

All Ages Online Learning Activities

The Great Canadian Postal Trivia Challenge The mail must go regardless of hail, rain or snow!

See if you can complete this challenge in under 5 minutes! Click the links provided to check your answer.

Post offices were once rare in rural communities. Newmarket's early post offices were operated by influential local businessmen who established offices from their general stores. An early method of mail delivery was by Stagecoach. One of several established stagecoach routes ran between Toronto and Holland Landing.

Settlers that lived in the Barrie area traveled 56.4km by stagecoach to the closest post office which was in Newmarket. Mail delivery by stagecoach lasted in Newmarket until the arrival of the railroad in 1853.



Which of the following was not a Newmarket stagecoach proprietor:

- a) George Playter & Sons b) Joseph Hewitt c) T. Eaton Co.

Check your answer here: [The Memorable Merchants and Trades, 1930-1950; The Main Street Story 1800 to 1950, 1983, p. 138: Newmarket Public Library's Digital History Collection \(ourontario.ca\)](#)

Who was Newmarket's first Post Master?

- a) W.B. Robinson b) W. Roe c) J.A. Bastedo

Check your answer here: [Newmarket - Library and Archives Canada \(bac-lac.gc.ca\)](#)

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Major developments to the postal system started happening in 1851!

The Province of Canada felt they could operate the postal system more effectively here rather than in England. Who did they petition in 1851 for transfer of authority?

- a) The British Crown
- b) The British Post Office
- c) British North American Act

Who designed the first Canadian stamp?

- a) Sir George Simpson
- b) Sir Sandford Fleming
- c) Helen Roberta Fitzgerald

In 1851, the first Canadian Stamp was one of the world's first stamps not to feature a King or Queen. Instead, it featured one of these Canadian symbols:

- a) Beaver
- b) Maple Leaf
- c) Moose

Check answers for the above questions here: [Civilization.ca - A Chronology of Canadian Postal History \(historymuseum.ca\)](http://Civilization.ca - A Chronology of Canadian Postal History (historymuseum.ca))

Mail delivery by stagecoach lasted in Newmarket until the arrival of the railroad. Which Railroad arrived in 1853?

- a) The Grand Trunk Railway
- b) Canadian National Railway
- c) Ontario Simcoe and Huron Railway

Check your answer here: <https://www.trha.ca/trha/history/stations/newmarket-station/>

In 1856 Newmarket demanded improvement to the postal delivery service.

- a) Two mail delivery services per day
- b) Express service
- c) Home delivery service

Check your answer here: <https://news.ourontario.ca/newmarket/116404/page/3?n=1>
Hint: You can view the actual article on page 5.

What year did Newmarket become a Village?

- a) 1856
- b) 1857
- c) 1855

Check your answer here: [What year did newmarket become a village](https://www.ourontario.ca/newmarket/116404/page/3?n=1)

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Who was named Postmaster General on July 13, 1896?

- a) George Albert Bastedo b) J.E. Widdifield c) Sir William Mulock

Check your answer here: [Civilization.ca - A Chronology of Canadian Postal History \(historymuseum.ca\)](http://Civilization.ca - A Chronology of Canadian Postal History (historymuseum.ca))

In 1914 construction began on the Newmarket Federal building (aka Newmarket Post Office) located on Main Street. What unique design feature did it have?

- a) Bell tower with 1200 pound bell b) Four-faced clock
c) Both (a) and (b)

Check your answer here: HistoricPlaces.ca - HistoricPlaces.ca

Which Canadian stamp may have the most well-known printing error in the history of Canadian stamps?

- a) London to London Flights, 1927 b) St. Lawrence Seaway, 1959
c) Holy Family Christmas stamps, 1982

Check your answer here: 7 most expensive Canadian stamps - Macleans.ca

In 1961 the first woman, other than the Queen, appeared on a Canadian stamp. Who was she?

- a) Nellie McClung b) Pauline Johnson c) Frances Ann Hopkins

Check your answer here: Famous Canadian Women on Stamps - Johnson

In 1964 a series of special stamps were issued for:

- a) Christmas b) Easter c) Thanksgiving

Check your answer here: 1964 Canadian Christmas stamps - Bing images

What year was the postal code introduced?

- a) 1971 b) 1972 c) 1970

Check your answer here: [Civilization.ca - A Chronology of Canadian Postal History \(historymuseum.ca\)](http://Civilization.ca - A Chronology of Canadian Postal History (historymuseum.ca))

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**In Newmarket, the first character in your postal code starts with the letter "L".
What do you think "L" stands for?**

- a) Lower Canada b) Central Ontario c) Upper Lake Ontario Region

[Check your answer here: Table 9 First character of the postal code and corresponding province, territory or region \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

Which animal has delivered mail, but not in Canada:

- a) Horse b) Dog Team c) Camel

Check your answer here: [Mail delivery by animal - Wikipedia](#)

This well known Canadian author worked as an assistant postmaster at the local post office.

- a) Mazo de la Roche b) Stephen Leacock
c) Lucy Maud Montgomery

Check your answer here: [Cavendish Post Office - Cavendish Beach \(cavendishbeachpei.com\)](#)

Which of the following is not a Canada Post program:

- a) Write Here Write Now b) Signed Sealed Delivered
c) National Santa Letter Writing

Check your answer here: [song, signed sealed delivered - Bing](#)

According to a current Canada Post motto, it's always the right time to:

- a) Make someone's day b) Say it with flowers
c) When you care enough to send the very best

Check your answer here: [Canada Post is making an offer that'll be pretty hard to refuse \(it hopes\) RCI | English \(rcinet.ca\)](#)

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Canadian Museum of History's Stamp Collection video:

Video: [Exploring Our History in the Canadian Stamp Collection exhibition](#)
[Canadian Museum of History \(historymuseum.ca\)](http://historymuseum.ca)

The Post Office.

We receive the communication, or rather queries of our correspondent *Ignoramus*, with much pleasure. The present mail arrangement between Newmarket and Toronto is most inconvenient to business men, and loudly demands some improvement tending to the benefit of those chiefly interested. As our correspondent remarks, it is a grievance of no trifling nature, that three days should be occupied in writing to the County Town and receiving an answer.— There seems no good and sufficient reason why Newmarket should not have two mails a day as well as Barrie, which is scarcely its equal in commercial importance. And we are persuaded that the evil will be promptly remedied when brought under the notice of the proper authority. With the convenience afforded by the Railroad, the difference in the expense of the service will be but slight, while the advantage to this community will be very great. For ourselves we can speak strongly on the inconvenience of having to despatch letters for the English mail some forty-eight hours before it is made up in Toronto. However, as much boast is made that the department is carefully worked for the accommodation of the public, we fancy there will perhaps be little disinclination shown to afford us this boon.

Article from North York Sentinel, Pg2. July 24, 1856