

# Canada plans joint issues and more for 2004

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Canada Post's list of new stamp issues for the coming year was revealed earlier than anytime in the last 10 years. The 2004 program was announced July 17, 2003, more than two weeks before the United States Postal Service revealed its stamp program at an Aug. 7 meeting with stamp writers in Columbus, Ohio, during the convention of the American Philatelic Society.

by Canadian rock star Bryan Adams, the only non-Brit to be commissioned by the queen to take official photos of her for her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

Her more formal, regal look has been replaced by a photo showing the queen smiling, wearing a wide-brim hat and pearls. This look is the one that Canadians see when the queen visits the country.

Adams, who lives in London, England, said the photograph was an unpublished outtake from a session he did with the queen in late

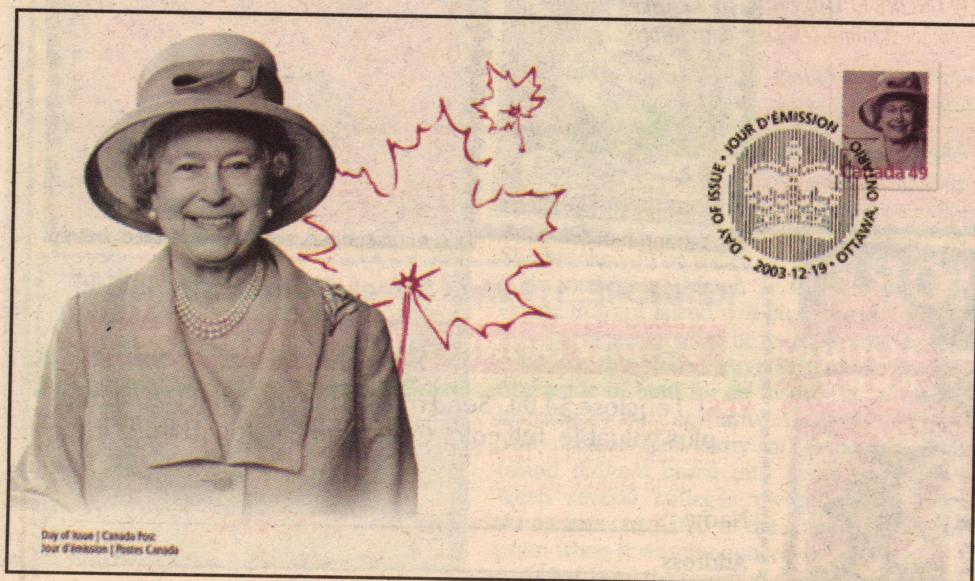


Figure 1. Canadian rock musician Bryan Adams took the photograph of Queen Elizabeth II that appears on a new 49¢ stamp. More of the photograph is shown in the first-day cover cachet.

It has been a goal of Canada Post to announce its program as early as possible, and before the USPS unveiling. The difference is that the USPS also shows preliminary designs for most of the stamps announced in its program. In Canada, images for new stamps are unveiled individually a few weeks or months before the issues are placed on sale.

On Dec. 19, 2003, in anticipation of new rates that take effect in early January 2004, a slew of new definitives were issued. A new portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and a new background for the current flag stamp are featured on two 49¢ domestic rate stamps.

The queen is shown for the first time out of royal garb. The new picture, a black and white photograph colored in sepia tones, was taken

2001, in preparation for her Golden Jubilee celebrations. He is quoted telling the *Vancouver Sun* that he was "thrilled and honored for my photograph to be chosen by Canada Post."

The image on the stamp mostly shows just the queen's face and right shoulder. In the first-day cover image in Figure 1, more of Adams' full portrait of the queen can be seen in the matching cachet.

The new Flag stamp shows the Canadian national flag flying over the city of Edmonton at dawn. Edmonton is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its incorporation in 2004.

Three definitive stamps featuring maple leaves will be issued as well, one each for the 49¢ rate, the 80¢ letter rate for mail to the United States, and the \$1.40 international rate.

When past rate increases have taken place, stamps were also released to cover the second-weight domestic rate for mail weighing more than 30 grams, up to 50g. In 2003, the second-weight rate was 77¢. In 2004, the second-weight rate will be 80¢, the same as the new U.S. rate; therefore the new 80¢ stamp will do double



Figure 2. The booklet versions of the matching 80¢ and \$1.40 Maple Leaf stamps have straight edges on all four sides. The coil versions have wavy line die cuts at top and bottom. The 49¢ Flag stamps and Queen stamps will be issued in booklets of 10, while the 49¢ Maple Leaf stamp will be sold in coils of 100. All are self-adhesive.



