

Canada's 2002 program begins with a Jubilee

▼ CHARLES J.G. VERGE

On Sept. 26, 2001, Canada Post announced its 2002 stamp program. Some popular stamp series from previous years will continue, and collectors will enjoy new stamps honoring historical events, royalty, education, sports, art and more.



Figure 1. Is it a definitive or is it a commemorative? This Canadian 48¢ commemorative stamp released Jan. 2 for the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II will, like a definitive stamp, be created in larger quantities and remain on sale for an extended period.

On Jan. 2 a single stamp will be issued to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The design of the forthcoming issue is shown in Figure 1. The queen becomes the fifth British monarch to reach the 50th anniversary of a reign. The four others are Kings Henry III (56 years), Edward III (50 years and a few months), George III (60 years) and Queen Victoria (63 years). It appears that having "III" as your regal number assures a long life.

Royalty no longer has the appeal it once had in Canada, and stamps showing the monarch are available only in the domestic single letter-rate denomination. For 2002, this rate goes up to 48¢. Canada Post and its Stamp Advisory Committee, facing the prospect of issuing two stamps — one definitive for the new rate and one commemorative for the Golden Jubilee — came up with a Solomon-like solution. Why not issue a definitive-commemorative for the occasion? The 48¢ stamp shows the queen in front of a maple-leaf background. The inscription, commemorating the jubilee in English and French,

Figure 2. Commemorative stamps for the University of Manitoba (left) and Laval University, two of the four University stamps to be issued in 2002.



Figure 3. This pane of six NHL All-Stars stamps is the third in a series honoring professional hockey players.

makes it a commemorative. Its high print quantity (15 million), its availability for sale during the whole year, and Canada Post's commitment to reprint the stamp during the year should it be required, makes it a definitive.

Gottschalk+Ash International designed the stamp, which was printed in panes of 16 on Tullis Russell paper by Ashton Potter (Canada) Ltd. There are three panes to the press sheet. The stamps were printed in eight colors by the lithography process and they are tagged on four sides with a luminescent compound as an aid to automated mail sorting. Metallic inks were used for the gold and bronze colors and the background of the stamp is enhanced with a pattern of micro-printed maple leaves.

This queen's commemoration will be followed Feb. 1 by a single 48¢ stamp celebrating the 50th anniversary of Canadian Governors-General. Vincent Massey (1887-1967), the first Canadian-born governor-general, was nominated for the position on Feb. 1, 1952, and sworn in Feb. 28 the same year. Massey was personally recognized on Canada Scott 491, a 6¢ commemorative issued in 1969.

Other historical events to be commemorated in 2002 include the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (a single stamp for one of Canada Post's unions), and communication technology (two stamps). In 1902, Guglielmo Marconi sent his first radio message across the Atlantic and the telegraph cable under the Pacific Ocean was completed. This was the last link in a round-the-world cable system.

Figure 4. Alex Colville's painting *Church and Horse* is featured on this year's stamp in the Masterpieces of Canadian Art series.



Figure 5. Canada will contribute four 48¢ stamps to the 2002 Olympic Games stamp onslaught.

Flowers are very popular with postal patrons, and a booklet of 12 Tulip stamps will be issued in April to mark the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Tulip Festival. These stamps follow up on the 1999 Orchid stamps (Canada Scott 1787-1790) and the 2001 Rose stamps (Scott 1910-1914).

Canada's love affair with tulips goes back more than a century. After World War II, their popularity was helped with an annual donation of tens of thousands of tulip bulbs to Canada by the Dutch royal family and the Dutch people. These were given as a thank-you to Canada for having liberated Holland and for harboring the Dutch Royal Family during the war. Queen Juliana's third daughter, Princess Margriet — sister to the current Dutch queen, Beatrix — was born in Ottawa in 1943.

As with the two previous flower issues, Canada Post will probably issue the tulip stamps in a souvenir sheet format later in the year for an international stamp show. Since one will be held in Amsterdam in August, it would be the most appropriate venue for the souvenir sheet launch.

