

POSTAL HISTORY OF THE CALGARY WINTER OLYMPICS

This exhibit displays covers, postmarks, and meter marks relating to the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. The games were held February 13 to 28 at venues in Calgary, Canmore, and Kananaskis. The organization and deployment of thousands of staff in the era prior to e-mail meant that communication was by telephone or the mails.

PLAN OF THE EXHIBIT

Precursor covers.

Business mail of the Calgary Olympic committee:	Outgoing mail Postage meter imprints Private couriers Incoming mail
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Business mail of foreign Olympic committees:	USA Other foreign countries
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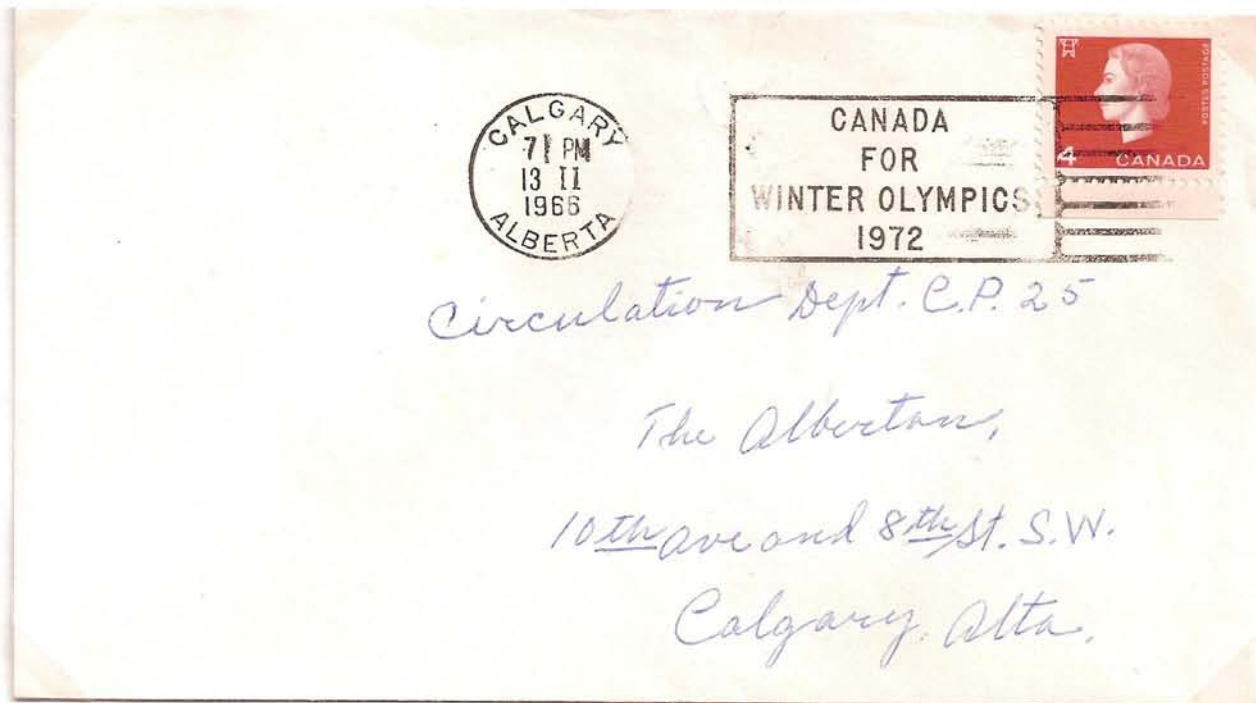
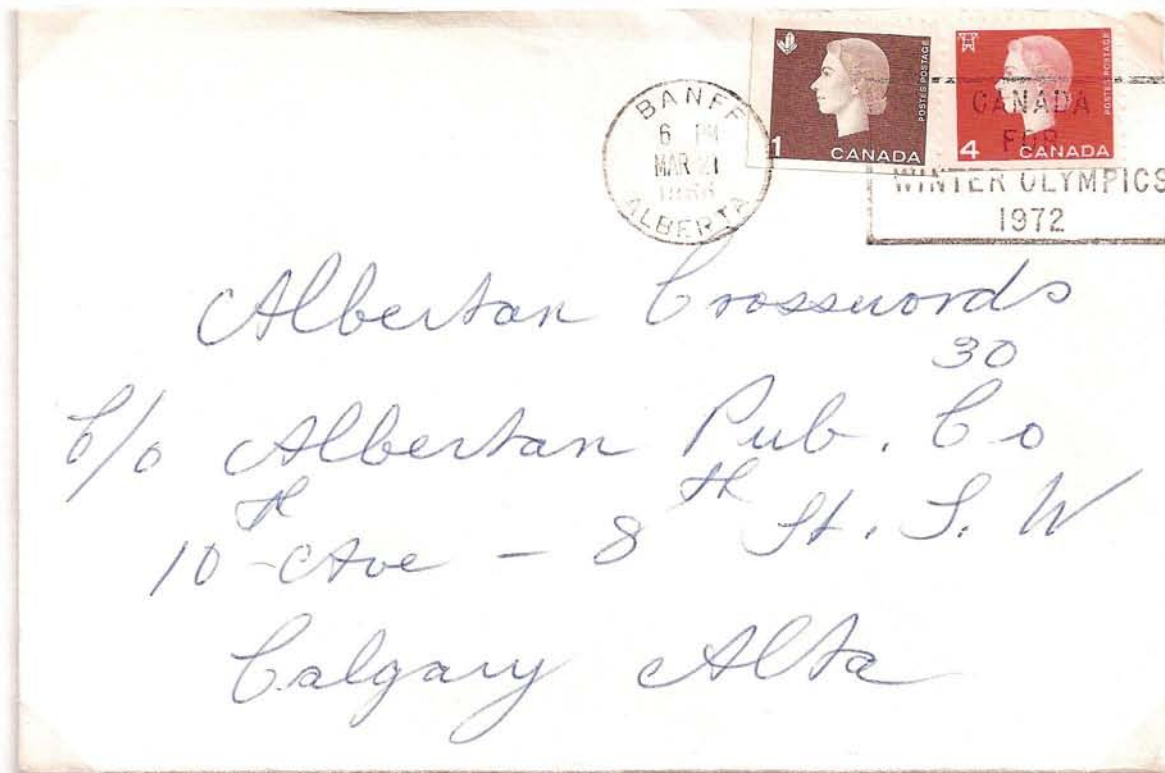
Official sponsors, suppliers, and licensees

Canadian commemorative covers and postmarks:	Special postmarks Event covers Varieties and errors First-day covers
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Foreign commemorative covers and postmarks:	South Korea Paraguay Finland USA
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PRECURSOR COVERS

