

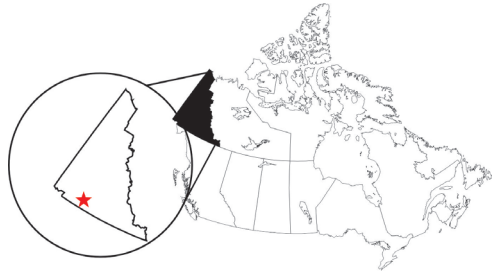


Whitehorse, Yukon

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 101
Territory. . . . 1

Proportions: 1:2 (usage)

Adopted: Unknown



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Whitehorse has a medium blue field with the city seal in the centre, nearly three-fourths the height of the flag. The seal consists of a central disc surrounded by a golden-yellow band, edged on the outside by a ring of white rope with black details, and on the inside by a black ring. On the band appears **THE CITY OF** over the top, **WHITEHORSE** around the bottom, and between these at the mid-points **19** on the left and **50** on the right, oriented horizontally, all in black serified letters. The central disc is divided horizontally just below its mid-point by a black line. The resulting panels both depict naturalistic scenes. The upper panel has a landscape of green trees, above them are white mountains against a light blue sky. At the left is an approaching train in white, while on the right is a black auto road with a white centre stripe. The road curves to the left and bears a white car. An airplane in black and golden yellow flies toward the hoist, above the mountains. Surmounting the centre, one-third the diameter of the disc, is a half-disc in black bearing a horse's head in white with black details, facing right. The lower panel has a lake scene with sky and water in light blue, along the horizon rolling green hills with trees in black, and a black and white paddleboat on the lake steaming toward the fly.

SYMBOLISM: The white horse refers to the city's name. During the Klondike Gold Rush, stampeder going to Dawson City travelled along the Yukon River and would pass by the white-capped rapids near Miles Canyon. The waves reminded them of the manes of galloping white horses. Whitehorse was the final stop for the White Pass & Yukon Route narrow-gauge railway. Built in the early 1900s, it conveyed miners and equipment to the gold fields. The train commemorates the importance the railway had to the economic development of the city. The steam paddleboat reflects the importance of river transportation in the early days of Whitehorse. At one time over 250 steam paddleboats plied the Yukon River between Whitehorse and the gold fields of Dawson and Mayo. The airplane honours the bush pilots who helped open up the North and provided a vital link to the outside world. The auto road represents the famed Alaska Highway, built by the United States Army during World War II to supply troops in Alaska. Today it continues to bring goods and tourists to Whitehorse. The mountains and forests in the background recall the area around the city. Whitehorse incorporated as a city in 1950.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: On 15 November 2002 the Canadian Heraldic Authority granted a coat of arms to the city. The white horse, paddleboat, highway, train, mountains, and evergreen trees that appear on the city seal are represented on the coat of arms but in a different format.

