



In This Issue

Major changes to Canada's mail . . .	31
NHL stamps sold out	31
Canada Post News	32
Study Group Business	33
Canada Post on right track	33
CP changing with the times	33
Canada 2013 Stamp Program	34
Elizabethan II Marketplace	35
2013 QE II definitive	38
Addressed Admail	38
Denominated 63¢ definitives . . .	39
A "Stellar" Postcard	40
International Reply Coupon	41
2013 Quarterly Pack 3 Varieties . .	42
Christmas-themed mail boxes . . .	43
Elizabethan Era Stamp Count . . .	44

Canada Post News Release 36
Five-point Action Plan

Copies distributed: 120
(16 members have not yet renewed)

(view this issue in *almost* full-colour on-line)

Major changes coming to Canada's mail

On December 11, 2013 Canada Post unveiled a Five-point Action Plan which will see the most significant changes to the postal system since it was first established!



The full announcement from Canada Post can be found on page 36 of this issue.

Here is a summary, in the order that it will affect the stamp collector...

Effective December 11, 2013 ...

- all mint Permanent™ stamps have temporarily been removed from sale.

- new 63¢ denominated definitives available today (but no first day covers): booklets of 10 (Flag and Queen) and rolls of 100 and 5,000.



- the Canada Post website has removed all *mint* Permanent™ stamps, including *most* quarterly packs.

Effective March 31, 2014 ...

- domestic postage rates rising from 63¢ to 85¢, with a single stamp purchase costing \$1.
- international rates rising from \$1.85 to \$2.50.

Also...

- home delivery being phased out, over a 5-year period. This affects 1/3 of Canadians who currently get mail delivered directly to their home.

Some NHL Stamps Sold Out

Canada Post's online shopping cart notes that the Montreal Canadiens booklet of 10 and Vancouver Canucks coil of 50 are sold out. Both of these items were first issued September 3, just three months ago.



Quarter Pack Varieties
See page 42



Season's Greetings

Who are We?

We are the Elizabethan II Study Group under the auspices of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) — The Society for Canadian Philately.

Our journal, the *Corgi Times* is published 6 times a year.

BNAPS

Website: www.bnaps.org

Membership information:

David G. Jones, Secretary
184 Larkin Dr
Nepean, ON K2J 1H9
Canada
E-mail:
shibumi.management@gmail.com

Elizabethan II Study Group

Founder: John D. Arn, OTB

Chairman:

Robert J. Elias
10 Thornhill Bay
Winnipeg, MB R3T 3W5
Canada

Treasurer:

Derek Fleming
854 Silver Birch Trail
Mississauga, ON L5J 4C1
Canada

Corgi Times Index Robert McGuinness

Market Report vacant

Website:

www.adminware.ca/esg

Annual Dues

Canadian addresses is C\$15.00. US and Canadian addresses option of US\$15.00. All others US\$19.00.

Please make cheques payable to "The Elizabethan II Study Group" and send to Robin Harris, Editor at the address listed to the right.

Articles with no by-line are written or compiled by the Editor. All articles are ©2013 by the author and/or the Elizabethan Study Group.

Canada Post News

Here is what Canada Post is up to these days...

► Stuck on Stamps

A fourth "Stuck on Stamps" package for 2013 has become available. This is the sixth such item that has been released "for kids" (two in 2012 and four in 2013).

It would be interesting to know how many of these are being produced and just how popular they are with the "kids". This particular package includes stamps from 2007 (52¢ Endangered Species souvenir sheet) and 2009 (54¢ Rhododendrons souvenir sheet), both of which collectors had assumed had been destroyed long ago.



Corgi Times

Editor:

Robin Harris
PO Box 104
Seddons Corner, MB R0E 1X0
Canada
E-mail: corgi@adminware.ca
Phone: (204) 268-9395

Back Issues:

Sample or single issues C\$3.50, US\$3.50 each.

(Six issues per volume) Vol I through V C\$17/vol, US\$17.00/vol; Vol VI C\$21, US\$21; Vol VII C\$18.50, US\$18.50; Vol VIII to XIII C\$20/vol, US\$20/vol

Corgi Times is produced with Adobe InDesign CS6® for Windows. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor at the address above. Electronic format is preferred but not required. Scanned illustrations (300dpi, colour, actual size, JPEG or TIFF, black background) should be sent as separate files from text files. Lower quality images will *not* be printed and will likely result in the article not being printed.

Study Group Business

❖ New members

Keywood French (ON)

Planning Calendar

This is a listing of major exhibitions and bourses with a large content of both Canadian Exhibits and Canadian dealers.

The goal is to list events far in advance to encourage either exhibiting or attendance and preferably both.

2014

BNAPLEX 2014: Aug 29–31, 2013 in Hunt Valley, MD, USA

Canada Post is on the Right Track

by: Robin Harris

I should clarify that title. As a stamp collector I feel that Canada Post is issuing *way too many stamps* – too many stamp *issues* and, in many cases, too many stamps *per issue* – and in particular way too many souvenir sheets.

However, as a business person (self employed), I can fully understand that Canada Post must “make money”. Having a very diverse stamp program with many stamp subjects that cater to the entire population is a necessity.

