

Canada's History Magazine for Kids

Canada's  
**History**  
FOR KIDS

#51 | FEB 2015  
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# KAYAK

**OH CANADA!**  
**OUR FLAG TURNS 50**



PM #40063007



**FIRE ON  
THE HILL!**



**SYMBOLS  
OF CANADA**



We investigate the strange,  
the weird and the odd.  
Our job is to make it right.

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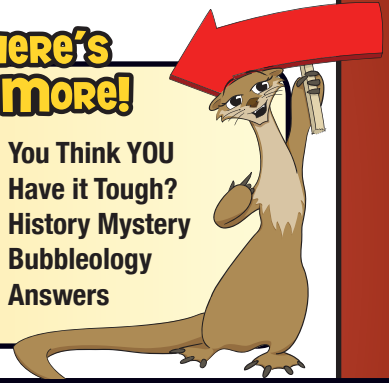
**Psst!** These symbols spell "Kayak" in Inuktitut.



Cover illustration: Renie Geoffroi

## There's More!

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# FROM THE EDITOR



Everybody knows that a red maple leaf on a white background means Canada. Our flag is one of the easiest to recognize in the entire world. It first flew 50 years ago this month, so *Kayak* is celebrating by shining a light on all of our national symbols.

Some are easy to think of, like the Parliament buildings in Ottawa or our anthem, "O Canada" But we also have a national animal, a national sport (actually, two of them!) and much more. You'll learn all about them in this issue.

But we need your help, too—we want you to send us your design for a flag to mark *Kayak's* 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Just visit [kayakmag.ca](http://kayakmag.ca) to find out how!

**nancy**

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YOU OTTER KNOW

# SYMBOLS OF CANADA







**O**kay – let's just say it. Isn't our flag cool? It flew for the first time 50 years ago, so this is a great time to celebrate the Maple Leaf and the story behind how it came to be. But we don't just have a great flag; there are all kinds of other things we use as symbols of our country, from animals to our anthem, from sports to Parliament Hill.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CANADA'S FLAG!

By Ann-Maureen Owens

**As a country, Canada is almost 150 years old. So why did it take us almost 100 years to have our own flag? Here's how we came to have the red-and-white maple leaf flag we proudly fly now.**

## OUR UNIQUE FLAG



Canada's flag is the only national one with a maple leaf on it, so is easily recognized around the world.

Maple trees grow across the country and the maple leaf was considered a symbol of Canada even before Confederation, adopted by groups in both Upper and Lower Canada (Ontario and Quebec). It has appeared on gear worn by Canadian Olympic teams since

1904, and on Canadian soldiers' uniforms and gravestones.

The flag's colours — red and white — became Canada's official colours in 1921 when King George V granted Canada its own coat of arms\*. These colours had been associated with both England and France, the two founding nations, for hundreds of years.

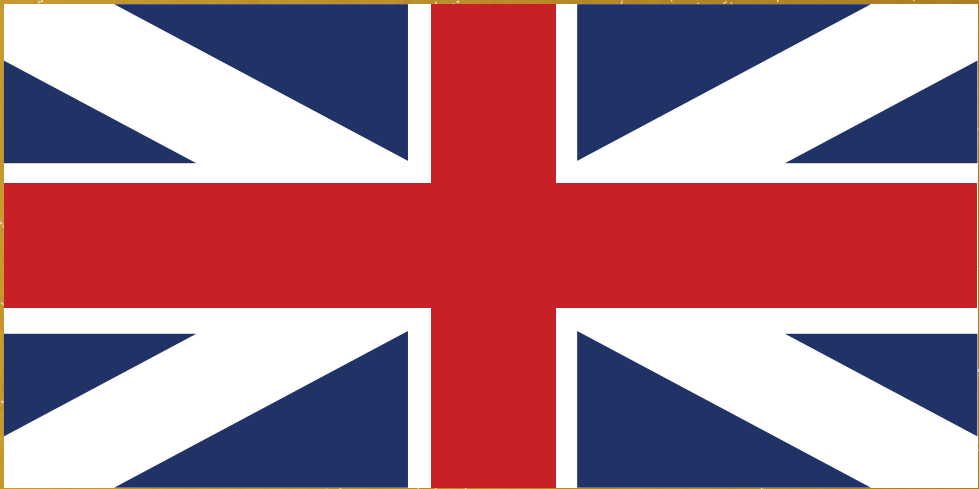
\*See p.18 to learn more about our coat of arms.



