

Flag Day

The Leeds Grenville Federal Liberal Association was proud to host a Tribute to John Matheson on Canadian Flag Day, February 15, 2010.

John Matheson was Leeds MP during Pearson years; and often seen as a major architect of the Canadian flag.

Background

The issue of a distinctive Canadian flag had been discussed since the time of Sir John A. MacDonalld.

In 1964 Prime Minister Pearson appointed a committee to resolve the issue, sparking a serious nation-wide debate about flag change. Out of three choices, the maple leaf design by John Matheson and George Stanley was selected.

The Canadian Great Flag Debate began on June 15, 1964 when Prime Minister Pearson tabled his plans for a new flag in the House of Commons. It lasted more than six months, and was finally ended by Closure. The Conservatives under John Diefenbaker were vocal opponents to the change.

John Matheson was first elected as MP for Leeds in a by election in 1961 and was re-elected in 1962, 1963 and 1965. He was defeated by 4 votes in 1968.

Mr. Matheson was a leading member of the committee that was appointed to review the flag issue and it was he who brought the current flag design forward.

The Event

Over 100 proud Canadians helped John celebrate the 55th anniversary of our Flag. John was joined by Jim Jordan (Liberal Member of Parliament for Leeds Grenville from 1988 to 1997) Marjory Loveys (nominated Liberal Candidate for Leeds Grenville) and other Liberals and friends.

Leeds-Grenville Federal Liberal Association
P.O. Box 50010 Brockville ON Canada K6V 7M7



The Canadian Ensign until 1965



One of the contenders in 1964

*John Matheson: Historica Minute:
www.historica.ca/minutes/minute.do?id=10227
(enter to see video depicting John Matheson's role in flag debate)*



Our flag since February 15, 1965

