North American Vexillological Association

NAVA NEWS

Vol. 34 • No. 2 ISSN 1053-3338 April — June 2001 Issue #170

NAVA WINS IN FLAG SURVEY

When NAVA sponsored its web based survey last spring, we had no idea of the impact it would have on flag designing and flag consciousness in general. Conceived by our renouned *Raven* editor Ted Kaye and flawlessly executed by our Award-winning webmaster Dick Gideon, the survey asked visitors to the site to rate the US State and Canadian Provincial flags (plus territorial flags) for design qualities.

Some 400 people responded, of whom about a quarter were NAVA Members, from about 20 countries. After the results were compiled, we released them via press releases and then the media frenzy began!

Reactions were mixed, with some angry because they perceived NAVA was casting aspersion on their cherished emblem of statehood, while others applauded us for our honest approach. Even Jesse Ventura, the maverick governor of Minnesota, got in the act, stating we didn't know what we're talking about.

The best results, however, were the several flag contests, official and unofficial, that happened as a result of the survey. In Manitoba, the two biggest newspapers in Winnipeg had dueling flag contests, which the *Free Press* graciously permitted us to reprint in this issue for you to enjoy. Other less planned 'contests' happened also, for example, the Witchita, Kansas *Eagle* received a number of proposals unsolicited.

Nor was NAVA the only entity that is dealing with the topic; quite unknown to us and unrelated to the survey, *Utne Reader*, a national magazine, published an article on the sad state of subnational flag design in North America, along with several proposals by graphic design firms and the announcement of a contest for better designs with US$500 being offered in prizes. They have graciously allowed us to reprint their material here and have joined NAVA! Welcome aboard!

All in all, flags are in the news!

FERNANDEZ WINS NAVA-35 FLAG CONTEST

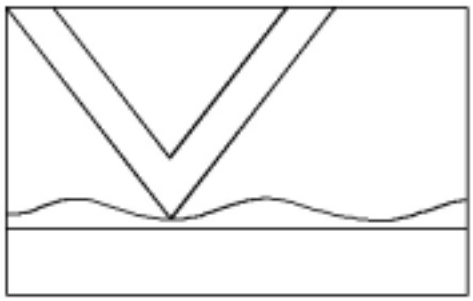
by Peter Orenski

New York City architect and (more importantly) NAVA Member Dino Fernandez edged out vigorous competition to win the NAVA-35 flag-design contest. Here's what Dino had to say about his entry:

"The flag proposed is composed of a white V with a red triangle which stands for NAVA, superimposed on a flag reminiscent of the flag for Hampton Roads. The parts of the flag for Hampton Roads and their significance are as follows. The blue panel evokes the predominantly maritime and naval character of the Hampton Roads region, which is the nation's primary naval base on the Eastern Seaboard, the East Coast's second largest seaport, and the country's primary center of shipbuilding and ship repair. The green panel stands for the region's land-based agriculture, industry, and arts. The white wavy line represents the sand and surf that help make the region one of the nation's most visited tourist destinations - from Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown to Norfolk's Chrysler Museum and the famous resort area at Virginia Beach. In all, the flag evokes the motto for the region which is "Hampton Roads – where Virginia meets the sea" , with a V for NAVA's convention celebration there, and with its colors — red, white and blue."

Nine volunteer judges labored long and hard over three weeks and five rounds of voting to select the winning design from among the 36 entries submitted, many excellent. The whole experience — all designs, explanations by authors, judges' evaluations and comments — are

Continued on page 12



April — June 2001
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FYI, Utne Reader is a national magazine that is geared to an intellectiual point of view. It is available on any newsstand and this issue has just come out. Note also that this article was written without any contact or consultation with NAVA or it's State and Provincial flag survey.

Utne Reader, July/August 2001 issue

IT'S A GRAND NEW FLAG!

WE ASKED FIVE DESIGN TEAMS TO REDO THEIR STATE OR PROVINCIAL FLAGS- AND WE HOPE IT INSPIRES YOU TO DO THE SAME

After decades of flapping in the breeze virtually unnoticed, state flags in recent years have become national news. All eyes were on Mississippi this spring as citizens voted on a proposed new flag that replaced the Confederate battle banner in the upper left-hand corner with a swirl of stars. It was overwhelmingly rejected. Georgia, on the other hand, recently adopted a new blue flag that relegates the Confederate banner (occupying two- thirds of the old flag) to a tiny patch beneath the state seal. The redesign of these flags, successful or not, sparked intense debates about the Confederacy and its fight to keep African Americans in slavery. But racism and brutal history are not confined to flags of the South. Take Minnesota, whose flag Alfred Znamierowski describes this way in "The World Encyclopedia of Flags" (Lorenz Books, 1999): "The central scene displays a Native American giving way to a white settler."