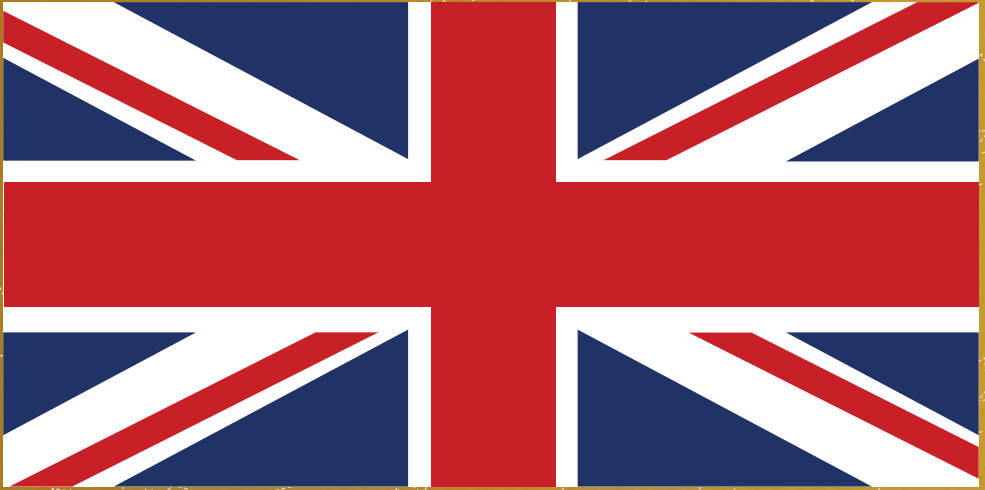
## OTHER FLAGS



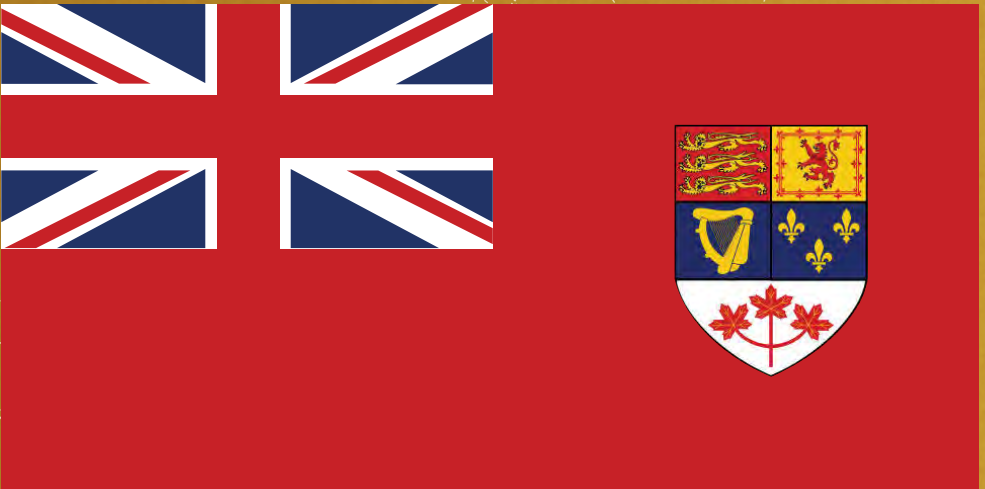
Before Canada was a country, the flags of many nations flew here. England's St. George's Cross, shown here, was raised on the shores of Newfoundland in 1497. In Quebec, France's fleur de lis appeared in 1534. Spain's Royal Arms temporarily claimed British Columbia's Nootka Sound in 1789. Even America's stars and stripes flew over some 17<sup>th</sup>-century trading forts in what is now Alberta.



After 1763, the Royal Union flag, symbolizing the union of England and Scotland, flew over all British colonies in North America. It is sometimes called "the Loyalists' flag" because, after the American Revolution in 1776, it was the one carried north to Canada by colonists who wanted to remain loyal to Britain. A red diagonal cross representing Ireland was added in 1801.



At the time of Canada's confederation in 1867, the flag that flew across the country was what we now know as the Union Flag. (It's often called the Union Jack, although that term should really only be used when the flag is flying on a ship.)



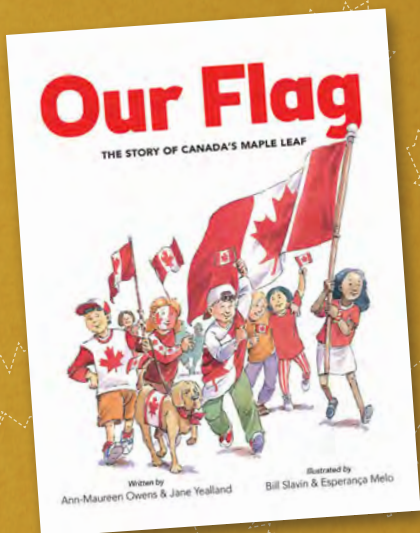
In 1921, Canada's new coat of arms was added to the Red Ensign, a flag already used on Canadian ships and on many government buildings. The Canadian air force and army began to use it near the end of the Second World War. After the war ended in 1945, the federal government approved the flying of the Red Ensign on all government buildings until Canada had its own flag.



