

cereemonial features from their north-west coast neighbours. They take their name from one of their funeral rites. Long ago, widows of Carrier warriors were required to retrieve the charred bones of their dead from the funeral pyre and carry them in a leather pouch on their backs until their relatives could amass enough wealth to give a commemorative *potlatch*.

Until 1860, Fort St. James played a major role in the administration of the Hudson's Bay Company. Its geographical location made it ideal as the administration and supply centre of New Caledonia managing eight forts and trade over a 90,000-square mile area.

After 1860, settlement and new transportation lines led to the growth of new business centres but Fort St. James continued to be the shipping point of supplies for several posts.

The increase in volume of imported goods raised the quality of life at the fort along with increased demands for manual labour. In order to facilitate the handling of goods and reduce expenses, a tramway was constructed over the winter of 1894-1895. It consisted of a track on which small, wheeled wagons could be pushed up to the general warehouse. The track and wharf is scheduled to be reconstructed during the second phase of restoration at Fort St. James.

Six hundred miles north of Vancouver and almost the same distance west of Edmonton and Calgary, Fort St. James is off the beaten track. But it was an important link in the saga of the fur trade and the development of the West.

Canadians at Commonwealth Education Conference in Ghana

The Seventh Commonwealth Education Conference was held in Accra, Ghana, from March 9 to 18, 1977. Six previous conferences had been held in Oxford (1959), New Delhi (1962), Ottawa (1964), Lagos (1968), Canberra (1971) and Kingston, Ontario, (1974). The theme of the seventh conference was the economics of education. The conference considered the problem of financing education in the current economic climate and identified means by which further Commonwealth co-operation might benefit member countries.

Low-value definitive stamps

Because 1977 is the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, it is an appropriate time for a new definitive stamp featuring her portrait. The Queen, who appears on the 12¢ stamp, ascended the throne on February 6, 1952, on the death of her father King George VI. Queen Elizabeth has become a focus of national unity and of individual loyalty, the tangible emblem of continuity in the changing political scene.



The new 1¢ definitive issue shows the closed or bottle gentian, a perennial herb between one and two feet high. This rather rare flower is found from Quebec to Manitoba in damp meadows and thickets, and even on overgrown roadsides. It generally blooms in late summer or early autumn.

The western columbine, sometimes known as the red or Sitka columbine, graces the 2¢ stamp. This perennial herb is found from May to August in the moist meadows and woodland clearings of British Columbia and western Alberta. It attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

The Canada lily, appearing on the 3¢ definitive, blooms from June to August in the swamps and moist meadows of Eastern Canada. The plant usually grows between two and five feet high and produces up to 20 flowers. The Canada lily belongs to the same family as garlic and onion.

From the Maritimes to Manitoba, the hepatica is one of the earliest wild-flowers in the woods. This plant, seen on the 4¢ stamp, is sometimes known as the liverleaf, because it was once thought to be useful for healing liver

ailments. The hepatica grows in limy soil.

The 5¢ definitive presents a flower that is native to Western Canada. The shooting star, a spring flower, grows from five to 18 inches tall in woods and on mountains and prairies. It can also be cultivated in well-drained soil.

The sparrow's egg lady's slipper, also known as Franklin's lady's slipper, beautifies the 10¢ definitive. This plant, which blooms in June and July from Quebec to the Yukon, is an orchid, one of the few members of its family growing in the Arctic.

Heather Cooper, a Toronto artist and designer, created the designs for these definitives; her accurate rendering of each flower conveys the grace and beauty of the subject within the confines of a small stamp. The Latin designation for each flower appears in the plate-block inscriptions.

The bas-relief profile of the Queen featured on the 12¢ stamp is based on a black-and-white photographic study of Her Majesty by the British photographer Peter Grurgeon. The sculptor, Jaroslav Huta, completed his studies in Prague and came to Canada via Munich, where he worked for some years as a designer, sculptor and graphic artist. The layout design and typography are by Heather Cooper.

This issue of definitive stamps uses Cartier typeface, first cut by the Canadian typographer, the late Carl Dair.

U.S. Legion of Merit to retired General

A former general in the Canadian Armed Forces has been awarded the United States Legion of Merit in the degree of Commander. He is Lieutenant-General Richard C. Stovel, 55, of Winnipeg, who served as Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, before his retirement last September.

In the citation accompanying the award, General Stovel was praised for his "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the outstanding performance of duties as deputy commander-in-Chief...". The citation also noted his "untiring efforts to promote understanding and co-operation between the air forces of the United States and Canada...".