



Abbotsford, British Columbia

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 23
Province. . . . 4

Proportions: 3:5 (1:2 usage)
Adopted: 25 October 1995



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Abbotsford has a green field with a yellow disc in the centre, approximately three-fifths the height of the flag. Eight yellow bars run from the disc to the edges and corners of the flag. The width of each bar is slightly less than one-fifth the height of the flag. In the centre of each bar, one-third its width, is a blue stripe running from the edge of the disc to the corner or the middle of the edge of the flag. Centred on the disc is a stylized flower composed of a central disc surrounded by a ring of ten smaller discs, all in yellow, over five white petals surrounding the ring, their edges touching and the uppermost pointing to the top of the flag. Extending from each junction between the petals is a small pointed leaf (sepal) in light green.

SYMBOLISM: Abbotsford is known as the “Hub of the Fraser Valley” and the flag is a symbolic depiction of this slogan. The bars represent the roads in the area, with the central disc representing Abbotsford at the centre of the crossroads. The green field represents the agricultural fields, meadows, and forests within Abbotsford. The green was derived from the flag of the District of Matsqui (which amalgamated with the District of Abbotsford in June 1995 to become the City of Abbotsford). The strawberry plant (*Fragaria* sp.)

is called a “fraise” in heraldry. It is a pun on “Fraser” for Simon Fraser, the fur trader and explorer who mapped much of British Columbia, for whom the valley and river were named in about 1808. The plant also represents the strawberry itself, an important agricultural product of the area. The flag is a banner of the city’s arms.

HOW SELECTED: The city applied to the Canadian Heraldic Authority for a grant of a flag.

DESIGNER: Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada, Canadian Heraldic Authority.



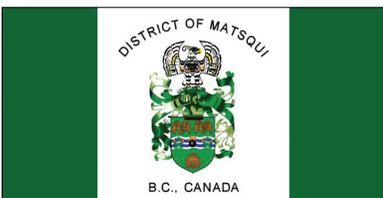
FORMER FLAGS: The City of Abbotsford has flown three previous flags: two from the District of Abbotsford and one from the District of Matsqui. On 22 June 1993 the Canadian Heraldic Authority granted a flag to the District of Abbotsford exactly like the current

one, except the field is dark blue rather than green (in some depictions the white petals have light blue highlights).



The previous flag had a dark blue field with **abbotsford** in yellow sans-serif letters running from the lower hoist to the upper fly. The “a”, much larger than the other letters, encircles a stylized eight-spoked wheel and its “tail” underlines the rest of the name all the way to the

fly edge. The wheel refers to the district’s location at the crossroads of the Fraser Valley.



The flag of the District of Matsqui was a Canadian pale design of dark green-white-dark green, with the coat of arms of the district in the centre two-thirds the flag’s height with **DISTRICT OF MATSQUI** arching above it and **B.C.,**

CANADA in a straight line below, all in green sans-serif letters.