# A SECRET AND A MYSTERY

Before the flag was officially chosen, 20-year-old Joan O'Malley, the daughter of a government employee, was asked to sew samples for the prime minister to see. There are no official records of that night and Joan remembers swearing not to talk about it — a promise she kept for many years. When the secret was revealed, Joan was invited to speak to schoolchildren about her adventure. She was also the Governor General's guest at a lunch with Queen Elizabeth II in 2002.

Those sample flags should be in a museum somewhere, but they have mysteriously disappeared. So has the first national flag of Canada, which was officially flown for the first time on Parliament Hill on February 15, 1965.



There's lots more about our flag, plus crafts, flag codes, Canada's provincial and territorial flags and more in *Our Flag* by Ann-Maureen Owens, who also wrote this article, and Jane Yealland.

# FLAG PEOPLE

Three Canadians were responsible for our flag's great design. George Stanley, a professor at Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont., proposed the use of a single red leaf on a white background with red borders because it could be seen clearly from a



George Stanley

distance. Once it was chosen, John Matheson, a member of the flag committee who had a passion for flags and symbols, worked with experts to perfect the design. Jacques St. Cyr developed the eleven-point leaf that looks like a simplified but real maple leaf, even when the flag flies on a windy day.



John Matheson

Fifty years on, the maple leaf flag is truly what Prime Minister Pearson promised — a flag that stands for Canada!



## THUMBS DOWN



1



2



3



# THE GREAT FLAG DEBATE

Many Canadians felt strongly that we should have a flag of our own, especially as the country's 100th birthday approached. Maybe because of his time representing our country at the United Nations, Prime Minister Lester Pearson was especially passionate about the idea. On June 15, 1964, he introduced a bill in Parliament to give Canada a flag. His choice—which quickly became known as the Pearson pennant—had three red maple leaves on a white background with blue side borders. Debate dragged on for three months, so Parliament set up a committee with members from all political parties to choose a design. As well as getting advice from flag experts, the committee asked Canadians for their suggestions. Thousands of people, from young children to famous artists like A.Y. Jackson, sent in their ideas, which included beavers, Mounties and even hockey sticks. The committee created three groups: versions of the Red Ensign, flags with a single maple leaf and ones with several maple leaves. They chose one from each and held a secret vote. Surprisingly, every single member chose the red and white maple leaf design! It took another 15 days for members of Parliament to agree. Like most French-speaking MPs, Prime Minister Pearson wanted a distinctly Canadian flag, but John Diefenbaker, leader of the opposition, fought hard to keep the Red Ensign showing Canada's historic link with Britain. Very early on December 15, 1964, Parliament voted 163 to 78 in favour of the maple leaf design. Canada had its flag! Approval by the Senate and Queen Elizabeth II soon made it official. The maple leaf flag flew from Canadian flagpoles for the first time on February 15, 1965.

National Gallery of Canada



Although there were some wacky suggestions, most of the proposed designs for a Canadian flag used a lot of the same colours and symbols. Flag #3 is notable because it has white arrow shapes across the middle representing First Nations, whose contributions to Canada were mostly ignored by designers. Flag #4 is the Pearson pennant, the Prime Minister's favourite.

# HOW CANADIAN IS THAT?!!

## CANUCK COLOURS

In wars going back more than 1,000 years, the French used red crosses on their clothes, while the English carried a white cross. In 1921 when our coat of arms was approved, red and white became our two official colours to honour the two European countries.



Flickr Commons



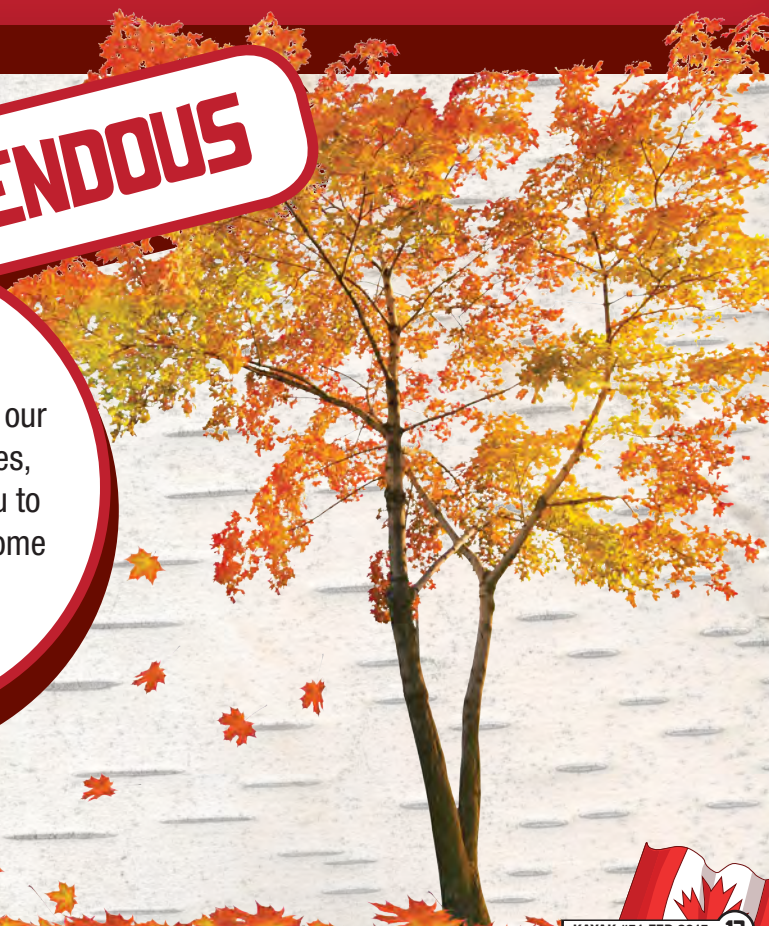
# BUSY AS A...