Consider some of the recent stamps of 2013. I wonder if it is fair to say that “the more stamps per issue there are, the more Canada Post feels that particular issue will be popular with the general public”:

- Superman: likely a huge hit (so 6 designs)
- NHL: probably a hit (so 14 designs)
- Prince George: a hit?
- Chinatown Gates: probably not quite a hit as Canada Post hoped (?) (8 designs)
- Recording Artists (4 designs)

On the other hand, some single-stamp issues which probably did not sell well at all (less than 25%?):

- Robertson Davies
- 250 Years of Postal History
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Canada Post Community Foundation

I’m not sure how much the philatelic sales of stamps to collectors helps Canada Post’s bottom line. Likely not that much. However, an extra few million dollars here and there certainly cannot hurt.

The one area that I disagree, both as a collector and from a business view point, is the issuing of stamps in recent years that have included *living people* on stamps. Contemporary stamp subjects though are quite likely popular sellers for Canada Post. From their point of view, honouring living Canadians must be acceptable.

Canada Post Changing with the Times

by: Robin Harris

The December 11 announcement from Canada Post that they will be phasing out home delivery and increasing postal rates by some 22¢ a letter come March 31, 2014 was initially quite a surprise.

In hindset though, these changes are required by Canada Post. They must ‘change with the times’.

With more and more communication being done electronically (e-mail, texting, bill paying, pay deposits, etc.), it was just a matter of time before Canada Post had to do something ‘drastic’.

It is interesting to read the (very) negative comments throughout the news and, in particular, the on-line stamp community. That is unfortunate.

I’m sure many of us have made comments in the past that “stamps” will someday go the way of the ‘do-do bird’. If Canada Post did not propose any of these changes it is quite likely that Canada Post themselves would be extinct sooner than later.

How many of you use e-mail everyday? How many of you receive your pay deposits deposited automatically to your bank account? How many of you have stopped sending out Christmas cards? How many of you have written a letter that was mailed in the postal system over the last few months? We are all guilty of ‘making’ Canada Post have to raise postal rates in order to stay afloat.

The temporary suspension of Permanent™ stamps caught everyone off guard but, from the point of Canada Post, was a necessarily evil. If they allowed a continual sale of Permanent™ stamps for even a few days, the lost revenue of 22¢ per stamp come March 31 would have been enormous.

As a stamp collector, I am sure all of us have a few extra Permanent™ stamps on hand. Take advantage of this and ‘save’ them until the rate increase. It will still be like sending letters at 63¢!

Canada Post 2013 Stamp Program

Issue dates are subject to change by Canada Post. Shaded entries are changed/new from the last time we presented this list.

Issued	Description	Scott#
Jan 8	Year of the Snake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (63¢) pane of 25 • \$1.85, self-adhesive booklet pane of 6 • \$1.85 souvenir sheet • \$1.85 (Snake) and \$1.80 (Dragon) “transitional” souvenir sheet • \$29.95 uncut press sheet of 12 souvenir sheets • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each design) 	2599 2601 2600 2600a
Jan 14	Permanent™ (63¢) Queen Elizabeth II, self-adhesive booklet of 10	2617
Jan 14	Baby Wildlife rate-change definitives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (63¢) Woodchucks, self-adhesive roll of 100 • \$1.10 Porcupine, self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.34 Fawn, self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.85 Black bear, self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.10 Porcupine, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.34 Fawn, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.85 Black bear, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • Permanent™ (63¢) Woodchucks, self-adhesive roll of 5,000 • \$4.92 gummed souvenir sheet of 4 • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each design) 	2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2603 2602
Jan 14	Canadian Pride rate-change definitives (five designs) (“limited print run”) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 30 • \$3.15 gummed souvenir sheet of 4 	2612–16 2616c 2611
Jan 31	Canadian Pride rate-change definitives (five designs) with backprint security features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 30 	2616d 2616e
Jan 17	\$1.85 Raoul Wallenberg, self-adhesive booklet of 6	2618
Feb 1	Black Heritage Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (63¢) Oliver Jones, self-adhesive booklet of 10 • Permanent™ (63¢) Joe Fortes, self-adhesive booklet of 10 	2619 2620
Feb 20	Signs of the Zodiac (4 x Permanent™ (63¢)): Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (61¢), self-adhesive booklets of 10: 4 different • \$2.52 gummed souvenir sheet of 4 • \$7.56 gummed pane of 12 (all 12 Zodiac designs) • \$15.12 cross gutter pane of 24 (6 of each design) • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each design) 	2457–60 2447 2448 2460b
Mar 4	Magnolias (two designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.26 gummed souvenir sheet of 2 • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each design) 	2624–25 2622-23 2621
Mar 22	Canadian Photography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 x Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • \$1.10, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.85, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.89 souvenir sheet of 3 x Permanent • \$4.21 souvenir sheet of 4 (2 x Permanent, \$1.10, \$1.85) • \$1.99 postal cards (seven designs) 	2628–32 2633 2634 2626 2627
Apr 9	Permanent™ (63¢) The Princess of Wales’ Own Regiment, self-adhesive booklet of 10	2635
Apr 22	Adopt a Pet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 x Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • \$3.15 souvenir sheet of 5 x Permanent 	2637–41 2636
May 1	Chinatown Gates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 x Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 8 • \$5.04 souvenir sheet of 8 x Permanent • \$25.20 uncut press sheet of 5 souvenir sheets • \$88.88 limited edition collector’s set (includes imperforate souvenir sheet) • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each design) 	2643a–h 2642
May 8	Permanent™ (63¢) Queen Elizabeth II: 60th Anniversary of Her Majesty’s Coronation, self-adhesive booklet of 10	2644
May 14	Permanent™ (63¢) Big Brothers Big Sisters, self-adhesive booklet of 10	2645
Jun 1	Permanent™ (63¢) Queen Elizabeth II, self-adhesive booklet of 10 with backprint security features	2617b

