Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

Population Rank: Canada. . . 80
Province. . .4

Proportions: 2:3
Adopted: 24 October 1966

DESIGN: The flag of the City of Moose Jaw is a modified Canadian pale, divided into three vertical sections; the outer two are emerald green and half the width of the inner section, which is golden yellow. In the centre, half the height of the flag, is a naturalistic depiction of the head of a bull moose, in tan with brown details, in three-quarters profile oriented toward the right. The official specifications reverse the moose head on the back of the flag.

SYMBOLISM: Green and gold are the city’s official colours and also the field colours of the provincial flag of Saskatchewan. The overall design recalls the national flag. The moose head represents the city’s namesake, the moose (Alces alces).

HOW SELECTED: Chosen by a committee from among three alternatives submitted by the designer.

DESIGNER: A. L. C. Atkinson of Surrey, British Columbia, formerly an engineering professor at the University of Saskatchewan.
MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Several stories, inspired by native people and early explorers, explain the origin of Moose Jaw’s name. One is that the native word for Moose Jaw is *Moosoochapskun*, “the place where the white man mended the cart with the jawbone of the moose”. Two more common explanations come from its geography, consistent with the native custom of naming places based on their physical characteristics. One legend claims that the native people observed the outline of a moose’s jaw-bone when looking down at Moose Jaw Creek from the surrounding hills. Another interpretation, perhaps the most accurate, is based on the warm breezes of Moose Jaw, created by its position in a valley protected by the Coteau Range. First Nations people used the site, warmer in the winter than the surrounding areas, as their winter settlement. The Cree *moscâstani-sîpity* means “warm place by the river”; the first two syllables sound remarkably like “Moose Jaw” in English.