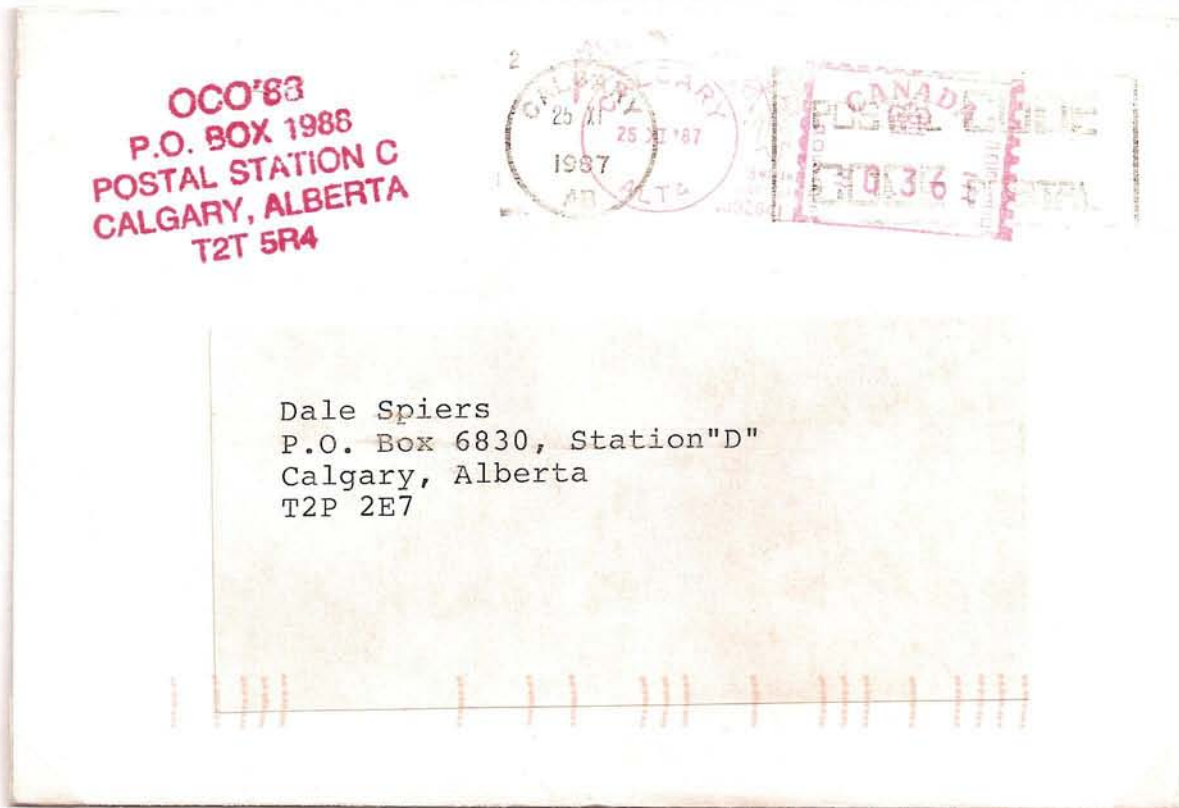
Prior to the successful bid for the 1988 Winter Games, a failed attempt was made to get the Games for 1972, to be held in Banff National Park. A slogan cancel was used by Calgary and Banff post offices to publicize the effort in the late 1960s.



BUSINESS MAIL OF THE CALGARY OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Outgoing Mail

The various work units of the Calgary Olympic Committee (OCO) used a variety of envelopes and meters. In the early days prior to 1988, mail services were sometimes ad hoc, as shown by the cover below with a cheap rubber stamp return address. As the Games drew near, tighter control was asserted and the mail took on a more professional look with properly printed stationery.





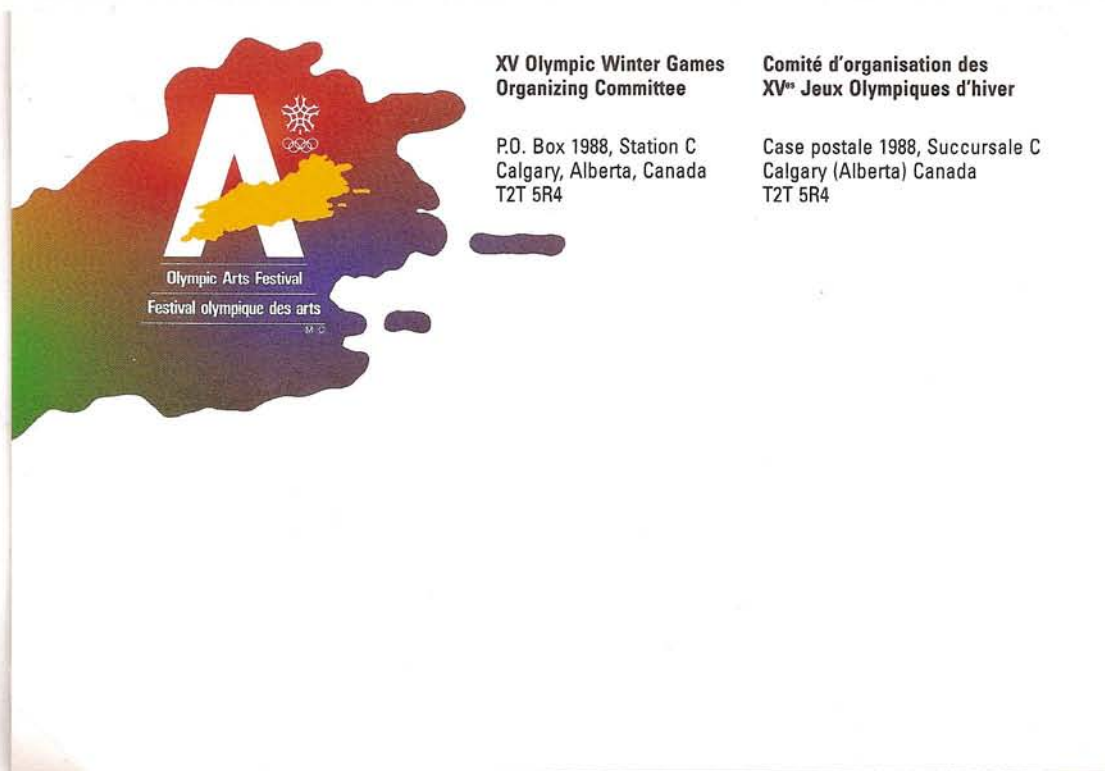
XIV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee

Olympic Volunteer Centre
1833 Crowchild Trail N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2M 4S7



The Olympic Arts Festival (OAF) used both a business-size envelope (shown on next page) and a peelable label (below). The label could be applied to plain envelopes, manila flats, or parcels. It must be remembered that this was in the days before personal computers and easily-printed sheets of mailing labels. Secretaries had to produce labels with typewriters, so the large size of the labels made it easier to roll them into a typewriter.

At the bottom of this page is an OAF envelope used almost entirely for philatelic covers, but occasionally for regular business use.



© © COIA O.C. 1979, 1988



**XV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee**
P.O. Box 1988, Station C
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2T 5R4

**Comité d'organisation des
XV^e Jeux Olympiques d'hiver**
Case postale 1988, Succursale C
Calgary (Alberta) Canada
T2T 5R4

Postage Meter Imprints

Like any large corporation, OCO used postage meters on outgoing mail. There were several meters, identifiable by their serial numbers.



At top is a cut piece from a large manila flat (serial #1001564). The lower cover shows a regular business use of an OAF label (serial #1002641).

Three large manila flats (folded for easier display) from the Volunteer sub-committee with postage meters #154945, #159318, and #160137.

Olympic Volunteer Centre
1833 Crowchild Trail N.W.

Olympic Volunteer Centre

Olympic Volunteer Centre
1833 Crowchild Trail N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2M 4S7

FIRST
CLASS



FIRST
CLASS



FIRST CLASS



Regular first-class mail from the head office using meters #159473, #163060, and 1000424.



XV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee

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T2T 5R4

Comité d'organisation des
XVes Jeux Olympiques d'hiver

Case postale 1988, Succursale C
Calgary (Alberta) Canada
T2T 5R4



MR DALE SPEIRS
BOX 6830, STATION D



XV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee

P.O. Box 1988, Station C
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2T 5R4

Comité d'organisation des
XVes Jeux Olympiques d'hiver

Case postale 1988, Succursale C
Calgary (Alberta) Canada
T2T 5R4



Mr Dale Speirs
Box 6830, Station D
Calgary AB CAN
T2P 2E7

Regular bulk mail from the head office using meters #163117 and #2004791.