Europeans who explored west and north throughout Canada weren't doing it for fun. They were looking for beavers, whose pelts were snapped up for fashionable fur hats in Europe in the 1600s and early 1700s. The beaver became an official symbol of our country in 1975.

# TREE-MENDOUS

Of course the maple is our national tree, right? Yes, but it may surprise you to learn that it didn't become official until 1996!



# GIDDY-UP!



Once you know we have a national horse, its name won't surprise you: the Canadian. This breed goes back to the horses sent to New France by the King of France in 1665. Canadian horses are strong, tough and good-natured. Parliament declared it our national horse in 2002.

## RED COATS

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police — usually just known as Mounties — first appeared in 1873 as the North-West Mounted Police. RCMP members in their scarlet jackets represent Canada to the rest of the world.



Flickr Commons: Justin Bailey



# GLAD TO BE PLAID

In 2011, the lovely Maple Leaf Tartan — based on the colours of a maple leaf throughout the year — became an official emblem of Canada.



## UNOFFICIAL SYMBOLS

Quick, what's Canada's national flower? Okay then, what's our national bird? It's not the Canada goose or the loon. In fact, Canada has never named an official national bird or flower. (Most provinces and territories have both.) What do

you think? If it was up to you,

what would you choose? Is there another symbol of our country that you think should be as official as the ones in this article? Send us your ideas at [kayakmag.ca](http://kayakmag.ca).



Wild rose



Chickadee

# You Think **YOU** Have it Tough?

## THEN

**T**he rules for Canada's two national sports haven't changed all that much, but the equipment has — thank goodness! In hockey, our official winter sport, helmets and face masks were pretty much unheard of until the 1920s. Goalies wore thin pads like the ones used in the sport of cricket. First Nations people have played lacrosse, Canada's official summer sport, for hundreds of years. They had no protection as they whipped a small, hard ball around the field using sticks with nets on the end. When European settlers started playing the game, they added padded sweaters but little else to protect themselves.

Library and Archives Canada



Shamrock Lacrosse Club, Montreal, Que., 1879



# Bring on the Padding!

NOW



St. James Jimmies, Winnipeg, Man., 2014

**P**layers from 90 years ago or more would hardly recognize modern kids playing lacrosse or hockey because of all the protection. (Again, thank goodness!) High-tech helmets; mouthguards; padded gloves; chest, shoulder and arm padding; plus thick pads for the goalie make hockey safer. In lacrosse, there's not nearly as much equipment, but players still wear helmets, mouthguards and padding on their shoulders and arms, plus special gloves. Thousands of young Canadians play our national sports, but now they're a whole lot safer, although some say players hit too hard now because they feel protected by all that gear.



# CANADA'S COAT OF ARMS

Can you tell which parts are real and which are fake?







## MOTTO

“A mari usque ad mare” is Latin. It came from the Bible and means “From sea to sea.”



## CROWN

This shows that Queen Elizabeth II is Canada's head of state.



## LION

It represents England; it holds the Union Flag of Great Britain.



## MOOSE

It represents Canada's wilderness; it holds a flag featuring the fleurs-de-lis of France.



## WOLVERINE

This fierce animal symbolizes the importance of the fur trade.



## HELMET

Surrounded by Canada's colours, red and white, this helmet is a symbol of royalty.



## SHIELD

It depicts an inuksuk to represent the Far North, three yellow lions on red (England), three royal fleurs-de-lis (France), the red royal lion on yellow (Scotland), the royal harp (Ireland) and three maple leaves for Canada.



## FLOWERS

The floral symbols at the bottom stand for England (rose), Scotland (thistle), shamrock (Ireland) and fleur-de-lis (France).

Answer on p. 34

**O**ur coat of arms became official in 1921. It's a collection of symbols that tell the story of Canada's past. Well, part of our past. Although there are some Canadian symbols, most are from England, France, Scotland and Ireland. The aboriginal people who were here first aren't properly represented, nor are the people who came to live here from all over the world. In 1994, the gold letters on the red circle were added. They say “Desiderantes meliorem patriam,” which is Latin for “They desire a better country.”