Figure 3. The \$5 Moose definitive stamp has moisture-activated adhesive and is issued in perforated panes of four.

duty.

The last Dec. 19 definitive issue is a \$5 stamp featuring a moose. This stamp completes the high-value animal series started in 1997 with the \$8 Grizzly Bear (Scott 1700) followed in 1998 by a \$1 Loon and a \$2 Polar Bear (Scott 1697-1698).

The choice of the animals on the \$1 and \$2 stamps was made so they would match the Canadian coins of the same value. The \$5 Moose was prepared in 1997 with the other

international-rate stamps will be available in booklets of six and coil rolls of 100 (Figure 2).

The \$5 Moose stamp, like its \$8 counterpart, will be printed in panes of four (Figure 3). The pane selvage includes the image of a Micmac Indian petroglyph from Kejimikujik National Park in Nova Scotia.

Stamp series continuing in 2004 from previous years include the Lunar New Year/Year of the Monkey issue placed on sale Jan. 8. It includes a 49¢ stamp and a \$1.40 souvenir



Figure 4. Canada continues its New Year series on Jan. 8 with the release of a 49¢ stamp and a \$1.40 souvenir sheet celebrating the Year of the Monkey.

high values, but not put to press until stocks of the \$5 Victoria Public Library stamp (Scott 1378) were depleted.

At the time, the Royal Canadian Mint had plans to produce a general circulation \$5 coin to replace the \$5 paper bill and it would have featured a moose. This did not materialize, but a commemorative \$5 coin was issued at the same time as the \$5 stamp and was only available in special box set with the stamps.

Scott catalog editors appear to have predicted such a stamp would be issued, leaving the catalog number Scott 1699 unassigned.

For the first time, all definitives except the high value \$5 will be available only as self-adhesives and only in booklet and coil formats. The Flag stamps and the Queen stamps will be available in booklets of 10, the 49¢ Maple Leaf stamps in coils of 100, and the U.S.-rate (or second-step rate) and

sheet, both shown in Figure 4, as well as a prepaid postcard at \$1.49. This will be the first prepaid postcard in the Lunar New Year series, which is now in its eight year.

It will be followed shortly thereafter, on Jan. 17, by the fifth series of NHL All-Stars stamps. This year's featured hockey players are Johnny Bower, Marcel Dionne, Ted Lindsay, Brad Park, Larry Robinson and Milt Schmidt.

A new twist has been added to the very popular Tourist Attraction series. Instead of being issued together, the U.S.-rate and international-rate booklets of five stamps will be on sale at different times of the year.

There are two reasons for this. The first is to make the Tourist Attraction stamps available over a longer period and the second is to ensure that some of the stamps are issued closer to the events they portray.

The U.S.-rate stamps will be issued Jan. 30 and will feature the Quebec Winter Carnival for its 50th anniversary, the West Coast Trail,

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Kananaskis Country, Terra Nova National Park and St. Joseph's Oratory for the 100th anniversary of its foundation.

The \$1.40 international rate tourist attractions are scheduled for release June 1. They will show the International Crossing of Lac St. Jean, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, the Montreal Jazz Festival (25th anniversary), the Canadian National Exhibition (125th anniversary) and the Nova Scotia International Tattoo. The Tattoo stamp commemorates the 25th anniversary of this popular military and civilian indoor performance extravaganza.

A second season of Audubon birds is to take



**Figure 5.** Canadian Nobel prize-winning chemist Gerhard Herzberg on a 1995 stamp from Maldives Islands, Scott 2118f. Canada will issue stamps honoring Herzberg and Michael Smith in 2004.



**Figure 6.** Three paintings by Canadian artist Jean-Paul Lemieux will appear on Canadian stamps in 2004. Canada's 6¢ Christmas stamp from 1974 shows Lemieux's painting *Nativity*.

flight on May 7 and will feature five stamps showing songbirds, four at the 49¢ domestic rate and one at the 80¢ U.S. rate.

After two years with many University celebration stamps — four in 2002 and five in 2003 — 2004 will see only two universities commemorated. A stamp for the University of Sherbrooke will be issued on the occasion of its 50th anniversary March 5; the University of Prince Edward Island will be honored Sept. 12 for what is purported to be its 200th anniversary.