These debates also remind us how potent flags are as symbols. That's why we find it odd that most of our 50 states fly such bland flags. In many cases it's simply the state seal — usually an obscure and overly decorous scene — set on a blue or white background. From a distance, it's difficult to tell apart the flags of Connecticut, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Utah, and Virginia. Meanwhile, Oregon, Montana, Wisconsin, and Kansas distinguish themselves only by their name — a less-than-imaginative solution. And the flags of many Canadian provinces are just as dull in their own way.

In an era when visual icons, from the Nike swoosh to anarchists' black banners, have such cultural power, it seems baffling that so many states pass up the chance for a symbol that could win people's attention and stir their souls. Texas and Quebec, for instance, have bold and attractive flags seen frequently on travel brochures, T-shirts, and other artifacts that promote both places' proud sense of identity. The memorable flags of Maryland, Arizona, New Mexico, Tennessee, Colorado, South Carolina, the provinces of Saskatchewan and New Brunswick, the new Canadian territory of Nunavut, and the United States commonwealth of Puerto Rico leave us with a strong visual representation of those places.

Now is the perfect time, with folks in Georgia and Mississippi leading the way, for all of us to explore ideas for more striking and soul-stirring flags. To start the discussion and get everyone's creative juices flowing, we commissioned design firms in Ontario, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Washington state, and Georgia to propose new flags for their homes. (While applauding Georgians for downsizing the Confederate imagery on their flag — which has adorned it only since 1956 — we think they deserve something more distinctive than the usual state seal on a blue background.)

We hope these designs spark ideas about a new flag for the place you call home.

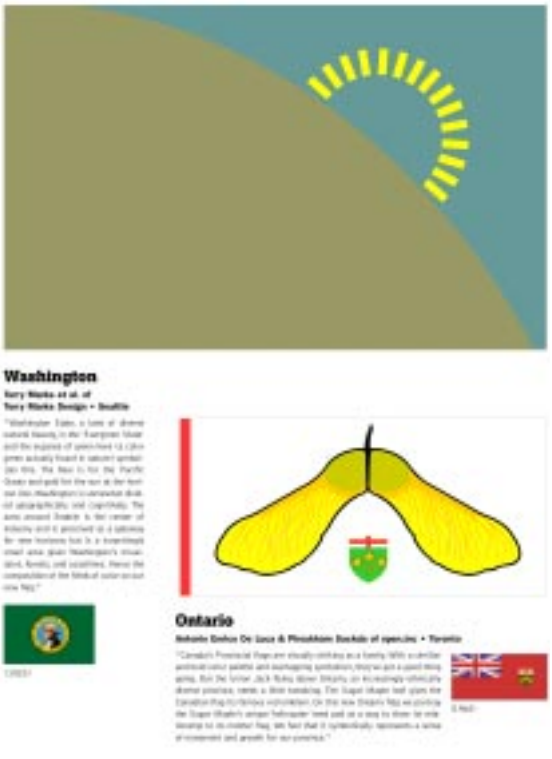
Flag Design Contest:

Look over what these five design teams have come up with, then try your hand at reworking the flag of your state or province. Send us the results, and we may feature it in an upcoming issue. We're offering [USD]$500 in prizes.

FLAGS
Utne Reader
1624 Harmon Place
Minneapolis, MN 55403
or
editor@utne.com


It's a
Grand New
High Flying Flags


Flag!
We asked five design firms to redo their state or provincial flags—
and we hope it inspires you to do the same
Massachusetts


Washington
Ontario


Georgia
CIVIL
Wisconsin
FORWARD

NEW MEXICO TOPS STATE/ PROVINCIAL FLAGS SURVEY GEORGIA LOSES BY WIDE MARGIN

10 June 2001
Story by Ted Kaye

The flag experts of North America have completed their survey of state and provincial flags, identifying the best and worst flags on the continent. NAVA, the North American Vexillological Association, conducted a poll on its website, asking its members and the public their opinions of flag designs in the U.S. and Canada. Vexillology is the study of flags.

Responses came in from 100 NAVA members and over 300 members of the public in 20 countries. Participants rated 72 flags on their design qualities (rather than on political, historical, or geographic considerations) on a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 was the best score. They were asked to rely on their personal sense of good flag design in rating the flags, which appeared on the web page. They cast well over 29,000 individual votes.

NAVA members favored strong, simple, distinctive flags, choosing New Mexico, Texas, and Quebec in first, second and third place, all with scores above 8. They scorned the "seal-on-a-bedsheet" design common to more than half of U.S. state flags, forcefully relegating those flags to the bottom of the heap with scores averaging less than 4.

