

1927 Confederation Commemorative Plaque

By Barrie Renwick FRCNA, FCNRS

The following announcement appeared on page 1 of *The Montreal Gazette*, December 21, 1927:

Plaques in Schools to Mark Jubilee

Ottawa, December 20: With the cooperation of the various provincial governments in Canada the national committee for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation are placing a copper plaque, suitably framed, in every public and separate school building throughout Canada. The plaques are now in the process of manufacture, and it is expected to have the bulk of them out by the end of the month.

The plaque, which is attractively designed, carries the motto "Canada Our Country" for the English speaking communities and "Canada Notre Patrie" for the French-Canadian sections. It is twenty by fourteen inches and, besides the motto, the Canadian coat of arms is superimposed, surrounded by clusters of maple leaves. At the top is the word "Confederation" and at the sides "1867-1927," forming a permanent record of the historic event celebrated this year.

The plaque was first suggested by the chairman of the National Executive, Hon. George P. Graham. The provincial prime ministers have been asked to arrange for some sort of patriotic unveiling ceremony in connection with placing the plaques in the schools.

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This follow-on gives context to that announcement: In all planned Jubilee activities the leitmotif plumped for patriotism, so the design of this plaque has a collage of Canadian symbolism to echo that. The article suggests plaques were for elementary and secondary schools, not meant for universities, colleges, trade schools etc. The *Canada Year Book 1927* Summary of Education Statistics shows that the number of all elementary and secondary schools in Canada, both "school houses" and "rural schools," was about 28,900, which accommodated that era's approximately two million students. The number of those schools in Quebec was 7,857, but French-Canadian schools in other provinces are not enumerated. Allocation numbers of "Canada Notre Patrie" plaques among all these schools are unknown.



"Our Country" an example in original condition.



"Notre Patrie" also in original condition.