

Olympics, black history, Rotary International among Canada Post's 2010 stamp topics

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Canada Post's 2010 stamp program once again is a fairly balanced selection of anniversaries, old and tried series, new definitives and special events.

The XXI Winter Olympic Games and the Paralympics will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, February 12-28. They will be commemorated with four stamps to be issued January 12. An additional commemorative will be issued for the closing ceremonies February 22, celebrating Olympic spirit. The Closing Ceremonies stamp was not announced as part of the program when the program was released in May 2009.

The 2010 games mark the second time Canada has hosted the Winter Olympics. The first was the XV Winter Olympics held in Calgary in 1988 (Scott 1077, 1111-1112, 1120-1121, 1152-1153 and 1195-1198). This also is the third time the Olympics has been held in Canada. The XXI Summer Olympics were held in Montreal in 1976 (Scott 623-624, 629-632, 644-647, 656-657, 664-666 and 681-688). Canada issued stamps for all three of these Olympiads, including its first semipostal stamps (Scott B1-B12), issued to raise money for the Montreal Games.

In 1976, the Paralympics were held in Toronto, and one stamp was issued for this event (Scott 694).

Other Winter Olympic Games for which Canada issued stamps include Innsbruck, Austria (1976, Scott 689);

Lake Placid, New York (1980, Scott 848); Albertville, France (1992, Scott 1399-1403); Salt Lake City, Utah (2002, Scott 1936-1938); and Turin, Italy (2006, Scott 2143-2143).

Canada planned to honor the Summer Olympics in 1980. A single 35¢ commemorative was designed for the boycotted Moscow Games (Figure 1), but the stamp was not issued. The first stamps issued for Summer Games were for the games in Barcelona, Spain (1992, Scott 1414-1418). Then came the games in Atlanta, Georgia (1996, Scott 1608-1612); Athens, Greece (2004, Scott 2049-2050); and Beijing, China (2008, Scott 2281).

New definitives will be issued by Canada Post January 11. At the time of writing, Canada Post did not know if it was entitled to raise its 2010 rates to 57¢ for the domestic rate (an increase of 3¢), to \$1 for the United States rate (previously 98¢), and to \$1.70 for the international rate (from \$1.65). Government approval for the rates was expected in late November, when this issue of *Scott Stamp Monthly* was going to press.

New definitive stamps feature a picture of Queen Elizabeth II, taken during the 2005 Royal Visit to Canada (Figure 2), and the Canadian flag over five historic mills (Figure 3). The mills depicted are Old Stone Mill National Historic Site (Delta, Ontario); Keremeos Grist Mill (Keremeos, British Columbia); Cornell Mill, Stanbridge East, Quebec;

Watson's Mill (Manotick, Ontario); and Riordon Grist Mill (Acadian Historic Village, Caraquet, New Brunswick).

Wild orchids are featured on the definitives for the proposed domestic rate, second-weight rate (\$1.22) and the U.S. and international rates (Figure 4).

Although the cost of mailing a domestic letter in Canada in the first decade of the 21st century has risen by 11¢, from 46¢ in 2000 to the proposed 57¢ in 2010 (an average of 1¢ a year), the rates to the United States and for international mail have risen more dramatically. At the end of 2000, the cost of mailing a letter to the United States was 55¢. The proposed rate for 2010 is \$1, an average increase of 4.5¢ per year. The increase in the international rate is even more dramatic for the same time period: from 95¢ to \$1.70, an average increase of 7.5¢ per year. According to the Bank of Canada, the average annual increase in the inflation rate for this period is 1.99 percent. With the Canadian dollar almost at par with the U.S. dollar, the question is why U.S. Postal Service patrons only have to pay 75¢ to mail a letter to Canada, but Canadians pay \$1 to mail a letter to the United States.