XV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee

P.O. Box 1988, Station C
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2T 5R4

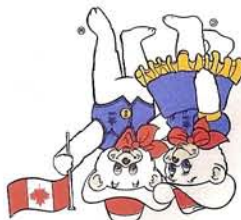
Comité d'organisation des
XVes Jeux Olympiques d'hiver

Case postale 1988, Succursale C
Calgary (Alberta) Canada
T2T 5R4

BULK
EN NOMBRE



MR DALE



XV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee

P.O. Box 1988, Station C
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2T 5R4

Comité d'organisation des
XVes Jeux Olympiques d'hiver

Case postale 1988, Succursale C
Calgary (Alberta) Canada
T2T 5R4

"MAILING
BULK"

-8.1X.88



MR DALE SPEIRS
BOX 6830, STATION D
CALGARY AB CAN
T2P 2E7

Private Couriers

For urgent deliveries, OCO used its own courier system, contracted out to private companies for actual point-to-point deliveries but otherwise entirely internal. The contractors did not process the mail through their own system, but only picked up closed bags, hence they did not have their own markings or labels on the mail.



XV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee

P.O. Box 1988, Station C
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2T 5R4

Comité d'organisation des
XVes Jeux Olympiques d'hiver

Case postale 1988, Succursale C
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2T 5R4

250 RA.

MR# EXT R17740
BRIAN NOBLE
PARKS & RECREATION OFFICE
905-30th AVE N.W.
289-3151

LINE 0002

M/R NO EXT R17440
REQUESTOR CHERIE BOURBONNAIS 3346

DATE NEEDED 01/18/

FROM LOCATION

SHIP TO
CODE NAME AND ADDRESS

LEN

000037 "EXTERNAL SHIPMENT"

LINE #	ITEM ID #	DESCRIPTION
0002	2131 21	POSTER, H'DY AND HOWDY 18 X 24 IN

LOC/BIN

QTY
REQUESTED

PREV
ISSUED

BALANCE
DUE

ROW010
10A07

250

250



**XV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee**

P.O. Box 1988, Station C
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2T 5R4

**Comité d'organisation des
XV^{es} Jeux Olympiques d'hiver**

Case postale 1988, Succursale C
Calgary (Alberta) Canada
T2T 5R4

FOR COLLECTION

Mr. Dale Speirs
Philately Committee

Incoming Mail

A selection of mail inbound to OCO or its work units is shown on these next few pages. The official mailing address of OCO was Box 1988, but many Olympic workers chose to speed up the mail by giving correspondents a direct address.



STAMPS

95 BEZONS
17H
22-6
1987
VAL D'OISE

220

Exposition Philatelique Olympex '88
Comité d'organisation des ~~XV~~^{er} J.O d'hiver
CP 1988, Succursale C, Calgary (Alberta)
Canada T2T 5R4

TRY:
Box 1988
Stn. C.



CANADA

Einschreiben
recommandé

Mit Luftpost
par avion



OLYMPLEX PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION

CALGARY CONVENTION CENTRE
SALON A

120-9th AVENUE S.E.

CALGARY, ALBERTA T2T 0P3



Abs. HORST SOMMER
PROGRESSWEG 38
ZWICKAU / DDR
9561

Philatelistenverband
im Kulturbund der DDR
Tauschkontrollstelle 14 B

**Registered Express
AIR MAIL.**

From: **Masaoki Ichimura**
6-1-33 Sakurajima
Minato City, Osaka
Japan

To:

Olympex '88 - Olympic Arts Festival
Karyn Allen Keenan - Supervisor, Visual Arts
133 - 6th. Floor, Andrew Davison Building
CALGARY, Alberta S.E.
CANADA, T2G 4Z1

To Be Opened by Addressee Only

Postage 1600
3000
1800
50
4720
YEN 114.00



**BUSINESS MAIL OF
FOREIGN OLYMPIC COMMITTEES**

U.S.A.

While in Calgary, the American Olympic team
used a Canadian postage meter #330110.
The meter was used with and without a slogan cancel.



*The 1988 U.S. Olympic Team
celebrates the
XV Olympic Winter Games
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
February 13 - 28, 1988*



DR. HAROLD W HENNING
555 NORTH WASHINGTON
NAPERVILLE, IL 60540

Other Foreign Mail

These cut-pieces are from the Romanian Olympic team.



OFFICIAL SPONSORS, SUPPLIERS, AND LICENSEES

Most of the official sponsors, suppliers, and licensees of the Calgary Olympics only used their status for advertising on their business envelopes, as shown on the next few pages.

Canada Safeway went a step further and distributed the covers shown below to all its employees.

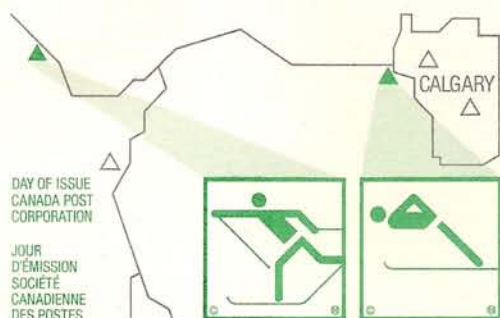


From Thunder Bay to Victoria, over 22,000 Safeway employees are proud to share in the spirit of the Olympics. A spirit that strives for excellence.

As an Official Sponsor of the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, Safeway will be serving the legacy and ideals of Olympic competition. Not only by supporting the event as a whole, but also by directly helping the competitors themselves.

Safeway will be pulling for victory and the spirit of the games. A spirit that will break records on the hills and in the Olympic arenas; and later break bread in celebration of international sportsmanship.

As Official Supplier of Meat, Dairy and Floral products, Safeway is playing a key role: as the Olympic athletes put their dreams on the line, Safeway will put the food on their table.



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FORM 22F



Only AGT Long Distance
puts you in touch
with your world.
Instantly. Call on us.

P.O. Box 2452
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3B2

® Official Mark © Canadian Olympic Association 1979.



FORM 22F



A great gift to give or receive.
**AGT Long Distance
Gift Certificates**

P.O. Box 2452
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3B2

® Official Mark © Canadian Olympic Association 1979.



**BUSINESS
REPLY MAIL**

No Postage Stamp
Necessary if Mailed
in Canada

Postage will be paid by

SPECIAL ADVANCE ORDER
The Official Commemorative Book
of the 1988 Olympic Winter Games

GWA GROUP PUBLISHING,
30 MURAL STREET, UNIT 5,
RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO,
L4B 9Z9



4403 84TH AVENUE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6B 2S6



SPEIRS, DALE, COLIN
BOX 6830 STN D

CALGARY
AB
T2P 2E7



"OFFICIAL LICENSEE"

Dominion Sports Marketing
produced all the lapel pins
for the Calgary Olympics.



**PIN ON THE
SPIRIT OF
CANADIAN
OLYMPIANS®**

Dominion Sports Marketing Ltd.
3131 Dewdney Avenue
Regina, Sask. S4T 0Y5



D SPEIRS
BOX 6530 STN D
CALGARY, ALTA, CANADA
T2P 2E7

CANADIAN COMMEMORATIVE COVERS AND POSTMARKS

Special Postmarks (other than events)

This machine cancel is difficult to find in good condition. It was only used by the Calgary post office on a backup machine that only went into service during peak periods or when another machine was down.



