

Post office honours Tom Thomson

Canada honours one of its foremost painters, Tom Thomson, with the issue of two 12-cent stamps featuring his paintings on May 26.

April in Algonquin Park and *Autumn Birches* were chosen from Thomson's numerous sketches on birch panels, and, although they are similar in content, including sky, lake, and birch trees, their colours and mood contrast dramatically.

"Tom Thomson has become a legend

through both his life and death, and his work became the model for the Group of Seven which followed him," said Postmaster-General Jean-Jacques Blais.

Thomas John Thomson, born at Claremont, Ontario, in 1877, began to paint seriously in the autumn of 1911 and soon afterward visited Algonquin Park, Ontario, for the first time. His first large canvas, *Northern Lake*, won a prize at an exhibit sponsored by the Ontario Society of Artists in 1913. At this time he shared a studio with A.Y.



Jackson, from whom he learned many painting techniques.

From 1914 until he died, Thomson spent a great deal of time at Algonquin Park. He was an expert woodsman and canoeist, and when money ran low, he earned extra cash as a tourist guide or a fire ranger. Thomson achieved his best work in this period, though not everyone lauded his creations. One critic dubbed the new style of painting "The Hot Mush School." Another stated: "Among those who have made the most daring departure from representing nature as it appears to ordinary mortals are A.Y. Jackson and Tom Thomson." Indeed, as is often the case in Canada, Thomson achieved national recognition only after his mysterious death in 1917 and after his work had been acclaimed abroad.

Fewer jobs fewer immigrants

Immigration to Canada during 1976 totalled 149,429, a 20 percent decrease from that of the previous year, according to an announcement by Manpower and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen.

"Although global interest in immigrating remains very high, our offices abroad accepted fewer applications because there were fewer job opportunities in the Canadian labour force last year," he said.

In line with Canada's objective of reunifying families, 41 per cent of those admitted last year were sponsored relatives, mainly the spouses and dependent children of people already in Canada. In addition, another 26 per cent were close relatives in the nominated class who had pre-arranged jobs or skills that were in some demand in Canada.

Independent applicants, most of whom had pre-arranged jobs to fill labour shortage positions in Canada, accounted for just under 15 per cent of the

1976 total. In all, independent applicants and their accompanying family members made up 33 per cent of the immigration flow in 1976.

Also included in the "independent" category were 1,700 people who added more jobs to the nation's economy by setting up their own businesses. In fact, their assets totalled \$400 million, which represented 40 per cent of the nearly \$1 billion brought into Canada by immigrants last year.

Canada's traditional concern for refugees and displaced people, is reflected in the 10,000 immigrants who were brought in under special humanitarian programs from Europe, Chile, and Vietnam, as well as Lebanon.

Britain and the United States continued to be the two major source countries. Although the totals were generally down over those of 1975, Canada's special measures to assist victims of the Lebanese war resulted in that country moving into fifth position, with a total of 7,161 people admitted — up substantially from 1,506 in 1975.



Most of Thomson's artistic output was in the form of sketches done directly from nature on birch panels which fitted conveniently into his sketch box. Two such paintings, similar in subject yet widely different in content and mood, are featured on the stamps.

Top ten source countries, 1975 and 1976 comparisons

Country	1976	Position	1975	Position
Britain	21,548	1	34,978	1
U.S.A.	17,315	2	20,155	2
Hong Kong	10,725	3	11,132	3
Jamaica	7,282	4	8,211	6
Lebanon	7,161	5	1,506	—
India	6,733	6	10,144	4
Philippines	5,939	7	7,364	7
Portugal	5,344	8	8,390	5
Italy	4,530	9	5,078	8
Guyana	3,430	10	4,394	9
(South Korea)	2,330	(—)	4,316	(10)