

Canada reveals 2007 stamp program

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Canada Post issued stamps in 2006 in anticipation of new postal rates that will go into effect in 2007. Although the stamps went on sale in 2006, they are considered part of the 2007 stamp program. On November 16, 2006, seven domestic-rate stamps were issued. The stamps are shown in Figure 1. Canada's rate change is scheduled for January 15.

Designs for these definitives are similar to stamps of previous years, with a Queen Elizabeth II stamp in booklet format of 10, one flower stamp in coil rolls of 100 subjects (spotted coralroot), and five designs featuring the flag over Canadian scenes in booklets of 10 stamps. The scenes selected this year by the Stamp Advisory Committee complete a three-year program showing the Canadian flag over scenery from all provinces and territories. This year they picture Bras d'Or Lake in Nova Scotia, Tuktoyaktuk National Park in Northwest Territories, Churchill in Manitoba, Sirmilik National Park on Baffin Island, and the town of Chemainus in British Columbia.

Canada Post will treat the new domestic definitives as permanent stamps. Each bears the letter "P" over a maple leaf, Canada's national symbol, instead

of the denomination. Canada Post sees a win-win situation for the consumer and for itself in this move. The stamps will be sold at the current domestic rate. For example, from their date of issue on December 16, 2006, to January 14, 2007, they will be sold for 51¢. On January 15, they will cost 52¢.

The stamps will continue to be sold at the prevailing first-class rate. As permanent stamps, they will be valid for domestic postage ad infinitum whatever the domestic rate may be in the future, and that is the consumer's win. For Canada Post, the win is to considerably reduce the production of 1¢ stamps. In 2005 alone, Canada Post printed 60 million 1¢ stamps, most of which were used to make up the 1¢ rate difference in the 2006 domestic rate increase.

Canada Post adds that since 2000, it has printed 430 million 1¢ stamps and says that, placed end to end, they would cover a distance of 11,000 kilometers (6,835 miles). To get a sense of how long this is, compare this distance to the length of the Trans-Canada Highway, the longest national highway in the world, which stretches 7,604 km (4,725 miles) from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia.

Three other flower definitives, all in booklets of six stamps, were issued December 19, 2006, for 2007 rates. They are the Flat-Leaved Bladderwort stamp for the 93¢ rate to the United States; the Marsh Skullcap definitive for the \$1.10 rate covering nonstandard-size letter mail under 100 grams, and the Little Larkspur stamp for the \$1.55 international rate. The stamps for the U.S. and international rates shown in Figure 2 will also be available in coil rolls of 50.

It's my turn to get my Lunar New Year stamp since I was born in the Year of the Pig. The Year of the Pig will be commemorated on January 5 with a 52¢ domestic-letter rate stamp (Figure 3) and a \$1.55 international rate souvenir sheet. These two issues bear denominations for the new rates, although the rate does not come into effect until 10 days after their release. This is the 11th year in



Figure 1. These domestic-letter rate stamps were issued in 2006 for the new 2007 rates. Known as "Permanent" stamps, they will be valid for the first-class domestic letter rate even after the postal rate increases.



Figure 2. The oversized stamps for the U.S. and international rates also were issued in 2006 for the new 2007 rates.



Figure 3. The Year of the Pig will be marked with this 52¢ domestic-letter rate stamp on January 5.



Figure 4. A new Celebration stamp modeled on Canada's Birthday Balloons stamp of 2006 will be issued in 2007.

the series, and it will conclude in 2008 with the Year of the Rat.

On January 15, a new Celebration stamp (Figure 4) modeled on the Birthday Balloons stamp of 2006 will be issued. It is a commemorative-definitive (the equivalent to what are known in the United States as special issues) that will be available throughout the year and can be reprinted if necessary. Postal patrons are encouraged to use it for birthday and greeting cards as well as wedding invitations. On March 1, another issue that can be used for the same purpose will show lilacs (Figure 5). The two domestic-rate stamps will be available in booklets of 10 and in a souvenir sheet of two stamps.