36 CANADA
OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
FEBRUARY 13-28, 1988
JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER
DU 13 AU 28 FEVRIER 1988
CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA

 **FINANCIAL
TRUST**
104 - 4th Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 0C4



OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
FEBRUARY 13-28, 1988
JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER
DU 13 AU 28 FEVRIER 1988
CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA



Health and Welfare
Canada

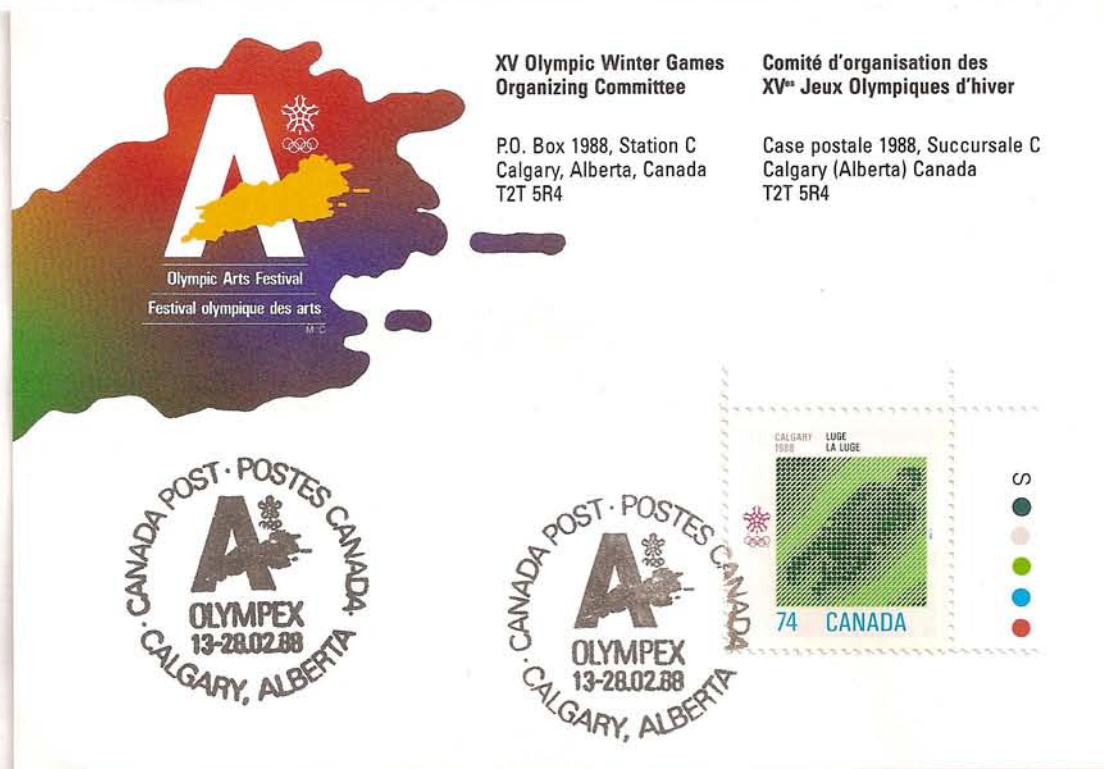
Santé et Bien-être social
Canada



Speirs Veterinary Supplies & Services
4535 Moore Crescent
Red Deer Alta. AB
T4N 2M1



This cancellation was available only at OLYMPEX 88, the official philatelic exhibition of the Calgary Olympics. It was not advertised and could only be had on site.



Le Comité d'organisation des
XV^{es} Jeux Olympiques d'hiver
et
la Société canadienne des postes

vous invitent cordialement
à l'inauguration

d'OLYMPEX'88

par Son Excellence Juan Antonio Samaranch
président du Comité International Olympique
et au dévoilement des quatre derniers timbres-poste
de la série Olympique

le samedi 13 février 1988
à 9 h
à la salle Macleod, sections A et B
du Centre des congrès de Calgary
120, 9^e Avenue sud-est
Calgary (Alberta), Canada

Une réception suivra
à Macleod Hall, salon A et B

RSVP Susan (403) 287-2205

XV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee
and
Canada Post Corporation

cordially invite you to attend
the official opening of

OLYMPEX'88

by His Excellency Dr. Juan Antonio Samaranch
President of the International Olympic Committee
followed by the unveiling of the final four stamps
in the Olympic Series

Saturday, February 13, 1988
at 9:00 a.m.
Macleod Hall Salon A and B, Calgary Convention Centre
120 - 9 Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

A reception will follow

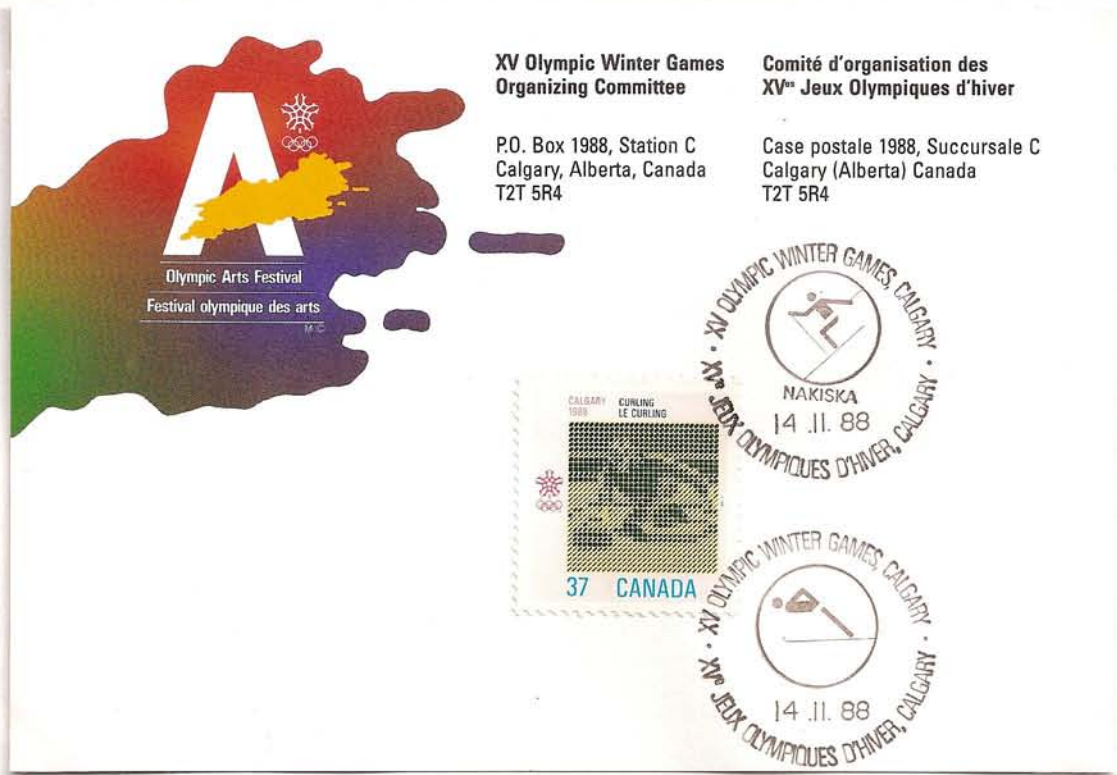
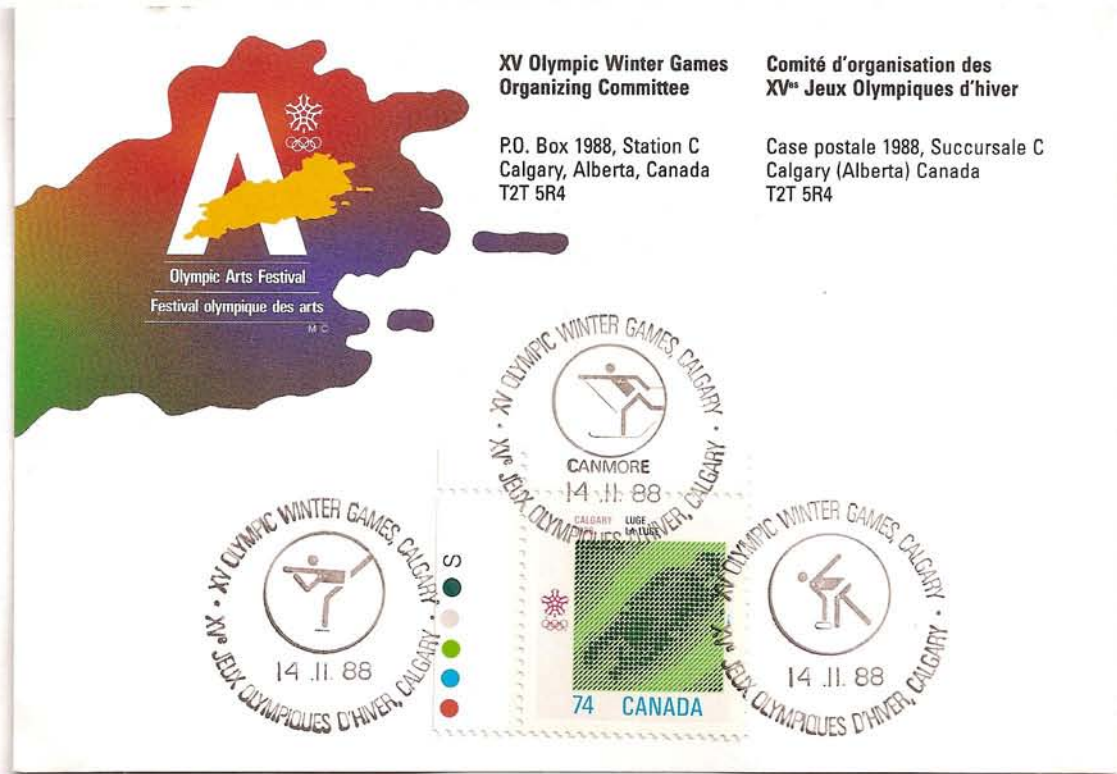
RSVP Susan (403)287-2205

