



Hamilton, Ontario

Population Rank: Canada. . . . 9
Province. . . . 3

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: 11 December 2002



DESIGN: The flag of the City of Hamilton is a Canadian pale design of golden yellow-blue-golden yellow. In the centre is a cinquefoil (a five-pointed heraldic flower with wavy petals), surrounded by a circular chain of twelve rectangular links with rounded corners, alternating large and small, all in golden yellow. The diameter of the circular chain is nearly the full height of the flag.

SYMBOLISM: Blue and gold have long been the city's colours. The cinquefoil is the badge of the Clan Hamilton, representing the city's name. The links of the chain are a heraldic symbol of unity and also symbolize steel, a major element in the city's identity—Hamilton is known as the Steel Capital of Canada. The six larger links represent the six municipalities that joined to form the current City of Hamilton: the former City of Hamilton, the City of Stoney Creek, the Towns of Ancaster, Dundas, and Flamborough, and the Township of Glanbrook. The colours and central elements come from the shield of the city's arms, designed with the assistance of the Canadian Heraldic Authority in Ottawa, and approved by the city council in January 2001.

HOW SELECTED: Presented at a city council meeting on 11 December 2002 by Bishop Spence and Dr. Greaves, and adopted unanimously by council. The flag was included in a grant from the Canadian Heraldic Authority on 15 July 2003.

DESIGNER: Bishop D. Ralph Spence (named Albion Herald Extraordinary by the Canadian Heraldic Authority in 2006) designed the flag using elements from the arms designed by Dr. Kevin W. Greaves.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The flag was designed to be complementary in design when flown with the national flag, but distinctive to represent the city.



FORMER FLAG: The city describes the former flag: *The flag of Hamilton is composed of a white field with the red maple leaf of the National Canadian flag in the upper right fly. Commencing in the canton, a green horizontal bar proceeds lengthwise,*

then bends at an angle of approximately 45 degrees and proceeds diagonally to the lower fly, then becomes horizontal and proceeds lengthwise in green with white block letters proclaiming "HAMILTON" occupying one-quarter of the green bar which changes to ultramarine blue to the end of the fly. The upper horizontal bar represents the Hamilton Mountain, the diagonal bar represents the escarpment, the lower horizontal green bar represents the lower city and the ultramarine blue portion of the bar represents the Harbour. Adjacent to the hoist, the shield of the Corporation Seal of the City of Hamilton is located. In the upper third of the shield is a black, red and white steamer, fully rigged on a blue background representing commerce. In the middle third, a brown beaver [Castor canadensis, the national animal] on a white background representing prudence. In the lower third, a golden yellow beehive with bees on a blue background representing industry. The final design for the City of Hamilton flag, designed by Stewart Roxborough, was chosen and adopted by Hamilton City Council on 29 October 1985.

The shield shown on this flag was altered to this form in July 1963 to be somewhat more heraldically correct, but the basic elements derive from the city seal designed by Edward Acraman and adopted by the city council on 20 January 1847.