

Canada Post Remembers Its Heroes

On October 24 Canada Post issued a single stamp in a sheetlet and booklet pane to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

After more than four years of bitter struggle, the fighting in the First World War came to an end at “the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” of 1918. This stamp celebrates the silencing of the guns and commemorates those who fought and died for peace. Of the more than 650,000 Canadians who served with the Allies, over 66,000 were killed and 172,000 were wounded.

Designers Larry Burke and Anna Stredulinsky, of Halifax’s Burke & Burke, placed the dove—a universal symbol of peace—at the center of the stamp. The bird hovering over barbed wire in a devastated landscape serves as a poignant metaphor for the return of peace to a war-torn world.

“To us, the armistice was less about the moment of its signing 24 Ottawa, Ontario cancellation.



than the lasting peace it brought,” explained Burke, adding that photos of the celebrations in 1918 were selected for the booklet, pane and Official First Day Cover to convey the relief, joy and hope that Canadians felt when the fighting stopped.

After the war, Armistice Day was observed on a Monday in early November until 1931, when a campaign led by the Canadian Legion resulted in a fixed date of November 11 and a new name: Remembrance Day.

Every year on this day—when the clock strikes eleven—Canadians observe two minutes of silence in honor of the brave men and women who served Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace.

The stamps were printed by Lowe-Martin using a four color lithography process. They were issued in booklets of ten stamps each and a pane of five stamps. The Official First Day Cover has an October



UNIC MARTIN Design: Larry Burke, Anna Stredulinsky / Burke & Burke • Illustration: Allan Dixon
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