# We Stand on GUARD

Written by Allyson Gulliver

Illustrated by David Namisato

Quebec City, June 24, 1880

“Bravo! Bravo!” The elegantly dressed men and women didn’t want to stop clapping. It was as if they knew that the song they had just heard, “Chant National”, was something very special.

“They love it!” Adolphe-Basile Routhier whispered to the man sitting next to him. “Your music, Calixa — it is perfect! It was so inspiring that it took me no time at all to write the words.”

Calixa Lavallée tried to be calm, but a huge smile broke out on his face. “Your poetry is the perfect match. I know the crowd will agree tomorrow when they hear the choir sing the words. I do believe our effort to write a national hymn for French Canada is a success! Even the governor general is impressed.”

Ernest Gagnon pushed his way through the crowd to congratulate his friends. “I can’t believe anyone could have come up with anything better than your ‘Chant National.’ And to think it all started with a letter from that priest in Trois-Rivières, suggesting we have a national anthem for this year’s Saint-Jean-Baptiste celebrations.”

“I know Father Caron thought we should have a competition, but there just wasn’t time. And besides, this worked much better,” Gagnon continued. “I’m not sorry we had you write this song. It’s wonderful!”

“The English have ‘God Save the Queen’ and ‘The Maple Leaf Forever,’” said Routhier, “but there is no place for us French-Canadians in their songs.”



Lavallée nodded. “I don’t mean to sound immodest, my friends, but it feels good to think that we have an anthem that’s truly ours.”

Montreal, November 25, 1908

Stanley Weir gazed at the printed sheet of music in his hands, an astonished grin on his face. “I can’t quite believe it, Gertie. ‘O Canada,’ with my name on it!”

His wife shook her head. “I know you’re a lawyer, but you’re also a great poet. Your words are beautiful. Much nicer than those other translations.”

“Don’t be too hard on them, Gertie. It’s not easy to come up with patriotic words that are also poetic,”

Weir replied. “This was just my way of helping celebrate Quebec City’s 300th anniversary.”

“You’re much too kind, Stanley. The other versions were awful and you know it. That’s why they never caught on. Nobody wants to sing things like ‘No stains thy glorious annals gloss,’ or ‘From pole to borderland.’ That’s not poetry at all. And besides, most of them talk too much about the Empire and Britain — the whole point of ‘O Canada’ was to have an anthem that included both French and English.”

“Besides,” said Gertie, “It feels good to think that we have an anthem that’s truly ours.”**K**



# In All Our...?

Should the English words of “O Canada” be changed so they’re more like the original version? Stanley Weir’s poem included the lines “True patriot love, Thou dost in us command.” Nobody’s quite sure why the second part was changed to “In all thy sons command” around the time of the First World War, although it might have been a reaction against women’s fight for the right to vote.

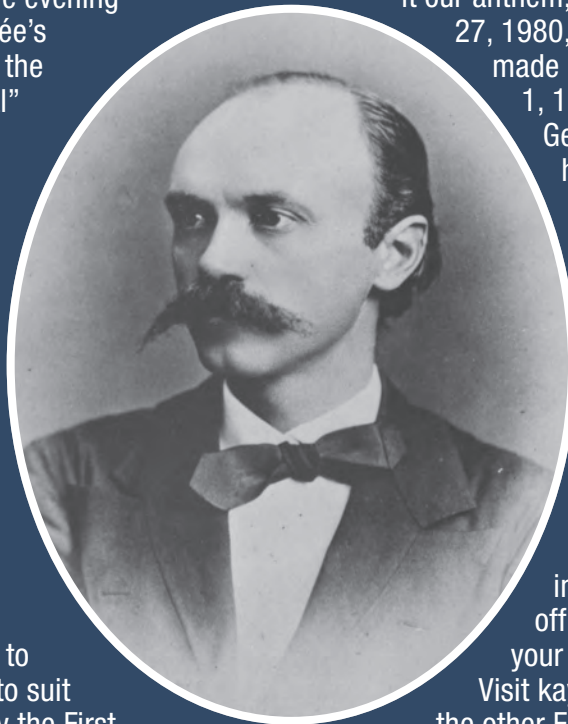
Efforts to change “In all thy sons command” in 2002 and 2010 failed. On Sept. 22, 2014, Mauril Bélanger, Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier, asked Parliament

to approve a small change so the words would be “In all of us command.” (Others have suggested “In all our hearts command.”)

“I believe these changes will finally make our anthem inclusive. They represent the evolution of our society,” Bélanger said.

Others have suggested we should remove references to “native land” since many Canadians weren’t born here, or that we should honour First Nations people by changing the words to “Our home on native land.” What do you think? Visit [kayakmag.ca](http://kayakmag.ca) and let us know!