Many Canadian universities will be celebrating significant anniversaries this year. Stamps will be issued for the University of Manitoba (125th) on Feb. 28, Quebec's Laval University (150th) on March 27, Toronto's Trinity College (150th), and Halifax's Saint Mary's University (200th). The issue dates for the last two stamps have not yet been decided. Images of the first two stamps are shown together in Figure 2.

World Teacher's Day will be recognized in October with a single stamp to honor Canadian teachers. Having seen the proposed design for this stamp, I suggest it will be one of the most striking that Canada has issued in some time.

The returning series include six stamps for all-star hockey players to be issued Jan. 12 (Figure 3). This year the players honored are Glen Hall, Tim Horton, Red Kelly, Howie Morenz, Guy Lafleur and Phil Esposito. Of

On March 22, on the occasion of the 74th convention of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the last stamp in the Platinum series of Masterpieces of Canadian Art will be issued. It features *Church and Horse*, Alex Colville's famous 1964 painting now in the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (Figure 4).

Later in the year, two stamps will feature Canadian sculptors Leo Mol and Charles Daudelin. Mol's *Lumberjacks* is in a sculpture garden in Winnipeg. The Daudelin stamp may be one of the few Canadian stamps to show a non-Canadian background, as his sculpture *Embâcle* is displayed at la Place du Québec in Paris. An earlier stamp showing a non-Canadian background is the 10¢ value of the King George V Jubilee issue, Canada Scott 215, which pictures Windsor Castle.

On Jan. 25, in time for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, there will be four 48¢ stamps featuring Olympic sports: freestyle aerial skiing, curling, women's hockey and short-track speed skating (Figure 5). Canadians excel in these sports and, as a result, have garnered several gold medals at previous Olympics and world championships.

Although it is not visible in the illustration, each of the Olympic Games stamps bears the familiar interlocking Olympic rings logo, printed in an ivory varnish that glistens when the stamps are moved.

A set of four 48¢ stamps showing corals will be issued jointly with Hong Kong. It will be the first time that Canada and Hong Kong have cooperated on a stamp issue. At the end of summer a single domestic rate stamp will mark the Public Services International World Congress, which will be held in Ottawa in August 2002. And finally, Aboriginal Art will be at the forefront of the three 2002 Christmas stamps.

New postage rates for Canada come into effect in mid-January. The domestic letter rate goes up by 1¢ to 48¢, the U.S. letter rate increases by 5¢ to 65¢ and the international rate rises 20¢ to \$1.25, but at the same time



Figure 6. The designs of Canada's new medium-value definitives for the 2002 rate change continue the hands and crafts theme.

the six, all are alive except for Horton and Morenz. The 100th anniversary of Morenz' birth falls in 2002. Adjoining each stamp in the NHL All-Stars pane of six will be a non-postal label picturing a head-and-shoulders photo of the player being honored.

The Tourist series begun last May will continue with five U.S.-rate and five international-rate stamps showing well known and not-so-well-known tourist attractions and events. In the religious diversity series, one stamp will be issued for World Youth Day that will be held in Toronto in July. Pope John Paul II is expected to attend this event. The pope's previous visit to Canada in 1984 resulted in two stamps (Canada Scott 1030-31).

the weight level goes from 20 grams to 30gr.

Of course, new definitive stamps are required to cover the new rates. Three stamps originally scheduled for release Dec. 3, 2001 in values of 65¢, 77¢ (the second-weight domestic letter rate) and \$1.25, were rescheduled for release on Jan. 2 in booklets of six stamps (for the 65¢ and \$1.25 stamps only) and in coil rolls of 50 stamps. The designs of these stamps are shown in Figure 6. The booklet stamps will be different from the coil stamps, as they will show some color on the outer margins of the stamps and on the perforations. The hands and crafts designs of these definitive stamps continue the award-winning series started in 1999 (Scott 1673-80).

The 48¢ domestic letter rate is covered by two new stamps, pictured together in Figure 7: a booklet of 30 stamps, scored by roulette slits to form three booklets of 10, showing the Canadian flag flying in front of Canada Post's Head Office in Ottawa, Ontario; and a coil

ground), then the red foil is applied followed by embossing and the gold foil, before being put through the perforation machine and the die-cut press. The printed \$1.25 stamp is shown at the bottom of Figure 9. The image includes marginal markings from the uncut press sheet that are removed before sale.