One flag drew far more attention than all others did. NAVA members and the public both gave the new Georgia flag the lowest score—2.4 points—by the largest margin of any flag. Some even asked to give it negative points. They disparaged Georgia's flag as "a scalawag", "desolating", "simply awful", "hideous", and "by far the ugliest". Its complex design violates all the principles of good flag design, incorporating a seal, lettering, and a series of miniature historic flags (in incorrect order). One person derided it as "Five Flags Under Georgia".

Canadian flags fared significantly better than U.S. flags, with an average score of 6 points versus 5. Canada's provincial flags generally avoid seals and tend towards more simple designs.

The state-seal-on-a-blue-background design of so many U.S. state flags dates back to the 19th century adoption of regimental flags to represent the states. They are relatively indistinguishable from each other at any distance, except perhaps Oregon's flag, which is the only one to have a different design on the back.

Texas briefly led the results after NAVA president Dave Martucci mentioned the survey in a radio interview on Texas Flag Day. But the three-day flurry of responses (likely from Texans) was eventually diluted by other responses and Texas sank back into second place. Others betrayed their partisanship in their comments, such as "Long live the green flag" from a Washingtonian.

The public's overall responses paralleled those of NAVA members quite closely, with the public tending to score flags a half-point lower, on average. As might be expected, the public's scores dispersed a bit more broadly, with a slightly higher standard deviation. Their insightful comments showed a strong intuitive grasp of flag design and confirmed NAVA's expert opinions on design principles. One doesn't need to be a flag expert to know a good flag design.

NAVA has invited each respondent to become a member.

In a surprise result, the combined NAVA-public rankings handed the top flags a three-way tie, with less than 1/100th of a point separating their scores (that margin is so small that one person changing his vote could alter the first-place score).

The highest-scoring flags all embody the five basic principles listed in NAVA's upcoming publication on flag design, *Good Flag, Bad Flag*:

1. **Keep It Simple** (The flag should be so simple that a child can draw it from memory…)
2. **Use Meaningful Symbolism** (The flag's images, colors, or patterns should relate to what it symbolizes…)
3. **Use 2–3 Basic Colors** (Limit the number of colors on the flag to three, which contrast well and come from the standard color set…)
4. **No Lettering or Seals** (Never use writing of any kind or an organization's seal…)
5. **Be Distinctive or Be Related** (Avoid duplicating other flags, but use similarities to show connections…)

Good Flag, Bad Flag is downloadable free from the NAVA website: www.nava.org. It can help any organization, tribe, company, family, neighborhood, city, county, state, or even country design a great flag.

The survey, quite possibly the first of its kind conducted entirely over the Internet, lasted three-and-a-half months, and has contributed new insights into the public perception of flags and their design. Ted Kaye, editor of NAVA's scholarly journal and author of Good Flag, Bad Flag, conducted the survey; Dick Gideon, NAVA's webmaster, designed the survey page.

REPRESENTATIVE SURVEY COMMENTS

A flag should be the simplest possible design consistent with bearing a unique, easily distinguished identity…those with complex detail in their composition defeat the purpose of a flag.

The main purpose of a flag is identification. Yet half of the US's states have flags that to the untrained eye, or from a distance, look identical.

Simple flags, clear colors, not too busy. Shields on fields are bad.

… a flag which needs to indicate its significance by spelling out the state signified…is defeating the very purpose of a flag, that is, to signal "visually" without need of written signs.

A 'good' design for a flag, in my opinion, is one that can be identified at a glance (even in a stiff breeze!) and which is easy for, e.g., school students to sketch… everyone ought to be able to draw those flags that have significance for them.

All British colonial flags (e.g. Ontario) should go.

The blue-coloured flags remind me of the former Soviet republics' flags. (comment from Sweden)

Recognition, simplicity, color, and uniqueness make, in my opinion, a pleasing design.

… the new Georgia state flag certainly is a shame to any flag designer. What a mess!

The whole purpose of flags, I thought, was to distinguish one from another.

Here is just a small sampling of the news media outlets that reported the survey results: *AP, The Oregonian, US News and World Report, Montreal Gazette, Washington Post, The Globe and Mail, Herald, Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg Sun, Pioneer Planet, Yahoo News, JSOnline, Denver Post, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Lincoln Nebraska Journal-Star , Christian Science Monitor, St. Paul Pioneer Press, captimes.com, Florida Times-Union, BBC, Minnesota Public Radio, Concord Monitor.*

Special thanks go to Survey Creator, Ted Kaye; Survey's Web Format Designer, Richard R. Gideon; and the Primary Media Contact, Rick Broadhead.

