

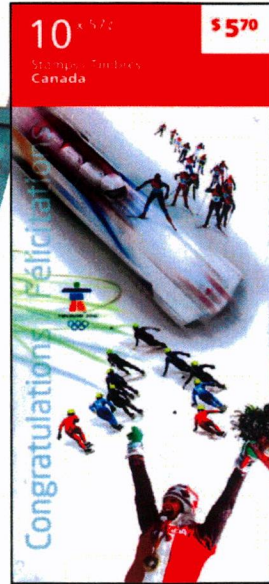
TORCH BEARER



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- 2004
- 2008
- 2012**
- 2016



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

The representative of F.I.P.O. in Great Britain



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BACK ISSUES: At present, most issues of TORCH BEARER are still available to Volume 1, Issue 1, (March 1984), although some are now exhausted.

As stocks of each issue run out, they will not be reprinted. It is Society policy to ensure that new members will be able to purchase back issues for a four year period, but we do not guarantee stocks for longer than this. Back issues cost £2.00 each, or £8.00 for a year's issues to Volume 24, and £2.50 per issue, from Volume 25 except Vol.25 issue 4b which is £4.00 and Volume 27 Issue 1 which is £6.00, including postage by surface mail. If ordering single copies, please indicate which volume you require. Cheques should be made payable to the SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS and sent with your order to David Buxton at the above address. If you wish to receive back issues by airmail, please add 90 pence per issue (£3.60 per volume).

LIBRARY: Photocopies of articles are available through the Librarian at 10 pence per sheet. Please enclose payment with the order. Books may be borrowed, but postage must be paid IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. The Librarian's address is listed above.

COPY DATES: TORCH BEARER is published four times a year; in March, June, September and December. Articles or adverts for inclusion in a particular issue should be sent at least two months in advance.

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

Membership starts on election, of which applicants will be notified, and will last for one calendar year. All back issues of the magazine for the current year will be sent to members joining during the year.

Junior members are those aged under 18 years in the year of joining, subscription rates are half of the adult rate until the 18th birthday.

All applications should be made to the Secretary.

Subscription rates for 2010 are:

U.K. £14.00; Europe, £17.00 (€ 24, \$US 35).

Outside Europe, £19.00 (€ 27, \$US 39, \$AU 42)

Acceptable forms of payment: Sterling, \$US, \$Australian or € currency notes; Sterling cheques; **PayPal - in £ sterling**.

FRONT PAGE

Welcome to a new Olympic year - I trust that you will all have enjoyed the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. This issue has been devoted to the Vancouver Games, and attempts to bring information together in one convenient location.

As you will be following the exploits of Thomas Lippert, my wife Brenda and I through the following pages, the 'Front Page' has been handed over to our Secretary.

Hopefully you all had a happy Christmas, and rather belatedly, a happy philatelic 2010! Now that the snow and bad weather seem, largely, to be going away, maybe our collecting interests can begin in earnest!

On Saturday 27th February we were pleased to see about 12 members and a some partners, at our meeting at Philatex, where we had a get together, bourse, and Bob Wilcock gave his presentation on The 1908 Marathon, giving details gleaned from postcards, local newspapers, etc. when compiling his book on the 1908 Games, over a period of 5 years. If you do not yet have a copy and have an interest in postcards and marathon running, or the 1908 Olympic Games, this is an excellent book that should be in your bookcase. Please send orders to Bob Wilcock, using the order form in Torch Bearer, or contact him by e-mail, details on the inside front cover. Maybe you have children or grandchildren with an interest in the subject, and it would make a nice gift, and maybe get them interested in 2012.

Your committee need help. We prepare the souvenirs and Smartstamp issues and get them all posted to supply your demands. We are finding it is getting very difficult to get these to post offices within the time constraints that apply, with the available bodies. If you feel that you would like to know more, or that you would like to serve on the committee, please let me know and I will make sure you get an invitation to meet and have a chat.

With 2010 Vancouver now over, I can get back to going to bed at sensible times, and think about how I get involved in the many events that will be coming our way in the run up to 2012. SOC will be sharing a booth with FIPO at London 2010 in May - if you visit the exhibition, please come and say hello!

Paula Burger

Advance Notice of Pin Collecting articles

With the Olympics coming to London and Great Britain in 2012, so will the pins and pin traders. Described as the "largest spectator sport of the Games," Olympic pins have existed for over 100 years and have been traded among athletes and officials almost as long. The general spectators, the press and sponsors have been involved in a big way well over 30 years. To help British collectors get "up to speed" with this area of Olympic collecting, two long time expert collectors will be presenting a series of articles beginning next issue. Sid Marantz and Bud Kling have been to twenty five Olympics between them, published articles on pin collecting in various forms in the past and are both members of the International Society of Olympic Historians. They will present the history of pins and the hobby, discuss categories of pins, give advice on ways to get involved and cover other topics in our publication leading up to the games. We hope you will find these articles of interest.

VANCOUVER 2010 - Expectations

Visits to previous Olympic Games at which the postal operations have been observed and reported enabled the preparation of an 'expectations' list. Some items on the list were a direct result of Canada Post information releases, some were as a result of previous experience, and others were a result of occurrences at Montreal and Calgary, the previous occasions that Canada had hosted celebrations of the Olympic Games.

A list of items and potential items was created in readiness for our visit to Vancouver:

- a) 12.01.2010 Stamp issue and covers;
- b) Foil overprinted miniature sheets,
- c) 22.02.2010 'Celebration' stamp issue;
- d) Illustrated cancels;
- e) Metropolitan Vancouver 'generic' Olympic / Paralympic cancels;
- f) Covers for the final days of the Torch Relay.

- g) Potential cancels or postal items from the Olympic infrastructure:
 - Vancouver Olympic Village;
 - Vancouver Media Centre;
 - Olympic Family Hotel;
 - Whistler Olympic Village;
 - Whistler Media Centre.
- h) Purolator envelopes;
- i) Canada Post Express stationery covers;
- j) General Mills 'Cheerios' postal stationery cards.

The addresses of post offices participating in the cancellation programme were noted, and directions / maps prepared in readiness for visits.

The relevance of the geographical location of the post offices and the event / infrastructure cancels they were allocated was noted.

The sources or origins of items placed on this list are detailed on the following pages, and our 'success' in realising these expectations can be judged throughout this issue.

The benefits of producing a list of this kind in advance become obvious during the limited time available during the Olympic Games, and this is clearly demonstrated on the following pages, however there are two other very important requirements to make such a philatelic visit to the Olympic Games successful:

- Establish a rapport with the postal staff, and try to understand their methods of operation. Identify the size of items such as registration labels, cancels etc., and the process for registration, obtaining cancels etc. in advance.

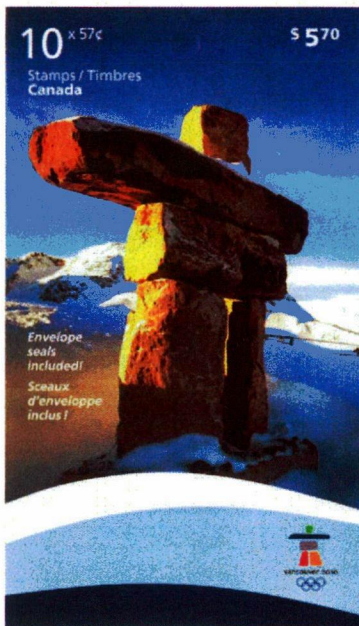
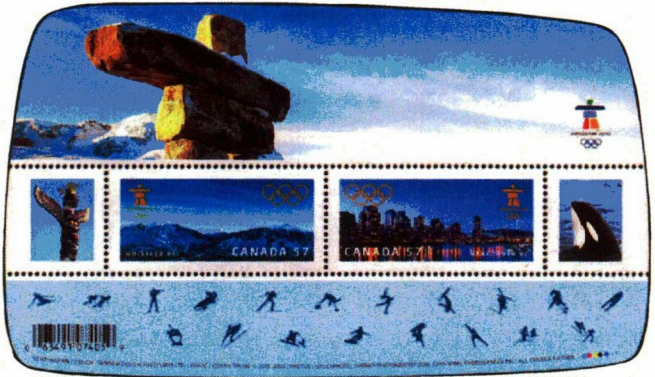
- Watch other collectors, and engage with them - socialise and share current knowledge.

There is also one very important 'no-no' - Do not alienate postal staff, and do not demand any preferential treatment. They have a job to do, and that is what they are employed for. They are not there just for the benefit of eccentric collectors.

a) 12.01.2010 Stamp issue and covers

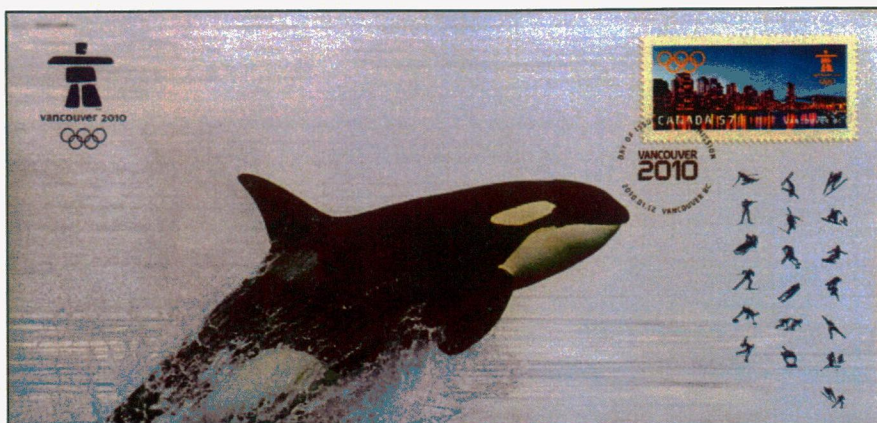
This issue was announced by Canada Post via the press, their website, and their subscribers journal, and was therefore known to be available.

*Miniature sheet of
2 x 57c. Values.
Gummed and
perforated.*



*Booklet of 10 x 57c. Values.
Self-adhesive, die-cut.*





For mailing in Canada and delivery worldwide.
Dépôt au Canada. Livraison à l'échelle internationale.

Postage Paid indicia on the stationery cards.

Above: Official first day covers.



For mailing in Canada and delivery worldwide.
Dépôt au Canada. Livraison à l'échelle internationale.

b) Foil overprinted miniature sheets

News of the existence of these sheets was first received from Mark Maestroni, and the initial publicity material and responses from Canada Post suggested that the sheets would be limited to 16,000 copies, and would only be available as a part of Bronze, Silver and Gold, collectors sets containing coins, pins and a souvenir sheet in each set - three sets, at a cost of \$49.95 each (and the gold set was over-subscribed before issue).

Subsequent correspondence and notices announced that the set of three sheets would be made available as a set, at face value, and would be issued on 12th. February, 2010.

A limit of two packs per customer was also applied.