Celixa Lavallée, shown here, wrote the music for our national anthem in 1880; Adolphe-Basile Routhier wrote the words in a single evening after hearing Lavallée’s composition. Under the title “Chant National” it was a hit right away in French Canada, but didn’t catch on among English Canadians until after 1901 when it was first sung publicly in English. There were at least four English-language versions of “O Canada,” ranging from a straight translation of Routhier’s words to a variety of poems to suit Lavallée’s music. By the First World War, Weir’s words had caught on and “O Canada” was gradually being accepted as our national song. By the late



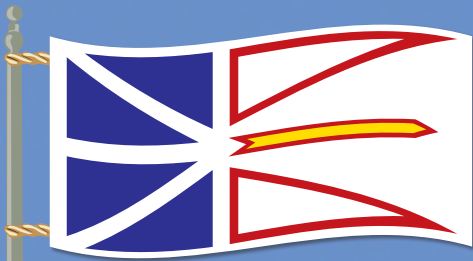
1920s, children were singing it in school and you’d hear it at most public events. There were dozens of attempts to make it our anthem, but finally, on June 27, 1980, the government made it official. On July 1, 1980, Governor

General Ed Schreyer had descendants of both Routhier and Weir beside him when a public ceremony made “O Canada” our official national anthem. Any time “O Canada” is played, you should face the flag, if there’s one in the room, take off your hat and hold your arms at your side.

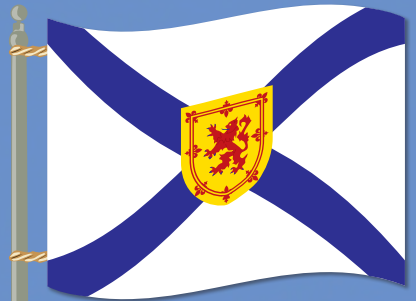
Visit [kayakmag.ca](http://kayakmag.ca) to read the other English translations of “O Canada” and hear the piece of music by Mozart that some say our anthem resembles a bit too closely.

# FLYING WITH PRIDE

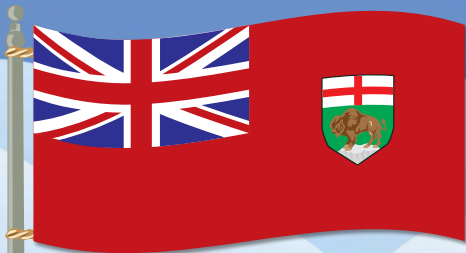
Each province and territory has its own flag, too. Some are bold and modern, others are fancy and traditional. Watch for these flags when you travel around our beautiful country. To learn more about what the symbols on them mean, visit [kayakmag.ca](http://kayakmag.ca).



**Newfoundland and Labrador**



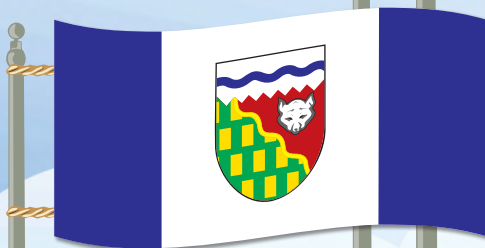
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**Manitoba**

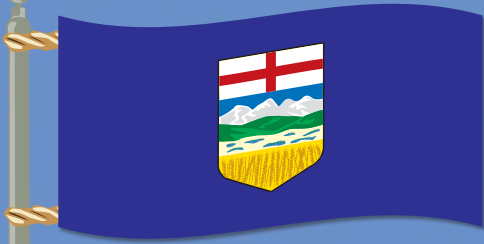


**Quebec**

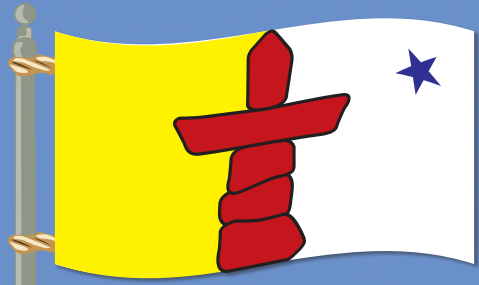


**Northwest Territories**

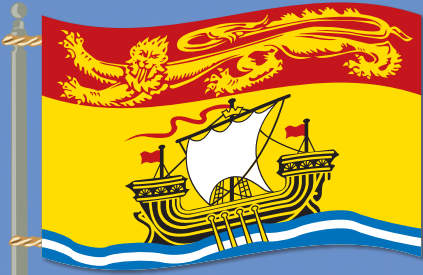




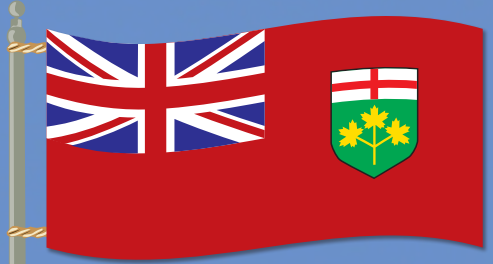
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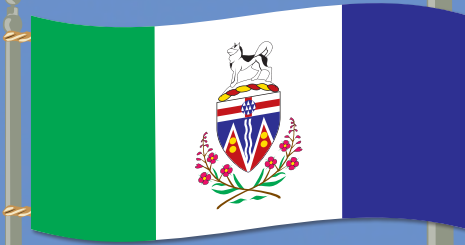
**Nunavut**



