war, with the Admiral's pennant. Also inscribed are a thistle, shamrock, fleur-de-lis, rose and maple leaf. Badges of the various armed service units associated with the history of Halifax also appear. Near the base are four seahorses. The Mace is present at all Council meetings.

FLAG

There is an official flag of the City, blue charged with a gold or yellow kingfisher, as defined in the Arms of the City. The kingfisher is shown facing the mast both on the obverse and reverse sides.

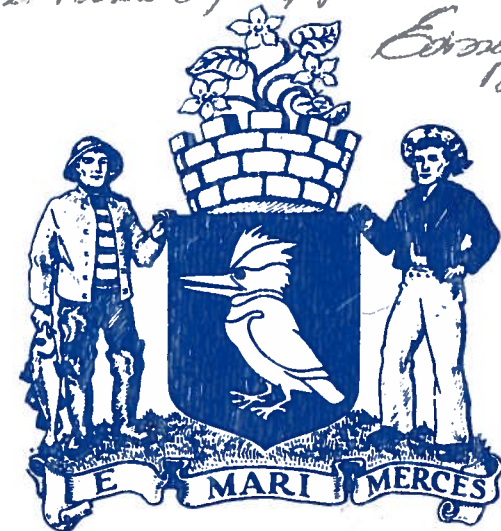
The flag may be flown on all civic buildings, including public school buildings. The Mayor only shall have the right to fly the flag on a vehicle.

CHAIN OF OFFICE

The Chain of Office worn by the Mayor of Halifax in formal civic ceremonies was presented to the City of Halifax by the City of Bristol, England. The Lord Mayor of Bristol was in Canada at the time of the "John Cabot Celebrations" in 1897, honouring the 400th anniversary of the landing of John Cabot in this part of the world. During his visit to Canada, the Lord Mayor and his party visited Halifax and were so impressed with the hospitality extended to them that as a corporate gift from his own City of Bristol he presented the Chain of Office. It was designed and executed by English craftsmen and bears the dates 1749 and 1901 - 1749 to mark the founding of Halifax by the Honourable Edward Cornwallis and 1901 to mark the year of presentation. On the Chain of Office there appear three coats of arms - that of Canada, the now discontinued Provincial coat of arms, and the coat of arms of the City of Halifax.

These artifacts were placed here in May 1976 following the refurbishing of the Grand Parade flag-pole.

*Edward Cornwallis
1749*



Welcome

To

The Council Chamber,

City Hall

Halifax, Nova Scotia,

Canada

Regular meetings of City Council are held on the Thursday following the second Monday in each month, and two weeks later. All meetings commence at 8:00 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Council (Works, Planning, Safety, and Finance and Executive Committees) meets on alternate Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m.

OUR CITY'S NAME

The Indian name for Halifax was "Chebookt" meaning "Chief Harbour" or "Great Long Harbour". Halifax was known as "Chebucto" to the year 1749. On the 18th day of July of that year it was called "Halifax" in honour of the Earl of Halifax, then President of the English Board of Trade, whose title was from the English City of that name. Cornwallis arrived with 2,576 immigrants on June 21, 1749 by the old calendar (now July 2), and it was he who changed the name "Chebucto" to "Halifax" in honour of his patron.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Halifax, capital of the Province of Nova Scotia, was founded in 1749 by Colonel Edward Cornwallis, the young bachelor hero of Fontenoy, who was sent from England to build a fortress city to protect British possessions on the Atlantic seaboard. Situated as it was on a peninsula, surrounded on three sides by water (Halifax Harbour, Bedford Basin and the North West Arm), Halifax was the main naval and military bastion in British North America for over a century.

The site for the original settlement is now largely occupied by the central area of the downtown section of the modern city. Military strategy governed the choice of site, the hill immediately above the original town site being a strong defensive position, and the harbour below, which is navigable the year round, providing excellent anchorage for ships of all sizes. The township was incorporated as a city on April 10, 1841, when a charter was granted by the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia.