Details of the design applications are shown in the diagrams in Figure 10. Some design elements were changed following the creation of these diagrams. The diagram for the overseas-rate stamp, for example, indicates that the small horse in the outer margin will be die cut; in fact, it is printed in gold foil on the stamp as issued.

The separation methods used for this stamp are original. Both perforation and die cutting are used. Figure 11 shows the specifications for the perforation details for the domestic letter-rate stamp (top) and the overseas-rate stamp (bottom). One should note the diamond-shaped perforation replacing the middle perforation at top and bottom and one up from the middle on the right and left of the stamp.

Figure 12 shows another preliminary design diagram, for the upper-left plate block of the domestic-rate stamp. The image of the horse from the overseas-rate stamp was used for this early illustration. The diagram clearly shows the location of the perforations and die cuts, but without the diamond-shaped perforations.

Enjoy your Canadian collection in 2002. You will have a busy January.

A schedule of Canada's 2002 stamp program appears in this issue on page 72.



Figure 7. The new 48¢ domestic letter rate definitives feature the Canadian flag in front of Canada Post's head office (left), and a graphic design depicting maple leaves (right).

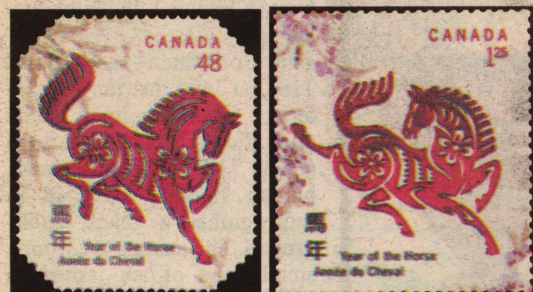


Figure 8. The 2002 Lunar New Year stamp will be sold in 48¢ and \$1.25 versions.

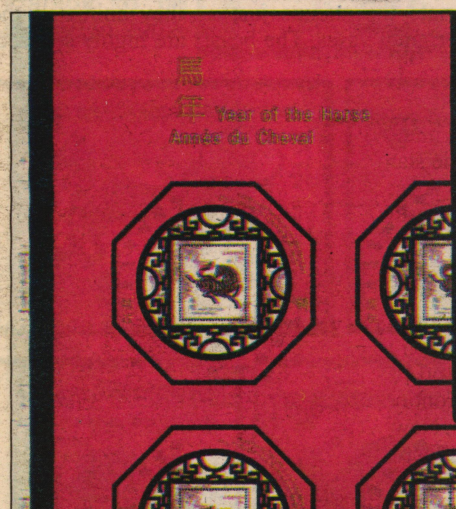
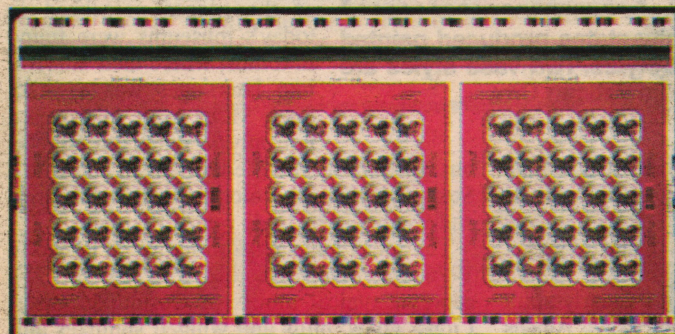


Figure 9. The 48¢ Year of the Horse is printed in panes of 25, with three panes to a press sheet. At bottom is a section of the souvenir sheet press sheet for the \$1.25 stamp, showing marginal markings that are removed before sale.

stamp that shows the stylized design of three overlapping maple leaves first seen with the 47¢ definitive, Scott 1878, issued in January 2001.

