

# Canada Marks Ontario Museum Centennial

On April 14, Canada celebrated the Centennial of the Royal Ontario Museum. Situated in Toronto, the Museum focuses on world culture as well as natural history. It is one of the largest museums in North America, attracting over one million visitors a year.

Established on April 16, 1912 and opened on March 19, 1914, the museum was under the direct control and management of the nearby University of Toronto until 1968. Now independent, today it is Canada's largest field-research institution.

From Wikipedia we learn that the museum contains more than six million items in forty galleries. It possesses notable collections of dinosaurs, minerals and meteorites, Near Eastern and African art, Art of East Asia, European history, and Canadian history. It also houses the world's largest collection of fossils



from the Burgess Shale formation in the Canadian Rockies, with more than 150,000 specimens, and an extensive collection of design and fine arts.

Canada Post joined in the Centennial celebration with two different Permanent stamps. (Similar to the U.S. Forever stamps, Canada preceded the U.S. in using stamps that can be used to pay the current domestic rate.) The stamps showcase a few of the many notable museum artifacts, including a dinosaur skeleton, a Shiva sculpture, a bison and a mummified cat. They were issued in a booklet of ten stamps (five of each) as well as a souvenir sheet with one of each stamp.

For information on this and other Canada new issues and a link to the Canada Post website, please go to <http://www.stampnewsnow.com/canadaPostnewissues.html>.