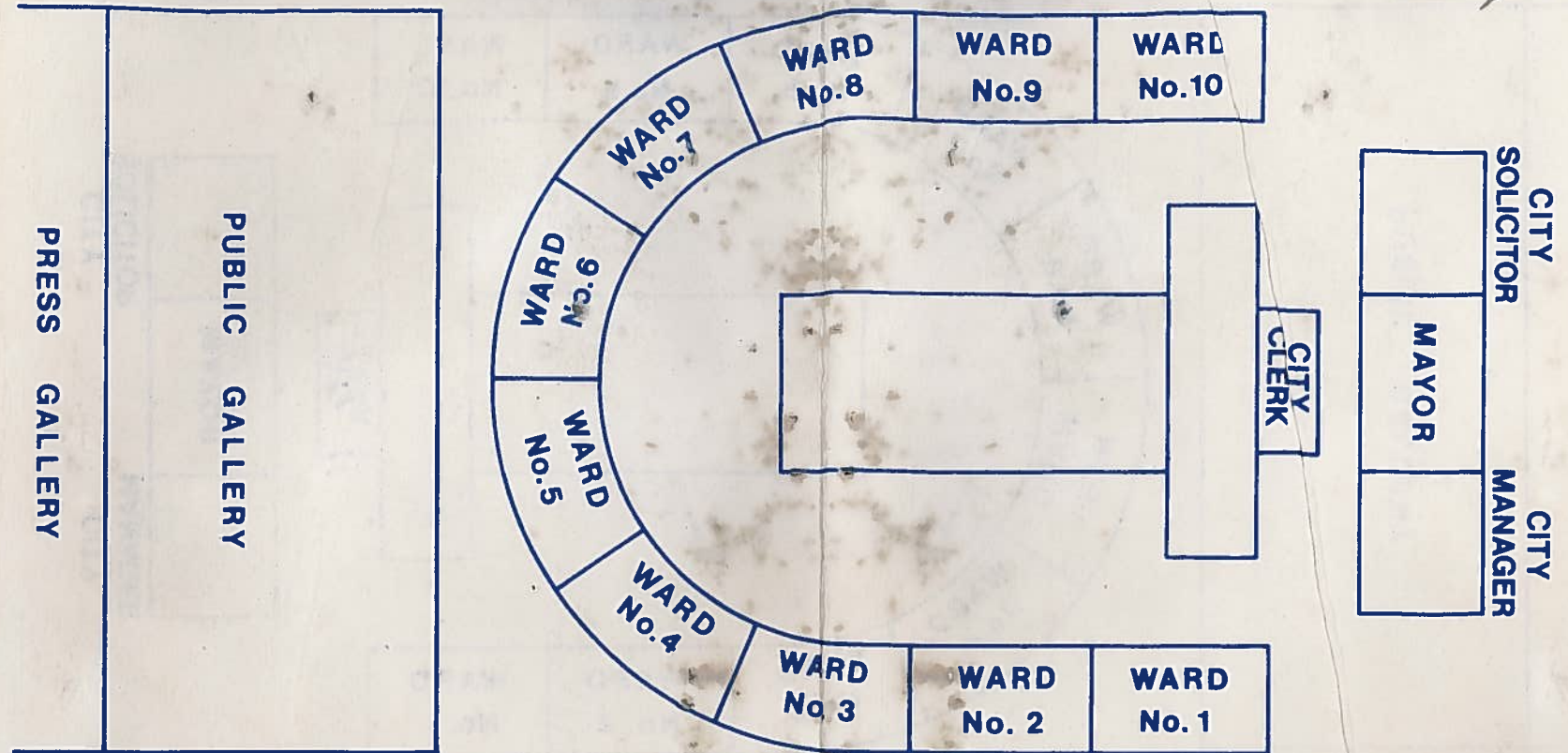
Halifax has experienced the vagaries of economic prosperity and recession from its very beginnings, and over its 226 years of existence has seen its population grow from the original 2,500 plus settlers to the present day figure of 128,000. Present area is 21 square miles, increased from 7 square miles by the annexation of a number of adjacent suburban areas in 1969. The 1975 population of the City proper is 128,000 and of the metropolitan area 225,000.

GOVERNMENT

Halifax is governed by a Council consisting of the Mayor elected at large, and ten Aldermen, one for each of the ten wards. All members of Council are elected for terms of three years. Present Council members, who were elected to office on October 16, 1974, are:

His Worship Mayor Edmund L. Morris
 Ward No. 1 Alderman Dennis Connolly
 Ward No. 2 Alderman Brenda Shannon
 Ward No. 3 Alderman Graham Downey

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER SEATING PLAN



Ward No. 4 Alderman Nicholas Megher
 Ward No. 5 Alderman Mervyn Sullivan
 Ward No. 6 Alderman Margaret Starbury
 Ward No. 7 Alderman J. Albert Waller
 Ward No. 8 Alderman Ronald Hansoi
 Ward No. 9 Alderman Wilfred Moore
 Ward No. 10 Alderman Gerald Lawrence
 City Manager - Mrs. Constance R. Glube
 City Solicitor - Donald Murphy
 City Clerk - Ralph Stoddard

In 1952, Halifax City Council adopted the Council-Manager form of government, whereby the Council engaged the services of a City Manager, the chief administrative officer or head of administration.