Issued	Description	Scott#
Jun 5	Motorcycles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 8 • \$1.26 souvenir sheet of 2 x Permanent • \$17.99 uncut press sheet of 12 souvenir sheets • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each design) 	2647–48 2646
Jun 10	Permanent™ (63¢) 250 Years of Postal History, self-adhesive booklet of 10	2649
Jun 20	Permanent™ (63¢) The War of 1812: Charles de Salaberry and Laura Secord (pair of stamps in pane of 16)	2950–51
Jul 5	Children's Literature: Stella <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • \$1.26 souvenir sheet of 2 x Permanent • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each design) 	2653–54 2652
Jul 19	Canadian Recording Artists: The Bands (Rush, The Hip, The Guess Who, Beau Dommage) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 x Permanent™ (63¢), four different self-adhesive booklets of 10 • \$2.52 souvenir sheet of 4 x Permanent • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each design) 	2656–69 2655
Aug 28	63¢ Robertson Davies, self-adhesive booklet of 10	2660
Sep 3	NHL Team Jerseys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 x 63¢, seven different self-adhesive booklets of 10 • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each design) 	2670–76
Sep 3	NHL Team Logos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 x 63¢, seven different self-adhesive coils of 50 • \$4.41 souvenir sheet of 7 x 63¢ 	2662–68 2661
Sep 10	Superman, 75th Anniversary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive coil of 75 • 5 x Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 — five different covers (and label placements) • \$3.15 souvenir sheet of 5 x Permanent • \$31.50 uncut press sheet of 6 souvenir sheets • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each stamp design) • \$1.99 postal cards (one of each booklet cover design) 	2678 2679–83 2677
Sep 30	NHL Team Jerseys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.41 souvenir sheet of 7 x 63¢ (delayed from Sep 3 due to printing problems) 	2669
Sep 30	63¢ + 10¢ Canada Post Community Foundation, self-adhesive booklet of 10	B20
Oct 18	Permanent™ (63¢) The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, self-adhesive booklet of 10	2684
Oct 22	The Royal Infant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (63¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • \$1.26 souvenir sheet of 2 x Permanent 	2686 2685
Oct 22	63¢ Christmas: Saint Anne with the Christ Child, self-adhesive booklet of 12	
Oct 22	Christmas Craft: Cross-stitch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63¢ Horn, self-adhesive booklet of 12 • \$1.10 Reindeer, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.85 Christmas Tree, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$3.58 souvenir sheet of 3 	
Dec 11	Denominated Definitives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63¢ Queen Elizabeth II, self-adhesive booklet of 10 • 63¢ Woodchucks, self-adhesive roll of 100 • 63¢ Woodchucks, self-adhesive roll of 5,000 • 63¢ Canadian Pride (five designs), self-adhesive booklet of 10 	

Elizabethan II Market Place

Classified listings in the Market Place are \$1.00 for 25 words. Additional words are 5¢ each. Camera ready display ads (preferably 300dpi, black and white tiff scans) pertaining primarily to the Elizabethan era will be accepted at the following rates: 1/8 page \$5.00; 1/4 page \$8.00; 1/2 page \$15.00 and a full page at \$30.00. 25% discount for four consecutive insertions of the same ad. Full payment must accompany ad. Payment in Canadian funds to: Elizabethan II Study Group. Mail to Editor: Robin Harris, PO Box 104, Seddons Corner, MB R0E 1X0, Canada.

New booklet on Canadian
stamp perforations for sale at
www.rotaryperforator.com

Canada Post News Release

Canada Post unveils Five-point Action Plan

Dec. 11, 2013

Plan will return system to financial sustainability by 2019 and ensure continued role of enabling trade and commerce

Ottawa (Ont.) – Today, Canada Post unveiled five initiatives that together will form the foundation of a new postal system designed to serve busy Canadians and meet their changing needs for postal services. It will also open new opportunities to businesses that are redefining how they connect and serve customers in an increasingly digital world. These changes will begin taking effect in the new year.

This comprehensive plan can be achieved without any changes to the Canadian Postal Service Charter. The integrated plan's five main initiatives are:

1. Community mailboxes

Over the next five years, the one third of Canadian households that receive their mail at their door will be converted to community mailbox delivery. This change will provide significant savings to Canada Post and will have no impact on the two thirds of Canadian households that already receive their mail and parcels through community mailboxes, grouped or lobby mailboxes or rural mailboxes. Community mailboxes have advantages for busy Canadians as they offer individually locked mail and small packet compartments as well as locked compartments for securely receiving parcels. The initial neighbourhoods slated for conversion in the second half of 2014 will be announced once plans are finalized. The transition is expected to take 5 years to complete on a national scale.