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Argentina
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Hungary
Israel
Italy
Latvia
New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom
United States

Top 5 Flags
1. New Mexico
2. Texas
3. Quebec
4. Maryland
5. Alaska

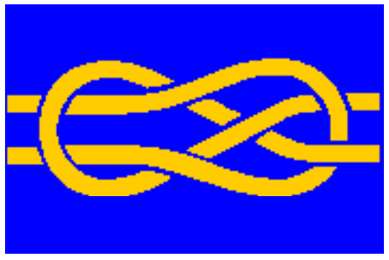
NAVA SURVEY SCORES

[10 = high]

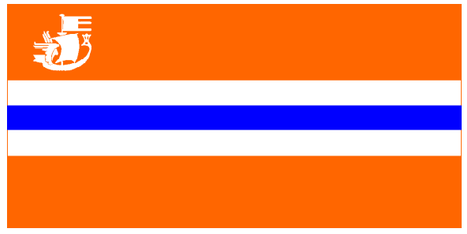
1	New Mexico	**8.61**
2	Texas	**8.13**
3	Quebec	**8.04**
4	Maryland	**7.97**
5	Alaska	**7.96**
6	Arizona	**7.92**
7	Puerto Rico	**7.66**
8	District of Columbia	**7.48**
9	Marshall Islands	**7.19**
10	South Carolina	**7.16**
11	Hawaii	**7.15**
12	Nova Scotia	**7.06**
13	California	**7.00**
14	Tennessee	**6.98**
15	Ohio	**6.87**
16	Colorado	**6.83**
17	Nunavut	**6.72**
18	New Brunswick	**6.68**
19	F. S. Micronesia	**6.45**
20	Labrador	**6.45**
21	Prince Edward Island	**6.30**
22	Mississippi	**6.30**
23	Wyoming	**6.28**
24	British Columbia	**6.28**
25	Newfoundland	**6.24**
26	Saskatchewan	**6.22**
27	American Samoa	**6.16**
28	Rhode Island	**6.12**
29	Alabama	**6.06**
30	Northwest Territories	**5.89**
31	Yukon	**5.86**
32	Indiana	**5.77**
33	North Carolina	**5.34**
34	Florida	**5.17**
35	Alberta	**5.00**
36	Louisiana	**4.98**
37	Virgin Islands	**4.94**
38	Massachusetts	**4.78**
39	Oklahoma	**4.78**
40	Guam	**4.77**
41	N. Mariana Islands	**4.73**
42	Iowa	**4.72**
43	Ontario	**4.64**
44	Manitoba	**4.60**
45	Arkansas	**4.59**
46	New Jersey	**4.57**
47	Washington	**4.53**
48	Missouri	**4.50**
49	Illinois	**4.38**
50	Connecticut	**4.32**
51	West Virginia	**4.16**
52	Delaware	**4.08**
53	New York	**3.93**
54	Virginia	**3.93**
55	Nevada	**3.88**
56	North Dakota	**3.69**
57	Pennsylvania	**3.69**
58	Utah	**3.47**
59	Michigan	**3.46**
60	Maine	**3.39**
61	Vermont	**3.37**
62	Oregon	**3.30**
63	New Hampshire	**3.18**
64	Idaho	**3.17**
65	Wisconsin	**3.16**
66	Kentucky	**3.16**
67	Minnesota	**3.13**
68	South Dakota	**3.12**
69	Kansas	**3.01**
70	Montana	**3.00**
71	Nebraska	**2.98**
72	Georgia	**2.36**

NAVA Salutes the International Congresses of Vexillology

a 38 year tradition of International Vexillological Fellowship and Scholarship

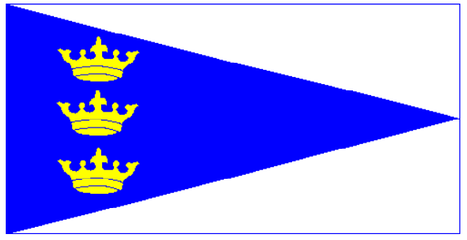


Flag of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV)



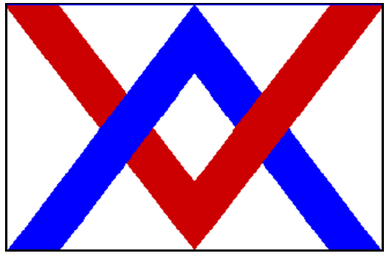
1st ICV - 1965
Muiderburg, The Netherlands

2nd ICV - 1967
Zurich, Switzerland



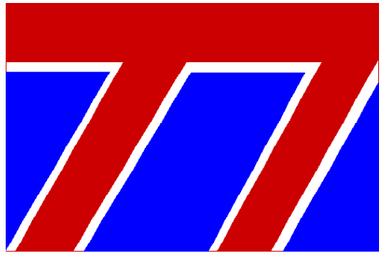
3rd IVC - 1969
Boston, Massachusetts, USA