In fact, this latter anniversary marks the setting aside of land for an institution of higher learning by the Legislative Assembly in 1804. The current University of Prince Edward Island did not come into being until 1969 when several colleges merged. This latter stamp was not listed in the Canada Post program when it was announced in July.

As has been the tradition since 1951, former governors-general and prime ministers receive postal commemoration on a suitable occasion within a year or so after their death. This process was described in the O Canada column in the July 2001 *Scott Stamp Monthly*.

The late Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's 24th governor-general since confederation, will be so honored March 16, on what would have been his 70th birthday. Hnatyshyn served as governor-general from January 1990 to February 1995. He died Dec. 18, 2002.

The largest and one of the oldest youth programs in Canada, the Army Cadets, will be commemorated with a single 49¢ stamp for its 125th anniversary on March 26.

For the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Toronto subway system, Canada Post will issue four stamps March 30 at the domestic rate, recognizing the importance of urban transit and light rail in Canada. A single 49¢ stamp will be issued on May 13 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Montreal Children's Hospital.

For many years now, one of the ways Canada Post has recognized the importance of the stamp-collecting hobby is by unveiling one or

more stamps on the opening day of the annual convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Next year is no exception, as two stamps commemorating the importance of shipping to Canada's economy and to its postal communications will appear on May 28, the opening day of the 76th RPSC convention.

The 49¢ stamps will honor Sir Samuel Cunard and Sir Hugh Allan and their shipping lines to underscore their contribution to transatlantic mail communications, primarily in the 19th century. These two stamps are a follow-up to the 2002 Marconi and Pacific Cable stamps, where wireless and cable communications were honored (Scott 1963-1964).

June 26 will see a joint issue with France celebrating the first of many events in conjunction with the 400th anniversary of New France, culminating with the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City in 2008.

This first postal commemoration will be for the establishment of the first French settlement at Ile Sainte-Croix.

Saint Croix Island is situated between Canada and the United States on the United States side of the Saint Croix River, and has been U.S. territory since 1797. The island is currently administered both by Parks Canada and the U.S. Parks Service as the Saint Croix Island International Historical Site. Although the U.S. Postal Service was invited to join France and Canada in this stamp issue, it unfortunately declined to do so.

On Sept. 23, two domestic rate stamps will be issued to honor Canadian Nobel Prize winning chemists: Dr. Gerhard Herzberg (1904-1999, Nobel Laureate 1971) and Dr. Michael Smith (1932-2000, Nobel Laureate 1993). Figure



**Figure 7.** Canada issued its first Olympic Games stamps in 1973 (Scott 623-624), as Montreal prepared to host the 21st Summer Games in 1976. Although no Olympic stamps have been announced for 2004, it seems likely that Canada will commemorate the Summer Games taking place in Athens.

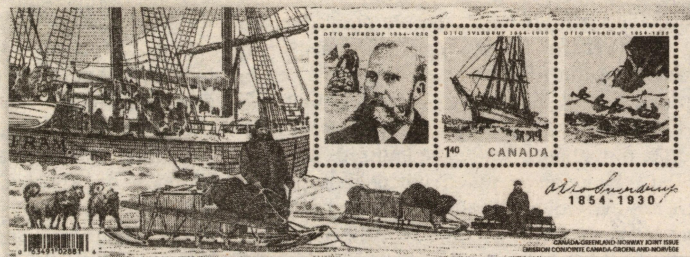
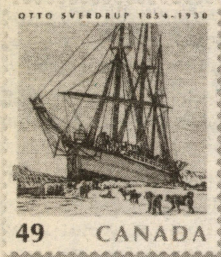


Figure 8. In a joint issue with Norway and Greenland, Canada will issue a 49¢ stamp and a \$1.40 souvenir sheet on March 26 to honor explorer Otto Sverdrup. The souvenir sheet includes the designs for the stamps from Norway and Greenland on either side of the Canadian stamp, but the perforated labels are not denominated or inscribed with the country name.

5 shows Herzberg on a 1995 issue from Maldives Islands.

A set of stamps for Stamp Collecting Month will feature household pets. These stamps should appeal to young people as well as adults. Scheduled for release on Oct. 1, they will depict favorite domestic animals, includ-

ing dogs, cats and birds.

