

---

# Scouts Canada's National Office Tour

---



## THE TALE OF THE TOTEM

Chief Mungo Martin, of the British Columbia Kwakiutl tribe, created the design for this pole. Chief Martin, and his nephew, Henry Hunt, did the carving of the Headquarters pole in about six month's time out of a single cedar log.

The pole has six main figures: Raven, Man, Grizzly Bear, Cannibal Woman, Killer Whale and Beaver. All are typical clan crests of the Kwakiutl and neighbouring tribes, and represent clans to which Mungo Martin is closely related. Most of the crests represent the founders of the clans, who changed from an animal to human form.

The Raven on the top is such a crest. The tradition is that the Raven, Gwawina, came down to earth, took off his raven cloak, and became a man, Lewagila.

The Grizzly, named Kyelem "bully", changed to human form and took the name Walibui. On the pole he is shown holding a smaller grizzly, his son.

The fourth figure, Tsonoqua the Cannibal Woman, took a human husband and her son (shown in her arms on the pole) was the founder of one clan of the Nimpkish tribe.

The large figure of the Killer Whale, Makinukw, with a face on its tail and holding a seal in its mouth, second from the bottom, represents a slightly different type of tradition. He was not a clan founder, but did give supernatural power over seals to two men, who have passed the crest down to their descendants.

The bottom figure is the Beaver, Tsawa, holding his son. He was created half human, half beaver.

When it was completed, the totem pole was transported on two flat cars from British Columbia to Ottawa where it was erected on the grounds in front of the Scouts Canada's National Office. The base, 4 1/2 feet in diameter and 10 feet in length, is embedded in almost 78 tons of concrete. The vivid colours and textures of the column, which rises 60 feet above the ground, provide a well-known landmark in Ottawa. The pole is a gift of British Columbia Scouts, assisted by several commercial and industrial firms.



## THE BOY SCOUT

Standing under the glass “tent” walls of the entrance to the National Office, is the magnificent statue of a Boy Scout. Created by Robert Tait McKenzie, it was presented in June 1963 by the Philadelphia Council of the Boy Scouts of America, as a symbol of international brotherhood.



## THE LITTLE BEAVER

This two tonne statue was donated to Scouts Canada, representing our youngest members, the Beavers. Legend tells us that this beaver comes to life at night and stands guard over the totem pole and Scouts Canada’s National Office.

## SCOUTREES

The tallest spruce tree on National Office’s front lawn was the first tree planted for the Trees For Canada (now known as Scoutrees) program in May 1973. It now towers close to 60 feet tall. In May 1995, the 50 millionth tree was planted to symbolize the rapid growth of this annual environmental project. Scouts Canada marked Scoutrees’ 30th anniversary in May 2002 by planting its 70 millionth tree, the smallest one on the lawn. If all of these 70 million trees had been planted along the Trans-Canada Highway’s 7,699 km length, you would find a tree approximately every 9 cm coast to coast!



*At an official ceremony on May 30, 2002, the Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment, along with Rover Emily Maddocks, and Scout R.J. Johnson, helped plant our 70 millionth tree on the front lawn of Scout Canada’s National Office.*