

Loto Canada — new national lottery to replace Olympic lottery

Treasury Board President Jean Chrétien announced in the House of Commons on May 10 the creation of a national lottery to be known as Loto Canada.

The Government had decided he said, to "create, manage and operate a national lottery, primarily to assist, until the end of 1979, in financing on a voluntary basis the deficits of the 1976 Olympics at Montreal and the 1978 Commonwealth Games at Edmonton".

The popularity of the Olympic lottery, and the substantial net revenues it has generated to date (slightly more than \$168 million) suggest that Canadians might be willing to continue assisting in the financing of the Olympics through voluntary payments.

Subject to the approval of Parliament and support from both sides of the House, 82.5 per cent of the net revenues will be used to assist in the financing of the 1976 and 1978 games; 12.5 per cent will be shared among the provinces, according to sales in their jurisdiction, and the remaining 5 per cent will be used by the Government to finance physical fitness, amateur sport and recreational programs.

"As yet, no formula has been established for the sharing of the lottery's net revenues after 1979. This will be the object of further consideration and consultation with the provinces as rapidly as possible."

Mr. Chrétien stressed that "the Government's initiative was consistent with its long-standing policy concerning the Olympics, namely that no direct grant from the general revenues of the treasury will be made to finance these games, but that steps would be taken to ensure the success of the revenue-generating programs".

Loto Canada Inc., the name of the Crown corporation that will administer the lottery, will be subject to a compulsory annual audit by the Auditor General.

Loto Canada tickets will be on sale in early August and the first draw will be held in December.

The Olympic lottery format will be used — \$10 tickets and top prizes of \$1 million.

National atlas wins award

Governor-General Jules Léger, patron of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, presented last month the Society's gold medal to Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, whose Department produced the fourth edition of *The National Atlas of Canada*.

The fourth edition was co-published late in 1974, by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Macmillan Company of Canada Ltd and Information Canada. It is the first under a new program which calls for a completely new edition every ten years to coincide with the census and to cover the census decade. Previous editions were published in 1906, 1915 and 1957.

The National Atlas is not a gazetteer, devoted to names and locations of places and other geographical features. It is a collection of over 300 maps, graphs and charts, all produced by the Department's Surveys and Mapping Branch to provide a full geography of Canada in physical, economic historical and cultural terms.

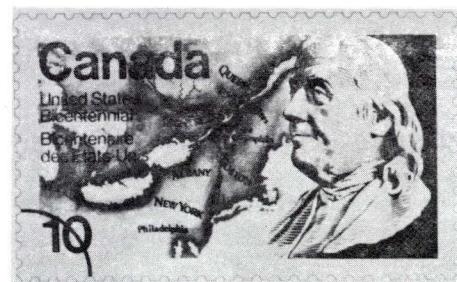
Twin stamps for U.S. Bicentennial

In celebration of the United States Bicentennial, the Canada Post Office and the United States Postal Service have issued simultaneously stamps of a common design featuring Benjamin Franklin, a postmaster general in British North America and a founding father of the United States.

Benjamin Franklin, born in Boston in 1706, contributed to the Canadian postal system by opening post offices in Montreal, Trois-Rivières and Quebec City. The system used the existing road between Montreal and Quebec City. The road was already equipped with post houses at nine-mile intervals. Franklin also established a courier service between Montreal and New York City. The service ran *via* Lake Champlain and the Hudson River and operated twice monthly in summer and once monthly in winter, linking Canada to the mail packet sailing between New York and England. Indeed, until 1788 all letters from central Canada to Halifax, Nova Scotia, travelled

through New York.

When the American War of Independence broke out, Franklin sided with the revolutionaries. They had captured Montreal and were besieging Quebec. Early in 1776, Congress sent Franklin north to proclaim the gospel of liberty. Franklin, however, had been in Montreal but a few days when the British navy arrived in Quebec. The Americans retreated and Franklin departed. Congress then despatched him to Paris. He arrived safely and used his great popularity and prestige to whip up French support for the revolution. Franklin participated in the peace negotiations, at one point hinting that Britain should donate Canada to the United States. After the war he returned to Philadelphia, where he died in 1790.



Stamps have same design

The two new stamps, which bear a common design and engraving, differ only in colour, typography and method of printing. The Canadian stamp will be printed by steel and gravure, the American stamp by steel and lithography. This is the first joint issue between Canada and the United States since the St. Lawrence Seaway stamps of 1959.

Bernard Reilander of Ottawa designed the United States Bicentennial stamp. It features a portrait of Franklin in brown placed against a blue and ochre background map. The portrait was derived from a marble portrait head by an anonymous Italian sculptor based on a terracotta bust of Franklin modelled in 1777 by the French sculptor Jean-Jacques Caffiéri. The background is an adaptation of an early engraved map of British North America published in 1776 by R. Sayer and J. Bennett in London, England. The places on the map are all important to early postal history in North America and include the three Canadian post offices established by Franklin.