

## International Polar Year 2007

- International research of the polar regions.
- 1882-83 was the first, motivated by Karl Weyprecht, an Austro-Hungarian naval officer
  - Observers making coordinated geophysical measurements at several locations during the same year.
  - 12 expeditions to the Arctic and 3 to the Antarctic
  - 12 countries participated – Austro-Hungarian Empire, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.
- The second was in 1932-33 – 50 years
  - Focused on observations to improve weather forecasting
  - 44 countries participated
  - A world data centre was created – International Meteorological Organization
- The International Geophysical Year (IGY) 1957-58 – 75 years
  - Focussed on geophysical research
  - Involved over 70 national scientific organizations
  - Canada issued a 5 cent stamp – Scott #376 March 1958
- 2007-08 the Third International Polar Year
  - Focussed on climate change
  - Canada supported a \$150-million research project called the Circumpolar Flaw Lead System Study – central pack ice moves away from coastal ice leaving open water
  - Led by Professor David Barber of the University of Manitoba
  - 16 countries involved
  - Canada issued a se-tenant pair of 52 cent stamps – Scott #2204-05





- Issued February 12, 2007
- Full pane consisted of 8 se-tenant pairs in two rows with a “gutter” strip between them – a first!
- Gutter strip contains the colour bar in the form of a thermometer with the Tillis Russell paper code as a Celsius figure.
- Maple leaf perforation between the stamps – 2<sup>nd</sup> time – 2005 Canada/China big cats joint issue
- Male King Eider – native to Canada, Alaska and Greenland
- Crossota Millsaeare – brilliant-red recently discovered deep-sea subarctic jellyfish – size of the thumb
- In addition to English and French languages, Inuktitut was also featured.
- Also issued as a souvenir sheet.

Sources: [www.canadapost.ca](http://www.canadapost.ca) and Wikipedia