**A souvenir pack that shines /
Le feu olympique en pochette-souvenir**

Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games
Limited Edition Souvenir Pack
Pochette à tirage limité
des Jeux olympiques et paralympiques d'hiver de 2010 à Vancouver

\$ 8⁷³

Limit of 2 per customer /
Maximum de 2 par client

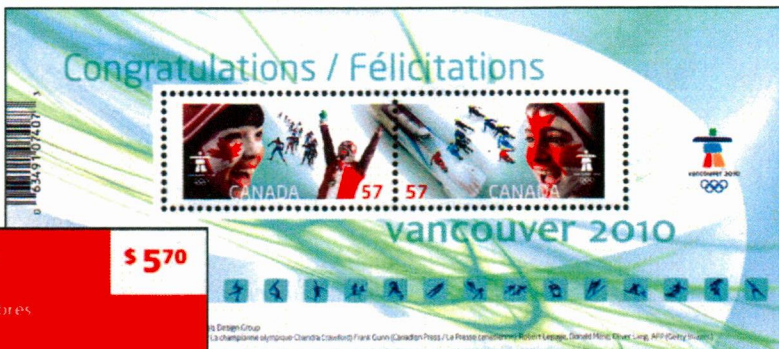
Contains the bronze, silver and gold overprinted souvenir sheets.
Contient trois blocs-feuilles avec surcharge en bronze, en argent et en or.

\$8⁷³.
341816

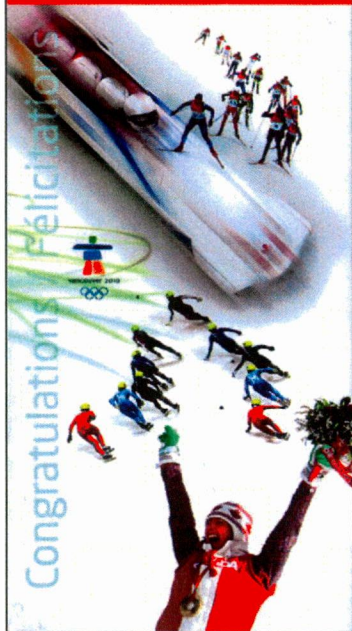
c) 22.02.2010 'Congratulations' stamp issue

This issue was announced by Canada Post via the press, their website, and their subscribers journal.

The issue includes, a miniature sheet of 2 x 57c. Values, a self adhesive booklet of five sets (10 x 57c.), and a first day cover of the miniature sheet.



10 x 57c
 Stamps / Timbres
 Canada
\$ 570



Above: 22.02.2010 miniature sheet.

Left: Cover of the booklet of 10 self adhesive stamps.

Below: Contents of the self adhesive booklet.



d) Illustrated cancels

The special cancels were announced by Canada Post as the Olympic and Paralympic cancel programme. 24 cancels were illustrated, but they included a proportion of the Olympic and Paralympic designs.

Addresses of the post offices at which the cancels would be available were given, but with the exception of Richmond PO, they were noted as 'available on a rotating basis'. Details of this rotation were released later.

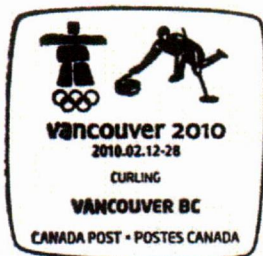
Mark Maestroni, noticed that there was no correlation between the dates that cancels were available and the dates on which the illustrated disciplines took place. In fact, for a number of events, the appropriate cancel was not scheduled for use on any of the competition dates.

As a result of Mark's alert, a number of representations were made, and the eventual outcome was a Canada Post communique that the cancels allocated to each post office would be available on all operational days during the Winter Olympic Games.

The allocation of cancels was:

Vancouver Main PO 349 West Georgia Street Vancouver BC V6B 3A0 Tel: 800-267-1177 Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:30pm Saturday, open 10:00am-3:00pm Sunday, closed	Curling Figure Skating Ice Hockey Short track speed skating Opening/Closing Ceremonies Main Media Centre Olympic Village, Vancouver Mascots (Welcome)	} Designated Vancouver
	Freestyle skiing, Aerials Freestyle skiing: Moguls Freestyle skiing, Ski cross Snowboard, Cross Snowboard, Halfpipe Snowboard, Parallel giant slalom	
	Alpine skiing Biathlon Bobsleigh Cross country skiing Luge Nordic combined Skeleton Ski jumping Olympic Village, Whistler	} Designated Whistler
	Speed Skating	

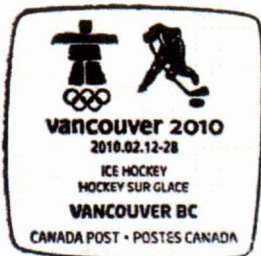
<p>Vancouver Station D 2405 Pine Street Vancouver BC V6J 3E0 Tel: 604-482-4214 Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm Saturday & Sunday, closed</p>	<p>Curling Figure skating Ice hockey Short track speed skating Opening/Closing Ceremony Mascots (Welcome)</p>
<p>West Vancouver PO 1427 Bellevue Ave West Vancouver BC V7T 1C0 Tel: 604-926-2822 Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm Saturday & Sunday, closed</p>	<p>Freestyle skiing, Aerials, Freestyle skiing: Moguls, Freestyle skiing, Ski cross Snowboard, Cross, Snowboard, Halfpipe, Snowboard, Parallel giant slalom .</p>
<p>Richmond Station Main 7871 Westminster Highway Richmond B.C. V6Y 1A0 Tel: 604-278-5215 Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm Saturday & Sunday, closed</p>	<p>Speed Skating</p>



Curling



Figure skating



Ice hockey



Short track speed skating



*Opening ceremony /
Closing ceremony*



Main media centre



Olympic village



Welcome



Speed skating



Freestyle skiing: Aerials



Freestyle skiing: Moguls



Freestyle skiing: Ski cross



Snowboard: Snowboard cross



Snowboard: Halfpipe



Snowboard: Parallel giant slalom



Alpine skiing



Biathlon



Bobsleigh



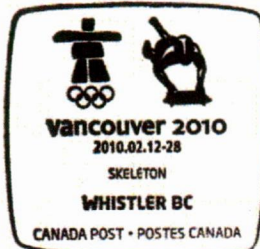
Cross-country skiing



Luge



Nordic combined



Skeleton



Ski jumping



Whistler Olympic village

e) Metropolitan Vancouver
'generic' Olympic / Paralympic cancels

Canada Post announced that the generic style Olympic cancel with variable date would be available at a number of post offices in the Vancouver metropolitan area.



649333 Surrey Main PO
10688 King George Hwy
SURREY BC
V3T 2Y0 604-589-3445

642487 Langley, Fort Langley PO
23277 Mary Avenue
LANGLEY BC
V1M 1A0 604-888-3144

640131 Aldergrove PO
2936 272nd Street
ALDERGROVE BC
V4W 1A0 604-856-6125

105481 Burnaby South PO
6025 Sussex Street
BURNABY BC
V5H 3B0 604-482-4299

093122 Delta Main PO
5010 48th Avenue
DELTA BC
V4K 1V0 604-946-4014

058920 Coquitlam Main PO
1029 Ridgeway
COQUITLAM BC
V3J 1S0 604-936-9717

f) Covers for the final days of the Torch Relay.

Our arrival in Vancouver on the 7th. February, would allow the opportunity to mail items at the post offices equipped with the generic Olympic cancel on the dates that the torch relay would visit their communities.

g) Potential cancels or postal items from the Olympic infrastructure

From previous experience, we suspected that there would be identifying features on items mailed from post offices within the Olympic infrastructure, the most probable facilities being:

Vancouver Olympic Village;
Vancouver Media Centre;
Olympic Family Hotel;
Whistler Olympic Village;
Whistler Media Centre.

h) Purolator envelopes

A press release of March 6, 2008 stated:


"The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) today welcomed Purolator Courier Ltd. to its Official Supplier category as the exclusive supplier of courier services for the 2010 Winter Games. As part of the Official Supplier partnership with VANOC, Purolator will also be the official courier for the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Canadian Olympic team at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games and the London 2012 Olympic Games."

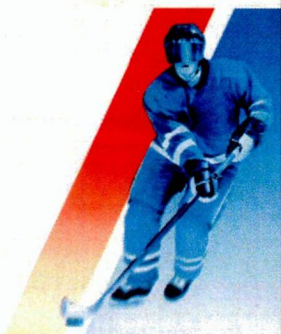
Extremely Urgent! / Très urgent!

www.purolator.com 1 888 SHIP-123

Purolator Express

Envelope/Enveloppe

 **vancouver 2010**
OFFICIAL SUPPLIER
FOURNISSEUR OFFICIEL



Purolator

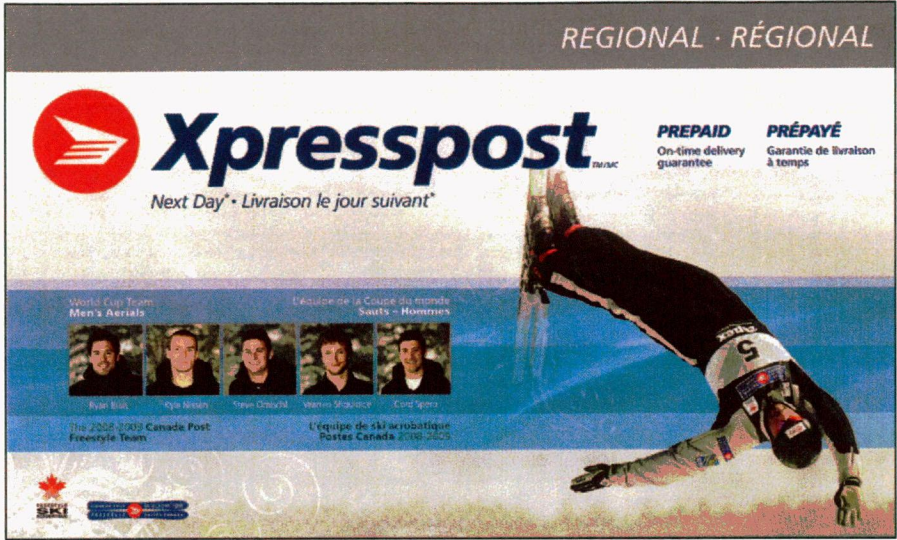
Helping deliver the Games / Prenez la route des Jeux

Ice hockey, one of a series of 382 x 242mm card envelopes from Purolator.

i) Canada Post Express stationery covers

Canada Post were sponsors of the Canadian Freestyle Ski Team, and as part of the marketing associated with their sponsorship, illustrated pre-paid Express envelopes were introduced.

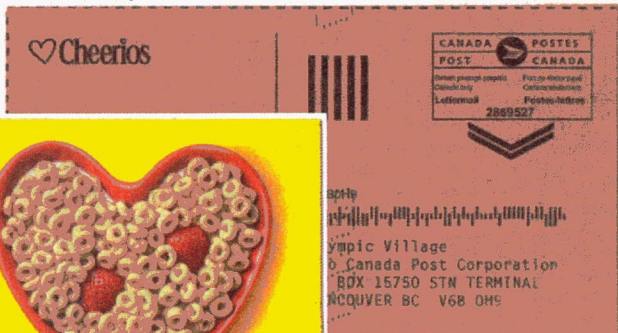
Commemorative envelopes were available for 'Regional' or 'National' use. Envelope sizes were 260 x 158mm., and 317 x 211mm.



The 2008-2009 Canada Post Freestyle Team - Men's Aerials 260 x 158mm.

jj) General Mills 'Cheerios' postal stationery cards.