2. A new approach to pricing Lettermail to take effect March 31, 2014

Canada Post will introduce a new tiered pricing structure for Lettermail mailed within Canada, which will better reflect the cost of serving various customer segments. Under these changes, the majority of Canadians, because they buy stamps in booklets or coils, will pay \$0.85 per stamp, with discounts for customers that use the mail most. The minority of consumers who purchase stamps one at a time, which represents an estimated 2 per cent of stamp purchases, will pay \$1 per stamp. The average Canadian household purchases fewer than 2 stamps per month. These stamp price changes will take effect March 31, 2014. (1)

3. Expanding convenience through postal franchises

Canada Post will strengthen its retail network by opening more franchise postal outlets in stores across Canada. The



company will partner with local retail businesses that are conveniently located in the communities they serve and offer added benefits, such as better parking and longer hours. This will allow busy Canadians to do more shopping in one place. Canada Post will also continue to align its corporate post offices to customer traffic patterns.

4. Streamlining operations

Changes to internal operations will make for a more efficient flow of parcels and mail through the network and to the customers. These changes are driven by technology (such as faster computerized sorting equipment), consolidation (such as processing mail and parcels in a central location) and providing more delivery employees with fuel-efficient vehicles, so the same employee can deliver both mail and parcels. Improved operations will yield cost-effective and more reliable delivery to Canadians, along with better parcel tracking capabilities.

5. Addressing the cost of labour

Canada Post is changing its business model and, as a result, will require fewer employees to serve the future needs of Canadians. With its current labour costs, Canada Post has a much higher cost structure than its competitors in the private sector have. This is simply not sustainable. The company will continue to bring the cost of labour in line with its competitors through attrition and collective bargaining over time. The average age of current employees is 48 and Canada Post expects nearly 15,000 employees to retire or leave the company over the next five years. This is more than enough to allow for the reduction of between 6,000 and 8,000 positions, mainly through attrition. Canada Post will also take the necessary steps to permanently address the sustainability of its pension plan. A leaner workforce

will create a more flexible and competitive Canada Post, able to respond quickly to the changing marketplace.

Canada Post has a mandate to fund its operations with revenues from the sale of its products and services, rather than become a burden on taxpayers. With the increasing use of digital communication and the historic decline of Lettermail volumes, Canada Post has begun to post significant financial losses. If left unchecked, continued losses would soon jeopardize its financial self-sufficiency and become a significant burden on taxpayers and customers. In April 2013, a Conference Board of Canada study projected a financial loss of close to \$1 billion by 2020 unless Canada Post makes fundamental changes to its business. A projection of that magnitude was directionally consistent with Canada Post's own projections.

The implementation of this plan means Canada Post can return to financial sustainability by 2019. Once fully implemented, four of the five initiatives are expected to generate financial benefits with an estimated combined worth of \$700 million to \$900 million per year. (2) Those figures do not include the significant annual savings expected in labour costs and from restructuring the pension, because these are yet to be addressed through future rounds of collective bargaining. The range in the combined benefits forecasted reflects the need for more detailed planning and the difficulty of accurately forecasting the pace at which Lettermail volumes will erode. Canada Post has factored in significant erosion.

The Government of Canada has informed Canada Post of its intent to provide temporary pension relief from the need to make special payments, including solvency payments estimated at \$1 billion in 2014 alone. Along with the new Lettermail pricing, this measure will address the immediate need for additional liquidity by mid-2014, which was outlined in Canada Post's most recent financial reports. During the relief period, Canada Post will act with urgency to restructure the pension plan in order to ensure its long-term sustainability.

The postal service of the future will reflect and serve Canadians' new postal needs. As more people began to communicate and manage their household bills online, Lettermail volumes declined sharply. Yet as more people shopped online, parcel volumes shot up. This dramatic shift is creating a pressing need to manage a greater number of parcels and less mail with more valuable items. (These items include credit and loyalty cards and government-issued cards and licences.) This shift provided clear direction to Canada Post and the many businesses looking to redefine customer experience in an increasingly digital world.

With this plan, Canada Post will be in a better position to be the essential enabler of remote trade and commerce that Canadians and Canadian businesses can count on for years to come.

To read Canada Post's Five-point Action Plan or to watch a short video overview, please visit canadapost.ca.

About Canada Post

Canada Post is the country's leading provider of electronic commerce and customer communication solutions. It reaches more than 15.3 million addresses, operates the country's largest retail network, and offers affordable and reliable service with convenient pickup and return options for online shoppers. Together, Canada Post, Purolator Inc. and SCI Logistics offer market-leading end-to-end solutions for e-commerce shippers by leveraging the assets and expertise of the Canada Post Group of Companies.

