



Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 46
Province. . . . 19

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: Unknown



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Sault Ste. Marie has a blue field bearing in its centre a coat of arms and inscription on a white panel closely bordering its outlines. The panel is three-fourths the height of the flag; the coat of arms is half the height of the flag. The upper part of the panel forms a semi-circle; the lower part is irregular, following the base of the coat of arms. The inscription arches with the top edge of the full half-circle, and reads **THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF** in black sans-serif letters. The white ribbon below the shield of the arms has four sections, each bearing one word, reading **SAULT STE. MARIE CANADA** in smaller black sans-serif letters. The simple shield of the arms is nearly triangular, with a horizontal top and slightly curved sides. It is divided in half horizontally by a yellow band inscribed **OJIBWA KITCHI GUMEENG ODENA** in black sans-serif letters. The section above the yellow band depicts a canal in perspective with blue water and a three-sided grey perimeter. On either side of the canal are three hemlock trees; in the background are buildings with a frontal view of a ship between them, all in white with black details. The section below the yellow band is divided vertically. The panel on the left is grey with three railroad rails depicted in cross-section in blue, two over one. The panel on the

right is blue with three narrow evergreen trees in grey in a horizontal row; the central tree is set half its height lower than the others. Above the shield is a beaver (*Castor canadensis*), in white with black details, facing left on a patch of wood from which extend on either side a branch with four maple leaves in yellow. They flank the beaver and an imperial crown above it. The crown has a yellow base, a grey headpiece, and yellow ornamentation, including two fleurs-de-lis and a cross at the top, all with white and black details. On the left of the shield stands a First Nations man, on the right a steelworker, both in white with black details. The First Nations man holds a hatchet in his left hand and a shield in his right hand—the shield has concentric rings of yellow and grey. The steelworker holds a smelting rod in yellow. Both stand atop ornamental scrollwork in yellow, the outer ends flared slightly and the inner ends touching the lower parts of the shield.

SYMBOLISM: The Sault Ste. Marie Canal was completed in 1895 and operated commercially until 1987. Re-opened in 1998 to recreational traffic, the canal is the final link connecting the St. Lawrence River to Lake Superior. The beaver, the national animal, represents Canada, and the crown refers to the fact that Canada is a constitutional monarchy. The trees recall the hemlock and pine forests of the region; the rails symbolize the importance of Sault Ste. Marie as a manufacturing and commerce centre. The Ojibway (sometimes known in the U. S. as Chippewa) were the original inhabitants of the area. *Ojibwa Kitche Gumeeng Odena* means “Ojibway town next to big body of water”.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown. The arms appear to have been assumed, not granted by any heraldic authority.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The actual city coat of arms differs slightly from versions on the current and former flag.



FORMER FLAG: An earlier version of Sault Ste. Marie's flag exists. Although the basic design of the flag is the same, this version contains several subtle differences from the flag currently in use. The First Nations man's headdress, clothing,

and how he holds his shield are different; the steelworker's clothing, stance, and smelting rod are different; the arched inscription above the coat of arms is replaced by a large ribbon in red below, inscribed **THE CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE** in white; a golden yellow wreath encircles the coat of arms nearly to its top on both sides; and the rails are replaced by hemlock trees.



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