Event Postmarks

Canada Post provided nineteen cancellations for the Games, available at the venues, Calgary philatelic bureaus, and the main bureau at Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The top cover is for the Opening Ceremonies and the bottom cover for hockey.



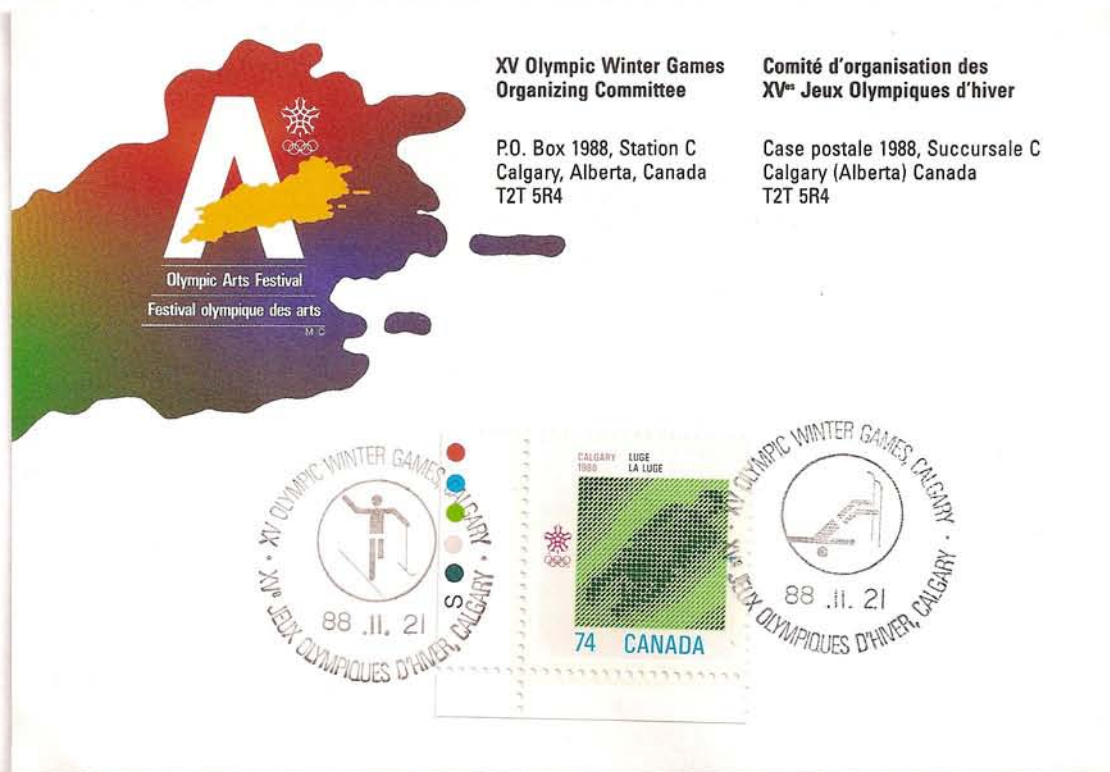
Top cover has cancels for (left to right) figure skating, cross-country skiing, and curling. Bottom cover shows cancels for downhill skiing and ski jumping.