1. Pending regulatory approval, these proposed changes will be implemented March 31, 2014. The changes will affect letters from 0 to 30 g mailed within Canada: Those who purchase stamps in booklets or coils will pay \$0.85 per stamp, up from \$0.63 today. Businesses that use postage meters will pay a new discounted postal commercial rate of \$0.75 (per letter 0-30 g). Mailers who prepare mail to reduce processing costs (known as Incentive Lettermail) will continue to benefit from prices that are lower than the proposed meter rate of \$0.75 for 0-30 g. Single stamps will cost \$1 each, up from \$0.63. Canada Post estimates that only 2 per cent of all stamps are purchased as singles. The pricing for U.S., international and oversized Lettermail and mail weighing more than 30 g will also increase, and will typically fall in line with the new established pricing levels. However, unlike Lettermail less than 30 g within Canada, the pricing for these products will not include a uniquely differentiated booklet or coil price. Prices for parcels and for addressed and unaddressed advertising mail are not affected by the Lettermail increase. To assist in minimizing the effect of successive Lettermail rate increases, the basic domestic letter rate will be offered at \$0.63 until March 31, rather than the regulated rate increase to \$0.65 in January 2014 as per the five-year pricing plan that took effect in 2010.

2. Once fully implemented, the initiatives will contribute an estimated \$700 million to \$900 million per year to the company's bottom line, broken down as follows:

Initiative	Forecasted financial benefits (per year upon full implementation)
Community mailboxes	\$400 million to \$500 million
New approach to pricing Lettermail	\$160 million to \$200 million
Franchise post offices	\$40 million to \$50 million
Streamlining operations	\$100 million to \$150 million

2013 Queen Elizabeth II Definitive

This year's Queen Elizabeth II definitive (Scott 2617), issued January 14, 2013 has a misspelling hidden within the tagging element. The tagging includes the following text at the top of the stamp:

CORONATION ANNIVERSARY / ANNIVERSAIRE DE COURONNEMENT
ANNIVERSAIRE DE COURONNEMENT / CORONATION ANNIVERSERY

Take special note of the spelling of the last word in the second line: "Anniversery" instead of "Anniversary".

This is the second year in a row that Canada Post has (purposely?) had an incorrect spelling hidden within the tagging of its new definitive stamps. The first time was the Canadian Pride stamps (Scott 2498–2503) issued January 16, 2012 (we reported on the 'Permanent' vs 'Permanant' spelling in the May-June 2012 *Corgi Times*).

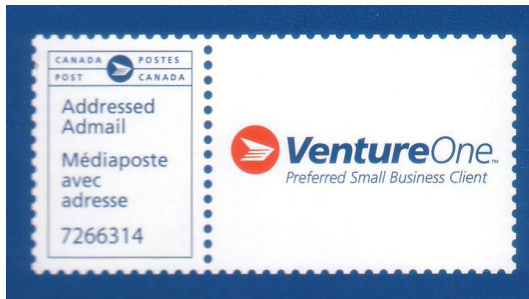


(Note: these 'errors' are found on every single stamp; they are not a variety of a corrected version nor was a corrected version of the misspelling ever issued.)



Addressed Admail

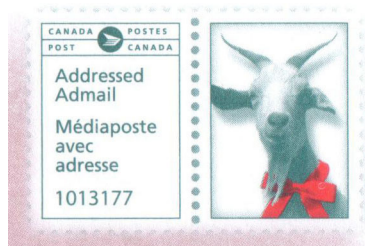
Here are a few more examples of the new addressed admail indicia using images (thanks to Andrew Chung and Mike Street).



Canada Post — Venture One



The Lung Association (annual Christmas seals)



Canadian Hunger Foundation



Articles Urgently Needed

Denominated 63¢ Definitives

With the sudden suspension of sale (i.e. temporary removal) of Permanent™ stamps on December 11, 2013, new 63¢ denominated stamps became available at post offices within a couple of days of the “five-point action plan” announcement (see the lead story in this issue).



All of the ‘new’ definitives are the same design as those first released back in January for the 63¢-rate change:

- 63¢ Queen Elizabeth II, self-adhesive booklet of 10
- 63¢ Woodchucks, self-adhesive roll of 100
- 63¢ Woodchucks, self-adhesive roll of 5,000
- 63¢ Canadian Pride (five designs), self-adhesive booklet of 10

Canada Post has noted that the first day of issue of these stamps was Wednesday, December 11. The stamps were made available on their website on that date, but from various reports seen on the internet, they were not available in post offices (and therefore for use) until Friday, December 13. We would welcome any examples of legitimate usages of these stamps on either December 11 or December 12. (Canada Post has noted that there will *not* be an official first day cover produced for these stamps).

Illustrated here are the wrapper and box label for the 63¢ Woodchuck coil of 100. Notice the date of production – October 10, 2013, some two months prior to the release of the stamps. This suggests that Canada Post has known for quite sometime that ‘something’ big was going to happen with the need to have denominated domestic-rate definitives.



63¢ Woodchuck coil wrapper



63¢ Woodchuck coil box (dated Oct 10/13)

Do you find this interesting: notice the font style used for the ‘63’ values on the new definitives. They are all a *sans serif* font, including the Queen Elizabeth stamp. Typically (in recent years), the font for the denomination has usually matched that used for the word ‘Canada’. Not so with the QE stamp. In comparison to the other 63¢-denominated definitives, the Queen stamp looks ‘off’ a bit.