Thanks to John Larmer, we were aware of pre-paid postcards that were



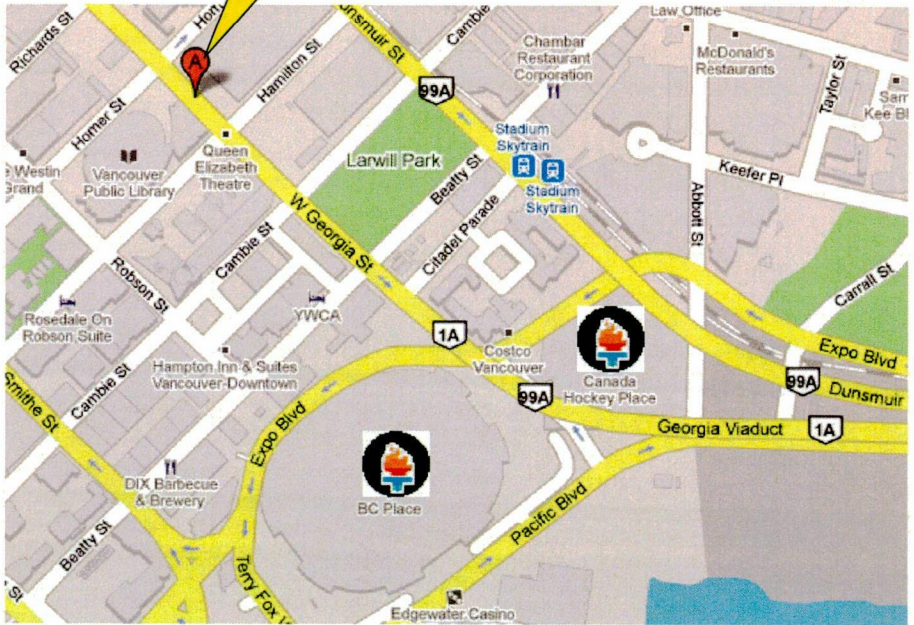
cut out from cheerios cereal boxes. These were pre-addressed to send a message to a canadian athlete.

Post Office locations

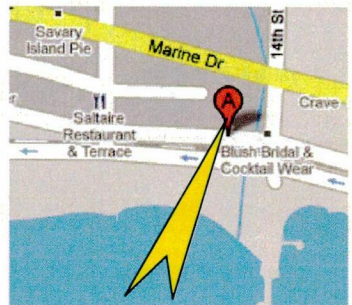
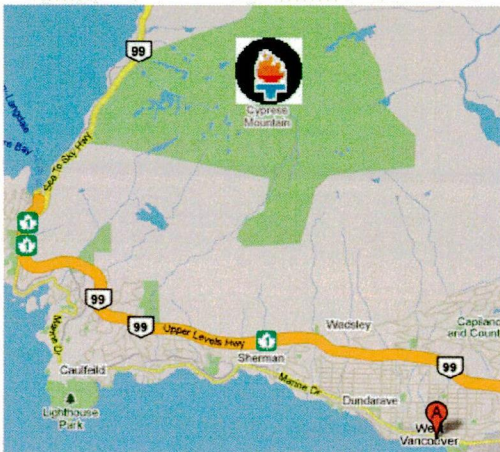
Vancouver Main PO
 349 West Georgia Street
 Vancouver BC V6B 3A0

Vancouver Main PO

Located in the vicinity of BC Place, Canada Hockey Place, Vancouver Olympic Village and the Media Centre.

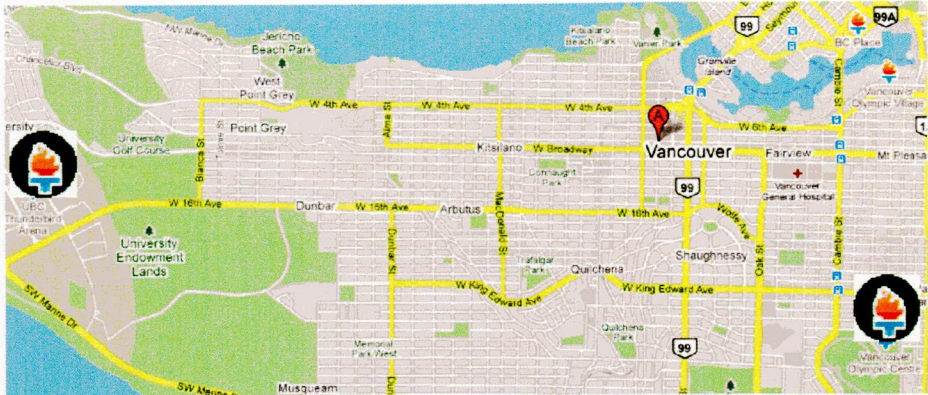


West Vancouver PO Nearest Olympic venue, Cypress Mountain.



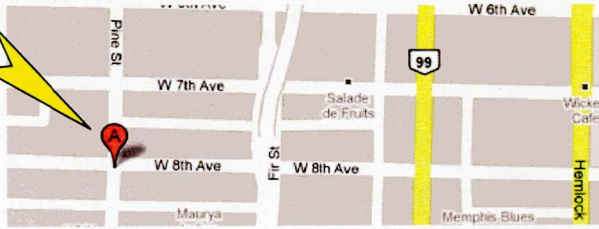
West Vancouver PO
 1427 Bellevue Ave
 West Vancouver BC V7T 1C0

Vancouver Station D

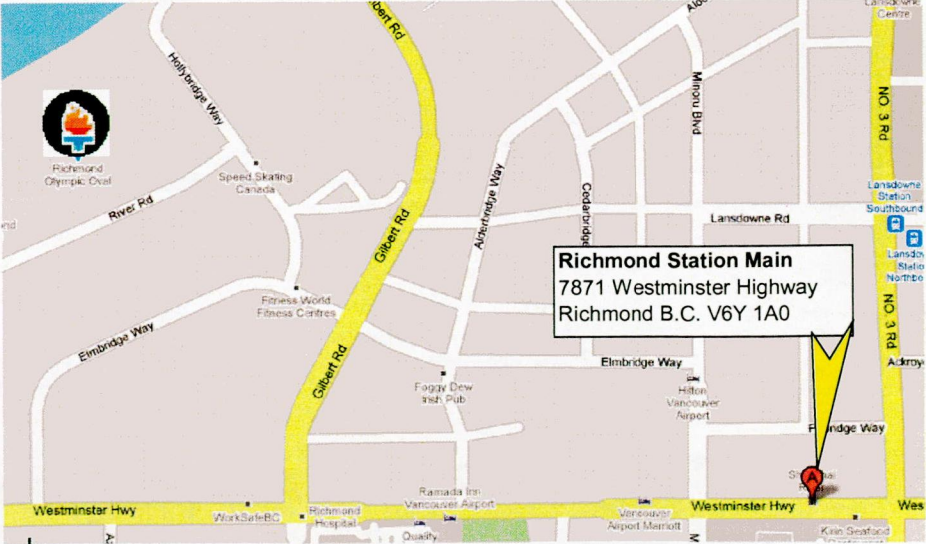


Vancouver Station D
 2405 Pine Street
 Vancouver BC V6J 3E0

Closest post office to the
 Thunderbird Arena and
 Vancouver Olympic Centre.



Richmond PO



Richmond Station Main
 7871 Westminister Highway
 Richmond B.C. V6Y 1A0

In the area of the Richmond Olympic Oval..

Whistler Main PO



Access to Whistler PO would present a problem because traffic restrictions were due to be in place from the 11th February.

In anticipation of problems a visit was planned in advance of the restrictions, and I had applied for accreditation at the British Columbia Media, Centre, Whistler.

'Final thoughts' for potential covers.

The use of all cancels at Vancouver Main PO, including those inscribed as West Vancouver, Richmond and Whistler presented an opportunity to document this by using a combination of differently inscribed cancels on the same cover.

Proof of the actual location of mailing would be needed to identify covers genuinely mailed at offices other than Vancouver Main PO.

The size and number of cancels available indicated that larger covers may be required to accommodate additional labels - counter tapes, registration labels etc. So a stock of C5 envelopes was packed in readiness, with the intention of creating 'portrait format' covers (to fit on an album page!).

With preparations as complete as possible, it only remained to ensure that passports and tickets were at hand, on-line check in for the flights was completed and boarding cards printed. Providing our hotel vouchers for the first three nights of the trip, and the car hire voucher worked, we were all set.

Olympic Winter Games Vancouver

Our journey to Vancouver began at 04:30 on the 7th. February with the drive to Heathrow, a flight to Ottawa, and then to Vancouver. It became a rather extended journey as a result of boarding the Ottawa - Vancouver flight, and then being disembarked due to an 'outstanding maintenance issue', which caused a delay of nearly two and a half hours to take off, but only one and a half hours to our arrival time.

We met with Thomas Lippert at the baggage claim, and collected our hire car. The drive to the Fairmont Hotel was straight forward, and we were checked in by 22:40 on the 7th., 26 hours after beginning our journey.

Monday 8th February.

After registering at the BCMC (British Columbia Media Centre), and breakfast, we decided to 'follow the torch'. The Torch Relay was to the south-east of Vancouver, and three of the places visited were using the generic changeable date cancel for the Olympic Winter Games.

Maps prepared from Google using the postcode of the Post Office at Fort Langley saw us arrive in a residential street on the outskirts of Fort Langley with no post office or commercial premises in sight.

Our hire car was equipped with GPS, so following Thomas's efforts to enter our destination and a short drive following the directions we arrived at Fort Langley PO, mailed covers and chatted with staff.



Fort Langley
Post Office.

With members of staff at Fort Langley Post Office.

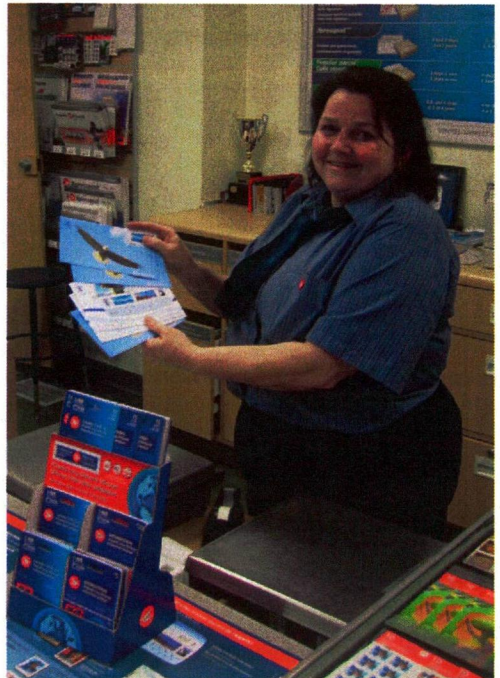


Our impression of the Canada Post staff at Fort Langley was extremely favourable, they were helpful, obliging and interested in what we were trying to do. I think that this is the first Olympic 'trip', of the twelve that I have undertaken where I can say that every member of the postal authority that we engaged with has displayed the same welcoming, helpful and friendly approach.

We took a refreshment break sitting outside a cafe enjoying the pleasant surroundings of this historic site and the unseasonable sunshine and temperatures.