Last but not least is what has become Canada's most popular stamp series since its inception in 1997: the Lunar New Year stamp and souvenir sheet. Every year Canada Post spends a lot of time and money to come up with original designs and shapes, as well as innovative printing techniques for this issue.

The Jan. 3, 2002, Year of the Horse stamps shown in Figure 8 are no different. Two stamps are being issued, in 48¢ and \$1.25 denominations. The 48¢ stamp is sold in a pane of 25, and the \$1.25 stamp will be offered as a souvenir sheet of one, and an uncut press sheet of 12.

When the stamps are printed, the full press sheet, shown at top in Figure 9, is run through the press seven times and makes use of both a holographic red and a gold metallic foil applied by a heat process. The stamp goes through the litho press twice for the other colors (including a tinted varnish for the back-

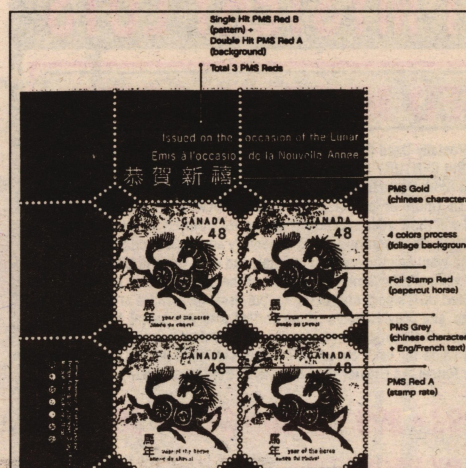


Figure 10. Summary of the printing specification for the domestic-rate stamp on the left and the international-rate stamp on the right.

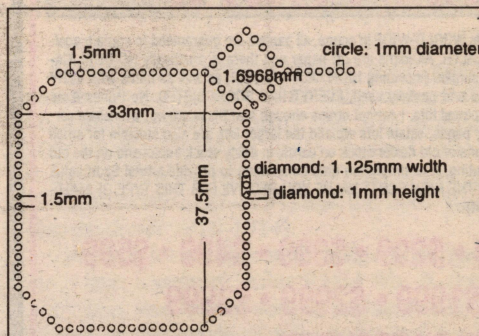


Figure 11. Perforation measurement details are shown at left for the domestic-rate stamp (top) and the international-rate stamp (bottom).

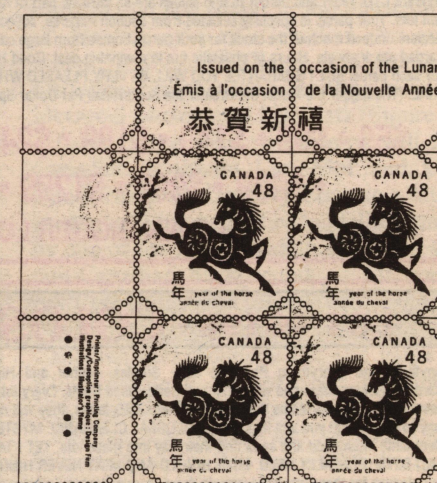
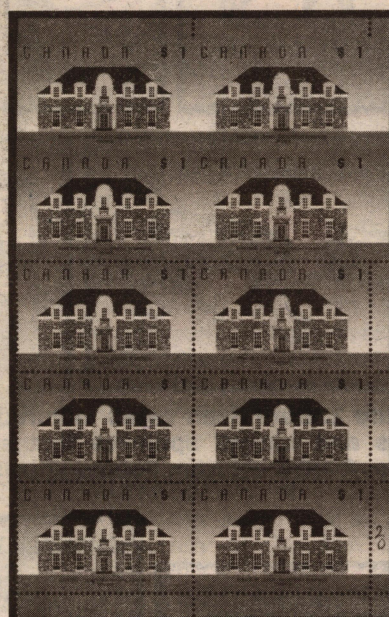


Figure 12. The diagram above of the upper-left plate block of the domestic-rate stamp shows the different separation methods used.

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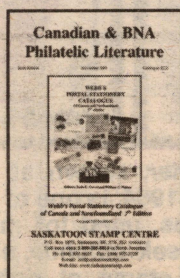
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