A "STELLAR" Postcard

by: Dudley Nash

Back in 2000, I started sending postcards issued by Canada Post with matching views and stamp impressions for hand cancelling to Post Offices in towns with a name relevant to the view on the postcard. For the *Tourist Attractions* issues of 2001 to 2004, choosing suitable places to send the postcards was quite straightforward. For other postcards a little more thought was needed. The eight *Chinatown Gates* postcards issued earlier this year were sent to the Post Offices closest to the Chinatown Gate depicted on the postcard. The *Guess Who* and *Rush* postcards from the July 2013 Canadian Recording Artists series were sent to Whonnock BC and Rushoon NL respectively.

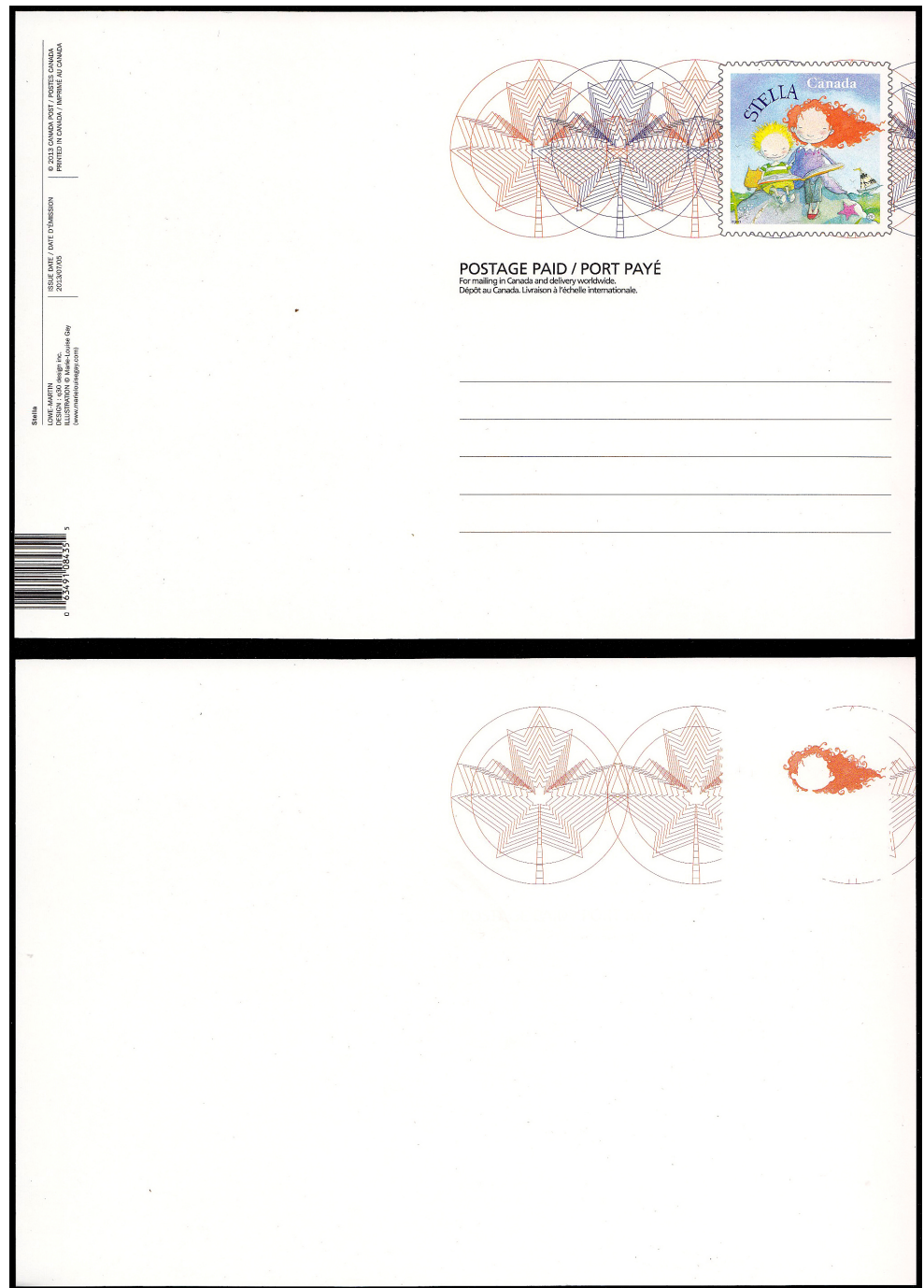
I send the postcards to the appropriate Postmaster together with a letter requesting that the cards be hand cancelled and returned in the regular mail - not in a protective envelope. This mostly results in the cards receiving the pink coding marks, an additional jet-spray cancellation and some minor scuffing which are all perfectly acceptable features of regularly processed mail.

On occasion, a card will arrive without coding bars, without an additional jet-spray cancellation, or with neither. In spite of requesting otherwise, the odd card is returned in a protective envelope and on rare occasions the cards are not returned at all. Such was the case with the two *Stella* postcards issued in July of this year and sent to the Post Office in Stella, Ontario. When a follow up letter to the Stella Postmaster produced no response, I was forced to adopt plan B – buy two more cards and send them to Stellarton, Nova Scotia.