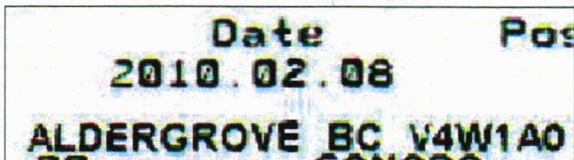
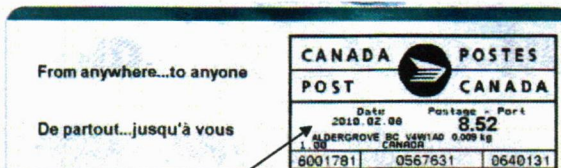
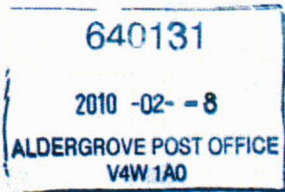
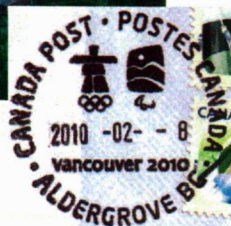
With the aid of the GPS system, we were able to drive straight to the post office at Aldergrove, and then to Surrey, where we achieved our first 'lock-in'. Our arrival about two minutes before closing did not phase the staff, and we were able to complete our mailing as the clerk ran to make sure our registered items were taken by the collection, before unlocking the doors for us to leave.

Olympic offerings at Aldergrove.





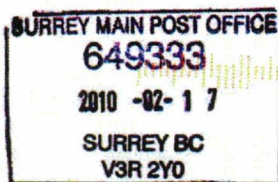
Aldergrove Post Office



Two methods of confirming the actual date of mailing, trialled on the 8th in preparation for use with the special handstamps during the Games.

{Top left} Post office counter datestamp - Aldergrove;

{Right and detail} 'Counter tape' as additional franking. The post office address and date are clearly stated.



The Surrey counter handstamp (obtained during a later visit).

In the early evening we met with Claire and Andreas, the owners of the apartment that we were renting in Burnaby, in readiness for our move on the 10th.

We returned to our hotel happy with our achievements.

Tuesday 9th February.

A trip to Whistler before travel restrictions came into force was planned for the day, but Thomas returned from the BCMC the evening before with the news that the torch relay was to visit the USA early in the morning at the Peace Arch border crossing on Highway 99 where a ceremony would be held.

Brenda was allowed to sleep in whilst Thomas and I headed for a 07:30 ceremony at the border, having promised that we would be back by 10:00am for the Whistler trip.

We arrived at the border to find a surprisingly large crowd awaiting the torch - the local population had been informed of this 'unannounced' event five days earlier.

On a crisp, but bright morning the torch was carried past the Peace Arch into the U.S.A for a short distance then through the arch back to Canada for the ceremony.

The Peace Arch is situated on the border line between the Canadian and U.S. border controls. The area is designated as a park and can be visited by both nationalities, so the assembled crowd was composed of Canadians and Americans (and some tourists).

The usually well prepared Thomas, had a few one dollar U.S. bills, so we approached the U.S. border personnel to see if they would take envelopes to mail in the U.S. for us, but they politely declined, and their supervisor confirmed that whilst sympathetic, the acceptance of envelopes and payment for postage would be construed as accepting a third party gift. He suggested that we approach a member of the public.

We approached the nearest group with Stars and Stripes flags, and a very helpful lady agreed to take our envelopes for mailing - it was far more difficult to get her to accept the payment for the postage.

The result was a pleasant surprise, and we can only assume that the lady explained her mission at the post office because the covers arrived franked with an Olympic stamp and counter label, circular datestamp and machine cancel.



A short detour to Delta 'on the way back', including a lesson that the difference between street and avenue in an address can equate to 8 km, saw us arrive to collect Brenda at about 10:40.



Note the 'Let the Games Begin' ink jet slogan.

The drive to Squamish enroute for Whistler includes spectacular views (for the passengers!), and in the brilliant sunshine was very pleasant.

Squamish was equipped with an Olympic cancel, and we debated whether to drive to Whistler visiting Squamish on our return, or stop at Squamish on the way to Whistler. The decision was finally decided by the need for a refreshment and comfort break - we stopped on the way to Whistler which it transpired was fortuitous.

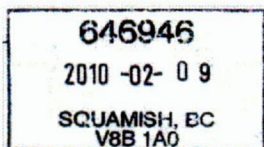
After a coffee and snack we visited the post office, only to be told that they had the Olympic cancel but had been instructed by their District Manager that it should be used from the 12th. We explained that that was not the intention, or as notified by Canada Post. The staff were sympathetic, and tried to call their manager, who was visiting the Whistler PO, for clarification, but were unable to get a reply. We left with their telephone number to check on the 10th. if they were able to use the cancel. They did confirm that they had received numerous mail-in requests for the cancel (particularly the torch relay date), and these items were being held for cancelling on the 12th.

We continued to Whistler enjoying the stunning scenery, in the hope that the District Manager would still be present and we could get access to the Olympic cancel..

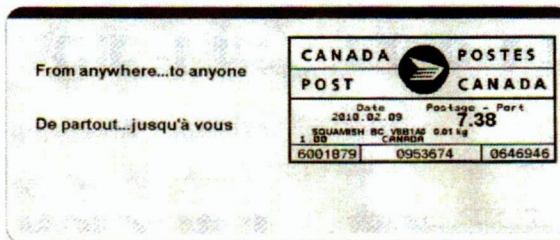
Strict one hour parking was in force at Whistler Marketplace, the only public parking during Games-time, a video car patrolled the parking lot recording all arrivals. The line at the PO was about 20 minutes, and we were unsuccessful in our attempts to get use the cancel . Time taken by the abortive attempt prevented me registering at the BCMC Whistler Media House, and despite explaining our problem to the parking attendant, overstaying the hour was not an option.

On our return, we approached Squamish with the possibility of just making the 5pm. closure of the PO, so we took a chance, to be greeted by the staff - "We were hoping you would come back, we can use the cancel". As it was 5pm., I said that we would return tomorrow, and was asked "What is wrong with now?"

During our second post office 'lock-in' in only two days, our covers were serviced - we can say with certainty that very few covers exist with the Squamish cancel genuinely used on 9th. February. The standard domestic envelopes that we left for cancelling were later delivered with cancels dated 12.02.2010, so our 9th February registered covers may be the only use of the cancel prior to the 12th.



2010-02-09 cancels and counter label from Squamish.





2010-02-09 registered cover from Squamish.

We returned to the hotel after a long day, having travelled from the USA border to Whistler, pleased with the outcome at Squamish, but concerned about our ability to reach the Whistler PO during the Games because of it's distance from the competition venues, the traffic restrictions, lack of parking, and the cost of public transport - C\$70+ return.

Wednesday 10th February.

A quiet philatelic day, but our departure from the Fairmont Hotel to take up residence at Burnaby.

On arrival at the apartment, we were greeted by a number of 'Delivery advice notices' hanging on the door handle, so our earlier mailings had arrived.

We travelled to Coquitlam post office to obtain their Olympic cancel - for some reason, we had mistakenly identified the 10th. as 'torch relay' date, it was actually the 11th. Thomas managed to persuade the staff to cancel simple domestic covers as the 11th., and hold on to them for mailing the next day.

We collected our registered covers on the way back to the apartment and saw our first examples of the 'Delivery advice' sticker applied to the covers - the equivalent of the dreaded Royal Mail 'To be signed for' sticker. It was huge, on thick card, and used a really high-grab adhesive. They really do stick!


Enquiries as we collected our mail, pointed to the delivery office as the source of the offending stickers.

All of our covers had them on the face, and at first glance we appeared to have a disaster. In fact, by careful peeling, the sticker could be removed without leaving any residue, but this was only possible because we had used 'counter tapes' to create correct franking. These have a very smooth surface allowing the sticker to be peeled. The surfaces of an envelope, or stamps were more likely to be torn when removing the stickers.

An example of the Delivery Notice.

The top section is either left on the door of the addressee or in their mailbox.

The bottom section including the barcode and large reference number is the detachable sticker attached to the envelope and measures 109 x 40mm.



Delivery Notice

Avis de livraison

Please see other side of card for identification requirements. / **S.V.P. voir à l'endos pour les conditions d'identification.**

Present this card within 15 calendar days to pick up your item. / Présentez cette carte dans les 15 jours civils, pour ramasser votre envoi.

Delivery Notice Prepared on: / Avis de livraison préparé le :

Date: M M D J / 24 Hour Clock / Système de 24 heures: Time: Heures

R. Farley

Customer Name / Nom du client

Customer Address / Adresse du client

Post Office / Bureau de poste **175641** Parcel / colis Letter / lettre

HIGHGATE POST OFFICE
SHOPPERS DRUGMART
7155 KINGSWAY AVENUE
BURNABY B.C.
V5E 1E0
(604) 526-2848


Your item will be available:
 Votre envoi sera disponible:

tomorrow after 1300 / demain après 1300
 today after 17:00 / aujourd'hui après 17:00
 see below / voir ci-dessous

Business Hours / Heures d'ouverture

MONDAY/LUNDI	09:00 - 21:00	<input type="checkbox"/>
TUESDAY/MARDI	09:00 - 21:00	<input type="checkbox"/>
WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI	09:00 - 21:00	<input type="checkbox"/>
THURSDAY/JEUDI	09:00 - 21:00	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRIDAY/VENDREDI	09:00 - 21:00	<input type="checkbox"/>
SATURDAY/SAMEDI	09:00 - 18:00	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNDAY/DIMANCHE	11:00 - 17:00	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER/AUTRE		

175641 387 223 139



175641 387 223 139


X

MSC
CSP

RSMC
FFRS


CUS
SUF

Fold here and peel off / Plier ici et soulever



175641 387 223 139

HIGHGATE POST OFFICE
SHOPPERS DRUGMART
7155 KINGSWAY AVENUE
BURNABY B.C.
V5E 1E0
(604) 526-2848



Thursday 11th February.

The torch relay was due in Burnaby, so only a local post office to visit. After the visit to the PO, Thomas headed into Vancouver, Brenda and I awaited delivery of the mail before travelling to the city.



2010-02-11 registered cover from Burnaby, the date on which the torch relay visited.
Note that the date in the cancel is set as 2010-12-11, December 2010!

The cancel for Burnaby was due to enter use in December 2009 so there are two possibilities for the incorrect date:

- The month has been incorrectly set as 12 instead of 02;
- The date was set at December to service any mail in requests for the cancel on the day it arrived, the cancel was not used (no demand after the initial requests), and the day was reset to service requests for the torch relay date, but the month was overlooked.

The mail arrived and we learnt the method by which the delivery advice stickers operate.

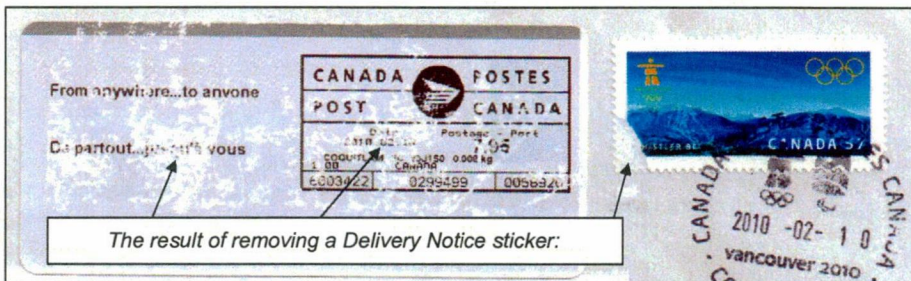
The mailman (or woman) on the route, assumes that all addressees in residential areas will not be at home, and prepared the advice cards before commencing their route. The stickers are added at this point as a detachable section of a numbered / bar-coded document.

