



**SUPPLY
LINE**

Barbara McNutt

War Savings Stamps

Although not yet a teenager during the war, Barbara did her part by selling War Savings Stamps to support the war effort.



Barbara McNutt posing in her Miss Canada apron.
George Metcalf Archival Collection
Canadian War Museum 20150269-001_600

Early Years

Barbara was a young girl living in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, when the Second World War broke out.

Miss Canada Volunteers

Canada needed funds to pay for the war effort. One way of raising money was for the government to borrow from Canadians through products such as Victory Bonds.

People could buy the bonds for a set price, redeeming them after the war with interest. War Saving Stamps were similar. Sold for 25 cents each, once four dollars' worth of stamps had been pasted into a War Savings Stamps booklet, the booklet could be exchanged for a five-dollar War Savings Certificate, also redeemable after the war.

Although anyone could purchase War Savings Stamps, their lower cost made them popular among young people. Young women – usually teenagers – also volunteered to sell War Savings Stamps.

Each volunteer was known as Miss Canada. They wore distinctive red aprons and blue wedge caps and sold War Savings Stamps on busy street corners and in shops, or went door to door.

In 1945, Barbara McNutt began selling War Savings Stamps with a friend. When the friend's older sister decided to move to a wealthier area to canvass, the younger girls signed up to take over her old route – although they were younger than the program's minimum age.

Barbara was given the uniform's red apron and hat, but she was so much smaller than the usual Miss Canadas that the apron had to be altered at the hem and shoulders to fit. Barbara and her friend sold about five dollars' worth of stamps per week.

For the first few weeks, they stopped at every home on their route. They later changed their approach, going only to homes likely to buy a stamp.

The girls canvassed primarily in their own neighborhood, at the homes of people they usually already knew. At times, they were invited in for home-baked cookies.

Memories of the War

Barbara kept her Miss Canada apron and hat for more than 60 years, before donating them to the Canadian War Museum.