

Stamps depict Inuit spirits

"Inuit spirits" is the theme of a set of four new commemorative stamps released by Canada Post, September 25.

"The spirituality of a people is often the foundation for its way of life," said Postmaster-General André Ouellet. "This is especially true of the Inuit people living in Canada's northland. To the Inuit, spiritual force is present in each phenomenon of nature, not just in living creatures."



The Inuit spirit stamps, designed by Reinhard Derreth of Vancouver, feature prints and sculptures by Inuit artists. On the 17-cent stamps, the sculpture *Sedna*, a woman believed to be living on the sea bottom and controlling the supply of sea animals, is by artist Ashoona Kiawak; the print *Return of the Sun* representing animal species greeting the sun in a spirit of festivity is by Kenojouak. On the 35-cent stamps, the reproduction of the sculpture *Bird Spirit*, a bird with a human face indicating the presence of a spirit in the animal, is the work of Doris Hagiolok; the print *Shaman*, the intermediary between Inuit and the spirit world, is by Simon Tookoome.



This set of stamps completes a four-year series on the Inuit, with previous sets on themes of hunting, shelter and community life, for a total of 16 stamps. The series is presented in a heritage stamp collection entitled, *Singing Songs to the Spirit*.

Search for oil in Bay of Fundy

Two Canadian oil companies have launched a \$1-million search for oil and gas in the Bay of Fundy.

Irving Oil Limited and Chevron Standard (Canada) Limited, working with Axford and Associates Limited of Nova Scotia, announced that the 45-metre (150-foot) exploration ship *Western Narrows* started seismic testing recently in water between Digby Neck and the isthmus that connects Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Arthur Irving of Saint John, New Brunswick, chairman and president of Irving Oil, said past exploration off Nova Scotia has indicated geological formation under the Bay of Fundy may hold oil and gas.

Jerry Henderson, executive vice president of Chevron Standard, said he is cautiously optimistic about the chance of finding oil in the bay.

The survey work is expected to take about a month but it will take several months more to analyze all the data.

Drought aid provided

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan recently announced a program which will provide up to \$13.4 million to help livestock producers deal with the effects of this year's drought.

The program complements a \$41-million federal commitment to a herd maintenance assistance program announced in July by Mr. Whelan and Senator Hazen Argue, Wheat Board Minister. The herd maintenance assistance program ensures that basic breeding herds are not sold off because of feed shortages.

The new program has four parts:

- a straw feed procurement program which will pay drought-area producers \$10 a ton for purchased straw to an amount equivalent to one ton a cow in the basic breeding herd. It is estimated that straw purchased under this part of the program will cost the federal government \$6 million;
- a straw ammoniation program in which producers will be paid \$10 a ton for the treatment, which renders straw as palatable, digestible and nutritious as good-quality hay. The \$10 payment represents about half the cost of the treatment. It is expected that the cost to the federal government will be \$2 million;

- a green-feed-for-silage procurement program, which will pay \$10 a ton for purchased silage to a maximum of two tons a beef or dairy cow and one-half ton a ewe. It is estimated that this part of the program will cost the federal government \$5 million; and

- a nutritional advice and management program will begin, at a cost of \$150,000, to help producers who will be forced to feed their livestock unfamiliar or lower than normal-quality feeds. This part of the program will involve preparation of booklets, regional meetings and direct consultation with Agriculture Canada experts.

Canadians help Chinese mine gold

A team of Canadian mining experts has returned from China after completing the first phase of a major engineering services contract with the Chinese government.

The contract requires Wright Engineers Limited of Vancouver to carry out a feasibility study for a gold mine in Shandong Province in which there are two operating gold mines and which has a long history of gold mining.

A group of Chinese mining engineers have travelled to Canada as part of the project team to provide background data during the various phases of the study.

In addition to assessing the currently available data and information on the mine site, Wright Engineers Limited is expected to evaluate the requirements for further data, the methodology for collecting the information, and based on this information (and Chinese approval to proceed) to plan the design and operating procedures of the mine and other facilities required to extract gold from the ore body.

While the size of plant required will not be determined until all the data is assembled and analyzed, it is expected to be in the 1,000-2,000 ton-a-day size.

To date, almost 80 test holes have been drilled at the site and assay work and assessment of results are underway.

In addition to the mine and mill, Wright Engineers Limited is expected to provide material handling advice and design, the latest in pollution control equipment, an assessment of the use of sea water for treating the ore, as well as mine drainage and water supply and treatment.

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