4th ICV - 1971
Turin, Italy



5th ICV - 1973
London, England, UK

6th ICV - 1975
Ijssel Meer, The Netherlands



7th ICV - 1977
Washington, DC, USA

8th ICV - 1979
Vienna, Austria

9th ICV - 1981
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

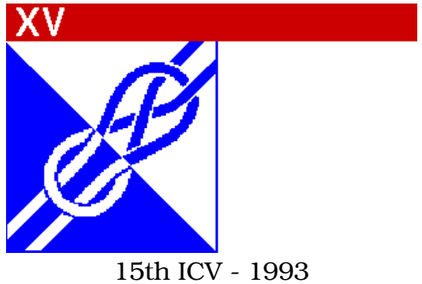
10th ICV - 1983
Oxford, England, UK

11th ICV - 1985
Madrid, Spain

12th ICV - 1987
San Francisco, California, USA

13th ICV - 1989
Melbourne, Australia

14th ICV - 1991
Barcelona, Spain

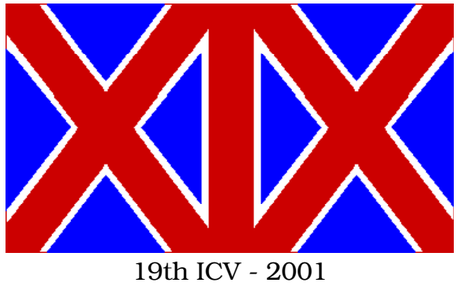


15th ICV - 1993
Zurich, Switzerland

16th ICV - 1995
Warsaw, Poland

17th ICV - 1997
Cape Town, South Africa

18th ICV - 1999
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

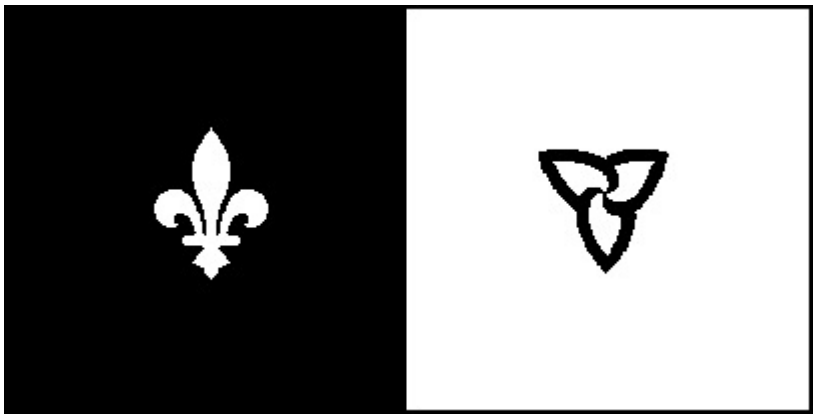


19th ICV - 2001
York, England, UK

Franco-Ontarian flag officially recognized by Queen's Park

by Luc Baronian

Ontario may have the second-to-worst provincial flag according to NAVA's recent survey, but the beautiful Franco-Ontarian flag was just recognized by vote on June 21 2001 in Queen's Park (Ontario's provincial parliament) as representing the province's francophone community. Members of all political parties voted for the motion presented by Liberal Member of Parliament Jean-Marc Lalonde (opposition). The flag will be raised on the Parliament building on June 24 2001, Saint-Jean-Baptist Day, patron saint of French-Canadians. Ontario will thus become the second province to fly its francophone minority's flag, after New Brunswick, which flies the Acadian flag on its Legislative Assembly.



The event was well received by the community, although some influential members expressed the wish that the Conservative government do more than symbolic actions for the promotion of French in Ontario. Indeed, recently, two events made the Franco-Ontarians angry against their government. The one that mobilized most people was the government's decision to appeal a court judgment that declared unconstitutional the decision to close down the province's only French-language hospital (in Ottawa). The second was the lack of political will by the government to declare officially bilingual the new city of Ottawa (created by the merger of Ottawa with its immediate suburbs), Canada's capital and an important cultural center for the Franco-Ontarians. (In the end, the city did declare itself bilingual, but without sanction by Queen's Park). Not to mention frustration caused by the refusal of large department stores in Ottawa to put up bilingual signs, although the same stores did so in Montreal to accommodate the anglophone minority there. Franco-Ontarians still remember when the government tried to take their language out of their schools during the First World War.

This official recognition of the flag comes three weeks before the Games of the Francophonie, which will be held in the federal capital region of Ottawa-Hull. The Franco-Ontarian flag is a vertical 1:2 green and white (representing the Ontarian Summer and Winter), with a white fleur de lis in the center of the hoist square with obvious symbolism and a green stylized trillium (the official provincial flower is the white trillium) in the center of the fly square. The flag was first flown at the French-language Universitè de Sudbury (today called Universitè Laurentienne). It was designed by a group of students from that university on the initiative of their history professor, Gaètan Gervais, and in the honor of Camille Lemieux, an editorialist, who had pledged for the adoption of a distinctive Franco-Ontarian flag in the 1950s, shortly after Quebec's flag was adopted.