When Brenda answered the door to accept the mail, the mailwoman started to tear off the stickers before Brenda could ask her to stop - three of Thomas's covers were damaged.

Discussions concluded with an agreement that the stickers would be placed on the backs of covers, and that at shift change, the mail woman would ensure that her colleague was aware of the situation. This was accompanied by what I believe was a genuine expression of remorse for any damage caused. The mail lady appeared shocked when she shown the damage.

This episode resulted in three damaged covers, but a refreshing willingness to try to avoid future problems, and in truth a demonstration of well applied customer relations. We accepted that the damage was caused as a result of everyone involved carrying out their role correctly, and our use of the full envelope face for franking and registration labels.

Two of the covers damaged were from Coquitlam, so we returned to Coquitlam - the damaged covers used as an excuse to revisit and mail replacements on the correct torch relay date.



Friday 12th February.

The opening day had arrived, and cancels would be available at four post offices.

Information from Canada Post for the cancellation program originally mentioned 'rotation' of the cancels. In general terms this was later clarified to indicate that:

Vancouver Main PO would use up to six cancels per day, of a total 24 available at that office;

West Vancouver PO would use three of six cancels on some days;

Vancouver Station D would use three of six cancels on some days;

Richmond would use one cancel every day.

Days of operation were Monday - Friday, except Vancouver Main which would operate on Saturdays.

Scrutiny of these proposals led to the realisation that there was no correlation between the use of a cancel and the event depicted taking place. In fact for a number of designs, the event was never scheduled to take place on a date that the cancel was to be available.

Via FIPO, this situation was highlighted and challenged, with the result that a press release from Canada Post on the 11th February implied that all of the cancels allocated to each post office would be available on all operating days..

Plans were made to visit West Vancouver, Richmond, Vancouver Station D and Vancouver Main Post Offices. The route was determined to avoid the torch relay (memories of following the convoy in Salt Lake City), and to arrive at the Main PO to coincide with an advertised Canada Post / General Mills event.

24 event / infrastructure cancels were advertised for use during the Winter Olympic Games, and all were of 'fixed date' - in fact they were inscribed with the spread of dates 12 - 28 February. Evidence of mailing on a specific date would need to be shown by other means, and there were three obvious methods:

- a) Use of a printed counter label for additional postage;
- b) Registration with evidence from the receipt;
- c) Use of a regular dated cancel in addition to the commemorative cancel(s).

All three methods were employed, and staff cooperated in allowing use of their dated cancel (not a typical situation in the UK). On at least three occasions we were caught out by cancels being incorrectly dated, on two occasions this was the result of the cancel date not being moved forward since last use, and the third was the result of staff being told to keep the generic Olympic cancel set at 12th. February. We learnt to try a 'test strike' before applying to our covers - and yes, generally staff allowed us to apply the cancels, so that we were responsible for any mistakes. This was unexpected, but proved to be a sensible approach as the few people we met at post offices preparing covers did not interrupt the regular postal business. Vancouver Main Post Office overcame this problem by placing the cancels in a supervised area of the foyer, with each cancel secured to the tables.

West Vancouver PO

We arrived about 10 minutes before opening (note, we can be on time!), so walked across the street and railway track to a jetty, and watched the locals fishing for crabs. We were 'introduced' to the local seals who raided the fishermen's bait. If a companion or wife has to wait while covers are being mailed, this post office offered plenty of opportunities to make the wait a pleasant experience, and there were local shops, cafes and a park.

Returning to the post office about 5 minutes after opening, we joined the line. The local gentleman in front of us concluded his business, and we moved to the clerk to start our Olympic campaign.

Our requests for make up value labels, use of the cancels, registration, use of the counter date stamp, were all met with cheery service and interest. We chatted with the staff, took group photographs, and expressed surprise about the lack of collectors - all of the business we saw transacted was normal activity. The staff explained that most of their collector customers were intending to visit the Main Post Office because the full range of cancels were available. We jeopardised our schedule for the day by staying and chatting, but the whole experience - lack of queues, friendly staff, was better than we could have expected. Six cancels, freestyle and snowboard achieved, eighteen to go.



Part of the team at West Vancouver Post Office.

From anywhere...to anyone

De partout...jusqu'à vous



R Registered **Recommandé**



Registered cover mailed at
West Vancouver P. O.

Snowboard discipline
cancels

N Signature Required
Signature requise

Sendez avertissements que cet envoi ne contient pas de matières dangereuses.
L'expéditeur garantit que cet envoi ne contient pas de matières dangereuses.

From anywhere...to anyone

De partout...jusqu'à vous



R Registered Reconnmandé



R
R
R
R
R
R

RW 448 656 940 CA

RW 448 656 940 CA

RW 448 656 940 CA



RW 448 656 940 CA

V Signature Required
Signature requise

Sender warrants that this shipment does not contain dangerous goods.
L'expéditeur garantit que cet envoi ne contient pas de matières dangereuses.

Registered cover mailed at
West Vancouver P.O.

Freestyle discipline
cancels

Richmond PO

The GPS took us straight to the Richmond PO, situated on an arterial dual carriageway with post office parking limited to 15 minutes for clients. Richmond was a smaller office with a higher volume of regular trade. It is situated in an area with a significant Asian population, and the staff were certainly well endowed with linguistic skills, as they fielded enquiries in French, English and a variety of other languages with ease.

Again we were greeted cheerfully and serviced our items. We did chat briefly, but the volume of customers prevented any extended dialogue. One more cancel achieved, seventeen to go.



Vancouver Station D (Pine Street)

At Pine Street, the only option was meter parking, so we loaded 45 minutes, and joined a short line after preparing some covers.

We now knew that our initial experience at West Vancouver was typical and not exceptional. The only hiccup that we experienced at any office was a failure to correctly deduct the value of stamps already on our covers when calculating the value of the counter labels. At Station D, this was remedied by voiding the transaction and starting afresh. At some stations, the value of stamps was paid back as cash, and at one we were offered the equivalent mint stamps. As a result, some covers appear over-franked.

From anywhere...to anyone

De partout...jusqu'à vous

CANADA POSTES	
POST CANADA	
Date 2010.02.12	Postage - Port 6.81
VANCOUVER BC V5G 1S9 0.013 kg	
6002135	0466159 0105503



R Registered **Recommandé**



R
R
R
R
R

RW 335 827 152 CA RW 335 827 152 CA



RW 335 827 152 CA

V Signature Required
Signature requise

Sender warrants that this shipment does not contain dangerous goods.
L'expéditeur garantit que cet envoi ne contient pas de matières dangereuses.

Registered cover mailed at
Vancouver Station D P.O.
(Pine Street)

Short track speed skating,
figure skating, ice hockey
cancels

From anywhere...to anyone

De partout...jusqu'à vous

CANADA POSTES	
POST	CANADA
Date	Postage - Part
2010.02.12	6.24
VANCOUVER BC V5C 2G0 0.010 kg	
1.90	CANADA
6002135	0466159 0105503



R Registered **Recommandé**



RW 335 827 118 CA RW 335 827 118 CA

R
R
R
R
R
R



V Signature Required
Signature requise

Sender warrants that this shipment does not contain dangerous goods.
L'expéditeur garantit que cet envoi ne contient pas de marchandises dangereuses.

Registered cover mailed at
Vancouver Station D P.O.
(Pine Street)

Welcome, curling,
ceremonies (Paralympic!)
and 'generic' Vancouver
cancels

It was not easy at this stage for us to calculate the value of the counter tapes in advance because the C5 envelopes we were using for many of the covers are just above the size guide template for 'standard size'. One clerk checked the template which clearly showed oversize, but then tried the envelope through the slot for thickness where it passed easily, so allowed mailing as standard, others declared it oversize, so we could not be sure of the rate that would be applied.

A trip outside to feed the meter, and eventually we concluded our mailing at Station D. Six more cancels achieved, eleven to go, and the bonus that Station D had the generic changeable date Olympic cancel.

Vancouver Main Post Office

We arrived at the Main post office as an event co-sponsored by Canada Post and General Mills was about to commence. A final opportunity for Canadians to send their messages of support to their athletes, followed by a presentation of members of the Canada Post sponsored Freestyle Ski Team.

The Cheerios postcards were freely available to send messages, but these were specially prepared - no post paid imprint. An additional postcard was available to collect the autographs of the ski team who appeared for signings and presentations of their aerial tricks (with the aid of a trampoline). The event attracted crowds, and a festive atmosphere developed, especially when the torch passed by on it's final journey to the Opening Ceremony.

We entered the post office and took in the scene - 24 cancels, on carefully organised tables with individual ink pads and cancelling mats of thick card. A reasonable, but manageable gathering of individuals preparing souvenirs (the majority of which were neither philatelic or postal).

At the previous post offices, we had established that we needed to register our items or apply meter tapes for additional franking before applying cancels to avoid the cancels being covered by the labels, and the operation was possible at the counter position. Here at the Main PO, we would need to queue for the counter, add franking or registration, then take our covers to the cancels in the foyer, then back to the counter to hand over registered items or to add the final variable date generic cancel because this was kept at the counters.

The process worked very smoothly, and although we were experiencing our first queues of the day the staff were very helpful and patient in dealing with our requests. At the counters, they did not make us rejoin the queue to use the variable date cancel because we could apply this at the same time as they provided service to queuing customers.

The use of the illustrated cancels was supervised by Canada Post staff who under the leadership of Bill Bartlett offered advice, maintained the ink pads, provided trays to carry your covers around the tables, and even provided warning signs about smudging ink, and a drying area for cancelled items. Even when crowded, cancels we obtained very quickly, as those servicing multiple items were courteous, allowing others to cancel single items.

From anywhere...to anyone

De partout...jusqu'à vous

CANADA POSTES	
POST	CANADA
Date	Postage - Port
2010.02.12	6.24
VANCOUVER BC V8B2A0 0.019 kg	
1.00	CNRROR
6001113	2473651 0647365



R Registered **Recommandé**



R
R
R
R
R
R

RW 421 401 946 CA

RW 421 401 946 CA



N Signature Required
Signature requise

Sender warrants that this shipment does not contain dangerous goods.
L'expéditeur garantit que cet envoi ne contient pas de matières dangereuses.

Registered cover mailed at
Vancouver Main P.O.

