Kelowna, British Columbia

Population Rank:  Canada. . . 22
Province. . . .3

Proportions:  1:2
Adopted:  22 April 1975

DESIGN:  The flag of the City of Kelowna is a Canadian pale design of blue-white-blue with the city’s coat of arms in the centre, nearly the full height of the flag. The simple shield has a horizontal top and simply_curved sides forming a pointed “U” shape. It has a green field with three upright isosceles triangles in white rising above four wavy stripes of blue over white. Above the triangles are two apples in golden yellow. Above the shield is a knight’s helmet in blue with black and white details, flanked by heraldic mantling in green and white. Over the helmet is a crosscut saw in blue with brown handles. Above all is an apple tree with green leaves, brown trunk, and white apples. To the left stands a grizzly bear in brown; to the right stands a seahorse in green with fins in white. Below the shield is an elaborate horizontal scroll in white inscribed FRUITFUL IN UNITY in serifed letters in black on a blue rectangle with rounded ends.

SYMBOLISM:  The blue wavy stripes symbolize Kelowna’s location on the eastern shore of Okanagan Lake. The white triangles represent the region’s mountains—the Cascades to the west and the Columbia Mountains and the Canadian Rockies to the east. The apples and apple tree symbolize the
region’s fruit industry, as Kelowna lies in an exceptionally fertile valley where orchards and vineyards have flourished. The crosscut saw represents the timber industry. The grizzly bear represents Kelowna’s namesake— *Kelowna* means “grizzly bear” (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) in the Interior Salish language. The seahorse is the closest heraldic approximation to Kelowna’s mythical lake creature, Ogopogo. It lived in the waters near Peachland, 20 km south of Kelowna, according to the Syilx, the native inhabitants, who called this monster “N’ha-a-itk”. In 1924, a song about the monster called it “Ogopogo”. It has been described as having a snake-like body about 20 m long, with two or more humps often seen going in and out of the water. Over the years, the legend has been given credibility by hundreds of sightings. As with the Loch Ness monster in Scotland, photographs have always been inconclusive, but it remains a popular tourist mascot. The city’s motto, “Fruitful in Unity”, alludes to Kelowna’s steady progress, largely attributable to its early fruit industry success and the community-mindedness and cooperation of its citizens.

**HOW SELECTED:** Unknown. The arms were granted by the English King of Arms on 23 August 1954, adopted by the city council on 3 January 1955, and registered at the Canadian Heraldic Authority on 3 April 2001.

**DESIGNER:** Unknown.