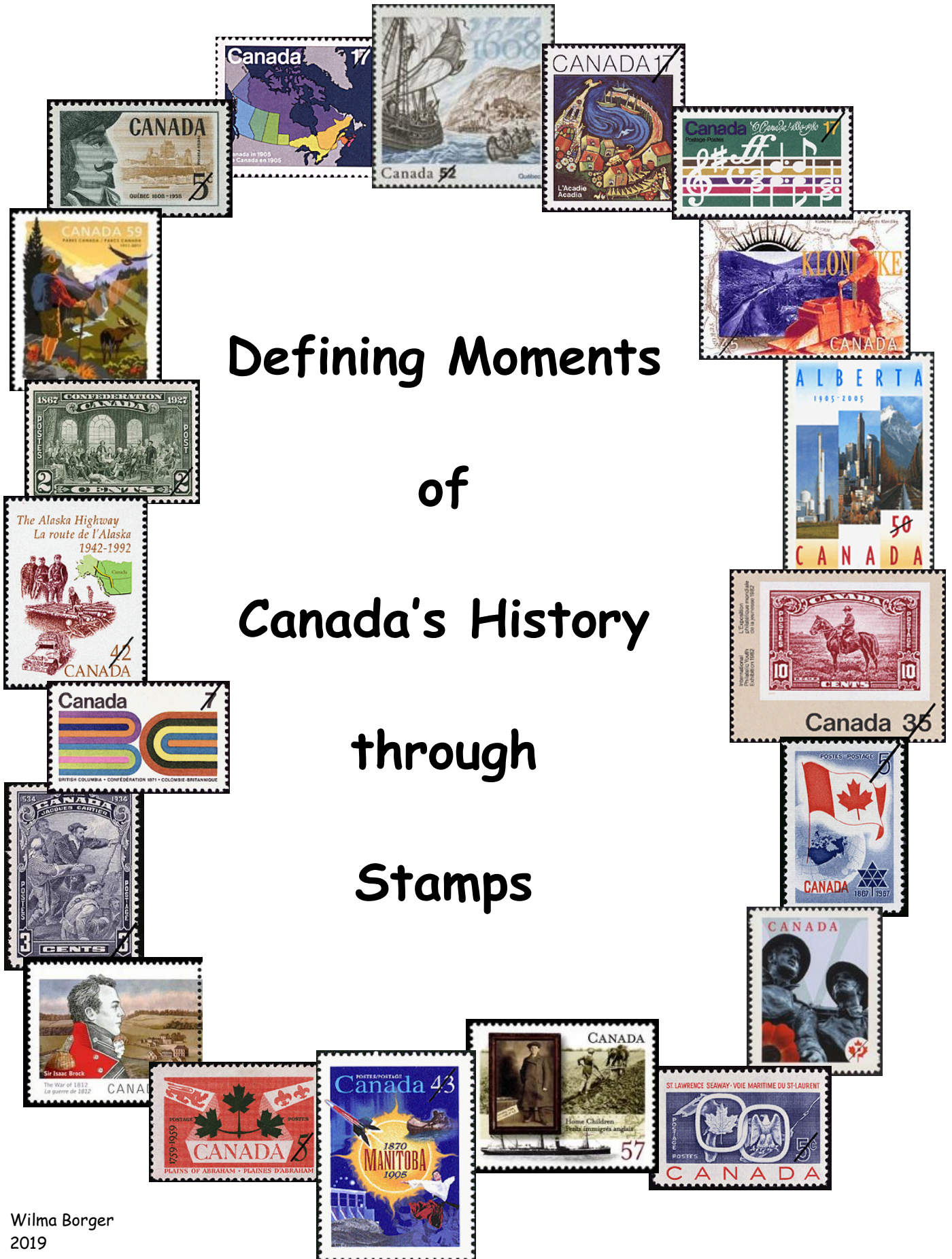


Defining Moments of Canada's History through Stamps



Defining Moments of Canadian History

Let the Stamps tell the Story

1497 Italian explorer John Cabot claims the island of Newfoundland for King Henry VII of England.



1534



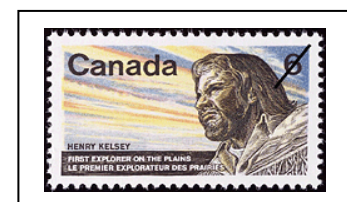
French explorer Jacques Cartier sails into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and claims the Gaspé Peninsula for France.