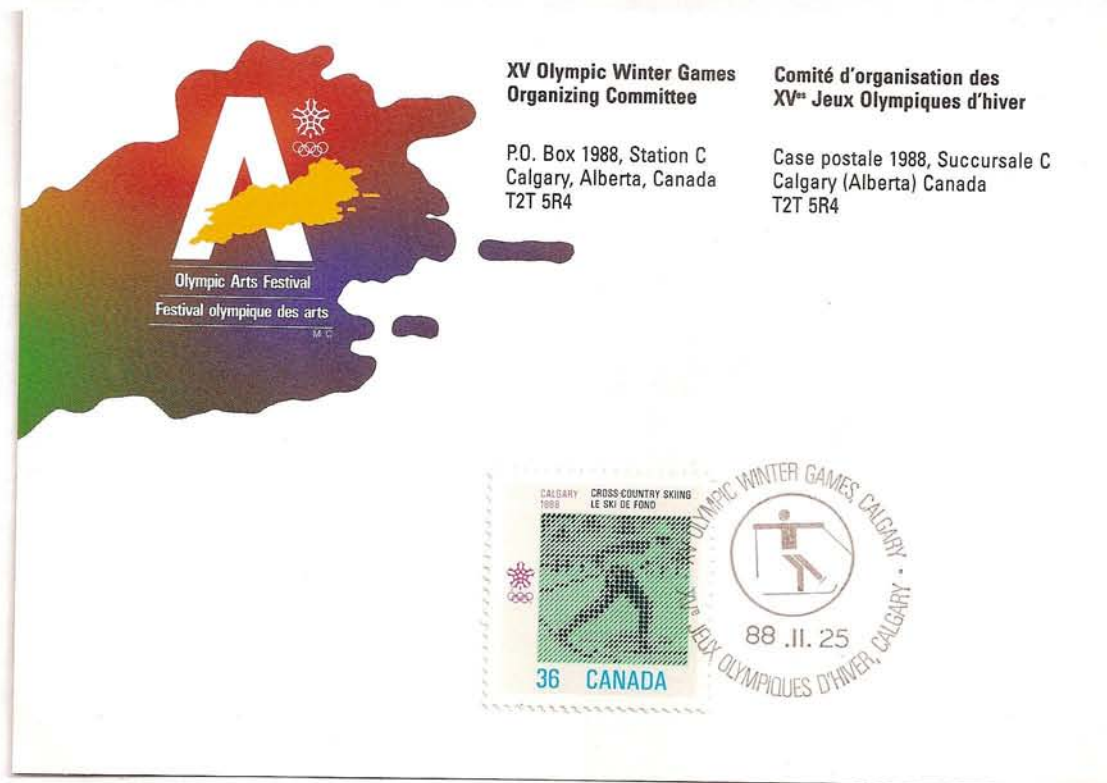
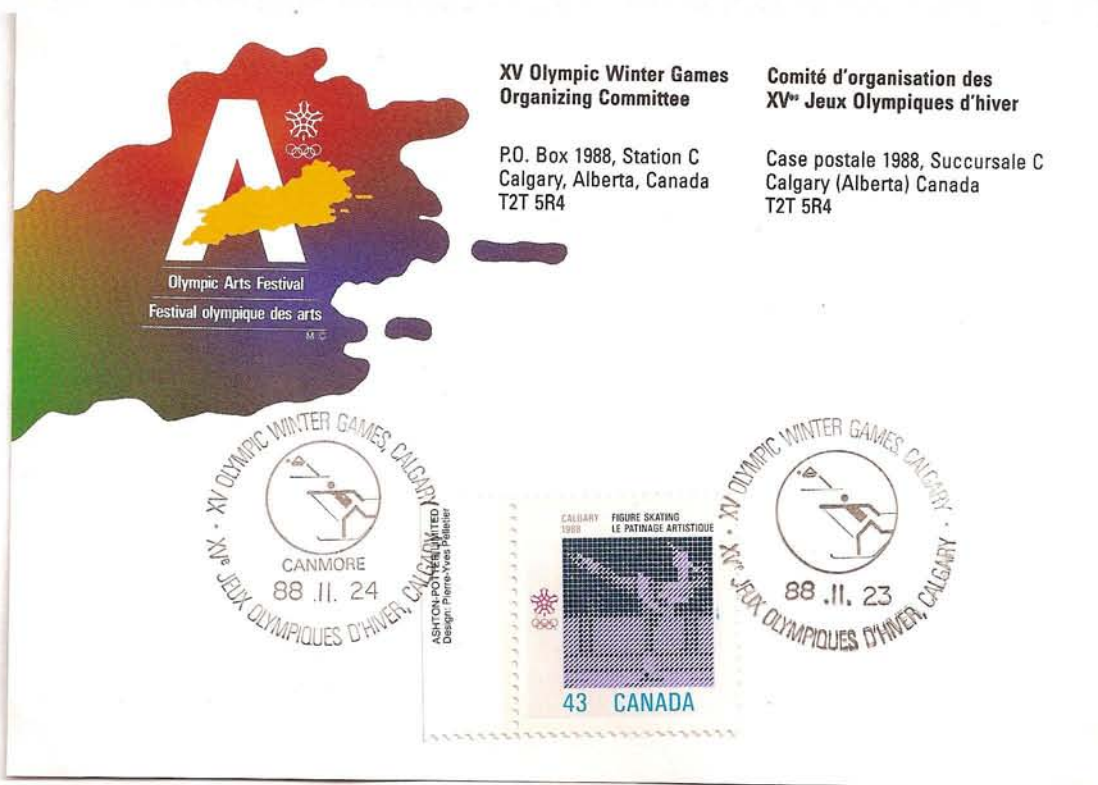
Top cover shows the luge cancel. Bottom cover shows the biathlon and bobsleigh cancels.



Top cover shows postmarks for disabled skiing and freestyle skiing (at Calgary venue). Bottom cover shows postmarks for freestyle skiing (at Nakiska venue) and speed-skating.



Top cover shows two different postmarks for the Nordic combined skiing, which was split between the Canmore and Calgary venues. The bottom cover is for disabled freestyle skiing.



The top cover shows a postmark for short-track speed-skating. The bottom cover shows the Closing Ceremony postmark at right. The rectangle at left was a rubber stamp for the Olympic passport, which had 28 different stamps for the different venues. These were not legitimate postmarks but many people used them as cachets or as illegitimate cancels.

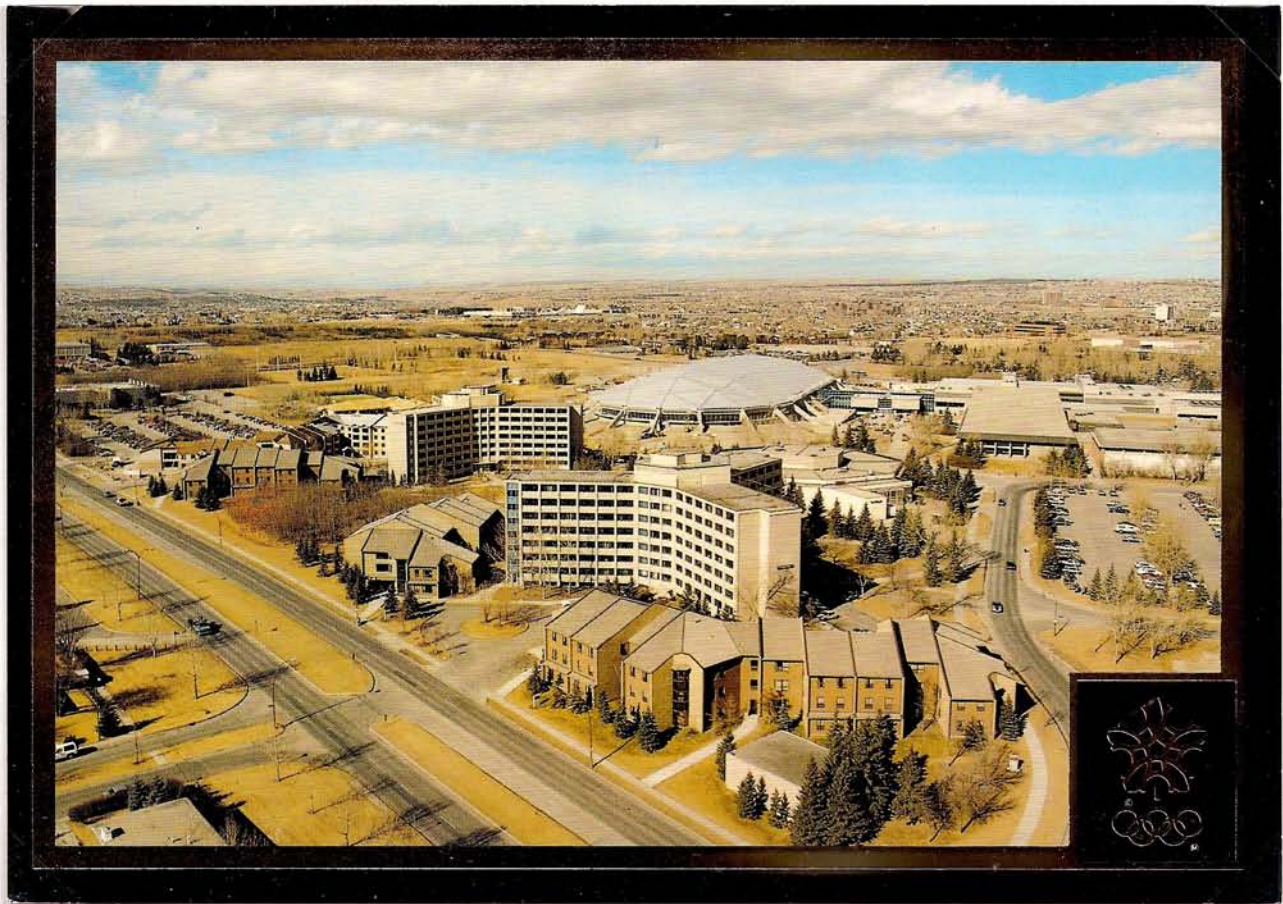
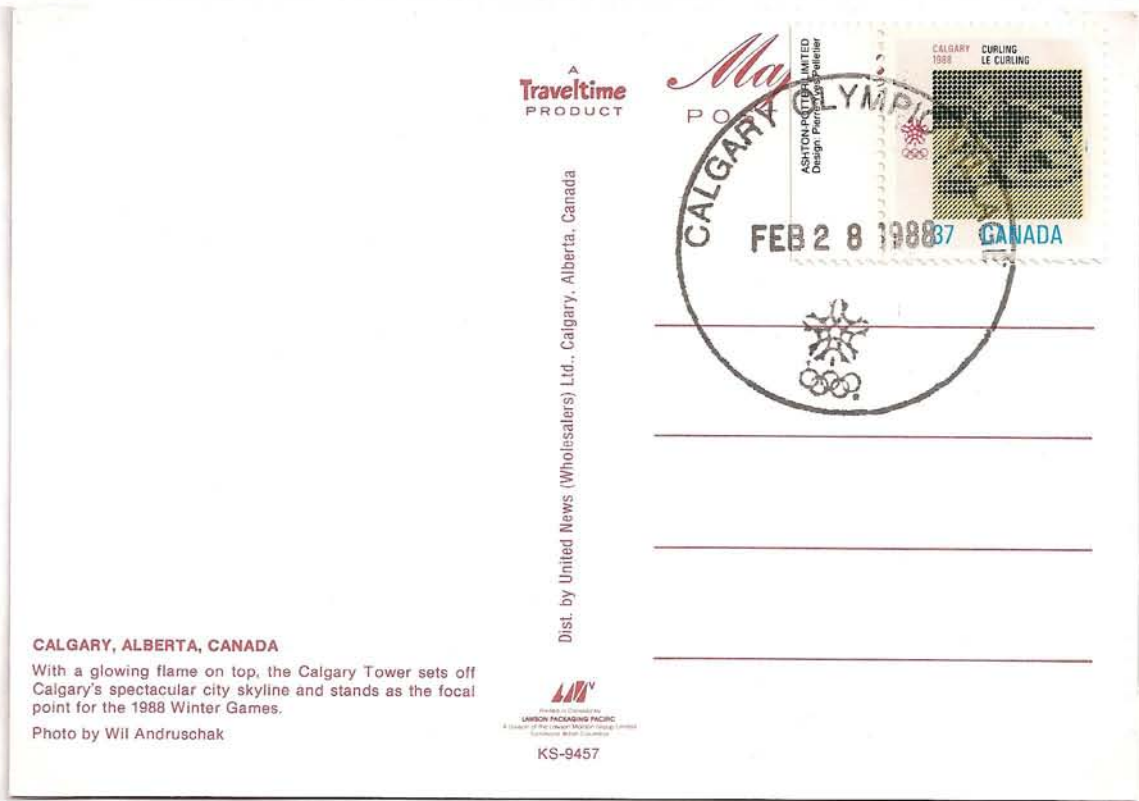