Speed skating (Richmond),
freestyle aerials (West
Vancouver), Bobsleigh,
Skeleton (Whistler) cancels

From anywhere...to anyone

De partout...jusqu'à vous

CANADA POSTES	
POST	CANADA
Date 2010.02.12	Postage - Port 6.24
VANCOUVER BC V6R2A0 1.99 CANADA	0.019 kg
6001113	2473651 0847365



vancouver 2010
2010.02.12-28
FREESTYLE SKIING: MOGULS
SKI ACROBATIQUE: BOSSES
WEST VANCOUVER BC
CANADA POST • POSTES CANADA



vancouver 2010
2010.02.12-28
SNOWBOARD: PARALLEL GIANT SLALOM
SURF DES NEIGES: SLALOM GÉANT PARALLÈLE
WEST VANCOUVER BC
CANADA POST • POSTES CANADA



vancouver 2010
2010.02.12-28
OPENING CEREMONY/CLOSING CEREMONY
CÉRÉMONIE D'OUVERTURE/CÉRÉMONIE DE CLÔTURE
VANCOUVER BC
CANADA POST • POSTES CANADA



vancouver 2010
2010.02.12-28
OLYMPIC VILLAGE
VILLAGE OLYMPIQUE
WHISTLER BC
CANADA POST • POSTES CANADA

R Registered **Recommandé**

CANADA POST POSTES CANADA CANADA POST • POSTES CANADA

RW 421 401 963 CA

RW 421 401 963 CA

RW 421 401 963 CA



RW 421 401 963 CA

V Signature Required
Signature requise

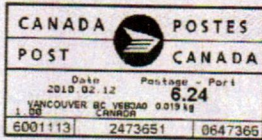
Sender warrants that this shipment does not contain dangerous goods.
L'expéditeur garantit que cet envoi ne contient pas de matières dangereuses.

Registered cover mailed at
Vancouver Main P.O.

Freestyle moguls, Snowboard
parallel giant slalom (West
Vancouver),ceremonies
(Vancouver), Olympic Village
(Whistler) cancels

From anywhere...to anyone

De partout...jusqu'à vous



R Registered **Recommandé**



Signature Required
Signature requise

Sender warrants that this shipment does not contain dangerous goods.
L'expéditeur garantit que cet envoi ne contient pas de matières dangereuses.

Registered cover mailed at
Vancouver Main P.O.

Main Press Centre
(Vancouver), Snowboard
halfpipe (West Vancouver),
Biathlon, Nordic combined
(Whistler) cancels



Activity around the cancels on the 12th. February. Crowds grew as news of the opportunity to create 'free' souvenirs spread.

We now had serviced covers for all 24 announced cancels, and the only certain 'gap' was the lack of items actually mailed at the Whistler Post Office.

During the earlier event, an opportunity presented itself to hand in covers to receive the 'Let the Games Begin' slogan that we had seen on some of our arriving covers. Twenty covers were rapidly prepared and handed over, they were run through the machine, but would not activate the ink jet slogan, but did receive the coding to the reverse.

A second batch of seventeen covers was prepared and left for mailing, with an assurance that these would receive the ink jet slogan, but had not arrived by our departure on the 23rd, so we experienced our first disappointment.

Copies of the slogan did appear on some of our covers, so all was not lost, although clear copies were scarce.

Let the Games Begin! 111111
 Place aux Jeux! 111111
 T00212 12.25 VEB 3A0 081 111111

There was also a sales counter in the foyer for Olympic items, so it was easy to replenish stocks of stamps, and purchase the 12th January issues.

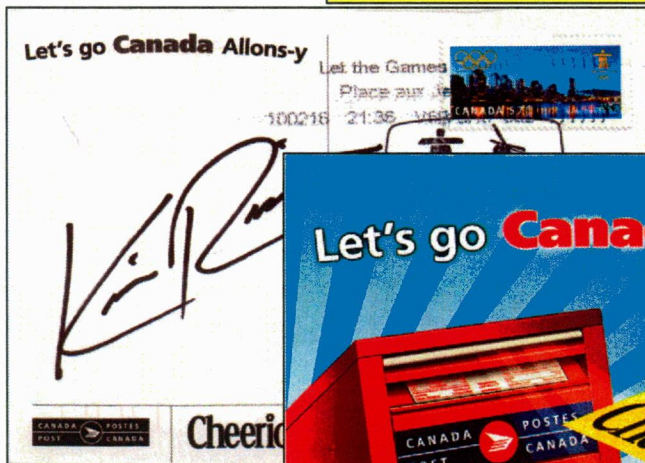


The presentations of the Freestyle Ski Team and the 'mailing' of the support cards in front of the Vancouver Main post office were jointly organised by Canada Post and General Mills. The cards are therefore an integral part of the postal activities at the Games.

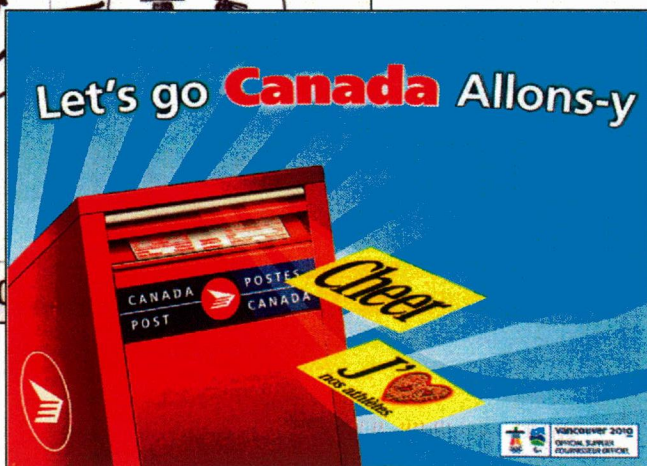
Above: the 'French' support card.

Right: The 'English' support card.

Both are pre-addressed to Olympic Village, c/o Canada Post Corporation PO BOX 15750 STN TERMINAL VANCOUVER BC V6B 0H9



Front (below) and back (left) of the postcard provided to obtain autographs.



After the evening of the 12th February, which Thomas, Klaus Fink and I spent watching the opening ceremony at the Thüringen House, we would be spending the following days in different ways. Thomas would regularly be attending events, Klaus would be spending time at the Main PO and visiting within the Olympic infrastructure, Brenda and I would be visiting the cultural sites, post offices and acting as tourists.

A regular daily routine of driving Thomas to the transport hub early in the day, then taking in sites / events, unarranged meetings at Main PO and meeting to review in the evenings began. Another important daily task - collecting our mail from the local post office.

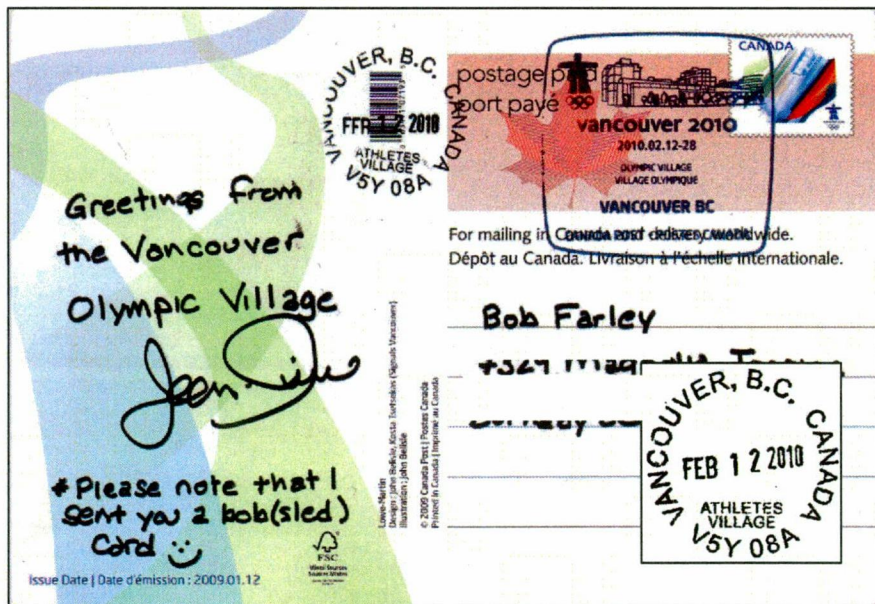
Our lack of items from Whistler post office was still a problem, and Thomas was determined to make use of the fact that he had event tickets to the nearby venues, if necessary foregoing part of an event to take local shuttles to Whistler.

The following pages detail the outcome of our efforts after the 13th. February, and is based on the activities of Thomas Lippert, Klaus Fink and I, assisted by all at Canada Post.

Olympic Infrastructure

The Olympic Village, Vancouver

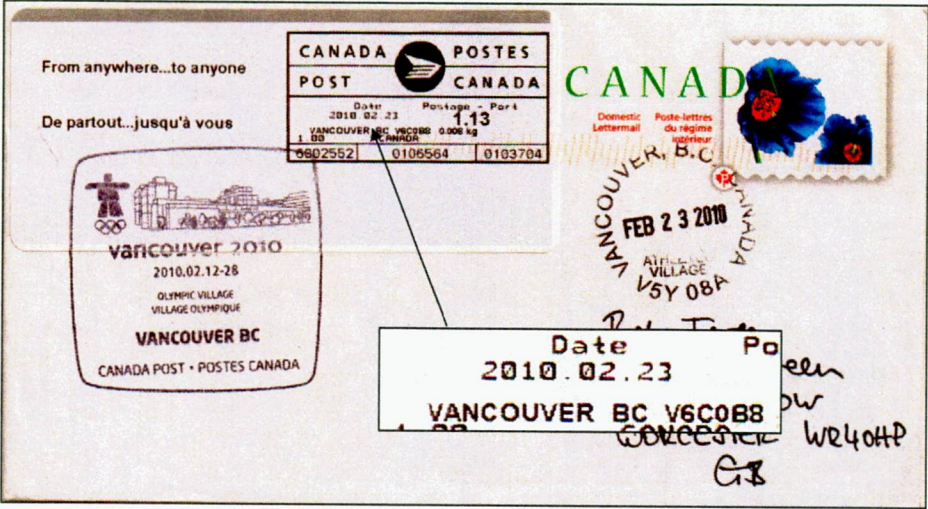
On 15th February, a postcard was received from Jean Pierre Caravan, who was carrying out his now established role in the Olympic Village as a volunteer with the Athletes Electoral Commission. J-P had carefully selected a Bob{sled} card, and mailed it from the Village post office - complete with a circular ATHLETES VILLAGE cancel.



Postcard from the Olympic Village, with inset detail of the ATHLETES VILLAGE cancel.

Further items arrived from the Olympic Village as a result of meeting with Jean Pierre, and efforts by Thomas.

One intriguing cover with a cancel of 2010-02-23 appeared to be partially franked with a meter label from the Village post office. Closer examination shows that the postcode on the label is that listed by Canada Post for the Main Media Centre (and led to the realisation that the code in the ATHLETES VILLAGE cancel is not in a valid format).



Main Media Centre

Thomas had arranged a meeting at the Main Press Centre with a friend from Germany, and achieved access to the Media Centre post office on the 18th February.

As a result of the visit, the existence of a circular cancel with MEDIA CENTRE inscription was confirmed. Difficulties on the day with the computer system prevented the use of counter labels, and the sending of registered mail was considered a possible infringement of the Purolator / VANOC agreement, although this was later clarified and registered mail was allowed.



Whistler Olympic Village

Arrangements were made to have items mailed at the Whistler Olympic Village post office. All items received are cancelled with poor strikes of the illustrated Olympic Village Whistler cancel. Covers requiring additional franking by counter labels returned with additional stamps added.