Until 1948, French-Canadians in Quebec, New England, Ontario and Western Canada made use of the Carillon flag, ancestor of Quebec's current Fleurdelysè. (A common faux pas is to confuse French-Canadians and the Acadians of Atlantic Canada and Maine, who's culture and history is significantly separate). Quebec's move was in line with the shift in identity that was operating from French-Canadians to Quèbècois. As a result, the concept of a large French-Canadian nation dissolved and local francophone flags were adopted in North America. In 1977, the French-Canadian Association of Ontario (ACFO) adopted the flag created in 1975 and it has since flown in every French-speaking villages and towns in front of schools, Desjardins financial coops, community centers and private homes, often next to the Canadian and Ontarian flags.

Americans are often puzzled by the importance given to French speakers in Canada; a past NAVA president even once told me he didn't understand why provincial French-Canadian associations bothered to adopt flags, while Italian-Canadians or other groups didn't. One has to understand that in many parts of the country as well as parts of the Northern US, French-Canadians were the first explorers if not the first settler (hence the many French place names in the Midwest like Des Moines, Joliet, Racine, Detroit, etc.). The French presence in Ontario dates back 350 years. French-Canadians never experienced the French revolution because they were under British rule by then, hence the insignificance of modern French symbols to them. In fact, the word French-Canadian itself is fairly recent; the original meaning of "Canadian" being a French descendant born in Canada.

Although Ontario's native French-speaking population represents only about 5% of the province's total population (compare New Brunswick where Acadians represent close to the third), there are strong francophone concentrations in the Eastern and Northern parts of the province. More important, the half-million strong Franco-Ontarian community represents just over half of Canada's francophone population outside Quebec and is twice as large as New Brunswick's.

To the Editor,

I believe I can explain how the facts surrounding the basis of the Betsy Ross legend got confused. As we know, William Canby, Betsy Ross' grandson, asserted that his grandmother told him the famous story when he was about 11 years old. According to the story, General Washington and a committee of Congress consisting of Robert Morris and George Ross (uncle to Mrs. Ross' husband, John) visited Mrs. Ross in 1776 to make the first Stars and Stripes flag. No such committee existed for the purpose of selecting a flag for the United States. However, Edward W. Richardson's *Standards and Colors of the American Revolution* (U of PA Press, ISBN 0-8122-7839-9; 1982) states the following on pages 111 and 112:

In July 1775 the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly's Committee of Safety, of which Franklin was president, and George Ross and Robert Morris members, ordered a fleet of river gunboats of the galley type. ... The Provincial Committee of Safety was responsible for navy matters. ... The first record noted by Preble of Pennsylvania State Navy Colors is in the minutes of the Navy Board, as follows: "Present: William Bradford, Joseph Marsh, Joseph Blewer, Paul Cox. An order on William Webb to Elizabeth Ross for fourteen pounds, twelve shillings, and two pence, for making ship's colours, etc. put into William Richards store. £14.12.2." The date was May 29, 1777.

This statement clearly shows that two of the key players in the Betsy Ross legend — George Ross and Robert Morris — were members of a committee that oversaw naval matters and that the procuring of flags for the Pennsylvania Navy was under the committee's jurisdiction (via the Navy Board). The person who doesn't fit is George Washington. Instead, Benjamin Franklin, another famous Founding Father, does. It is highly probable that either an elderly Mrs. Ross or a very young William Canby got the germ of the story right, but got confused on the exact details.

Earl P. Williams, Jr.
Washington, DC

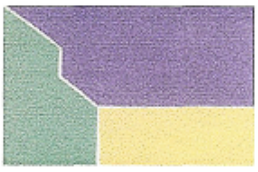
NAVA Member is Flagmaker for Fort Sumter

On Flag Day, June 14, 2001, Fort Sumter National Monument Superintendent John Tucker unfurled one of two reproduction 1861, 20 ft. x 36 ft. 100% Natural Cotton Bunting, 33 star Garrison Flags on Liberty Square, Charleston, South Carolina. One of the Garrison flags will be on display at the new Fort Sumter & Fort Moultrie welcome center. The second Garrison Flag will be flown over Fort Sumter on special flag days.

Additional measurements: the canton 17 ft. !/2 in. x 19 ft. 2 in. natural blue cotton bunting, with 33 natural white canvas 11 in. stars in a Diamond pattern. Field of 13 red and white natural cotton bunting stripes 18!/2 in. wide. 7 in. wide natural white canvas header (on flag to be flown) doubled around a bolt rope.

The flags were made by Tom Martin, Flagmaker, Piedmont Flag Company.

