



# THE HISTORY OF THE CAMP CRESTS

Part Five: The "Totem Pole" and "Thunderbird" icons (Article by Ken Wrigglesworth)



*This is part five of the on-going series of articles discussing the history of the Haliburton Scout Reserve crests. The first two articles covered the 1980s and 1990s. The third discussed the very first crests from 1947 to 1953, when the Scout Reserve was known as Camp Kennabi. The fourth article looked at the enduring "Bear Mascot", a theme that was started in 1972, the year that marked the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the camp, and continues to this day. This fifth article will discuss another enduring symbol/mascot/icon of the camp: the "Totem Pole", nick-named "Sydney-Joe".*

Sydney-Joe was an actual full-size totem pole. It was designed using Native American motifs by Sydney Young in 1950, then Scout Master of the 40th Toronto. Syd chose the style of totem pole of the West Coast First Nations, but adopted spirit animals of the Ojibway Tribes of north-central Ontario. The animals he chose were the Thunderbird, the second most powerful Spirit of the Ojibway mythology after the Creator, Kitchi-Manitou and a Spirit Bear holding a human child. Syd liked the Ojibway myth of the Bear Clan adopting and raising an orphan boy (Moon and the Bears) because of its similarities to the Jungle Book Story of Mowgli and Baloo, and the ties to the Cub program. "Bears figure prominently in the mythology of nearly every Native American tribe. In most Native cultures, Bear is considered a medicine being with impressive magical powers, and plays a major role in many religious ceremonies. Bears are symbols of strength and wisdom to many Native Americans, and are often associated with healing and medicine (since bears continue fighting after being seriously injured, Native Americans often believed they were capable of healing their wounds.)"



Long-time Camp Chief **J.C. Moore** ('47-'72) (left) is seen here with Totem Pole creator **Syd Young** (second from right) on Thanksgiving Weekend, 1954. Also in the picture are future Staff members **Ken Drope** ('56-'59) (centre), **Dave Macklin** ('55-'57)(right) & **Alex Furness** ('55-'57)(second from left)

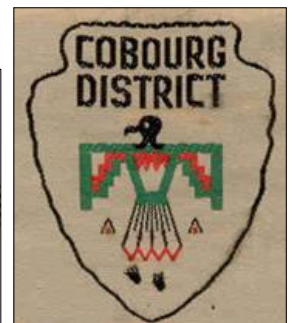
I learned from Al Moore that his father (J.C. Moore) likely commissioned and encouraged Syd Young to take on this project. Al remembers J.C. was a fan of totem poles and Native American art, and had carved his own totem pole some years previously at a friend's cottage, but was too



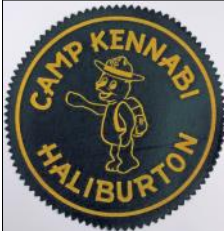
Totem Pole "Sydney Joe" was made by Syd Young in 1950-'51, and stood near Kennabi Lodge until 1995 when it finally deteriorated.

busy with other projects in the early years of the camp to make another. The name "Sydney Joe" was typical of both Syd's and J.C.'s whimsical sense of humour, perhaps named after Syd's Country-Bumpkin alter-ego. The totem pole was completed in 1951, and J.C. noted in the report of activities for that season to the Camping Committee- "Totem Pole: 'Sydney Joe' carved by Syd & Dorry Young". Alan Young, Syd and Dorry's son, confirmed his parents were both artists. Syd was always a wood carver through his life, and their house and yard were full of his projects, including replicas of Native Indian masks and totems, which Syd loved and collected. Dorry was the painter, and likely had a hand in the final painting of Sydney Joe, the HSR Totem.

When the Composite Camp Program was fully established in 1954, and called "Camp Kennaway" (after the historic 1860 settler's trail "Kennaway Road" that ran past the backdoor of the newly constructed "Hub" dining hall and kitchen), a mascot was chosen to represent this new Camp: the Thunderbird. The graphic of the Thunderbird was nearly identical to the one found on the Cobourg District Scout badge of the 1950s, so was likely copied from this badge, or used the same source image.







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The Composite Program only operated under the name Camp Kennaway for 5 years, from 1954 to 1958, and there are only 6 variations of the Thunderbird crests for Kennaway, plus the "Awards Crest Tail", for attaching up to six Award Tabs (see picture).

1953 Bear

In 1959, duplicate Camp Staff operations, such as Maintenance, Administration, etc. were fully merged, and Camp Kennabi and Camp Kennaway be-

1954 Bear

came "Haliburton Scout Reserve". The Camp's Totem Pole, Sydney Joe, was chosen to represent these two merged Camps, which included imagery of the Thunderbird for Kennaway and the Bear (which had appeared on the 1953 and 1954 Kennabi and HSR crests) for Kennabi. The graphic that appeared on the 1959 and 1960 HSR crests did not accurately represent the real Sydney Joe. This image was



more accurately captured in the first "Swiss-embroidered style" crest of 1961. It was at this time decided that the Sydney Joe crest would be a multi-year, undated, generic crest for the camp. And it lasted a long time: the red-bordered, red-letters on a white background was available for 40 years— 1961 to 2001! There are small variations as batches were sold out and re-ordered, such as fabric-weave coarseness and tint, boldness of lettering, and crest-backing as materials and manufacturing technology changed over four decades. They were produced by at least two different companies as well: Grant Emblems of Toronto and then in China. The Sydney Joe Totem Pole also appeared on other merchandise: printed in red on white souvenir T-shirts, red on white coffee mugs, lapel pins, woggles and baseball hats.