On January 8, two stamps will be issued honoring the Year of the Tiger. The stamps continue the Lunar New Year series. As usual, the international-rate stamp will only be available in the souvenir sheet that accompanies this issue. The previous Year of the Ti-

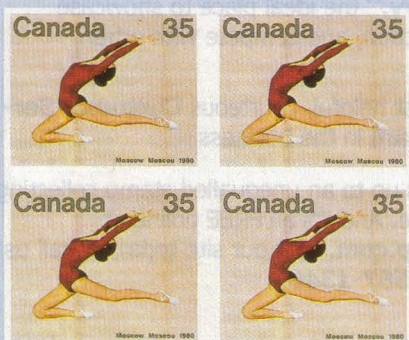


Figure 1. Stamps were designed but were not issued by Canada Post when Canada boycotted the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.



Figure 2. A picture of a smiling Queen Elizabeth II, taken during the 2005 Royal Visit to Canada, is featured on a booklet of 10 Permanent stamps to be issued by Canada Post in 2010. Canada Post's Permanent stamps are the equivalent to the United States Forever stamps.



Figure 3. The Canadian flag flies over five historic mills on this booklet of 10 Permanent stamps to be issued January 11. The stamps depict Old Stone Mill National Historic Site, Delta, Ontario; Keremeos Grist Mill, Keremeos, British Columbia; Cornell Mill, Stanbridge East, Quebec; Watson's Mill, Manotick, Ontario; and Riordon Grist Mill, Acadian Historic Village, Caraquet, New Brunswick.

ger stamp was issued 12 years ago, in 1998 (Scott 1708, Figure 5).

On February 1, for Black History Month, Canada Post will issue a single stamp (Figure 6) honoring William Edward Hall (1827-1904). Hall was the first black person, first Nova Scotian and third Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross. He was born in Nova Scotia, the son of freed American slaves. At the age of 17, he joined the merchant navy as a seaman and in February 1852 volunteered for duty with the Royal Navy.

In 1857, his ship, the *HMS Shannon*, was on the way to China when it was diverted to India at the time the Indian mutiny broke out. The ship's crew took part in the relief of Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh in India. Able Seaman Hall and his commander, Lt. Thomas James Young, were the only survivors of the naval assault on the Shah Nujeff mosque.

Hall received the Victoria Cross in 1859 in Queenstown Harbour, Ireland. He remained with the Royal Navy until his retirement in 1876, when he returned to his home in Horton Bluff, Nova Scotia. His Victoria Cross is preserved at the Nova Scotia Museum.

An unannounced domestic-rate stamp

will be released February 8 to commemorate the life of Governor-General Roméo Leblanc (1927-2009, governor general 1995-99). It is a Canada tradition to issue a stamp for a deceased governor general or prime minister within a year of his death.

March 3 will see a set of two domestic letter-rate stamps featuring African violets, in the annual Flower series (Figure 7).

The ever-popular Canadian Art series will honor Prudence Heward (1896-1947). She was a portraitist and a friend of many of the influential painters of her generation, including the Group of Seven. A stamp and a souvenir sheet will be issued July 21 showing two of her works of art.

Anniversaries commemorated in 2010 include the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Navy on May 4. A single 34¢ stamp was issued for the navy's 75th anniversary in 1985 (Scott 1075, Figure 8).

A single domestic-rate stamp will be issued to honor the 100th anniversary of Rotary International in Canada. The stamp will be issued June 21 at the Rotary International Convention, to be held June 20-23 in Montreal, Quebec.

This is the seventh Rotary International Convention to be held in Canada and the third in Montreal.

The Girl Guides will be honored July 8 with their third stamp, this time to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Stamps were issued in 1960 and 1985 for the 50th and 75th anniversaries of the organization (Scott 389 and 1062).

On August 17, the small village of Cupids, Newfoundland, will be honored on its 400th anniversary. In itself, this is not a major achievement for a village. A stamp normally would not be issued to commemorate the event, except that Cupids is recorded as the first English settlement in what became Canada and the second in North America. The town of Cupids was shown on a 1910 Newfoundland stamp (Scott 91) as part of the lengthy Guy series of stamps celebrating the 300th anniversary of English settlement in Newfoundland.

The most interesting anniversary to be commemorated in 2010 (September) is the 300th anniversary of the diplomatic visit of the Mohawk kings to Queen Anne in 1710. Canada Post will issue four stamps for the event. They show the portraits



Figure 4. Wild orchids are featured on definitive stamps for the proposed domestic rate, second-weight rate (\$1.22), and U.S. and international rates.

