

Windsor, Ontario

Population Rank: Canada.... 16

Province. . . . 8

Proportions: 1:2 (originally 1:1)

Adopted: 22 March 1971



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Windsor has a royal blue field divided diagonally by a white stripe running from lower hoist to upper fly. The stripe is about one-fourth of the flag's width (some illustrations show it as much as one-third of the flag's width) and its imaginary centre line intersects the flag's corners. In the lower right is a large naturalistic rose in red with a green stem and leaves, and pink and black details. In the upper left is the city's badge, consisting of two concentric golden yellow circles enclosing an outer ring of royal blue. Arched in the top part of the ring is CITY OF WINDSOR and at the bottom is 1854 in a small arch, and on either side laurel fronds extend halfway up the ring, all in golden yellow. The field within the inner circle is red. A stylized white "W" curves from the base following the circular shape almost to the apex. At the base of the letter, between the two lower points of the "W", is a small white maple leaf. Within and behind the "W" is a doubleringed cogwheel in black, its lower portion obscured. At the top, between the ends of the letter, is a round red rose with white details and a vertical white stem surmounting the cogwheel.

SYMBOLISM: The royal blue field symbolizes Windsor's royal connection (the House of Windsor is the current royal family in Britain) and the Detroit River, which separates the city from Detroit, Michigan, to the north. The white stripe denotes Windsor's location in the centre of the St. Lawrence Seaway; its colour symbolizes peace, as the city is on the international border. The red rose recalls that Windsor is the "City of Roses". The nickname came from the efforts of Inspector Emerson Mitchell of the Windsor Police Department, who in his retirement planted roses throughout the city.

The city explains the badge's symbols: The very heart of the crest [badge] contains an industrial wheel (gear). It is located in the centre to show the importance of industry in our city. The stylized "W" is for the word Windsor. Note how it is embracing the "Wheel of Industry". This is to show that the city welcomes, likes, and protects the industrial complex which is the city's most important asset. Note also how the two middle bars of the letter "W" meet and point to the very centre of the axis. This is to show that our livelihood is rotating around this point. To show that Windsor is a peaceful place to live and deal with, the "W" is shown in white. The rose represents the known fact that Windsor is the "City of Roses". The maple leaf and red background reassure us that Windsor is patriotic—Canadian. Below is the birth date of our city—1854. The laurel leaves on each side glorify our past. The wording "City of Windsor", date, and laurel leaves are done in gold to show the prosperity—golden age of the city.

HOW SELECTED: Chosen by the city council.

DESIGNER: Hector Lacasse, a distinguished Canadian vexillologist and once mayor of adjacent Tecumseh. A painting of him with the flag hung in his house. John Jaciw, a Ukrainian-Canadian graphic artist, designed the badge.



MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The flag was adopted by By-law 4102, 22 March 1971. The badge and flag are a trademark of the City of Windsor registered by the Trade-marks Office (now the Canadian Intellectual Property Office) on 9 September 1971. Some depictions show the flag as square.



OTHER FLAG: On 8 May 1992 the Canadian Heraldic Authority presented arms and a flag to the City of Windsor, in a ceremony featuring Canada's governor general, the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, where the patent was

proclaimed by Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada. The flag placed the shield from the arms on a modified Canadian pale design of blue-white-blue. The flag, however, does not appear to have seen actual use.

