

The volume of international travel is increasing annually and the expansion of regional office passport service will assist the Passport Office in keeping abreast with the continuing demand for passports. Some 460,000 Canadians are expected to apply this year – an increase of 10 per cent over applications in 1971 – and this will bring to almost 2 million the number of valid Canadian passports in circulation at the end of 1972.

Regional passport offices have proved to be popular and their contribution to the passport program has been significant. In 1971, the regional offices in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver produced in excess of 150,000 passports, representing about 37 per cent of the total volume. The regional offices' share will increase in 1972 with the opening of the two new offices in Halifax and Edmonton.

PREHISTORIC SITE UNCOVERED IN GASPE

Archaeologists of the Quebec Cultural Affairs Department have brought to light traces of a prehistoric settlement in the municipality of Cap-Chat in the Gaspé. The discovery was made recently during excavation operations carried out in connection with the program for the development of Eastern Quebec, and, as is often the case in events of this sort, was made entirely by chance.

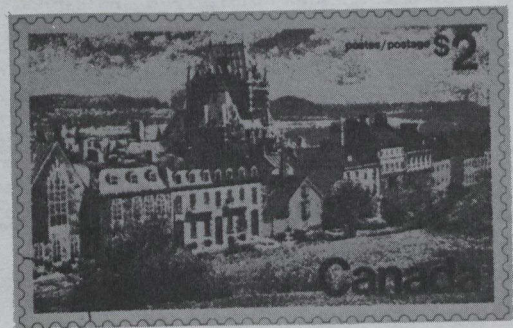
It was during preliminary work on the construction of Highway No. 6 that the site was uncovered. The Archaeological Branch of the Department of Cultural Affairs immediately sent Georges Barré, an archaeologist and an anthropologist, to supervise excavation operations.

During the excavations, started last October, archaeologists were able to distinguish three, and in one part of the site four, levels of occupation. The uppermost level consisted of rubbish from a relatively recent period; the nature of the material collected (plaster pipes, fragments of dishes, hardware, bottles, etc.) seems to indicate that it dated from the beginning of the nineteenth century; there was, however, no sign of any corresponding settlement. Immediately beneath this layer were two, and sometimes three, levels of prehistoric occupation, which yielded a considerable number of projectile-heads (spear-, arrow- and javelin-heads), scrapers, a few hand-axes (a type of large tool, chipped bifacially), a roughly polished stone, without a handle, used for grinding wild seed, a mortar, some bone tools and a middle-woodland potsherd. This last find made it possible to assign a maximum date of approximately 2,000 years to the site. An analysis of the radio-carbon content of organic remains will make it possible to determine the date with greater accuracy. More extensive excavation of the site would have been carried out had time and the season permitted.

STAMPS DESIGNED FOR CITIES

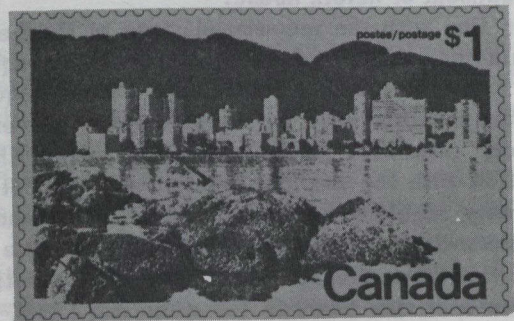
Two new stamps of \$1 and \$2 values, which are to go on sale on March 17, depict the cities of Vancouver and Quebec.

These multicolour issues, which were designed by Reinhard Derreth of Vancouver, measure 48 mm by 30 mm and are larger than the current high-value stamps.



QUEBEC

The \$2 issue shows the historic buildings of Quebec City, capital of the province of the same name, and an important eastern seaport. The origin of the name is not certain, but it is generally accepted that it derives from an Indian word *kebec*, meaning "where the river narrows". Quebec, the oldest city in Canada, was founded in 1608 by Samuel de Champlain and incorporated as a city in 1832. It is the only fortified city in North America and, in 1971, had 476,236 residents in its metropolitan area.



VANCOUVER

Vancouver, depicted on the \$1 stamp, with a metropolitan population of 1,071,081, is the largest and most important Canadian seaport on the Pacific Coast. The area was first explored by the Spanish and the English in 1791-92 and then, in the early 1800s, by fur traders from the Hudson's Bay Company. The first settlers arrived in 1862, establishing on the south shore of the inlet a settlement that came to be popularly known as "Gastown". The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the early 1880s led to the settlement's incorporation as a city in 1886. The city was named Vancouver by Sir William Van Horne of the CPR after Captain George Vancouver, who had explored the area in 1792.