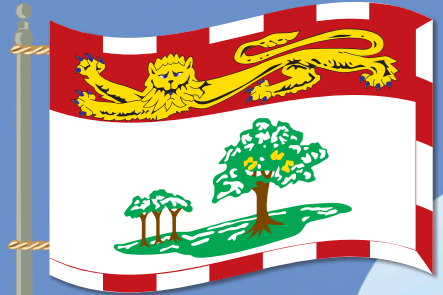
**New Brunswick**



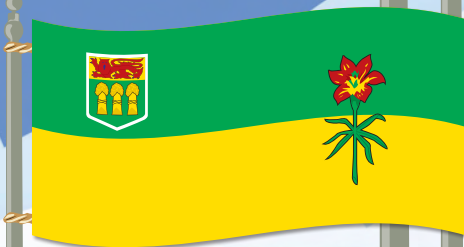
**Ontario**



**Yukon Territory**



**Prince Edward Island**



**Saskatchewan**



**British Columbia**

# FIRE ON THE HILL!

ILLUSTRATED BY ALEX DIOCHON

CENTRE BLOCK, PARLIAMENT HILL, OTTAWA, FEBRUARY 3, 1916



















FOR GOD'S SAKE, SEND SOMEONE BACK FOR ME!



WHY...



WHY DIDN'T I JUST SMOTHER THAT WASTEBASKET WITH MY COAT?



OR DUMP A GLASS OF WATER ON IT?



IN ALL, SEVEN PEOPLE DIED IN THE FIRE. IT WAS A TERRIBLE DAY IN OTTAWA,



BUT THERE WAS ONE PIECE OF GOOD NEWS.



QUICK-THINKING LIBRARIAN CONNOLLY MACCORMAC SHUT THE DOORS TO THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT IN TIME TO SAVE IT. THE LIBRARY IS THE ONLY PART OF THE ORIGINAL CENTRE BLOCK THAT STILL STANDS.



THE CENTRE BLOCK WAS REBUILT BY 1922.



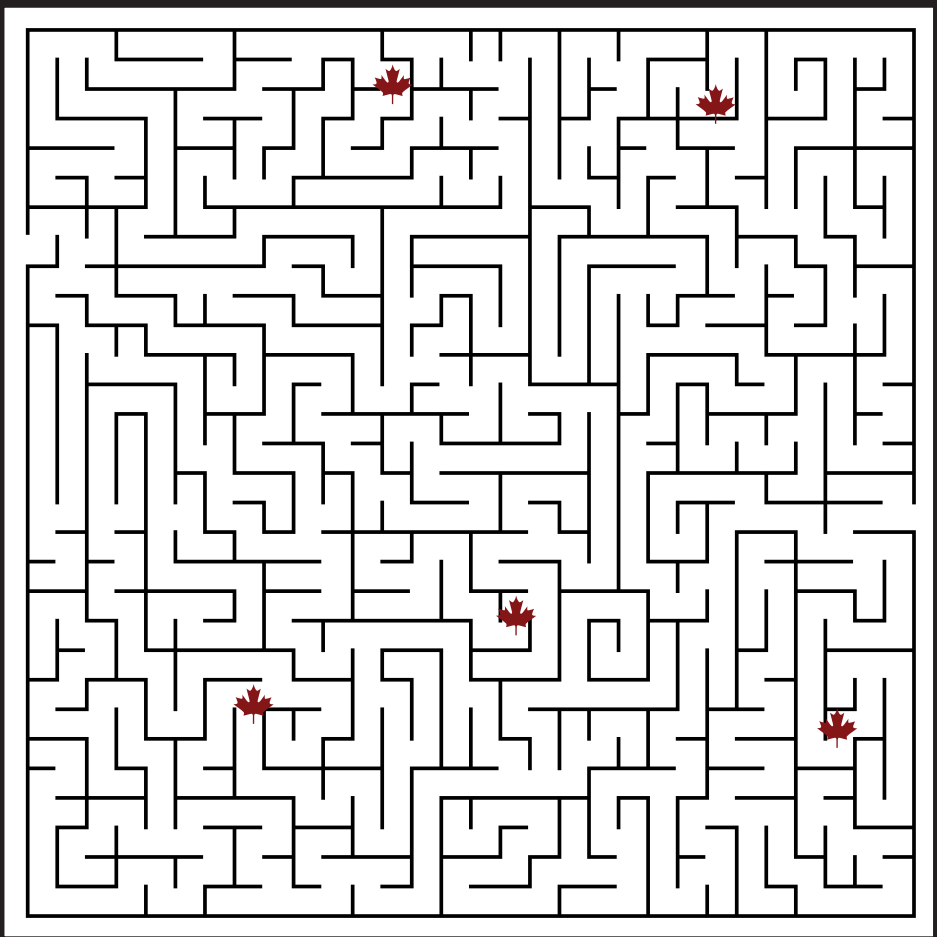
THE PEACE TOWER WAS FINISHED IN 1927.