The 125th anniversary of the first International Polar Year (1882-83) will be celebrated in 2007-08 and will focus

on research in the polar regions. Canada will issue two domestic-rate stamps (Figure 6) in sheets of 16 and a souvenir sheet of two as its contribution to a joint issue with Denmark, Greenland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and the United States. It is the largest joint-issue program ever for Canada Post.

In the continuing series of university anniversaries, the Hautes Études Commerciales (March) and the University of Saskatchewan (April) will be honored with domestic-rate booklet stamps (Figure 7) for their 100th anniversaries.

On March 15, the popular Art Canada series will continue with stamps showing two paintings by Mary Pratt. The domestic-rate stamp (Figure 8) will show *Jelly Shelf*; the international-rate commemorative will feature *Iceberg in the North Atlantic*. The domestic-rate

stamp will be available in sheets of 16 and in a souvenir sheet with the international-rate stamp.

In the second quarter, the second part of the Endangered Species series will be issued during National Wildlife Week, which is celebrated the last week of April. Last year's stamps featured land species. This year's stamps will feature species found in the water. The four domestic-rate stamps in booklets of eight and souvenir sheets of four will show the right whale, the northern cricket frog, the leatherback turtle and the white sturgeon.

On May 3, in time for the Canadian Tulip Festival (May 4-21), Canada Post will put on sale a domestic-rate and a U.S.-rate stamp to commemorate the selection by Queen Victoria, on December 31, 1857, of Ottawa as Canada's national capital. In 1965 a 5¢ stamp (Scott 442, Figure 9) was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the final selection in October 1865 of Ottawa as the national capital.

The question of the location of the seat of government was raised again at the historic Quebec Conference of 1864, and it was decided that since a great deal of money was already invested in Ottawa's governmental structures, the city on the Ottawa River should be confirmed as the capital. The first Par-



Figure 5. The Lilac stamps will be issued March 1 in booklets of 10 and in a souvenir sheet of two domestic-rate stamps.



Figure 6. The 125th anniversary of International Polar Year will be celebrated with two stamps and a souvenir sheet, part of a joint issue with Denmark, Greenland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and the United States.



Figure 7. The anniversaries of Hautes Études Commerciales (March) and the University of Saskatchewan (April) will be honored with domestic-rate booklet stamps.



Figure 8. Two paintings by Mary Pratt will be reproduced on stamps continuing the Art Canada series.



Figure 9. An earlier stamp (Scott 442) commemorated the reconfirmation of Ottawa as the capital of the nation.



Figure 10. This 1988 commemorative honored Captain George Vancouver, whose 250th birth anniversary is in 2007. No actual likenesses of Captain Vancouver are known.

liament buildings were constructed by October 1865, and the first Parliament met in the city in June 1866.

The U.S.-rate stamp will be available only in the souvenir sheet with the domestic-rate stamp, which will also be issued in panes of 16.

Two of Canada's national parks will be featured in June and July in booklets of 10 stamps. The first, Terra Nova National Park in Newfoundland, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year,

and Jasper National Park in Alberta will be 100 years old.

Also to be issued in June is a single stamp honoring the 200th anniversary of the birth of Captain George Vancouver for whom the city of Vancouver, British Columbia, is named. The stamp will be available in panes of eight and a souvenir sheet of one stamp.

The stamp shown in Figure 10 (Scott 1200) was issued in 1988 to commemorate George Vancouver. It was one

of 16 stamps produced in a four-year program to honor the exploration of Canada.

To close the second quarter, a single domestic-rate stamp in panes of 16 will be issued for the FIFA (International Federation of Football Associations) World Youth Championships. The biennial event is second only to the FIFA World Cup in size and scope, and will showcase the most talented

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Figure 11. These four stamps (Scott 356, 389, 393 and 1062) were issued by Canada for the Scouting and Guiding movements.

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soccer players in the world under age 20. The FIFA World Cup Canada 2007 will take place from June 30 to July 22 in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, Burnaby and Victoria.

The third quarter will include a domestic-rate stamp issued in panes of 16 featuring Chief Membertou (died 1611) of the Micmac Nation. This is the fourth stamp in a series commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of New France. Membertou, who was reputedly a centenarian, is remembered for having protected the French settlements established in Nova Scotia when the French left in 1607. The French returned in 1610.