MANITOBA FLAG PROPOSALS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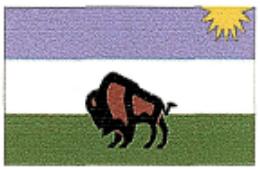
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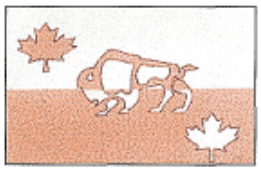
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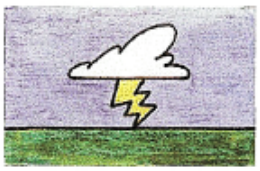
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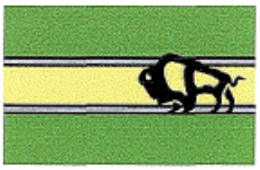
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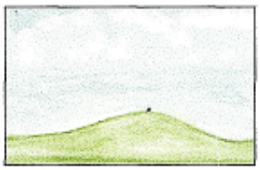
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And the Winner is ...

Out of 1,386 votes cast, the top five winning designs are Number 22 (132 votes), Number 7 (105 votes), Number 2 (87 votes), Number 24 (81 votes) and Number 32 (80 votes). Winners announced July 16, 2001.

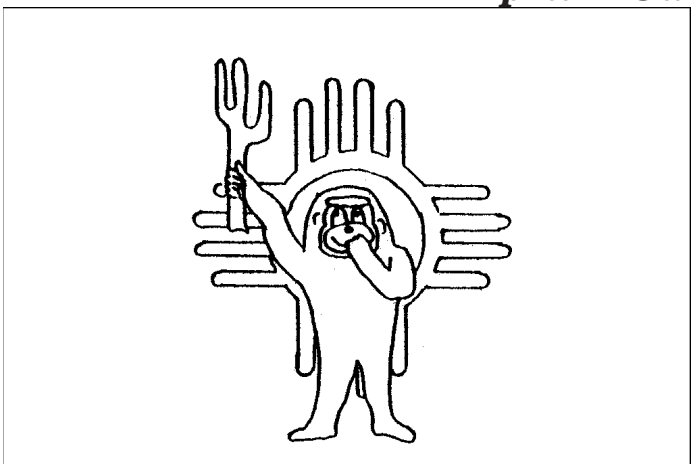
Readers fly their creative colours

Fun-with-flag contest narrowed to 34 finalists awaiting your vote

Many of us are still vexed about the North American Vexillogical Association voting our provincial flag the ugliest in Canada. A spokesman for the Canadian branch of the vexillogical society, a group that studies vexillums (Latin for flag), said Manitoba's Union Jack-based banner lacks style and violates all the rules of good flag design.

The Free Press recently asked readers for their ides on what a new Manitoba flag should look like - if and when the province ever decides to replace the current one - and the entries have poured in. While bison, crocuses and wheat were the most common adornments, the 150 or so entries are a diverse, imaginative and colourful sampling of Manitoba pride. We also invited prominent Manitoba artists and graphic designers to provide us with their visions, and you'll see them on this page. There are five of them: Ivan Eyre, Jordan Van Sewell, digital Chameleon, Ivy Gowen of Number Ten Architectural Group and Louise Wilmot. see if you can pick out the professionals' work.

Our panel has selected 34 finalists and we invite readers to vote for their favorite by mailing, faxing or dropping off the enclosed ballot. You can also email us your favorite by filling out the form below. The winner will receive a full-size flag featuring their design after it has flown for a day in a prominent, but still secret, location. Deadline for voting is midnight Wednesday [July 11]. Please select your favorite flag by clicking on the "radio button" beside its corresponding number, and hit "Send" at the bottom of the page. Please include the reasons that you chose this flag as your favorite.



Chumley, the Vexi-Gorilla © Michael Faul, 1999. All rights reserved.

Chumley the Vexi-Gorilla™

... Is the creation of Michael Faul, Editor of *Flagmaster*, the distinguished journal of The Flag Institute in the United Kingdom. To a field not often blessed by humor's grace, Mr Faul brings a delightfully light touch, deep vexillological roots, and sparkling whimsy.

First-ever flag road sign! Here's a photo from Jim Babcock in Hampton Roads.

Three Professors and the Flag Pole

The professors of mathematics and physics were staring away at the flag pole in front of the front of the college building. The professor of engineering walking by asked, "What seems to be the problem?"

"We," said the professor of mathematics, "were wondering how to measure the height of this flag pole."

The professor of engineering quickly unscrewed the pole from its moorings, laid it on the ground, whipped out a measuring tape, measured it, and said, "It is exactly 20 feet long," and walked away smoking his pipe.

Looking at the engineering professor's receding back, the over analyzing professor of physics remarked, "Smart alec. We wanted to know the height, and he tells us the length!"