1608 French explorer Samuel de Champlain establishes a colony at Quebec City, the first permanent French settlement in North America.



1690 Henry Kelsey, an English fur trader and explorer for the Hudson's Bay Company, becomes the first white man to explore the regions west of Hudson Bay. He is amazed by the immense buffalo herds on the plains.



1755 The Acadians, who live in an area of conflict between Britain and France, are asked by the British to take an unconditional oath of allegiance to Britain. The Acadians refuse, and they are expelled from their homes and deported. In 1764 when the war with France is over, they return, settling far from their old homes.



1759



In the decisive Battle of the Plains of Abraham, General Wolfe defeats General Montcalm, ending the rule of France over most of North America.

1763 The first land route for mail delivery is established between Quebec, Trois-Rivieres, and Montreal.



1776 Thirteen British colonies in New England revolt against Britain and form an independent country known as the United States of America. United Empire Loyalists, American colonists who support Britain, flee north to settle in Upper and Lower Canada.



1793



Alexander Mackenzie completes the first east to west crossing of North America north of Mexico, preceding the Lewis and Clark expedition by twelve years. He inscribes a message on a rock near the water's edge in a reddish paint made of vermilion and bear grease to show he has been there.

1812 Britain and the United States battle for control of eastern North America in the War of 1812. Sir Isaac Brock is put in command of military operations for Upper and Lower Canada. Brock loses his life in the Battle of Queenston Heights.



1824 Construction begins on the Welland Canal between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The person responsible for initiating the project is William Hamilton Merritt, a sawmill and grist mill owner on Twelve Mile Creek. He proposes a system of locks and canals to bring boats past the 50 metre drop of Niagara Falls.



1851 Canada issues its first stamp, the three-penny beaver, designed by Sandford Fleming. This is the first official stamp in the world to feature an animal instead of the ruler of the country.



1858



Gold is discovered in rivers and stream beds of the Fraser River Valley in British Columbia. As many miners move west in search of wealth,

Britain establishes the Crown Colony of British Columbia on the mainland to strengthen their control over the area.



1864



A conference is held at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to discuss a union of the three Maritime provinces.

Representatives from the united Province of Canada

(Upper and Lower Canada) also attend this meeting to discuss the possibility of joining.



A second conference is held one month later in Quebec.

1865

To settle a dispute about which city should be the capital of the Province of Canada in 1857, Queen Victoria had named Ottawa as her choice. At the Quebec Conference of 1864, Ottawa is confirmed as the national capital of Canada and construction begins on the first Parliament Buildings.



1866 Representatives from the Province of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia attend a meeting in London, England to discuss final details for the formation of the new Dominion of Canada.



1867 The British North America Act passes British Parliament, and on July 1, 1867 the Province of Canada (now Ontario and Quebec), Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick are united and become the Dominion of Canada.



Prince Edward Island was part of the Charlottetown and Quebec Conferences, but it decides not to join Confederation in 1867.



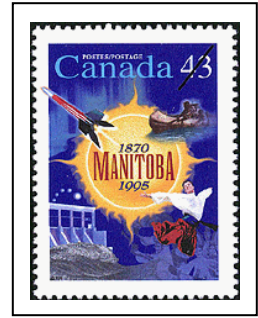
1867 John A. MacDonalD is inaugurated as the first prime minister of the Dominion of Canada.



1869 - 1932 More than 100,000 orphaned, abandoned, and pauper children are sent to Canada from Britain to give them a better chance for a healthier life. They are welcomed as a source of cheap farm labour and domestic help. Unfortunately, some of these children are poorly treated and abused, while others experience a better life than if they had stayed in the slums of England.



1870 Manitoba becomes Canada's fifth province. This new province is at first a small square of land around the Red River Valley.



1870

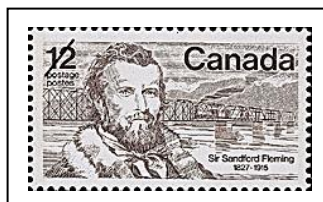


The Hudson's Bay Company transfers Rupert's Land to the Dominion of Canada. Rupert's Land is the vast area of wilderness to the north and west of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. This area becomes the North-West Territories.

1871 British Columbia becomes the sixth province of Canada, extending Canadian Confederation from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.



1872 Sandford Fleming surveys a route through the Rocky Mountains as part of his work for the Canadian Pacific Railway. The plan is to have a rail route through Canada from coast to coast. In 1879



Fleming proposes a worldwide system of standard time based on 24 time zones, each one hour apart. This system is accepted in 1929 by all major countries in the world. It is the same system we use today.

1873 Prince Edward Island becomes the seventh province of Canada.



1873 The North-West Mounted Police is established to maintain law and order in the Canadian West.



In 1920 the North-West Mounted Police becomes the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



1876 Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone. From his parent's home in Brantford, Ontario, he makes the first clear transmission of speech to a receiver in Paris, Ontario.



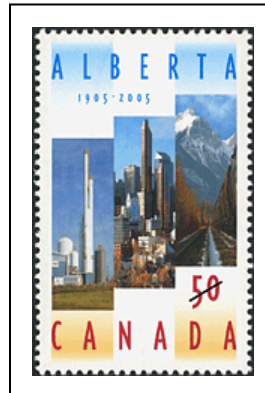
1880 Britain transfers control of the Arctic Islands to Canada.



1898 Two years after gold is discovered in the Klondike, the Canadian government separates the Yukon from the North-West Territories, giving them more control over their own area. The Yukon Territory becomes Canada's second territory.



1905 Alberta and Saskatchewan are separated from the North-West Territories to become the eighth and ninth provinces of Canada.



1911



Canada establishes the first national parks service in the world. Its purpose is to protect and preserve outstanding natural landscapes of Canada for present and future generations.

1914



Tragedy occurs in the early hours of May 29 as the ocean liner *Empress of Ireland* collides in thick fog with the Norwegian coal ship *Storstad* at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River near Rimouski, Quebec. The *Empress* sinks in just 14 minutes. It is considered the greatest maritime disaster in Canada's history.

1915

A Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, writes the poem *In Flanders Fields* during the First World War after the second battle of Ypres.



1917 Halifax is a busy port as it supplies Canada's efforts in the war.



On December 6, the French steamship *Mont-Blanc* and the Belgian steamer *Imo* collide in the harbour. This causes the biggest manmade explosion the world has seen, resulting in much loss of life and millions of dollars in damage.

1917 Women are granted the right to vote in Canadian federal elections.



1917



The Battle of Vimy Ridge is Canada's most important military victory in World War I.



Although many Canadians die in this battle, it helps to define Canada as a strong, independent nation.

1918 Armistice is declared to end World War I. Canadians from coast to coast pause in silent tribute every year in the eleventh month on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day to remember those who died in defence of our country.



1921



King George V issues a proclamation to establish Canada's Coat of Arms. The motto contains the Latin words, *A Mari Usque Ad Mare*, meaning "from sea to sea."

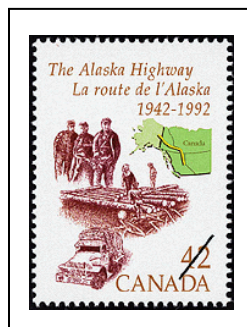
1927 The Peace Bridge connecting Fort Erie, Ontario and Buffalo, New York is completed in nine months. This bridge is viewed as a monument to the peaceful years existing between Canada and the United States since the War of 1812.



1939 Canada declares war on Germany and sends troops to fight in World War II.



1942 The United States government decides an inland route to Alaska is vital after the Japanese attack Pearl Harbour in 1941. The Alaska Highway, stretching from Fairbanks, Alaska to Dawson City, Yukon, is built across five mountain ranges. It is constructed in just eight months.



