Canadian City Flags

Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

**Population Rank:** Canada... 35
Province... 2

**Proportions:** 1:2

**Adopted:** 16 April 1997

**Design:** The flag of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality has a dark green field bearing in its centre a Cape Breton sloop in yellow with white sails, yellow spars, and a yellow outline. It is about one-half the height of the flag and sails toward the hoist. It is surrounded by a double border connecting eight maple leaves, all in yellow. Those on the corners point outward, and those on the top, bottom, and sides point inward.

**Symbolism:** The Cape Breton Regional Municipality was formed on 1 August 1995 by the amalgamation of eight former municipalities: the City of Sydney; the Towns of Dominion, Glace Bay, Louisbourg, New Waterford, North Sydney, and Sydney Mines; and the County of Cape Breton. The number of maple leaves refers to those eight municipal units. The Cape Breton sloop comes from the original Great Seal of Cape Breton granted in 1820 by George III when Cape Breton was a British colony. The green field represents the green forests of Cape Breton Island, and the border, a “double tressure flory”, reflects that of the Scottish arms on the provincial flag. The yellow represents the value of tourism. Together the green and yellow (gold) recall the Cape Breton tartan. The flag is a banner of the municipality’s arms.
HOW SELECTED: The city applied to the Canadian Heraldic Authority for a grant of a flag. The sub-committee which oversaw the process comprised Deputy Mayor Clarence Prince, chair, Councillors Art MacDonald and Wes Stubbert, Corporate Services Administrator James MacCormack, and citizen appointees Barry Gabriel, former curator of the art gallery at the University College of Cape Breton, and Stewart LeForte, member of the Heraldry Society of Canada.

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

FORMER FLAG: North Sydney had a civic flag, designed by one-time alderman James C. Lovelace, in 1974. In proportions of 1:2 it places the city’s arms in the centre of a white bar running diagonally from upper left to lower right on a blue field. The design represents four right triangles, blue signifying the “true-blue” of the Loyalist founders and white their honesty of purpose. The triangles combine to form two squares divided diagonally, signifying rectitude. The arms bear symbols representing the steel and fishing industries. The flag might be considered a modified Canadian pale design.