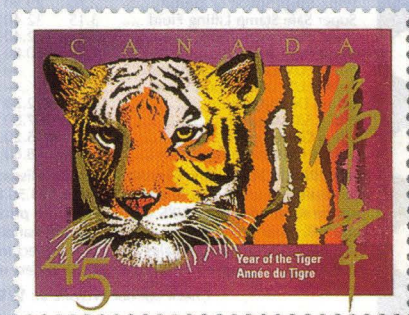


Figure 5. Canada's first Year of the Tiger stamp was this 1998 45¢ stamp (Scott 1708).

of the *Four Indian Kings*, commissioned by Queen Anne. The story behind the commissioning of these portraits can be found at the Portrait Gallery of Canada's website at www.portraits.gc.ca/009001-2101-e.html.

The four stamps also will be issued in a souvenir sheet. This sheet will be available at the London 2010 Festival of Stamps, the world philatelic exhibition to be held at the Business Design Centre in London, England, May 8-15.

On May 13, a two-stamp joint issue with Sweden will feature sea mammals indigenous to the waters of Canada and Sweden: the sea otter and the harbor porpoise. The domestic-rate stamps will be issued in booklets of eight water-activated stamps, tipped-in in the same manner as Swedish booklets. A souvenir sheet will feature both stamps with the traditional maple-leaf perforation used for joint



Figure 6. A 57¢ stamp will be issued in a pane of 16 to honor William Edward Hall, the first black person, first Nova Scotian and third Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross. He received the honor in 1859 in Queenstown Harbour, Ireland.

issues. Canada pictured the harbor porpoise on a 63¢ definitive stamp is-

sued in 1990 (Scott 1176, Figure 9).

The second set of a three-part series on road attractions will be issued July 5. This year's attractions are Davidson, Saskatchewan's gigantic Coffee Pot and Cup; Gladstone, Manitoba's Happy Rock; the Wawa, Ontario, Goose; and the Puffin at Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan, Quebec.

In 2009, Canada Post entered into an agreement with the Canadian Geographic Society to feature on stamps the winning entries of the society's Canadian Wildlife Photo Contest. This issue is scheduled for May 22.

More than 100,000 orphaned, abandoned and pauper children were sent to Canada between 1869 and the late 1930s by more than 50 British church

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Figure 7. African violets are shown on two domestic letter-rate definitive stamps in booklet format to be issued March 3 in Canada Post's annual Flower series.



Figure 8. This 34c commemorative stamp (Scott 1075) was issued in 1985 to honor the 75th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy. A stamp will be issued in 2010 for the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy.

and philanthropic organizations. Some sources indicate that the movement started in 1870 and did not end until 1948. The organizations believed the children (ages 4 through 15 years) would have a chance for a better and healthier life in rural Canada. Many of these children became indentured servants, farm laborers and domestic servants. The British organizations seemed to have

other motives, including reducing the number of people they had to care for and receiving money when they "sold" the children to Canadian farmers. A stamp to honor the Home Children will be issued in September.

Also in September, Canada Post will issue its third annual semipostal stamp for mental health, one of its charities-of-choice.

In October, Canada Post will issue its first \$10 definitive stamp. The engraved stamp will show a blue whale and will likely be similar in design to the high-denomination \$1 to \$8 definitive series that began in 1998 (Scott 1687-1695). This is the second time the blue whale has been shown on Canadian stamps. The whale spans two stamps in a 2000 series on whales (Scott 1868-1869).

The last announced issue of the year will be the annual Christmas stamps.



Figure 9. The harbor porpoise will be featured on a stamp to be issued in 2010 by Canada Post. The mammal was featured on this 63c definitive stamp (Scott 1176) issued in 1990.

This is the longest continuous series in Canadian philatelic history, having started in 1964. Three stamps will show Christmas ornaments, and a fourth stamp will feature a Nativity scene.

In May 2009, Canada Post announced three commemorative envelopes would be issued in 2010, one each for the centenaries of the University of Regina; St. Thomas University; and *Le Devoir*, a French-language newspaper published in Montreal. The more recent, up-to-date stamp program omits the University of Regina commemorative envelope. ■

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