On August 1, a single domestic-rate stamp in booklets of 10 will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Scouting movement. Scouting came to Canada in the spring of 1908. Previous Scout- and Guide-related Canadian stamps are shown in Figure 11. The stamps celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Scout movement (Scott 356), the 50th anniversary of Girl Guides in

Canada (Scott 389), the 75th anniversary of Scouting in Canada (Scott 993), and the 75th anniversary Girl Guides in Canada (Scott 1062).

All governors general of Canada are appointed Chief Scouts. Deceased governors general honored on stamps include General Vanier (Scott 474), Vincent Massey (Scott 491), Jules Léger (Scott 914), Roland Michener (Scott 1447) and Jeanne Sauv  (Scott 1509). These stamps can be added to a scouting collection (Figure 12).

On September 13, two stamps will be issued to commemorate the founding of the law societies of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Both will be available in panes of 16 stamps.

Low-value definitives will be issued October 1 to celebrate Stamp Collecting Month. They will feature beneficial insects such as the bumblebee, the ladybug, the dragonfly, the lacewing and the moth. The denominations chosen for these definitives are 1¢, 4¢, 5¢, 10¢ and 25¢.

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada celebrates its 100th anniversary

in 2007, and Canada Post will issue four stamps celebrating the work of four of Canada's top architects.

As usual, the year will close with four Christmas stamps. Three stamps symbolizing Christmas wishes for peace, joy and hope will be issued at the domestic, U.S. and international rates, although not necessarily in that order. A single domestic-rate stamp shows a reindeer. Canada Post alternates each year with religious-themed and secular-themed stamps. In 2006 there were three secular-themed stamps and one religious-themed stamp.

All booklet and coil stamps will be issued in self-adhesive formats, while the other stamps and the souvenir sheets will be water-activated. There are two exceptions: The two panes of 16 commemorating the centennials of the law societies of Alberta and Saskatchewan will be produced as self-adhesives.

Prepaid postal cards showing the stamps and using their design for the indicia will be issued with the Lunar New Year and the Lilacs stamps. ■

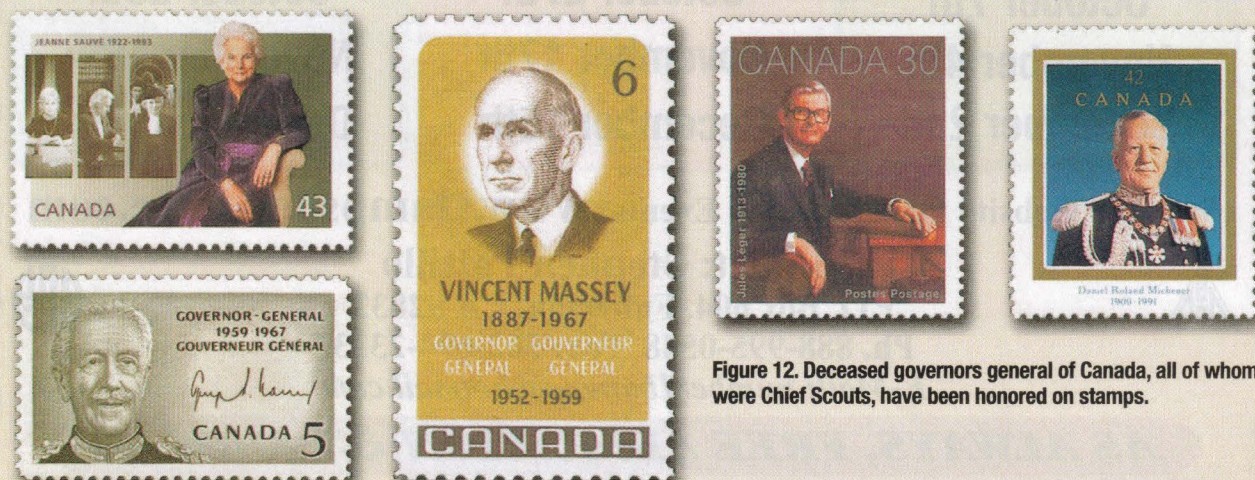


Figure 12. Deceased governors general of Canada, all of whom were Chief Scouts, have been honored on stamps.