Fortunately, when I visited the Post Office to buy the replacement cards, there were still some *Stella* cards in the display rack. It was only when I went to the counter and my friendly postal clerk turned the cards over to scan them that we discovered that one of the cards was not only lacking a barcode and other details printed in black, but also that the stamp indicium was missing all but one colour (see the illustration). Naturally I rushed back to the display rack but there were no other cards with this error.

If I had known in 2000 that Canada Post would go from issuing less than 20 prestamped postcards each year to the 57 cards issued this year, I would probably not have begun this exercise. However, if that had been the case, I would never have found this *Stellar* postcard.

A word of advice: DO NOT, I repeat, DO NOT, ever, in your wildest dreams, contemplate a similar project with The Postcard Factory postcards.



International Reply Coupon

A new International Reply Coupon (IRC) has been released by the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Canada's IRC is illustrated below (front and back), which sells for \$8.50.

The dates on the back of the new IRC suggest that it was available as of May 24, 2013 and expires December 31, 2017.



From Wikipedia:

An IRC is a coupon that can be exchanged for one or more postage stamps representing the minimum postage for an unregistered priority airmail letter of up to twenty grams sent to another UPU member country. IRCs are accepted by all UPU member countries.

UPU member postal services are obliged to exchange an IRC for postage, but are not obliged to sell them.

The purpose of the IRC is to allow a person to send someone in another country a letter, along with the cost of postage for a reply. If the addressee is within the same country, there is no need for an IRC because a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) or return postcard will suffice; but if the addressee is in another country an IRC removes the necessity of acquiring foreign postage or sending appropriate currency.

The IRC was introduced in 1906 at a Universal Postal Union congress in Rome. At the time an IRC could be exchanged for a single-rate, ordinary postage stamp for surface delivery to a foreign country, as this was before the introduction of airmail services. An IRC is exchangeable in a UPU member country for the minimum postage of a priority or unregistered airmail letter to a foreign country.

The current IRC, available since 1 July 2009, is called the "Nairobi" model, and is available from post offices in 116 countries as at December 2012. IRCs are ordered from the UPU headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, by postal authorities. They are generally available at large post offices; in the U.S., they are requisitioned along with regular domestic stamps by any post office that has sufficient demand for them.

Previous editions of the IRC, the "Beijing" model and all subsequent versions, bear an expiration date. Consequently, a new IRC will be issued every three years. The current IRC will become obsolete on 31 December 2013. Current stockpiles in the hands of users should be expended by then, or exchanged for the new issue to be introduced at that time. The current issue IRC may be exchanged until 31 December 2013 (date printed on coupon). A new design, by the Czech artist Michal Sindelar, will go on sale from 1 July 2013 and will be valid until 31 December 2017.

2013 Quarterly Pack 3 Varieties

as first reported by ESG member Brian Cannon

The 2013/03 Quarterly Pack, which contains the various stamp issues from July through September 2013, contains two unique varieties.

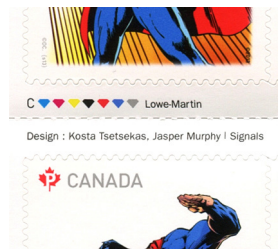
- the single Superman stamp taken from the roll of 75 has two differences from the originally issued stamp of September 10.



The single stamp supplied in the quarterly pack is rouletted on *all four sides* and does not have any of the “kryptonian” back printing.

- the quarterly pack includes a vertical strip of five of the Superman stamps from the self-adhesive booklet.

The strip spans the ‘gutter’ between the top and bottom half of the complete booklet. The originally issued booklets had a rouletted and folded gutter whereas the die cut to shape strip of five is *imperforate* and *not* folded.



Above: image cropped from booklet of 10 showing rouletted and folded gutter.

Right: full strip of five die cut to shape stamps as distributed in the 2013/03 Quarterly Pack showing an imperforate unfolded gutter.



Christmas-themed Mail Boxes

While visiting Winnipeg on November 26 I came upon Christmas-themed mail boxes ... great idea Canada Post!

The design incorporates this year's Christmas stamps featuring the craft of cross-stitching (a popular hobby of my wife).

ESG member Earle Covert notes that they have also appeared in Ancaster, Toronto and Ottawa. Earle notes that they are a plastic wrapping on a standard painted box.



The January–February 2014 Canadian Philatelist pictures the a in Ancaster (via Mike Street) and notes:

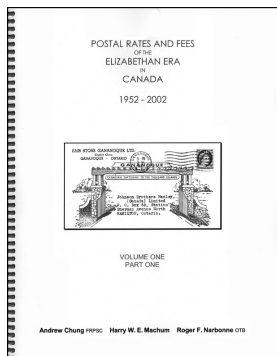
This is the second year that Canada Post has dressed up some of its mail boxes to publicize its Christmas postage stamp offerings. More than 600 mail boxes received the holiday-theme makeover in communities from coast to coast.