Olympex '88
Calgary • Alberta • Canada
Calgary Convention Centre
February 13-28, 1988
Centre des congrès de Calgary
Du 13 au 28 février 1988

© CDA/A.O.C. 1979, 1988.



The athletes stayed at the Olympic Village at the University of Calgary. OCO manufactured the cancel shown on this postcard but it was never officially sanctioned by Canada Post. It was intended to be used as a receiving mark for incoming mail. However, demand from the athletes to use it as a souvenir to send to the folks back home on postcards was so great that Canada Post quickly relented and allowed it to cancel mail at the Olympic Village post office.



Varieties And Errors

The top cover shows the Opening Ceremony postmark without a date. The bottom cover, autographed by Juan Antonio Samaranch (IOC President) is correctly dated.





Olympex '88
 Calgary • Alberta • Canada
 Calgary Convention Centre
 February 13-28, 1988
 Centre des congrès de Calgary
 Du 13 au 28 février 1988

© CDA/A.O.C. 1979, 1986



THE OLYMPIC SADDLEDOME

An Official site of the 1988 Olympic Winter Games. Seating capacity is 17,000 with expansion to 20,000. The Olympic Saddledome will feature Hockey and Figure Skating events.



8805



Printed in Australia by Coloursans
 Photo by Doug Sinclair



DALE SPEIRS
 BOX 6830 STN D
 CALGARY ALBERTA
 T2P 2E7

© Official Mark © Canadian Olympic Association 1979, 1983
 "Olympic" is an Official Mark of the Canadian Olympic Association



Official Licensed Product by
 High Country Color Box 5000, Canmore, Alta. TOL OMO

The proper method of dating the postmarks was year-month-day, as shown in the top cover. There was confusion among some postal employees, who set the dates at day-month-year, as seen on the lower postcard.



**XV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee**

P.O. Box 1988, Station C
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2T 5R4

**Comité d'organisation des
XV^{es} Jeux Olympiques d'hiver**

Case postale 1988, Succursale C
Calgary (Alberta) Canada
T2T 5R4



The postmarks for speed-skating and short-track speed-skating resemble each other very closely. Each postmark should only have been used on the date of the event depicted. The short-track cancel above (on righthand side) is dated February 14 but should not have been used until February 22.

First-Day Covers: Official

Canada Post issued eleven postage stamps honouring the Calgary Olympics. First-day covers were issued beginning in February 1986 up until the day before the Games started, as shown on the next few pages. The first stamp, showing a stylized map of Calgary and area, appeared on 1986-02-13 as shown below.





Canada Post
Corporation
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0B1

Société canadienne
des postes
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0B1



Robert Perry
2232 Sumac Road N.W.
CALGARY, Alberta
T2N 3T9

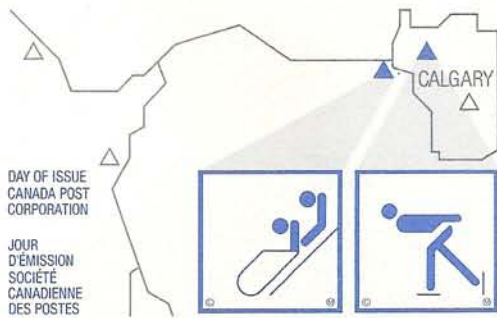
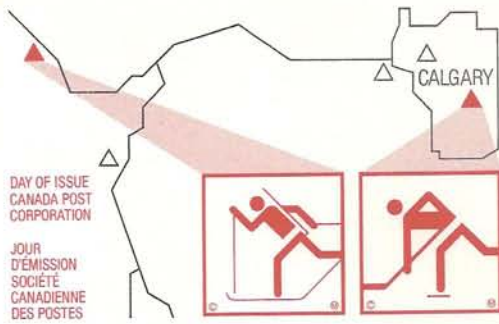


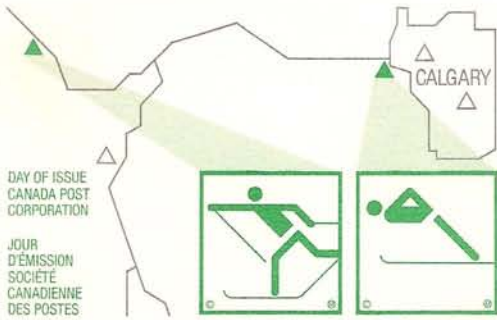
Special Delivery Expres

Une réception suivra

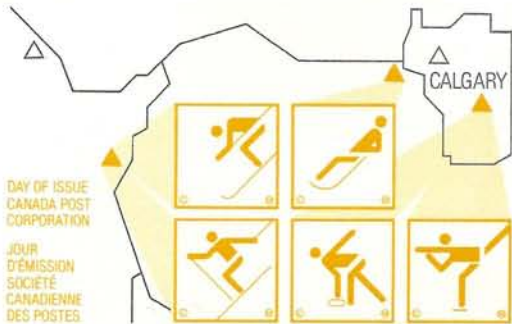
*The Chairman of the Board
of Canada Post Corporation
The Honourable Judge René J. Marin
requests the pleasure of your company
at the unveiling of a commemorative stamp
featuring the XV Olympic Winter Games
on Thursday, the thirteenth of February
at five thirty o'clock
in the Calgary Municipal Building
Macleod Trail at Eighth Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta*

A reception will follow.





