

Blowing in the wind

St. Albans Anglican Church, 537 Main St., Glen Williams, will play host to one of North America's leading Vexillologists, or flag experts, Archdeacon Ralph Spence, on October 21, 1992.

Archdeacon Spence has the largest personal flag collection in North America which stands at 2,500. The collection is the result of an ongoing fascination with flags and heraldry which began when the Archdeacon was a child in Hamilton.

Since his University of Toronto days as a divinity student, where he became the resident expert on flags, Archdeacon Spence has become the nation's specialist on all matters heraldic.

He has had meetings at External Affairs and Rideau Hall, consulting for the flag manufacturers, and has lectured and organized shows from his collection.

He has designed flags and coats of arms for well-known individuals, municipalities and organizations. One of his best-known creations is the official flag of the Governors-General of Canada - royal blue with a crowned lion holding a red maple leaf veined in gold and standing on a wreath of red and white, Canada's national colors since 1921.

Archdeacon Spence has an intense interest in the culture of flags and in an interview with The Globe and Mail he noted: "We Canadians don't think of ourselves as flag-wavers, but just drive along any Canadian main street! It's the way a nation of non-flag-wavers do it, in a typically Canadian way: We just cover everything with flags."

Archdeacon Spence will undoubtedly be covering aspects of the popularity of flags and coats of arms at the St. Albans' presentation in which parishioners and visitors alike are invited to participate.

Archdeacon Spence's talk will begin at 8 p.m. in the church on October 21; tickets are \$5.00. A light lunch, coffee and dessert will be available afterwards.

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