The graphic used on the 1959 and 1960 crests is less true to the actual Sydney Joe Totem: the spirit animals are less stylized and more detailed

The white circle crest of 40 years was replaced in 2001 by a small red diamond with Sydney Joe. Written in black letters was "Kennabi Lake" in the place of "Haliburton Scout Reserve". This diamond was the anchor badge for the yearly crest series starting in 2001, and continuing to 2008, with angled-corners that nestled together puzzle-style (see below).

Seven different Tabs could be earned and attached to the Awards Crest Tail. Shown above are the First, Second and Third Year Kennaway Camper Tabs, and the Kennaway Camper Pioneer, Explorer and Honours Tabs



The graphic seen on the crest above and on the woggles and pins below was first used in 1961 and is still used today. There were slight variations and different finishes on the back as new batches of the crest were produced over 40 years.



Above is one of several variations of the "Sydney Joe" souvenir T-shirts available for decades: always red image on a white shirt. Also available on mugs, hats, etc.







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Kevin Bell, the current HSR Camp Director, says there are no plans to retire Sydney Joe as one of the Camp's ongoing Mascots, along with the bear. "We just ordered another 1000 hat pins for the 2016 Camping Season. The Totem Pole is here to stay". It's an enduring symbol of Haliburton Scout Reserve's early legacy: the Thunderbird of Camp Kennaway merged with the Bear of Camp Kennabi. Thanks to Syd Young's inspired creation in 1950.

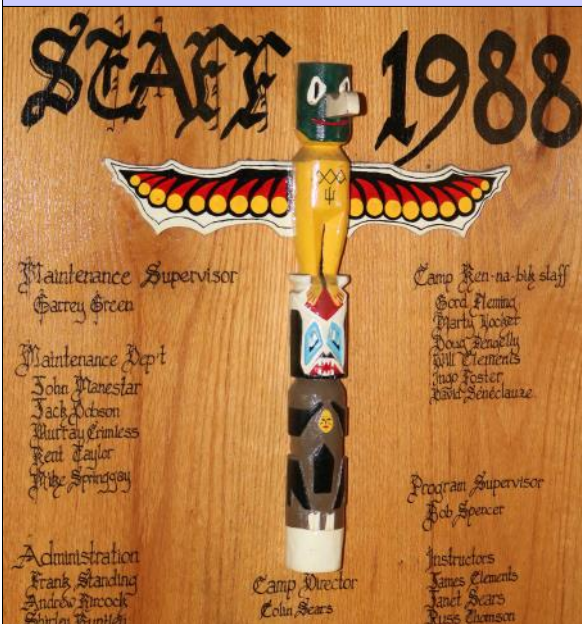


Sydney Joe is seen in all its painted glory in the background of this 1968 photo, standing in front of Kennabi Lodge. The 1960s Staff are: (clockwise from upper right) Ian Cowie, Francois P. Zodiac (AKA Dave Kennedy), Ted Aylan-Parker, Bill Cairney, Neil Sorbie, Bruce Quinn, Not Sure, Murray Crimless, Terry Trussler, Bill Baillie"

Sadly, the original Sydney Joe deteriorated and was too rotten to repaint in 1995. The Alumni Association Website's time-line says this about the Totem Pole: "1950- the 40th Toronto Troop under Scoutmaster Syd Young, started to build the totem pole which was known as "Sydney Joe". It was finished in 1951 and stood by the north wall of Kennabi Lodge. It was relocated by the gate from the parking area to the main dock area until it disintegrated in 1995." Maybe some creative carvers can get busy and recreate Sydney Joe by 2022, for the 75th Anniversary of the Camp.



"The last gasp of Kennaway", this 1965 cartoon Thunderbird (above, right) was proudly worn on the red staff jackets, and according to Ken Cooper, dubbed the "Ruptured Duck". A very accurate representation of the Sydney Joe Totem Pole is seen on the 1990s era Staff Alumni crest (above, left). In 1997 Sydney Joe got the Golden Anniversary treatment as well as the cartoon-cuddle from the bear (below left and right). Notice the bear is wearing a Native Indian headdress and the totem a Scout Beret. Designed by Jeremy Debling.



The 1988 Staff Plaque honoured the legacy of Sydney Joe. This replica was accurately carved by John Manestar ('85-'88), and painted by Kent Taylor ('85-'88). Calligraphy by Gord Fleming ('84-'89)



The souvenir pennant to the right is from the 1960s. The Sydney Joe graphic is very simplified and geometric in this version.

