



By the end of the nineteenth century, the beaver and the maple leaf were Canada's recognized emblems; but in the background there were other potent symbols—the fleur-de-lis, the lion and the unicorn, the thistle, the rose and the shamrock. Vancouver was rather English, and Nova Scotia was full of Scots. There were two varieties of French, *québécois* and *acadien*, and two of Irish, green and orange.

By mid-twentieth century, the Canadian mosaic was taking its full complex shape. Canada had ten provinces, two territories and citizens from a score of distinctive backgrounds—Ukrainian, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, East Indian, West Indian, Japanese, German, Dutch, Polish and Icelandic. The provincial flags had many emblems drawn from nature—lions, foxes, malamutes, buffalo, fleurs-de-lis, oak trees, and fireweed.

(On the next page you will find the whole glorious display.)

It became increasingly clear that the country should have one primary emblem, not two or twenty; and in 1945 an official flag committee began hearings. For fifteen years not a great deal happened; however as Canada's centennial approached, John Matheson, MP, and the Liberal party began to promote the maple leaf over the Conservatives' favourite, the Red Ensign. After fierce debate over 2,695 proposed designs, Parliament chose the single red leaf on a white background flanked by broad red bars. It was vivid, simple, clearly Canadian and obviously superior to most of the other suggestions, which included one for a flag with a woman with the face of Myrna Loy, wearing an evening dress with a red, white and blue sash, holding a beaver on a leash.

Following page: The flags. Left to right, starting at upper left: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Yukon Territory, Manitoba, Alberta, Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Quebec, British Columbia, Canada. Photo: Ross Chapple.

DIMANCHE

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MARDI

MERCREDI

JEUDI

VENDREDI

SAMEDI

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SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE
SAINT JEAN BAPTISTE

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY