



# Stamps Larry McInnis

## New Collectors Should Find Capex Sheet Useful

Some of the most imaginative work put into CAPEX 87 was done by Canada Post.

Wait! Don't change the channel! This is not a commercial. It's about Canadian history, about postal history. It's stuff you should know about.

Still sounds like a commercial, eh? Well, let's try this.

The Canada Post presentation folder of the four stamps issued to honor heritage post offices, plus the souvenir sheet for CAPEX 87, will give the neophyte collector a good insight into the stamp-color printing process.

The souvenir sheet does a good job of this on its own. If you haven't seen it, it has three stamps in a row, a 36-cent showing the Nelson-Miramichi, New Brunswick post office, a 42-cent showing the St. Ours, Quebec post

office, and a 72-cent showing the Battleford, Saskatchewan post office.

It would seem to anyone other than an experienced collector (you can wink here, if you like) that there are three stamps on the second row in the sheet. But only the stamp on the right in the lower row is a real 36-cent stamp, showing Toronto's first post office.

The stamps were printed in one-color engraving for the line work of the backgrounds and post offices (black), and in six-color lithography for the colored portion of the post offices.

How this was done is explained in living color (a little humor there, eh?) in the presentation folder.

By the way, the 36-cent stamp showing the Toronto post office had previously been issued as a 34-cent single. The folder also includes

that stamp

Warning: If you have trouble refolding road maps, you may experience some slight difficulty with this presentation folder.

Another interesting souvenir folder, much easier to fold, has pockets for all three souvenir sheets issued to promote CAPEX 87: the four 34-cent "Lighthouses of Canada" stamps issued October 3, 1985, the four 34-cent stamps in the "Exploration of Canada" series issued October 1, 1986, and the June 12, 1987 CAPEX 87 souvenir sheet.

Look. I'm sorry that I must mention prices here, but you'll see why.

Face value of the stamps in the three-sheet souvenir folder is \$4.58, with a selling price of \$4.95. For only thirty-seven cents you get the neat "album."

Face value of the 1987 CAPEX stamps and sheet is \$3.90. Selling price is \$4.95.

The \$1.25 difference is for the bigger folder no doubt, plus a small charge for a lesson in printing techniques. That must account for the difference, don't you think?

The official first day cover is something else, too. To accommodate the souvenir sheet, plus a cachet showing

reproductions of old post marks, a humongous envelope (cover) was required. You're all familiar with what's known as a No. 10 business envelope — on that scale, the PDC must be a No. 15 1/2.

As I write this, I am opening up envelopes of stuff brought back from CAPEX 87 by my wife and daughter. Here's one, a beautiful Australian scene over five stamps. Oops! They were bought because they're beautiful stamps, but they weren't issued for CAPEX 87.

Here's another envelope. Oh! It contains a dozen of Canada's CAPEX 87 souvenir sheets.

And another souvenir, this one a booklet, put out by the United States Postal Service for its June 13 first day issue of fifty wildlife stamps for CAPEX 87.

CAPEX is not mentioned on the stamps, but that's a moot point.

The booklet was given free to everyone paying the \$5 daily admission to CAPEX 87 (such as my wife and daughter, who didn't have press passes). It contained ten of the fifty stamps, pasted to the opening page and neatly cancelled.

We never got around to

buying the other forty, and just as well: we'd have cried, pasting them into the booklet.

Did you know that the gum of an average postage stamp contains one-tenth of a calorie. It's true. You can look it up. We saved 58.80 (U.S.) and four calories by not proceeding with that particular collection.

Even if you didn't get to CAPEX 87, all the Canadian educational material is available at your nearest postal philatelic counter.

## Polly's Pointers

DEAR POLLY — in place of croutons in a salad, I use potato chips, especially the flavored types such as butter and herb. I crush the chips into fairly large pieces and sprinkle them in with the salad fixings. This gives a different flavor than just plain croutons.

I also have a use for leftover wrapping paper. It makes great stationery (write on the plain side). It can also be pressed with a cool iron and the printed side used as a background for a child's school picture. — SPARKY

Polly will send you a Polly Dollar (\$1) if she uses your favorite Pointer, Peavee or Problem in her column. Write POLLY'S POINTERS in care of this newspaper.

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