



Toronto, Ontario

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 1
Province. . . . 1

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: 6 November 1974; modified 23 November 1999



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Toronto has a medium blue field with a “T” shape in white. The trunk of the “T” is much wider than its crossbar, and is divided vertically by a blue bar which extends nearly to the base. The “T” is set toward the hoist, with the right edge of its trunk halfway to the fly. The crossbar curves upward slightly at both ends. A red Canadian maple leaf one-third the height of the flag is centred at the base of the “T”. The width of the trunk is one-fourth the flag’s length.

SYMBOLISM: The white object represents City Hall, one of the landmark buildings of the city, with its twin towers in silhouette forming a “T” on the flag for Toronto. The towers themselves curve toward the viewer at their outer sides, so the object on the flag creates a remarkably recognizable depiction of them. The maple leaf symbolizes the city council and recalls Toronto’s Canadian heritage.

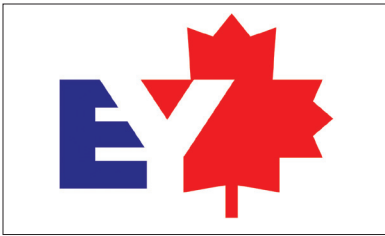
HOW SELECTED: On 18 August 1974 the city council formed a Flag Design Committee comprising Alderman Paul B. Pickett, Q.C., and Reid Scott, Q.C., as co-chairmen, and Aldermen Edward Negridge, Colin Vaughan, and Anne

Johnston as members. A competition was created with citizens invited to submit suitable entries.

DESIGNER: Renato De Santis, a 21-year-old student at George Brown College.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: On 1 January 1998 Toronto merged with the surrounding cities of Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York, the Borough of East York, and the Metro level of government, creating a new “mega-city”. The city council invited the public to submit flag designs for the newly enlarged city, but none of the many entries gained favour with the councillors. Renato De Santis, who had designed the first flag, suggested that his design be retained, changing the proportions from 2:3 to 1:2. His suggestion was accepted and made official on 23 November 1999.

FORMER FLAGS: All the governmental entities that merged with Toronto in 1998 had previously had one or more flags of their own. The flags are sometimes displayed in the “civic centres” (replacing city halls) of the former municipalities.



East York



Etobicoke (1977)



Etobicoke (1985)



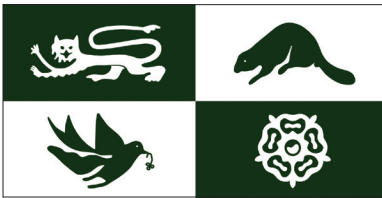
North York (1972)



North York (1985)



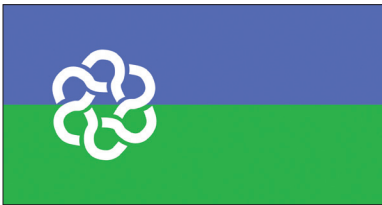
Scarborough



York (1967)



York (1993)



Metropolitan Toronto (1978)

OTHER FLAGS: Four large cities in the Greater Toronto Metro Area have flags (see next pages).