Whistler Media Centre Olympic Family Hotel

Both of these locations were mentioned in early plans by Canada Post, but were dropped well in advance. Visits to the Olympic Family Hotels did not locate any post office.

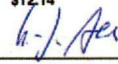
Purolator

In the role of 'supplier of courier services for the 2010 Winter Games', it was anticipated that Purolator would have service desks within the Olympic infrastructure.

On a visit to the Olympic Family Hotel on 15th, Klaus located the Purolator desk, and despatched a number of items for next day delivery.

This process was repeated by Thomas from the Main Media Centre on the 18th, and Jean Pierre Caravan from the Olympic Village, Vancouver. A Purolator desk was anticipated at the Olympic Village, Whistler, but was not located (or did not exist?).

Purolator Shipment Receipts and below, details of the location from which they were despatched.

FROM/TO		Ship	-Purolator																	
OLYMPIC FAMILY HOTEL 1601 BAYSHORE DR VANCOUVER, BC V6G 2V4 (778) 986-1504			K.J. Alde/ MMC 999 CANADA PL. VANCOUVER, BC V6C 0B8 (778) 960-7265																	
BOB FARLEY C. O. J.			R. Farley																	
001 447 710 234 642			Total Cost \$12.14																	
Burnaby, BC			Burnaby, BC																	
Canada			Canada																	
15 Feb 2010	1 of/de 1	18 Feb 2010	1 of/de 1	1.00 lb.																
PIN 329184972563	Package Type Express Envelope	PIN 329186421890	Package Type Express Envelope	Premium Service Purolator Express Envelope																
Declared Value	Adjusted Weight 1.00 lb.	Transit Time 1 Day	Cost \$11.56	Tax \$0.58																
Total \$12.14	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Payment Method</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Credit Card</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Visa</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>MasterCard</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Amex</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Debit</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Cash</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Business Cheque</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Payment Method		<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Card	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visa	<input type="checkbox"/>	MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amex	<input type="checkbox"/>	Debit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Cheque
Payment Method																				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Card																			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visa																			
<input type="checkbox"/>	MasterCard																			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amex																			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debit																			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash																			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Cheque																			
FROM/TO K.J. Alde/ MMC 999 CANADA PL. VANCOUVER, BC V6C 0B8 (778) 960-7265		Customer's Signature 																		

For Shipment tracking information, please go to www.purolator.com or contact 1-888-SHIP-123

For Shipment tracking information, please go to www.purolator.com or contact 1-888-SHIP-123

The initial satisfaction that Klaus had managed to despatch a Purolator cover from the Olympic Family Hotel was short lived.

The item was despatched on 15th, on a one day service, so we assumed delivery on the 16th and stayed at the apartment until late afternoon - no delivery. On the 17th, we expected a door-hanger or note in the mail box - nothing.

On the 19th, frustrated, I checked the tracking on-line, only to find that the first attempted delivery was allegedly on the 18th (at a time we were in the apartment).

From the customer helpline, I found that the item was available at a Burnaby depot address, and business hours included Saturday on the recording.

On the 20th, I dropped Thomas for his transport and spent an hour driving around the area of the address (the address was not recognised by the GPS in the car, and the postcode only located as a large undeveloped area), frustrated, and very annoyed I returned to the apartment.

I called the helpline and eventually spoke with a real person.

No, they did not know how to find the Burnaby depot.

No, it was not open on Saturday.

No, they could not redirect to the UK.

Following registering a complaint, I was told someone would call back - when I asked if this would be imminent, I was told 48 business hours.

On 9th March the call had not been received.

From the tracking schedule, the first attempted delivery of the next day item was on the 18th. 3 days!!!

Scan Date	Scan Time	Status
2010/02/22	09:38	Delivered to B FARLEY Pl at RECEPTION of MARKET CROSSING at 7364 MARKET CROSSING V5J0A2 via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/22	08:55	Available for Pickup via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/19	11:55	Available for Pickup via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/19	10:33	Available for Pickup via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/19	10:09	Delivered to RC4205 at RECEPTION of MARKET CROSSING at 7364 MARKET CROSSING V5J0A2 via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/19	08:16	On vehicle for delivery via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/19	01:38	Shipment In Transit via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/18	17:23	Attempted Delivery - Receiver Unavailable via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/18	09:46	Attempted Delivery - Receiver Unavailable via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/18	08:22	On vehicle for delivery via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/18	01:00	Shipment In Transit via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/17	20:04	Address Correction Required via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/17	18:00	Address Correction Required via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/17	16:45	Picked up by Purolator via VANCOUVER, BC depot
2010/02/17	16:44	Picked up by Purolator via VANCOUVER, BC depot
2010/02/17	10:12	Address Correction Required via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/17	08:20	On vehicle for delivery via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/17	06:09	Shipment In Transit via BURNABY, BC depot
2010/02/17	01:26	Payment Received via VANCOUVER, BC depot
2010/02/17	01:26	Shipment In Transit via VANCOUVER, BC depot
2010/02/16	17:54	Shipment In Transit via VANCOUVER, BC depot
2010/02/16	17:51	Scheduled Delivery Appointment Required via VANCOUVER, BC depot
2010/02/16	15:04	Picked up by Purolator at Kiosk from RETAIL of PCL RETAIL KIOSK OFF at 1601 BAYSHORE DR, VANCOUVER. BC V6G2V4 via VANCOUVER. BC depot

Another page could be written about the actual collection of the items early on the 22nd., but to avoid repetition, I would suggest that Purolator is entered in a search engine, and you will find ample opportunities to read the views of others. It certainly makes our experience appear to be the norm rather than an exception.


Golden rule, if you are in Canada, and need a courier - consider all other options (including delivering by hand) before you choose Purolator.

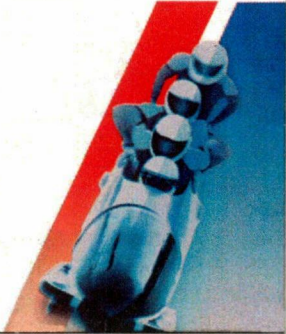
Extremely Urgent! / Très urgent


www.purolator.com 1 888 SHIP-123

Purolator Express[™]

Envelope/Enveloppe

 Vancouver 2010
OFFICIAL SUPPLIER
FOURNISSEUR OFFICIEL



 Purolator

Helping deliver the Games / Prenez la route des Jeux


A selection of the card 382 x 242mm envelope designs provided by Purolator. {See also page 12}.

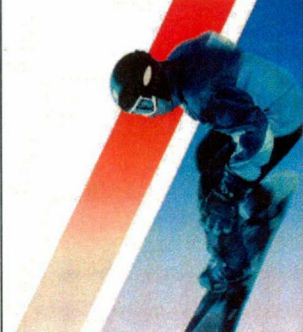
ess[™]

 Vancouver 2010
OFFICIAL SUPPLIER
FOURNISSEUR OFFICIEL



S[™]

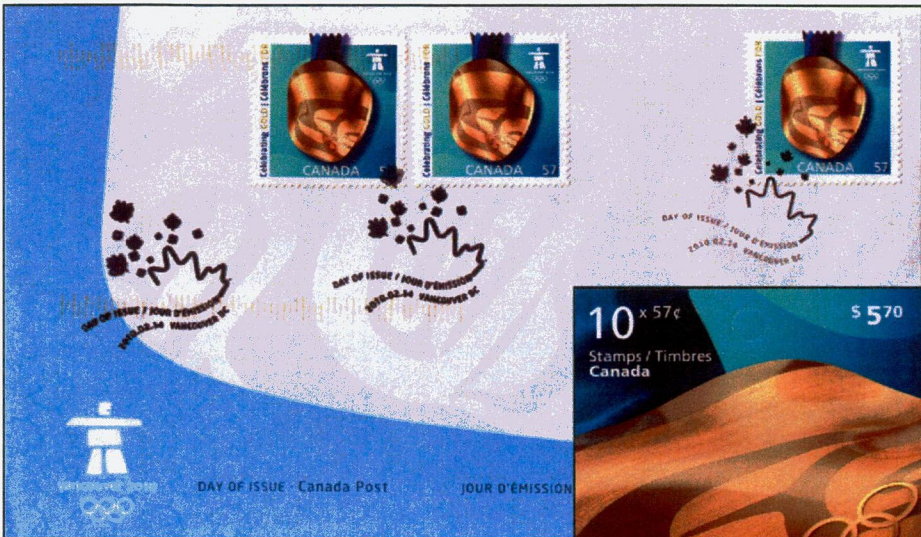
 Vancouver 2010
OFFICIAL SUPPLIER
FOURNISSEUR OFFICIEL



Canada's first Olympic Gold Medal on home soil

On 14th February, late in the evening and following the success of Frédéric Bilodeau in the men's moguls event, an email press release announced that a stamp would be issued on 15th. 'Nationwide'. Postal staff later confirmed that they had been aware of this issue, with the exception of the actual date of issue.

The issue had been prepared in advance, and included a miniature sheet of 2 x 57c. stamps, and self adhesive booklet of 10 stamps in the same design. Early on 15th. supplies were very limited in Vancouver except at the Main Post Office, as district managers were tasked with distributing stocks to other offices. Supplies became more plentiful on following days, although the official first day covers did not arrive until later in the week.. On 22nd. February, in a break with usual practice, Vancouver Main Post Office received a fixed date handstamp (14th. February) for cancelling this issue, in the same design as the cancellation on the official first day cover.



Above: Official fdc with printed cancel top right, additional stamps and handstamp left.

Right: Booklet cover.

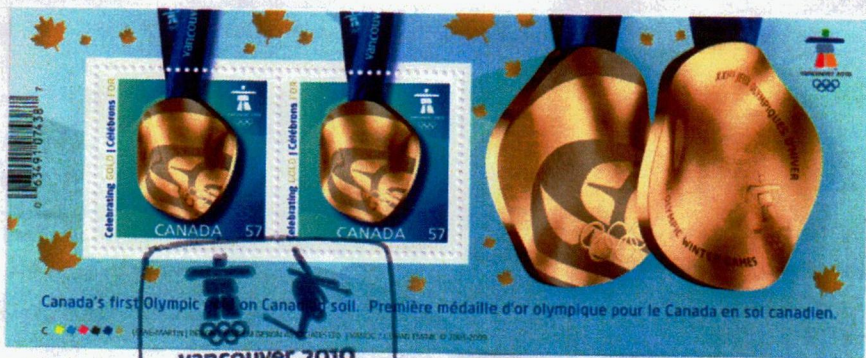
Below: Miniature sheet.



