

Stampin' the Future — the Canadian Way

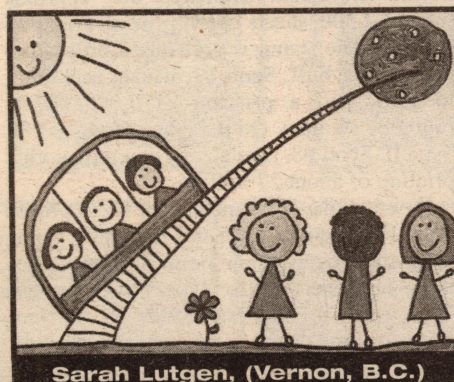
▼ CHARLES J.G. VERGE



Andrew Wright, (Collingwood, ON)



Christine Weera, (Edmonton, AB)



Sarah Lutgen, (Vernon, B.C.)



Rosalie Anne Nardelli, (Montreal, QC)

Figure 1: The four Grand-award-winning designs to be issued as stamps on July 1, 2000.

Canada was one of the 29 nations that responded positively to the United States Postal Service's (USPS) initiative of having young people design stamps for the millennium. The Canadian contest, announced in September 1998, had an October 31, closing date. To participate, young Canadians had to fill the entry form and draw in color their vision of the new millennium.

Entry forms and explanatory packets were sent to all schools in Canada and 56,000 children between the ages of 8 and 12 responded. Put into perspective, Canada Post received 50 percent fewer entries than the United States (115,000) for a population one-tenth of the size. Jim Phillips of the Stamp Products Division of Canada Post said, "we were pleased with the interest in the contest and particularly the response of Canada's youth."

Canada Post set up provincial and territorial selection teams with representatives of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the arts and design communities, Canada Post regional management and local politicians. Their task was to select 10 winners from each of the 10 provinces and the then two territories (Canada's new territory, Nunavut, did not come into being until April 1 this year).

These 120 designs were then submitted to Canada's Stamp Advisory Committee who selected 30 semi-finalists and from those selected the four winners. The semifinalists designs selected will be displayed in the Pitney-Bowes Art Gallery of the Canadian Postal Museum at the Museum of Civilization

in Hull, Quebec, between July 2000, and January 2001. The four winning designs (Figure 1) will be reproduced on stamps to be issued on Canada Day, July 1, 2000.

The 30 semifinalists all won an all-inclusive trip for four to Ottawa, Canada's capital, during the weekend of July 31. They and their families were treated to tours of many of the major sites in Ottawa including the Parliament Buildings; Rideau Hall, the residence of the governor-general; the Museum of Civilization; the Canadian Postal Museum; the Museum of Science and Technology; and the Rideau Canal, the world's longest ice skating rink.

On Sunday night, August 1, the semifinalists, their parents and other assorted VIPs met together in the Great Hall of the Museum of Civilization where the four Grand Award winners were announced. These four young people each won a trip for four to Anaheim, Calif., where they will meet up with the Grand Award winners from all the other participating countries at the USPS sponsored World Stamp Expo 2000 (July 7-16, 2000).

In addition they received an IBM personal computer and a CD-ROM encyclopedia from McGraw-Hill Ryerson. Other sponsors helping Canada Post with this contest were Via Rail; Bouledogue Bazar, a television program of Radio-Canada, the French network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; YTV, Canada's Youth Television network; and the Government of Canada.

The four winners (Figure 2), Rosalie Anne



Figure 2: The four Grand award winners. From left to right: Joan Cooper from Quebec or, Sarah Lutgen, Christine Weera, Andrew Wright, André Ouellet, Chairman of Canada Post, Rosalie Anne Nardelli and Marc Lefrançois, president of Via Rail.

Figure 3: Two members of Canada's Stamp Advisory Committee, Rachel Touchette (left) and Ian Kimmerly, unveiling Rosalie Anne Nardelli's winning design which, like many other designs in the competition, focused on a space theme.

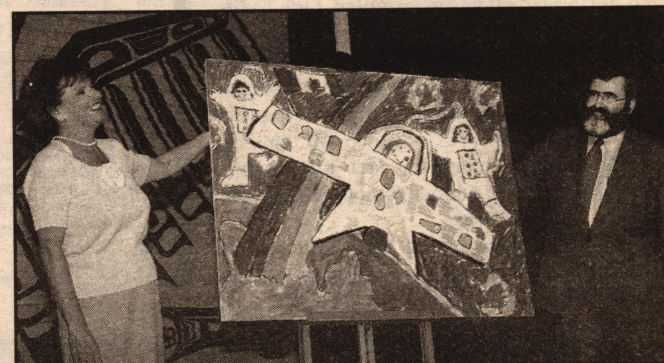


Figure 4: Andrew Wright explaining the racial harmony theme of his winning design to Rosalie Anne Nardelli and her father.



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Nardelli from Quebec, Andrew Wright from Ontario, Christine Weera from Alberta and Sarah Lutgen of British Columbia, were quite excited at their selection as grand award winners particularly since the announcement was done in an awards ceremony format. In fact, Nardelli cried when her name was

announced and was heard murmuring as she made her way to the stage: "It's just like the Academy Awards."

As can be seen by the selected semifinalists' designs, young Canadians think space will be a major influence for Canadians in the next century. In fact, three of the winning

designs have a space theme (Figure 3). Racial harmony was another favorite theme. A Canadian Press reporter, Leanne Yohemas-Hayes, interviewed Andrew Wright prior to the announcement and she quotes him as describing his artwork this way. "They've put racism behind them. They're ambassadors of the planet. Now they're just out in space, having fun" (Figure 4).

This is the fifth contest held by Canada Post for youth-designed stamps in the last 30 years. The first was a set of 12 stamps (Scott

519-530) issued, in tagged and untagged versions, for Christmas 1970 (Figure 5).

Christmas 1975 saw the issue of six children-designed stamps, Scott 674-679 (Figure 6). Next came the 17¢ stamp issued for the Year of the Child in 1979 (Scott 842, Figure 7) designed by Marie Annick Viatour.

The last, prior to this contest, was Marc Fournier's design for the 1983 Canadian Scouting stamp commemorating the 75th anniversary of Scouting in Canada (Scott 993, Figure 8).



Figure 5: The 1970 Christmas stamps.



Figure 6: The 1975 Christmas stamps.

Figure 7: The Year of the Child, 1979.



Figure 8: Scouting in Canada 75th Anniversary, 1983.

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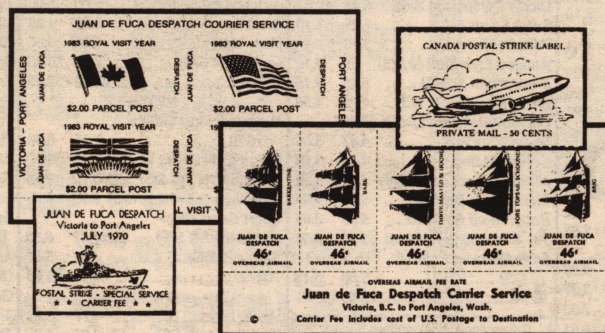
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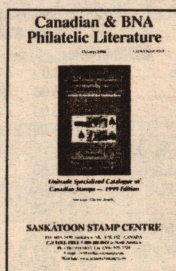


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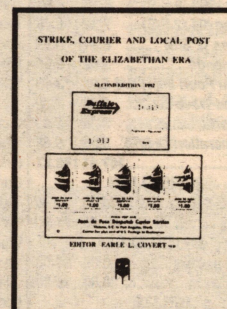


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