1944 D-Day, June 6, 1944. Together with other Allied forces, Canadian forces storm the beaches of Normandy to begin the liberation of western Europe.



1949 Newfoundland becomes the tenth province of Canada.



The changes in Canada's Confederation from 1867 to 1949:



1959



The St. Lawrence Seaway is opened.

This joint project between Canada and the United States links the

Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes with seven locks on the St. Lawrence River, eight locks at the Welland Canal, and one lock at Sault Ste. Marie.



1962 The Trans-Canada Highway is completed.

This is the world's longest national highway crossing Canada from east to west, linking St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia. The most difficult sections to build were the Rogers Pass in British Columbia and the area north of Lake Superior between Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa, Ontario.



1965



A distinct new Canadian flag is adopted. It features a red maple leaf on a white background with a vertical red bar on either side. The national colours of red and white were

given to Canada by King George V in 1921. Red represents England and white represents France.



Interest in the provincial flags starts to rise as many provinces were approaching their centennial anniversaries.



1967 Canada celebrates 100 years of Confederation. A stylized maple leaf logo consisting of 11 equilateral triangles is designed for Canada's centennial.



Queen Elizabeth II visits Canada to officially mark this historic occasion.

The provincial flowers and coat of arms of the ten provinces and two territories, together with the date that they entered Confederation:



Ontario - 1867



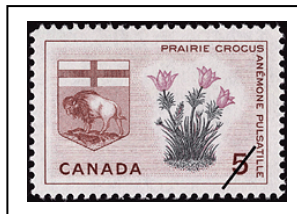
Quebec - 1867



Nova Scotia - 1867



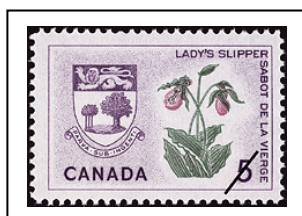
New Brunswick - 1867



Manitoba - 1870



British Columbia - 1871



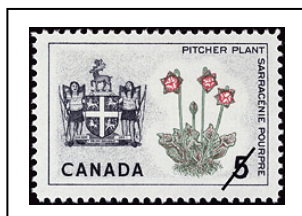
Prince Edward Island - 1873



Saskatchewan - 1905



Alberta - 1905



Newfoundland - 1949



Northwest Territories - 1870



Yukon Territory - 1898

1980



"O Canada" is officially adopted as Canada's national anthem. This song was first sung in Quebec in 1880. The Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec had asked music composer Calixa Lavallée to write the music, and Adolphe-Basile Routhier to write the words for an anthem to be sung on Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day. Robert Stanley Weir wrote the English version in 1908.

1981 Queen Elizabeth II signs the Canadian Constitution Act containing a new Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, thereby transferring control of the former British North America Act to Canada.

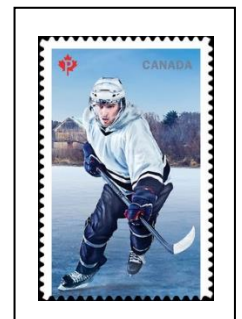


1994 Parliament passes an Act declaring lacrosse to be the national summer sport of Canada, and hockey the national winter sport.



Lacrosse has a long history in Canada. This game was played by First Nations peoples before the arrival of European colonists.

Ice hockey originated in Nova Scotia where the field game of "hurley" was taken to the frozen skating ponds and eventually developed into "ice hockey."



1997 The Confederation Bridge opens to traffic. The only way to travel from Canada's mainland to Prince Edward Island for many years was by boat. However, ice conditions in the winter made this difficult. Plans were made to construct a "fixed link" from the island to New Brunswick. Built in an "S" shape, this bridge takes 10-15 minutes to cross.



1999 Nunavut is separated from the Northwest Territories to become Canada's third territory.



2015 Queen Elizabeth II becomes the longest reigning monarch in Canadian history. She has reigned over the United Kingdom, Canada, and 15 other independent countries in the



Commonwealth for more than 63 years, surpassing the reign of her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria.



2017 Canada celebrates the 150th anniversary of Confederation with a new logo arranged in the shape of a maple leaf. The four red diamonds at the base represent the four original provinces of Confederation.