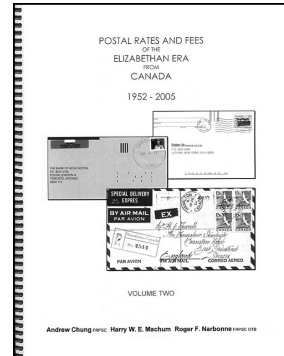
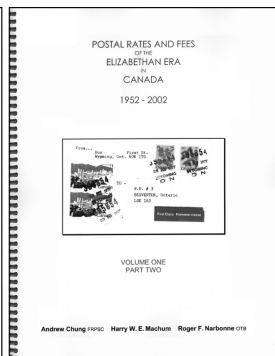
Postal Rates Books

As an Elizabethan II Study Group member you can pick up these valuable reference books at a much reduced price below retail. The chart notes the various pricing for both Volume I and Volume II. Send your order to: Robin Harris, PO Box 104, Seddons Corner, MB R0E 1X0 Canada.

	Volume I Domestic	Volume II USA & Int'l
ESG members	C \$62.95 US \$62.95	C \$34.95 US \$34.95
Non-members	C \$89.95 US \$89.65	C \$49.95 US \$49.95
Postage:		
Canada	C \$16.00	C \$15.00
USA	US \$22.00	US \$17.00
Int'l (surface)	US \$22.00	US \$20.00
	(502 pages)	(275 pages)
	Nov 2004	Apr 2007
<i>Exchange rate subject to change</i>		



Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era In Canada
1952–2002



Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era From Canada
1952–2005

Canada's Elizabethan Era Stamp Count

by: Robin Harris

The accompanying chart (updated here) was first presented four years ago in the July–August 2009 *Corgi Times*.

When Queen Elizabeth took the throne in 1952 approximately 315 stamps had been issued 'til then by Canada. As seen in the accompanying chart, 3,464 stamps (and varieties¹) have been issued since then (to the end of December 2013).



- 11 times as many stamps have been issued in the last 62 years than in the previous 100 years.
- Worse yet, more stamps have been issued in just the last 2 years than the first 100 years of Canadian stamps. Wow!

With this number of modern issues in Canada alone, perhaps you will want to collect by topic such as sports, space, olympics or maybe just those stamps that have some relevance to your home province.

There are many areas within the Elizabethan era where one can concentrate his/her studies: booklets, errors, cancellations, perfins, stationery, joint issues with other countries, collateral material, first day covers, living people on stamps, souvenir articles, coin and stamp combinations ... and the list can go on and on!

By the way, don't forget postal history! History, you say? Yes, history. With postal rates changing almost annually, collectors of rate material have quite a challenge trying to find all of the various usages. Once the postal rates go up, they are history. Anyone putting together an exhibit of modern day material has a tough time finding the necessary covers needed to illustrate all of the different rates and usages.

Despite what one may think, there has been a lot of literature published that is devoted to the Elizabethan era. The *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* is now the number one source of information on these stamps. Many other "specialized" reference works are available on various aspects of modern day Canadian stamps.

¹ Variety counts do not include any errors and are limited to: tagging, perforation, paper manufacturer and printer changes.

Year	Commemorative				Definitive		Back of Book		Total
	Singles	SS	Varieties	Semi	Singles	Varieties	Official	P.Due	
1952	3				2		3		8
1953	4				10		7		21
1954	4				10				14
1955	7				1		3		11
1956	4				2		1		7
1957	10						1	1	12
1958	8								8
1959	6								6
1960	2								2
1961	5								5
1962	5				2	5			12
1963	3				9	5			17
1964	9		3		3	1			16
1965	13		2					1	16
1966	15		1						16
1967	10		3		15	5		7	40
1968	12		2		1	5			20
1969	15		2		1	4		6	27
1970	28		18		2	2			50
1971	19		5		4	12			40
1972	17		15		6	14			52
1973	22				8	1		4	34
1974	32			3	2	2		5	43
1975	30			6					36
1976	29			3	2	9			43
1977	21				12	4		8	42
1978	29	1	1		9	3		1	43
1979	36				15	1			52
1980	31								31
1981	30		1		1	1			33
1982	32	1			14	1			48
1983	35				10	4			49
1984	37	1			1	6			45
1985	37	1			10	10			58
1986	39	1	1		1	11			53
1987	37	1	2		12	7			59
1988	35				15	4			54
1989	35		3		9	11			58
1990	40		4		18	17			79
1991	47	1	3		7	6			64
1992	57	2	1		14	6			80
1993	56	1			1				58
1994	54	2			5	24			85
1995	63	4			7	16			90
1996	79	1	1	1	1	2			85
1997	44	3			1	2			50
1998	79	7	3		11	2			102
1999	88	7	8		8				111
2000	115	1	1		6	3			126
2001	69	3							72
2002	64	3			5	6			78
2003	71	2			9	1			83
2004	71	3	1		13	4			88
2005	68	8	2		16	6			94
2006	59	7	2		17	7			85
2007	48	7	1		23	1			80
2008	53	8	1	1		1			64
2009	52	14		1	27				94
2010	62	17		1	29				109
2011	78	16	5	2	22				123
2012	127	21		1	22	4			175
2013	67	71	13	1	22	10			184
2357	215	105	20		473	246	15	33	3464