TODAY, THE BUILDINGS ON PARLIAMENT HILL STAND AS PROUD SYMBOLS OF OUR GREAT COUNTRY.



# A-MAZE-ING CANADA!

Can you collect all the leaves in the puzzle and make it out the other side?



Answer on p. 34



# BUBBLEDIGY

ENTER ONLINE  
**TO WIN!**  
at [Kayakmag.ca](http://Kayakmag.ca)

**K** CLUB  
PRIZE PACK

## WINNER:

William, 11  
Ottawa, Ont.

## RUNNERS-UP:

"This isn't quite  
what I meant when  
I said I take a lot of  
cream in my coffee!!"

Alex, 10  
Whitehorse, Yukon

"Now this is my  
cup of tea!"

Gavin, 12  
Regina, Sask.

"I'll have a double-  
double!"

Nicole, 9  
Ottawa, Ont.

#51



Bill Dement

What was this beaver thinking?

#50



Nancy Payne

What was this man thinking?

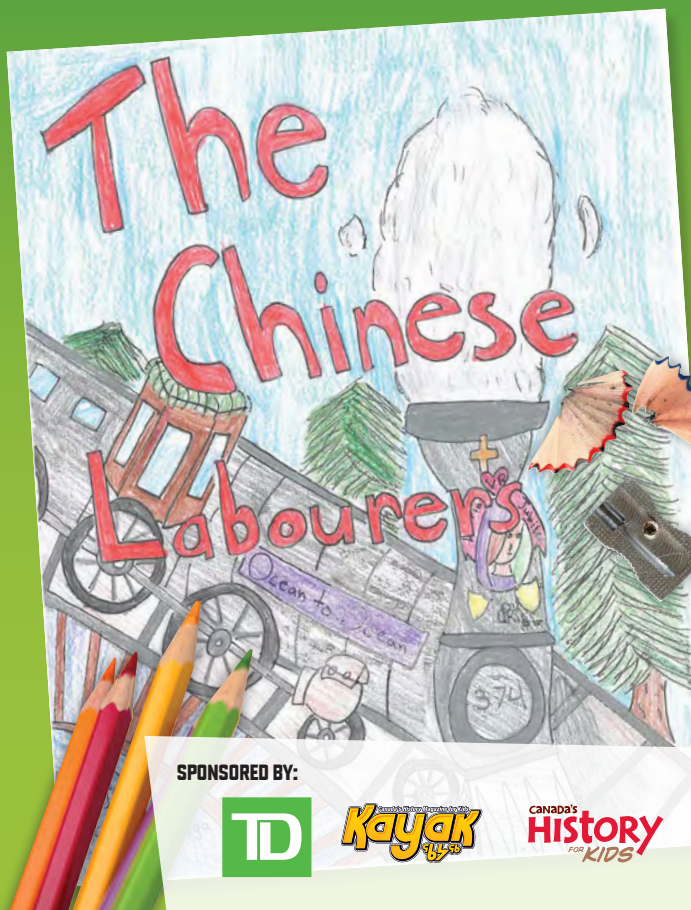
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## ANSWERS



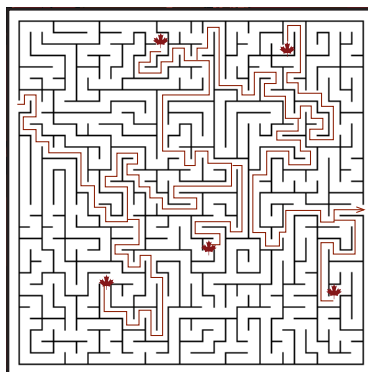
### History Mystery

P.18

The fake parts are the wolverine and the moose, which don't appear on Canada's coat of arms. And on the shield, the inuksuk is fake; there are no First Nations symbols on the real thing.

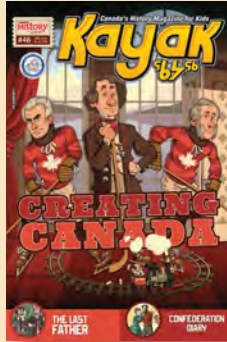
### A-MAZE-ING Canada

P.32





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