

# Canada Post reveals 2008 program

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On May 24, 2007, Canada Post announced its 2008 stamp program. This is the earliest release of details about its stamp program in recent memory.

The stamp program includes the first Braille postage stamp to be issued in North America, although the United States issued a stamped envelope with Braille incorporated in the design in 1981 (Scott U600).

The new stamp, to be issued in April 2008, will honor guide dogs in Canada. At the same time, a commemorative envelope will be issued for the 100th anniversary of the Montreal Institute for the Blind.

Previously, no Canadian stamp had been issued to honor sight-related topics. From the 1950s through the 1970s, a number of slogan cancellations were produced for White Cane Week, Protect Your Sight campaigns and other eye-related themes.

On October 29, 1998, Canada Post issued a special commemorative envelope to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

There will be no increase in the domestic letter rate in 2008, but on January 14, there will be a 3¢ increase, to 96¢, for letters, cards and postcards up to 30 grams addressed to the United States, and a 5¢ increase, to \$1.60, for the same items sent to foreign destinations.

Canada Post will begin the year with

new definitive stamps to cover the new rates.

Domestic letter-rate definitive stamps depicting Queen Elizabeth II and the traditional booklet of five stamps showing flags over lighthouses (Figure 1) will be issued in January.

The domestic letter-rate definitive stamps are known as "Permanent" stamps. Each bears the letter "P" and will continue to be valid for postage at the domestic letter rate.

Canada's Permanent stamps, first issued in late 2006, are similar to the Forever stamps issued by the United States Postal Service in 2007. The stamps are sold at the current domestic letter rate and continue to be valid for postage ad infinitum, whatever the domestic rate may be.

Canada Post chose to issue new stamps rather than reprint the current "P" stamps.

Figure 2 pictures another new "P" stamp, as well as denominated stamps that cover the new 96¢ rate to the United States and the \$1.60 international rate. Each stamp features a different species of orchid. The denominated stamps will include a new domestic-rate coil stamp.

The Year of the Rat will be honored with a 52¢ domestic letter-rate stamp (Figure 3) and a \$1.60 international-rate souvenir sheet to be issued in January. The set will close the 12-year series of Lunar New Year stamps begun by Canada Post in 1997 with the Year of the Ox (Scott 1630).

Also to be released in January is a new Permanent "P" Celebrations stamp intended for use on mail for special occasions, such as birthdays and weddings (Figure 4). The stamp, the third in the Celebrations series, depicts fireworks. Balloons appear on the first Celebrations stamp issued in 2006 (Scott 2146), and the second stamp in the series, issued in 2007, shows streamers (Scott 2203).

Canada Post knows a good thing when it sees one. Canadians in general have given a warm reception to all previous stamp issues featuring flowers. This is in part why many of the definitive stamps issued since 2004 feature Canadian garden flowers and wildflowers. Canada Post also has issued flower-related commemoratives, including stamps featuring orchids in 1999 (Scott 1787-1790), roses in 2001 (Scott 1910-1914), tulips in 2002 (Scott 1946-1947), daffodils in 2005 (Scott 2091-2093), and lilacs in 2007 (Scott 2206-2208).

Two new 52¢ stamps showing peonies will be issued in March (Figure 5). Like the previously issued Daffodil stamps and Lilac stamps, the domestic letter-rate Peony stamps will be issued individually, in a souvenir sheet of two stamps and in booklets of 10 stamps (five pairs).

A single stamp will be issued in April to celebrate the World Hockey Championship to be held in Quebec City, Quebec, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. The event marks the first time that the men's



Figure 1. Domestic letter-rate stamps to be issued by Canada Post in 2008 will feature Queen Elizabeth II and flags over lighthouses.





Figure 2. Orchids are shown on a new Permanent stamp and denominated stamps for Canada's new U.S. and international rates, which will go into effect January 14.

International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Championship will take place in Canada. The year 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the IIHF, and the championship will be part of the centennial celebration.

Canada has issued 48 stamps honoring hockey. The first stamp to celebrate the sport (Scott 359) was issued in 1956.

The second stamp to be issued in 2008 with a Quebec City theme will be issued in May. The stamp will be a joint issue with France to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City in 1608. Previously, stamps were issued by Canada Post to celebrate the 300th anniversary (Scott 96-103) and the 350th anniversary (Scott 379) of the city's founding.

The third 2008 stamp with a Quebec City connection will be issued in October for the Francophone Summit.

