



Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador

Population Rank: Canada. . . 383
Province. . . 7

Proportions: 1:2
Adopted: 1984



DESIGN: The flag of the Town of Gander is a Canadian pale design of blue-white-blue. In the centre is a seal, three-fourths the height of the flag, bearing a naturalistic depiction of a large male Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) in black and golden yellow outlined in white, with the distinctive white patch on its cheek and throat, flying across a central blue disc toward the left. Surrounding the blue disc is a white ring, into which the gander's head and tail extend. At its top is **TOWN OF**, at the bottom **GANDER**; at the left and right, aligned horizontally, are **19** and **58**, all in black serified letters. The white ring is in turn encircled by concentric rings of blue, white, and blue, of decreasing width. Near the top of each blue bar of the flag is an abstract winged shape of four points in golden yellow, "flying" toward the left.

SYMBOLISM: The gander, a male goose, alludes to the town's namesake. The winged shapes in the blue bars are stylized aircraft, symbolizing the town's close association with Gander International Airport (IATA code YQX), opened in 1938 as Newfoundland Airport and an important base of operations during World War II. According to the city: *The flag's predominant colours, blue and white, represent the water, sky, and clouds. The gold represents sunlight and,*

as in the provincial flag, confidence in ourselves. The town was incorporated in 1958. The Canadian pale design refers to the Canadian national flag; the blue bars also signify Gander Lake and the Atlantic Ocean.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Although the flag represents the town at official municipal events and locations, its use is encouraged throughout the municipality.

FORMER FLAG: An earlier version of the flag apparently used a different version of the town seal: monochrome (of an unspecified colour), and without the year of incorporation. The symbolism was also described in somewhat different terms: *The two blue edging stripes signify the clarity of Gander Lake [on which Gander is situated] and of the sky. The two yellow figures represent aircraft in flight coloured by the rays of sunlight.*