NAVA News

Published quarterly by the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA), PMB 225, 1977 N Olden Ave Ext, Trenton NJ 08618-2193 USA. ISSN 1053-3338. Material appearing in NAVA News does not necessarily reflect the policy or opinion of NAVA, the executive board or of the editor.

Please send articles, letters to the editor and inquiries concerning advertising rates and permission to reprint articles to:

David Martucci, Editor
240 Calderwood Rd
Washington ME 04574-3440 USA
(207) 845-2857
pres@nava.org

Articles may be submitted in hard copy or in any Macintosh or PC format (excepting Lotus Word Pro) on 3.5" diskettes or Zip disks. A hard copy showing all formatting preferences should accompany the disk. Articles and/or disks accompanied by a SASE will be returned.

Please send copies or originals of any flag-related newspaper and magazine clippings and all non-NAVA News related correspondence, including change of address or changes in email status to the Association's permanent address:

NAVA
PMB 225
1977 N Olden Ave Ext
Trenton NJ 08618-2193 USA
treas@nava.org

Visit NAVA on the web at
http://www.nava.org/

Captain William Driver Award Guidelines

1. The Captain William Driver Award was created in 1979 for the best presentation at the NAVA annual convention. It is named in honor of Captain William Driver, who christened the United States flag "Old Glory." The award is generously cosponsored by the National Flag Foundation.
2. The award consists of a certificate and US$250.
3. The executive board shall determine the recipient of the award based on the criteria given below. At its discretion, the executive board may determine that no presentation delivered at the convention has met the criteria for the award and decline to give an award that year.
4. The criteria for the award follow, in descending order of relative importance:
   a. The presentation should be an original contribution of research or theoretical analysis on a flag or flags resulting in an advancement of knowledge in the field of vexillology.
   b. It should be characterized by thoroughness and accuracy.
   c. It should be well organized and, as appropriate, illustrated.
   d. It should be delivered well, *i.e.*, interesting for the audience as well as informative, such that it is easily comprehendible.
5. No presentation may be considered for the award unless a completed written text is submitted in advance of its delivery.
6. No single individual may be given the award more frequently than once every three years.
7. Because of the conflict of interest, current members of the executive board are ineligible for the award.
8. If at all possible, the executive board shall not give the award jointly to corecipients. In extraordinary circumstances, the executive board may recognize another presentation with the designation "Honorable Mention."
9. As a condition of being considered for the award, presenters agree that NAVA has the right of first refusal to publish their presentation in either *NAVA News* or *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*. This right of first refusal extends to both the actual recipient of the award and the remaining nonrecipients. A presenter who desires to have his or her presentation published elsewhere may decline to have the presentation considered for the award, provided that the presenter makes this fact known before the presentation is delivered.
10. These guidelines should be distributed to presenters in advance of the annual convention.

Approved August 1 1998

Visit NAVA's Award-winning Web Site
http://www.nava.org

CALL FOR PAPERS

If you wish to present a paper or set up a display at the **35th ANNUAL CONVENTION of NAVA** (5-7 October 2001 in Hampton Roads Virginia), please mail the following information to 1st Vice President Andrew R. Biles, Jr. by **30 JUNE 2001**:

1) Your name, address, telephone number, and email address if available;
2) Title of paper, presentation, symposium, workshop or exhibit;
3) Abstract of same; and
4) Type and size of exhibit area and/or equipment needed, including tables, electrical requirements, AV equipment, etc.

NO EXHIBITS OR PRESENTATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED IF THE NOTIFICATION LISTED ABOVE IS NOT MADE IN A TIMELY MANNER.

A COMPLETE COPY OF THE PAPER OR PRESENTATION OR NATURE OF EXHIBIT MUST BE RECEIVED BY **31 AUGUST 2001**.

Send to:

Andrew R. Biles, Jr.
16035 Maple Wild Ave SW
Seattle WA 98166 USA
Telephone: 1 (206) 244-1666
Email: abiles@pol.net

NAVA reserves the right to accept or reject any presentation without prejudice.

Continued from page 1

available for everyone on NAVA's website.

Note that this was the first time ever that a flag contest was judged in a rational, quantitative manner according to basic principles of good flag design, over the Internet, by nine judges from all across the United States. We hope our experience will provide others with a starting point for conducting and evaluating similar contests.

I know you will want to extend your congratulations to Dino (SFArchitec @aol.com) as well as to give a hand to the exemplary effort by our volunteer judges (in reverse alphabetical order) — Gus Tracchia, Chris Sweet, Jon Radel, Phil Nelson, Bob Milka, Ted Kaye, Dick Gideon, John Gámez and Nathan Bliss — all of whom are now living, following extensive plastic surgery, under assumed names in the flag-witness protection program west of Alaska.

See you at NAVA-35, October 5-7, 2001, in Norfolk, Virginia!