

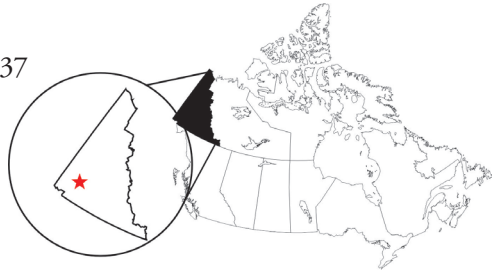


Carmacks, Yukon

Population Rank: Canada . . . 3,237
Territory . . . 7

Proportions: 1:2

Adopted: Unknown



DESIGN: The flag of the Village of Carmacks has a white field with its logo in the centre. The logo is dominated by a naturalistic representation of a mountain in white and dark green under a semicircle formed by a blue line with a narrower blue line inside. It is flanked on each side of the semicircle by naturalistic sprigs of fireweed flower in pink. Curved above the mountain within the semicircle is **CARMACKS** in serifed letters in dark blue. At the base is a white ribbon edged with a double border of blue, inscribed **YUKON** in white serifed letters outlined and shaded in dark blue.

SYMBOLISM: The logo in the centre of the flag depicts Tantalus Butte, one of the most famous natural landmarks in the area. The Northern Tutchone people, who lived for thousands of years in this area, called it *Gun Tithi*, meaning “worm hill”. They believed a giant worm with eyes like the sun lived in the hill, and if they made too much noise while travelling on the nearby Yukon River, the worm would blow a big wind which would upset their boats. In 1883, U.S. Army explorer Lt. Frederick Schwatka named the hill “Tantalus Butte” (after the son of Zeus, who was punished by being forced to stand in water that receded when he tried to drink it). Schwatka gave the butte this

name as he was frustrated when traveling in the Carmacks area by the many bends in the Yukon River (expecting to reach the hill, the river would take him away again and again). In 1883, during the Klondike Gold Rush, the prospector George Washington Carmack, for whom the village is named, found and developed a seam of coal at Tantalus Butte, locally called “Coal Mine Hill”. Coal became an important economic resource to the community, as it supplied the fuel for the paddleboats plying the nearby rivers. Carmack built a cabin and a trading post here, and soon “Carmack’s Landing” became a riverboat stop at the confluence of the Yukon and Nordenskiöld Rivers. The fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), a hardy pinkish, purplish flower, is one of the first plants to bloom after a fire. The fireweed was adopted as the territorial flower in 1957 and it symbolizes Carmacks as a Yukon community.

HOW SELECTED: The design was derived from the community’s lapel pin.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

