
First two stamps for 1980

Canada Post issued the first stamps of 1980 on January 23.

A 17-cent stamp marking the one-hundredth anniversary of Canada's acquisition of the Arctic Islands, and a 35-cent stamp commemorating the 1980 Winter Olympics were issued.



Britain had originally offered the Arctic Islands to Canada as early as 1874, but boundary disputes and legal wrangling over the method of transferring the title delayed the handover until 1880. The Arctic Islands stamp features the islands depicted in white against a dark blue map of Canada.

The 1980 Winter Olympics will take place in Lake Placid, New York, from February 13-24. Many young Canadians will be among the top-ranking athletes competing in these Olympic Games. The Winter Olympics stamp uses an action photograph of a skier on a downhill run. The photographer deliberately employs an out-of-focus technique to emphasize the speed of downhill skiing.

Nation-wide energy information

A new computer system, which will provide Canada-wide distribution of information and fast response to enquiries on some 400 energy research projects, has been announced by the Federal Government. More access to information will be available on the status of projects ranging from a multi-million dollar geothermal effort in British Columbia to a large wind turbine development in Nova Scotia. Salient features of each project, management, funding and location will be described.

Conservation will be covered as well as

renewable energy demonstrations carried out by the Federal Government alone or in co-operation with the provinces. International Energy Agency projects, and those funded by federal grants to universities and other groups will also be included. The system is expected to be widely used by universities, industries, consultants, and all levels of government.

Information is obtained by dialing a local telephone number from a computer terminal in any major city in Canada or the United States to receive access to the system, maintained by Q.L. Systems of Kingston, Ontario. The flexibility of this low-cost system lets the user design his own search for specific information with the computer.

For further information contact: Cam McNeil, CREB, EMR, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4.

Outstanding athletes

Ken Read and Helen Vanderburg, two of Calgary's most illustrious athletes, were the 1979 recipients of the Sports Federation of Canada outstanding athlete awards announced recently.

Read, 25, is a three-time winner on the World Cup ski circuit, while Vanderburg, 20, was the undisputed queen of world synchronized swimming before announcing her retirement after sweeping all major swim events in 1979.

Read recently won two consecutive



Ken Read races in World Cup downhill.

World Cup downhill races in Kitzbuehel, Austria and Wengen, Switzerland, and placed second in a race on another Swiss course. The wins boosted Read into fourth place in downhill points on the World Cup Circuit.

Vanderburg, a two-time world singles champion, closed out a career that included the Canadian, Pan-American and Pan-Pacific titles in 1979. It marked the second year in a row Vanderburg had been honoured by the Sports Federation. Last year she was named the outstanding junior female athlete in the country.

The awards were presented during ceremonies at which The Canadian Press athletes of the year were also recognized — race car driver Gilles Villeneuve of Boucherville, Quebec, and pro golfer Sandra Post of Oakville, Ontario.

Post, second leading money winner on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour in 1979, received the Bobbie Rosenfeld Award, while Villeneuve, who finished second to Ferrari teammate Jody Scheckter of South Africa in the 1979 world driving championship, received the Lionel Conacher award.

Detectors are a gold mine

A new Canadian gold rush is on as hundreds of people seek rings and gold and silver coins on the beaches, deserted fairgrounds and abandoned homesteads with metal detectors.

Sales of the detectors have increased so rapidly this year that Keith and Mary Ann Edwards of Waterford, Ontario, are about to give up working their 100-acre farm in Waterford, north of Hamilton.

The Edwards started selling the detectors from their farm home after Mr. Edwards purchased one last year to hunt treasure as a hobby. He teamed up with Larry McCormick of Camden East, near Kingston, and together they have sold nearly 1,000 detectors across Canada this year.

The price ranges from \$75 to \$500. The average price paid by hobbyists and treasure hunters is about \$350. The couple also sell plastic pans for gold panning at \$7.95.

Mr. Edwards said that, because of the high price of gold and silver, treasure hunting is becoming one of the country's fastest growing hobbies. Instead of the traditional gold watch, detectors are given for retirement gifts.

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