



Editor's Notes



It has been an honour and a pleasure to bring to print the most significant body of information about Canadian municipal flags ever compiled. Of course, the work is never done; cities will continue to adopt and change their flags. However, we hope this documentation of the current state of the civic flag world in Canada will spur continued interest in such flags, and perhaps even improvements in some designs (see NAVA's guide to flag design, *Good Flag, Bad Flag*).

This book follows *Raven 9/10, American City Flags*, which documented 150 flags from Akron to Yonkers in a similar format, and received the 2005 Vexillon award from FIAV, the International Federation of Vexillological Associations, for the most important contribution to vexillological scholarship in the preceding two years.

While we have endeavoured to find the most accurate and up-to-date information about Canadian city flags, we expect inevitable errors, for which we apologize. They may result from the vagaries of volunteer research in a field often marked by incomplete, inconsistent, and elusive evidence. Municipal flags represent one of vexillology's most difficult subfields to document for various reasons, among them limited community knowledge of its own flag, poor record-keeping, remote areas, municipal mergers, and multiple flag adoptions. In some cases we have made assumptions; we try to identify those.

Compiling a list of Canadian municipalities for such a project poses several challenges.

The first challenge is nomenclature—we apply the term “city” in the title of this book to municipal entities ranging from a hamlet of under 500 to a megacity of over 5 million. We do so for simplicity, understanding that “municipality” would be more accurate but also more awkward.





The second challenge—how to balance the conflicting demands of presenting a group broadly representative of the entire country versus assuring inclusion of the largest cities—is resolved by doing both. We include five municipalities, regardless of national ranking, from each of Canada’s thirteen provinces and territories, as well as the 67 largest municipalities in the country. In the four cases where cities on the list did not have flags, we substituted the next city in the ranking. All capital cities are represented.

The third challenge involves the definition of municipalities for the purposes of selecting the largest 67 and the largest five per province and territory. Our selection is based on the 2006 list of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs) by Statistics Canada. For each CMA or CA, we present the flag of the central/largest city among its census subdivisions (CSDs). The population rankings in the book thus mostly refer to the metropolitan area, rather than the city itself. For those provinces and territories without enough or any CMAs or CAs, we established the local five-city selection directly from the CSD list. In those cases, the population ranking refers to the CSD list, a difference we denote with a “(c)” in the Table of Contents. In the case of Nova Scotia, we adapted the methodology further. Nova Scotia had exactly five municipality clusters on the CMA/CA list, but one of them (Kentville) had no flag. Because the CSD list for Nova Scotia did not match municipal divisions as closely as in other provinces and territories, we chose the central cities from the top five provincial Census Divisions (CDs).

Overall, favouring metropolitan areas over cities allows us to present more recognizable cities that are also more permanent than suburbs, which over time may be merged or annexed to a central city. It also reflects the demographic curve of provinces more accurately—had we opted for a direct ranking by city population, British Columbia and Ontario (with a greater number of suburbs) would have been overrepresented to the detriment of Alberta and Québec. We understand that some large suburban cities missed our list, being part of a larger CMA or CA—however, those with populations over 200,000 are included in the articles on their CMA (nine cities in the CMAs of Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver).





Although many Canadian cities have used flags or banners to commemorate important events, such as expositions, centennials, sporting events, and the like, and some have flags representing police/fire departments, port authorities, and sports teams, we have reluctantly excluded those interesting and compelling images from this book—this additional layer of civic vexillology deserves deeper study and more consistent coverage than we could provide.

We attempt to show flags in their official proportions. However, in some cases manufacturers and others will alter the proportions of a flag. They do so either to match the national or provincial flags with which it will fly, when conforming to a standard size (such as for table flags), or out of inaccurate or incomplete specifications. And in many cases flags are unofficial, without formal specifications. When we rely on actual flags as a source, we try to note how proportions vary in usage.

We also attempt to show flags in their correct colours. However, flags in actual use often vary in colour, due to differences in manufacturing technologies, the use of standardized flag fabrics, lack of official specifications, and fading over time. Also, the standards of heraldry, which underlie a large number of the flags we document, do not make fine distinctions between colour shades. Furthermore, the translation of an image into print often causes variations in colour.

As usual, *Raven* generally follows the *Chicago Manual of Style*; however, it adopts the more logical British style of presenting quoted material inside the commas and periods that belong to the surrounding sentence. See the **Descriptive Conventions** below for some stylistic attributes unique to this text. Canadian spelling is used throughout.

Canadian City Flags ultimately reflects the support of the many hundred members of NAVA and the generous donors who contributed towards its publication. The world of vexillology thanks you!