CANADIAN BANK NOTE
Design: Pierre-Yves Pendergast



First-Day Covers: Unofficial



First-day cover prepared by the Olympic Arts Festival to publicize the official stamp show OLYMPEX 88.



Daqing is a petroleum city in China and is Calgary's sister city. This cover was prepared by the Calgary Philatelic Society as an exchange for a non-Olympic cover they prepared a year earlier. Most copies went to China.

First Day of Issue Jour d'Emission
February 13, 1986

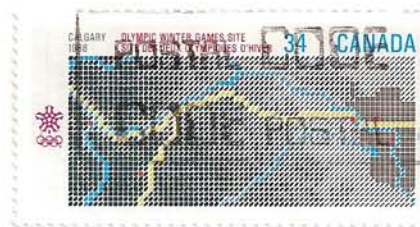
CANADA

HONOURS

1988 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
Calgary, Alberta



The city of Calgary, Alberta, will serve as host to the XV Olympic Winter Games from February 13 to 28, 1988.



First Day of Issue Jour d'Emission

15 October 1986

1988 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
Calgary, Alberta



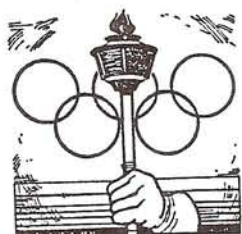
First Day of Issue Jour d'Emission

3 April 87 1988 Olympic Winter Games



First Day of Issue Jour d'Emission

1988 Olympic Winter Games
12 February 1988



The flame



FOREIGN COMMEMORATIVE COVERS AND POSTMARKS



South Korea hosted the Summer Olympics in 1988. Their post office had a booth at OLYMPLEX 88.

DIA DE EMISION

PRIMER



SELLOS
POSTALES
DEL

PARAGUAY

PARAGUAY



OLYMPEX'88

13-28-II

DIA DE EMISION

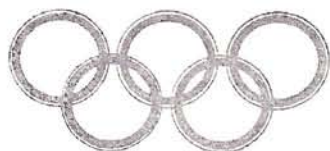
PRIMER



SELLOS
POSTALES
DEL

PARAGUAY

PARAGUAY

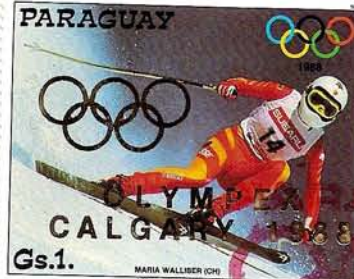


OLYMPEX'88

13-28-II

Primer día de emisión 13-2-88

PARAGUAY



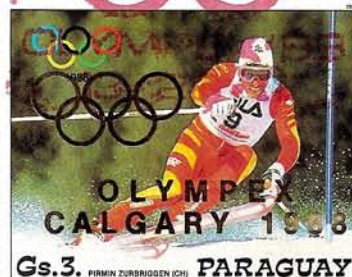
Gs.1.

MARIA WALLISER (CH)



PARAGUAY

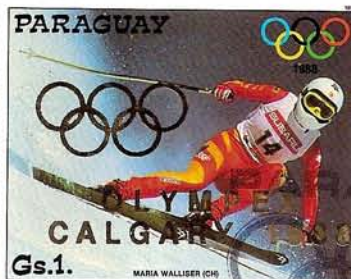
Gs.2.



Gs.3.

PARAGUAY

PARAGUAY



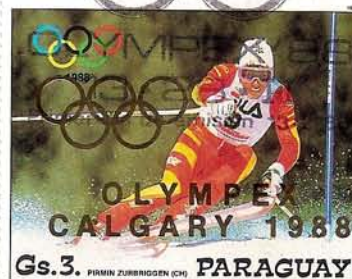
Gs.1.

MARIA WALLISER (CH)



PARAGUAY

Gs.2.



Gs.3.

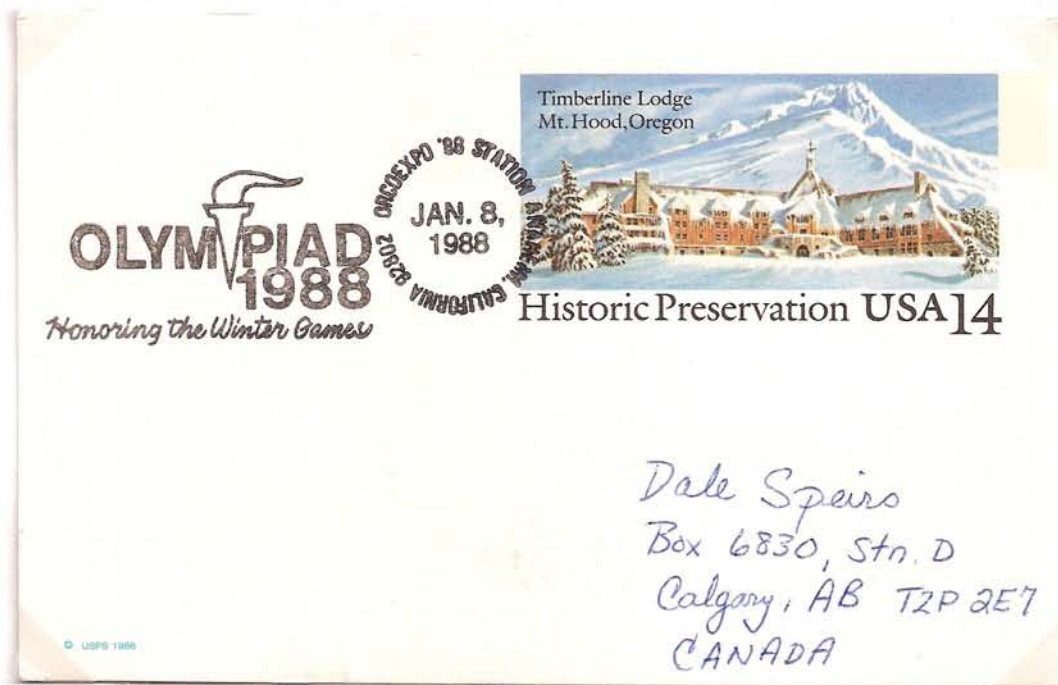
PARAGUAY

The Paraguay post office had a booth at OLYMPEX 88. The skiers depicted on the stamps all competed at Calgary.



Matti Nykanen became the first ski jumper to win gold in all three Olympic ski-jumping events. In honour of his performance at Calgary, the Finnish post office issued this stamp. The cachet on the cover depicts the ski jump at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary.

Numerous American covers and postmarks were issued honouring the Calgary Olympics.





THE OLYMPIC
TRADITION CONTINUES
CALGARY 1988



USA 14

*Dale Speirs
Box 6830, Stn. D
Calgary, AB T2P 2E7
CANADA*

© USPS 1987



George Wythe

15TH



Patriot

WINTER OLYMPICS
CALGARY CANADA



USA 14

*Dale Speirs
Box 6830, Stn "D"
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E7
CANADA*

© USPS 1985



Saluting the athletes

XV WINTER
OLYMPICS



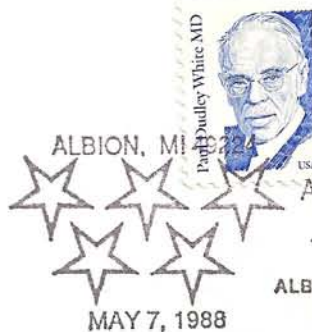
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