From anywhere...to anyone

CANADA POSTES	
POST	CANADA
Date 2010.02.15	Postage - Port 5.74
WEST VANCO BC V7T1C0 022 18	
6001116	0715373 0647616

647016
 2010 -02- 1 5
 WEST VAN BC
 V7T 1C0



vancouver 2010
 2010.02.12-28
 FREESTYLE SKING: MOGULS
 SKI ACROBATIQUE: BOSSES
WEST VANCOUVER BC
 CANADA POST - POSTES CANADA

69



vancouver 2010
 2010.02.12-28
 FREESTYLE SKING: MOGULS
 SKI ACROBATIQUE: BOSSES
WEST VANCOUVER BC
 CANADA POST - POSTES CANADA

R Registered **Recommandé**

CANADA POSTES
 POST CANADA

RW 448 656 043 CA RW 448 656 043 CA



Signature Required
 Signature requise

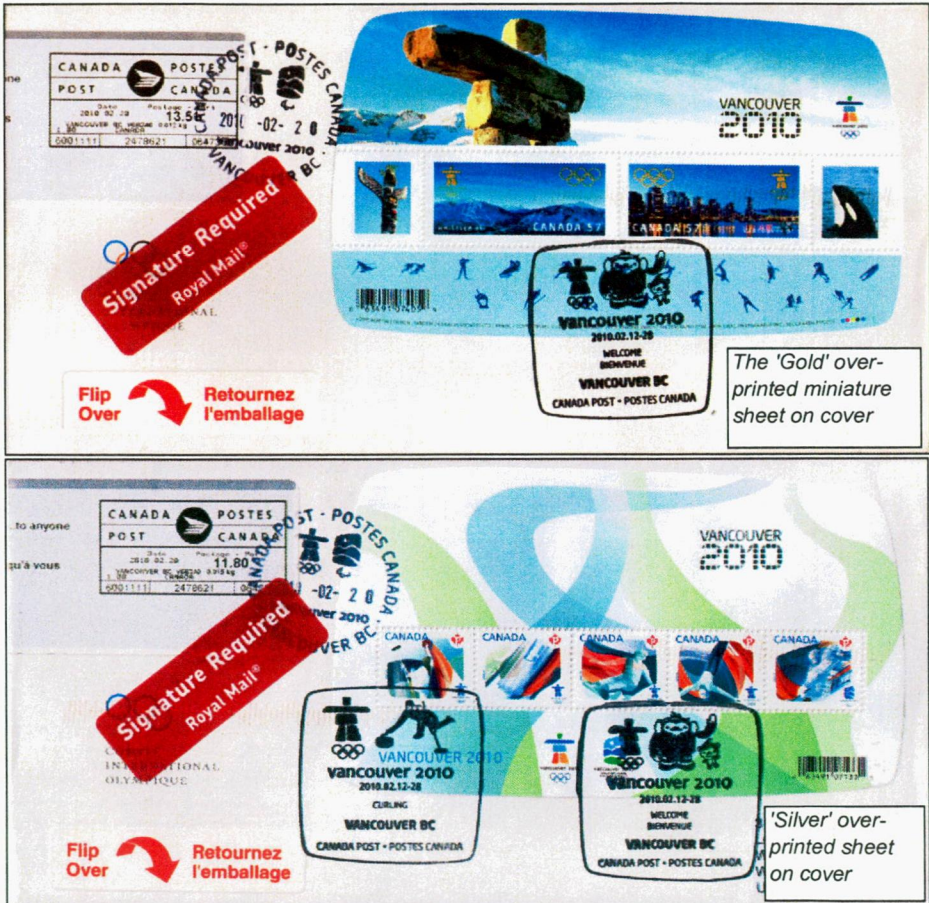
Sender warrants that this shipment does not contain dangerous goods.
 L'expéditeur garantit que cet envoi ne contient pas de matières dangereuses.

Registered cover from West Vancouver prepared on the first day of sale, with miniature sheet and booklet stamps.

Foil overprinted miniature sheets

Controversy had arisen following the marketing of coin, pin and miniature sheet souvenir collections late in 2009. Bronze, silver and gold collections were notified, each to include a limited edition, miniature sheet overprinted 'Vancouver 2010', in metallic foil of the respective colours. The bronze and silver sheets were overprinted onto the 2009 miniature sheets, the gold, onto the January 2010 sheet.

A number of protests were made, and the initial response from Canada Post was that the limit of 16,000 would be maintained. This eventually led to an announcement that the three overprinted sheets would be issued as a pack, at face value on 12th. February. The pack was then advertised as 'limited to two per client' and enquiries about availability were met with the statement that the pack was only available by ordering from the National Philatelic Centre at Antigonish.



Note the 'Flip Over' label to locate the registration label.

CANADA POST · POSTES CANADA
 2010 -02- 28
 VANCOUVER 2010
 VANCOUVER BC

From anywhere...to anyone
 Partout...jusqu'à vous

CANADA POSTES	
POST	CANADA
Date 2010.02.20	Postage - Port 9.70
VANCOUVER BC V9C4G0 0.019 kg	
L 88 6001111	2478621 0647365



R Registered **Recommandé**
 Air Mail **Par avion**

CANADA POST POSTES CANADA
 RW 439 947 025 CA

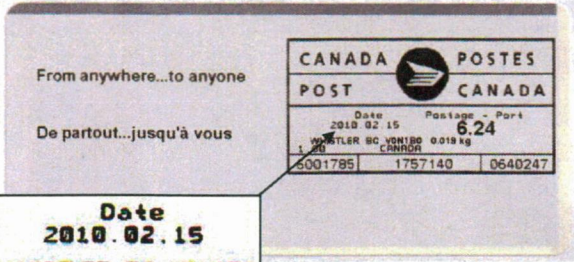


'Bronze' overprinted sheet on cover

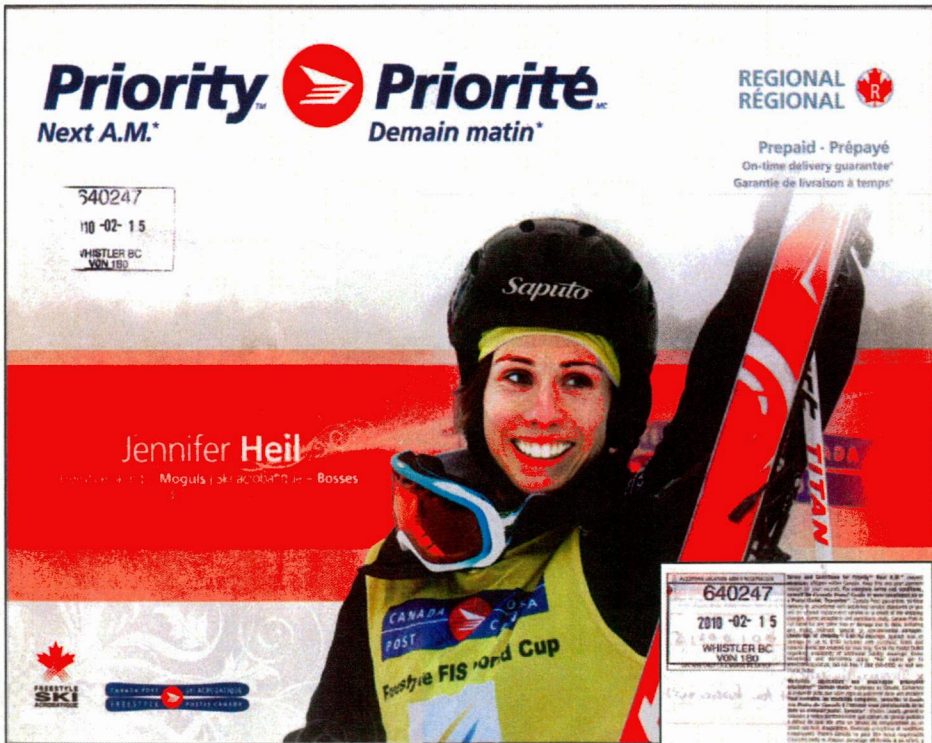
A limited number of the packs did eventually appear at Vancouver Main Post Office on February 20th., and were 'drip fed' into the market at about 100 packs per day, with the two per customer rule being applied where possible.

Whistler post office

Thomas did decide to visit the Whistler post office via a combination of venue transport and shuttle bus (on a number of occasions), so covers were obtained from Whistler, with the use of counter labels, counter handstamps or the variable date cancel as evidence of the place of mailing.



The opportunity was also taken to mail an Express envelope.



315 x 232mm Jennifer Heil Express envelope, and receipt.

From anywhere...to anyone

De partout...jusqu'à vous

CANADA POST		POSTES CANADA	
Date	2010 02 15	Postage - Part	6.24
WHISTLER BC V0M1B0		0.019 kg	
6001785	1757140	0640247	



R Registered Recommandé



RW 355 314 744 CA RW 355 314 744 CA



Signature Required
Signature requise

Sender warrants that this shipment does not contain dangerous goods.
L'expéditeur garantit que cet envoi ne contient pas de matières dangereuses.

Registered cover mailed at
Whistler P.O.

Skeleton, Bobsleigh and
Luge illustrated cancels.
Whistler variable date
cancel.

22.02.2010 'Congratulations' stamp issue

The issue took place as announced with items available at all post offices visited. (See page 6).

Klaus remained in Vancouver in readiness for the Paralympic Games, and mailed a few items with dates after our departure.

One of these received an inkjet slogan cancel on the 3rd March 'Congratulations Canada'.



Security mark on mail entering the Olympic facilities.

When the postcodes and addresses of the Olympic facilities were made known, Thomas mailed a small number of items to a friend working in the Main Media Centre, to try and establish if they would receive any special markings to witness their 'Olympic' status.

On this occasion, he was pleased to note the use of a small red 'Maple leaf' marking on the envelopes kept and returned to him.



London 2012 Booklet, 25.02. 2010 - SOC Souvenirs



ORDER FORM			Number	Amount
SS 2010-2(1)	1 st Class (SmartStamp only)	£1.50		
SS 2010-2(A)	Airmail (SmartStamp only)	£1.75		
SS 2010-2(SF)	Signed For with the 2 stamps & SmartStamp (mailed from Stratford)	£4.00		
FD 11570(2)	With Athletics sheetlet	£1.50		
FD 11637	With Athletics sheetlet	£1.50		
FD 11638	With Basketball sheetlet	£1.50		
FD 11643	With Basketball sheetlet	£1.50		
250210 SET	All 7 items	£12.75		
Postage UK 50p; Europe £1; Rest of World £2				
TOTAL				
Name & Address				
E-mail				
Pay by PayPal	marathon@societyofolympiccollectors.org			
Cheque (UK only)	Society of Olympic Collectors, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5ES			

London 2012 Booklet 7.01.2010 - SOC Souvenirs



SS2010-1(1)



FD 11570



FD 11571



Society of Olympic Collectors
24 Hamilton Crescent
Brentwood
Essex
CM14 5ES
England

SS2010-1(SD)



Society of Olympic Collectors
24 Hamilton Crescent
Brentwood
Essex
CM14 5ES

FD 11583



Society of Olympic Collectors
24 Hamilton Crescent
Brentwood
Essex
CM14 5ES

ORDER FORM			Number	Amount
SS 2010-1(1)	1 st Class (SmartStamp only)	£1.50		
SS 2010-1(A)	Airmail (SmartStamp only)	£1.75		
SS 2010-1(SD)	Signed For with the 2 stamps (mailed from Stratford)	£4.00		
FD 11570	with the two 2012 stamps—archery & judo	£2.00		
FD 11571	with the Paralympic archery stamp	£1.50		
FD 11583	with the judo stamp	£1.50		
070110 SET	All 6 items	£12.00		
Postage UK 50p; Europe £1; Rest of World £2				
TOTAL				
Name & Address				
E-mail				
Pay by PayPal marathon@societyofolympiccollectors.org				
Cheque (UK only) Society of Olympic Collectors, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5ES				

