

## Stamps salute children

Canada Post issued the 1979 Christmas stamps on October 17, followed by a stamp commemorating the International Year of the Child on October 24.

The issue date for the International Year of the Child stamp was selected to coincide with International Year of the Child Day in schools, an event which was co-sponsored by the Canadian UNICEF Committee and the Canadian Red Cross Society.



In keeping with the Year of the Child theme, the Christmas commemorative issues for 1979 are devoted to antique toys. The 15-cent stamp shows a painted wooden train from the National Museum of Man in Ottawa. A horse pull-toy from the Museum of Quebec is depicted on the 17-cent stamp, and a knitted doll, which is in the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, is shown on the 35-cent stamp.

## Youth to get jury of peers

Juvenile offenders will face the scrutiny of their peers as well as a judge in an experimental courtroom program being started in Brandon, Manitoba this autumn.

Under the experiment, six juveniles will sit alongside Family Court Judge Brian Giesbrecht in cases involving non-violent incidents. Their role will be limited to suggesting appropriate penalties.

Judge Giesbrecht will continue to decide whether a delinquency actually has been committed. The judge says he will not be obliged to accept their recommendations, but he thinks their advice will be helpful.

"The main goal is to involve the community in the family court system," he says, adding that the young jurors probably will learn as much from the court experience as the youngsters who are brought before him.

Attorney-General Gerry Mercier says the project is designed to make the sentencing of delinquents more meaningful. "Sentencing by one's peers may have more impact," he says.

If the juvenile jurors follow a pattern established in Denver, Colorado, where student juries have handed out sentences to about 300 juveniles since the program began six months ago, offenders should not expect light treatment from their peers.

Charlene Shaffer, a counsellor in the Colorado program, says young jurors often are harder on their peers than family court officials would be.

"In a recent case we had a 14-year-old who had been caught in a burglary," she said. "We thought he should pay only half the amount taken, because there had been a partner involved who hadn't been caught. But the jury decided he should pay the whole \$55."

## Canadian finalist in Australian architectural competition

An architect from British Columbia is one of five finalists selected by the Australian Government to receive \$133,000 (Cdn.) for his designs in the second stage of the competition for a design for Australia's new Parliament House.

Christopher Waite of Bowen Island, near Vancouver, is one of two overseas architects to be included in the group of five finalists. Nine-hundred-and-sixty-one architects registered for the competition; the five prize-winners were chosen from 329 entries.

The new Parliament House, due for completion in 1988 (to coincide with Australia's bicentenary celebrations) will be situated on Capital Hill, a central feature of the Canberra landscape.

Australia's Minister for Home Affairs, R.J. Ellicott, said the judges in the competition were "unanimously of the view that in the first stage they were selecting not so much buildings but architects who, in their design submissions had demonstrated a clear understanding of the problems posed by the construction of a Parliament House on Capital Hill".

## Operation changes eating habits of obese patients

A rare operation by two Alberta doctors is drastically changing the eating habits of obese patients.

"I used to love eating, but I don't miss it at all," says Gordon Brinkhurst, 46, one of the first persons in Western Canada to receive a gastroplasty (stomach change) for the grossly overweight.

Brinkhurst's stomach was divided into two chambers. The first chamber is a small pouch that serves as a stomach. When it's full, Brinkhurst feels full and stops eating. The contents of this pouch drains through a small opening to the rest of the stomach and are digested. "I've lost all interest in my food," he says.

Since the operation in March, Brinkhurst's weight has dropped 30 pounds to 240. "I've been really overweight for 15 years. The reason is simply I don't burn off the calories I eat. I don't like to think I'm a pig, but maybe I am," he says.

Not any more. Brinkhurst sits down to lunch of a half-cup of chicken casserole. He eats a few teaspoonfuls, then leans back and sighs. He is full.

An orderly at the hospital in Cardston, 30 miles north of Lethbridge, Alberta, Brinkhurst asked Dr. John Hollingsworth whether there was some kind of operation available for his problem. He had tried weight clubs and special diets and nothing had helped.

## Originated in U.S.

With Dr. Burns Larson, Dr. Hollingsworth researched an operation that originated about 13 years ago in the United States and had been performed a few times in Eastern Canada. They travelled to California to watch the operation and interview patients. So far, they have performed the operation on four obese patients.

The operation is major surgery and Brinkhurst cautions that it is not designed to be reversed. After the operation, patients supplement their meagre diet with vitamins and exercise to tone muscles and use energy.

Those who have the operation can expect to lose about 60 per cent of their excess weight in 12 to 18 months. Eventually the pouch will stretch to three times its size, allowing the patient to eat more than a few teaspoons of food at mealtimes.