In May, the Art Canada series will continue with three stamps that honor the 100th birth anniversary of Yousuf Karsh, Canada's world famous photographer. The stamps — one stamp each for the domestic, U.S. and international rates — will reproduce three of Karsh's most famous works. In October 2007, Canada Post announced that the domestic rate will show a Karsh self-portrait, while the U.S. and international rates will feature Audrey Hepburn and Sir Winston Churchill, respectively.

Karsh's photographs have appeared

on at least 28 Canadian stamps, beginning with a stamp issued in 1951 showing Karsh's photo of Canada's Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King (Scott 304).

My O Canada column in the August 2004 issue of *Scott Stamp Monthly* provided details on Canadian stamps featuring Karsh's work.

The same mid-October announcement also revealed that Canada Post will continue its popular Canadians in Hollywood stamp series launched in 2006 at Washington 2006. The actors to be honored on the 2008 stamps are Raymond Burr (1917-1993); Marie Dressler (1868-1934), born Leila Marie Koerber; Chief Dan George (1899-1981), born Tes-wah-no and also known as Dan Slaholt; and Norma Shearer (1902-1983).

The 2006 stamp series features John Candy, Fay Wray, Lorne Greene and Mary Pickford (Scott 2153a-2153d, 2154a-2154d).

I am sure Canada Post would like to issue stamps showing more contemporary living actors, but compared to singers, few actors have received the Order of Canada. This is a prerequisite for a living person to be featured on a Canadian stamp.

Stamps will be issued to commemorate additional anniversaries in 2008. The month of issue appears in parentheses: the 50th anniversary of the Trans-



Figure 3. Canada Post's Lunar New Year series will come to a close in 2008 with this 52¢ stamp and a souvenir sheet honoring the Year of the Rat.

Canada Pipeline (May); the 150th anniversary of the first commercial oil well, located in Oil Springs, Ontario (May); the 100th anniversary of the publication of Lucy Maud Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* (June); the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Nurses Association (June); the 100th anniversary of the Royal Mint (June); the 100th anniversary of the Lifesaving Society (July); and the 150th anniversary of British Columbia and the Fraser River Gold Rush (August).

Many of these subjects have received previous postal recognition. In 1958, the 100th anniversary of British Columbia and the Fraser River Gold Rush (Scott 377), the 50th anniversary of the CNA (Scott 380) and the 100th anniversary of the commercialization of oil (Scott 381) all were honored with 5¢ domestic-rate stamps.

*Anne of Green Gables'* author Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942) was postally commemorated in 1975 (Scott 658). The stamp features an artist's rendition of the much-loved orphan Anne, Montgomery's most famous character.



Figure 4. A new "Permanent" Celebrations stamp will be released in January.



Figure 5. Canada Post continues its popular flower theme with two 52¢ Peony commemorative stamps to be issued in March.





**Figure 6.** The Universities stamp series will continue with two 52c stamps honoring the 100th anniversaries of the University of British Columbia and the University of Alberta.



**Figure 7.** Canada's first Christmas Seal stamp was issued in 1908.

Two stamps to be issued in September will continue the lengthy Universities stamp series begun in 2002. The 2008 stamps will honor the 100th anniversaries of the University of British Columbia and the University of Alberta (Figure 6).

Also to be issued in September is a stamp to honor Colonel Robert Samuel McLaughlin (1871-1972), who founded, in 1907, the McLaughlin Motor Car Co., one of the first major automobile manufacturers in Canada. McLaughlin Motor Car Co. later became General Motors of Canada.

The year 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of General Motors in the United States.

The third and final set of stamps in the Endangered Species series will be issued in October for Stamp Collecting Month. The stamps will focus on creatures of the air and sky: the prothonotary warbler, Taylor's checkerspot, roseate tern and burrowing owl. The Taylor's checkerspot is a subspecies of a butterfly commonly called Edith's checkerspot. The other species shown on the stamps are birds.

The Endangered Species series be-

gan in 2006 with stamps showing land creatures (Scott 2173-2177) and continued in 2007 with stamps depicting creatures that live in water (Scott numbers not yet assigned).

The 2008 program will close with three Christmas stamps featuring snow activities (snow angels, skating and skiing) and another stamp with a religious theme.

The 100th anniversary of the first Canadian Christmas Seals will be remembered with a commemorative envelope. Canada's first Christmas Seal, issued in 1908, is shown in Figure 7.

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