October will also see a set of stamps honoring the work of renowned Canadian painter Jean-Paul Lemieux on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth. Stamps will be issued in the domestic, U.S. and international rates showing the following paintings: *Self-*

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*Portrait, Les noces de juin* and *L'été*. The domestic rate stamp will be issued in panes of 16 while the US and international rate stamps will be available only in a souvenir sheet of three that will include the domestic rate painting stamp as well and is reminiscent of that issued to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the invention of basketball by Canadian professor James A. Naismith (Scott 1344).

Lemieux's painting *Nativity* was featured on the 6¢ Christmas stamp issued by Canada in 1974 (Scott 650, Figure 6).

On Friday, June 26, 1857, Queen Victoria distributed the first Victoria Crosses (VC) at

Hyde Park, London. On parade was a large body of troops including Lt. Alexander Roberts Dunn, 11th Hussars, the first Canadian-born individual awarded the Victoria Cross.

Queen Victoria instituted the VC in 1856 to reward individual acts of bravery. It was the lesson of the Crimean War that showed the lack of any adequate way to reward brave actions by lower-ranking officers and enlisted men that prompted her to create the VC. She decided to award it retroactively for valorous action in the Crimean War. Lt. Dunn was awarded the VC for saving the lives of a sergeant and a private of his regiment on two

different occasions in 1854.

Canada Post will issue two stamps celebrating the award of the VC to Lt. Dunn on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his brave actions. The stamps are to be issued Oct. 25 and will show the VC awarded prior to 1975, and the drawing of the "Canadianized" version of the VC to be awarded when appropriate. VCs are individually made, and none has been awarded since 1975, which is why the approved design will be shown on the second stamp.

The last scheduled 2004 issue is the traditional Christmas stamps. In 2004, the stamps will mark the centennial of the Toronto Santa Claus Parade. This will be the second time Canada Post has issued stamps for the Parade. In 1985, four stamps showed different floats from the T.E. Eaton's Santa Claus Parade (Scott 1067-1069). The year 2004 also marks the 40th anniversary of Canada's annual Christmas stamp issue that dates back to 1964 (Scott 434-435).

The list of new stamps for 2004 announced by Canada Post included no stamps from late June to early September. Three months without commemorative stamps being issued is unheard of in Canada since the 1970s. This means that other stamps should be announced later.

The Olympic Summer Games are scheduled for Aug. 13-29 in Athens, Greece. In past Olympic years, Canada Post has issued stamps commemorating the event (Figure 8). I presume they will do so again and this will be one of the issues announced later.

In fact, in a press release dated Nov. 4, Canada Post announced another joint issue for 2004 not on its original list. The tri-country joint issue with Greenland and Norway will honor Norwegian explorer Otto Sverdrup (1854-1930).

Sverdrup discovered and charted some 160,000 square kilometers in the Canadian Arctic. During his 1898-1902 expedition, he mapped an area now known as the Sverdrup Islands, which are today part of the Canadian province Nunavut.

The joint issue will be in the form of three souvenir sheets. Each country will issue one souvenir sheet, with all three featuring the same three different engraved stamp designs; however, only the design corresponding to the issuing country will be denominated. The remaining two labels will show the vignettes, but no country name or denomination. Norway's sheet will have two denominated stamps.

The image of Canada Post's souvenir sheet shows a \$1.40 stamp. Single stamps denominated 49¢ are also planned (Figure 8). There will also be a first-day cover offered, and a preliminary design issued by Canada Post shows the FDC including the two Norwegian stamps, the 49¢ Canadian stamp and the Greenlandic stamp.


Canada's stamps both feature Sverdrup's ship the *Fram* — from the Norwegian word for "forward."

Since the Canadian stamp will not be denominated on the Greenland souvenir sheet, will the Greenland image be considered as a progressive proof of the Canadian stamp? However it is viewed, it will be of interest to many collectors of Canadian issues.

Martin Mörck of Norway designed and engraved the joint issue stamps and souvenir sheets in cooperation with Morten Sturup (lettering design and layout). He previously engraved the Canadian \$2 Polar Bear stamp mentioned earlier in this article.

Since 1997, Canada Post has been issuing special envelopes for events and people who celebrate significant milestones that are not necessarily of national importance and therefore do not warrant a stamp. These have become popular and the original print run of 5,000 has been increased to 12,000 per envelope. Three are planned for 2004.

On April 24, there will be one envelope for the 75th anniversary of the Société Philatélique de Québec. On June 14, the 75th anniversary of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons will be noted, and, lastly, the 250th anniversary of the founding of the town of Mahone Bay in Nova Scotia will be commemorated. **SSM**



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