

Dear customers and friends:

This is the second 'retro' edition of the Helix Courier Limited newsletter. In this edition, we are revisiting 1990. Subsequent issues will be 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and finally 1968 - the year in which Helix was founded. We hope you enjoy our stroll down memory lane!

Sieg Pedde, President

## 1990 Events in Canada.

- January 24 - The Tories introduce legislation that would create the Goods and Services Tax (GST), a national sales tax
- February: The federal government announces that it will privatize Petro-Canada; the legislation to do so is introduced in October.
- February 12 - A massive tire fire begins near Hagersville, Ontario. It takes 15 days to put out.
- March 15 - The federal government decides that Sikhs may wear turbans while serving as Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers.
- May 12 - The Bloc Québécois Party is formed as several MPs led by Lucien Bouchard quit the Tories and Liberals.
- June 23 - Jean Chrétien is elected leader of the Liberal Party of Canada at a convention in Calgary.
- July 18 - Johnny Wayne, comedian and comedy writer, born in 1918, dies.
- September 6 - Bob Rae's Ontario New Democratic Party wins a surprise majority in Ontario.
- October 1 - Bob Rae becomes premier of Ontario, replacing David Peterson.
- December 10 - Jean Chrétien is returned to the House of Commons, after winning a by-election for the New Brunswick riding of Beauséjour.
- December 17 - The GST becomes law.

## What Else Happened in 1990?

Nelson Mandela was released from prison after 27 years, Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait, the members of Milli Vanilli lost their Grammy when they admitted lip-synching their hits, and Janet Adkins from Portland, Oregon, became the first person to commit suicide with Jack Kevorkian's help.

On August 28, 1990, from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m., the strongest tornado in northern Illinois in greater than 20 years struck the towns of Plainfield, Crest Hill, and Joliet. The violent tornado killed 29 people and injured 353. It is the only F5 tornado to ever strike the Chicago area.

Although the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, it was in 1990 that East and West Germany unified to form one country again. For anyone interested in a first-hand account of the fall of the wall, there is a link in a blog post by Helix president Sieg Pedde to an article written by his cousin Friedhelm, an archeologist in Berlin, who writes about the experience, complete with illustrative photographs:

<http://atavist.blogspot.com/2009/11/fall-of-berlin-wall-20th-anniversary.html>

The Hubble Space Telescope was carried into orbit by a space shuttle in 1990. It is both a vital research tool and a public relations boon for astronomy. It was built by the United States space agency NASA, with contributions from the European Space Agency, and is operated by the Space Telescope Science Institute. It is named after the astronomer Edwin Hubble.

In 1990, J. K. Rowling got the idea for the first Harry Potter book while travelling on a train trip from Manchester to London. The Potter books have sold more than 400 million copies and have been the basis for the very successful Harry Potter movies.

Rowling is famous for her "rags to riches" life story, progressing from living on welfare to multi-millionaire status within five years. In March 2010, when its latest world billionaires list was published, Forbes estimated Rowling's net worth to be \$1 billion.

Jurassic Park was another book that became hugely successful in 1990. The science fiction novel, written by Michael Crichton, showcases genetically re-created dinosaurs that run amok and terrorize and destroy the amusement park for which they were created. In 1993, Steven Spielberg adapted the book into the blockbuster film Jurassic Park, which won 3 Oscars, 19 other awards, and 15 nominations.

## 1990 Movie Releases:

There were some notable movies released in 1990, among them vehicles that were career-defining for actors Johnny Depp (Edward Scissorhands), Julia Roberts (Pretty Woman), and Kevin Costner (Dances With Wolves).

- Home Alone
- Edward Scissorhands
- Goodfellas
- Pretty Woman
- Dances With Wolves
- Die Hard 2: Die Harder
- The Godfather part III
- Ghost
- Back to the future III

## Top 10 songs in 1990

Popular music has always defined every era. What we hear as we grow up influences our musical tastes for the rest of our lives. As we age, the music we grew up with is often played on 'oldies' or nostalgia radio stations. Did you have a favourite song in 1990? Was there one that became 'our' song for you and your significant other?

- 1 Nothing Compares 2 U - Sinead O'Connor
- 2 Mama Said Knock You Out - LL Cool J
- 3 Vogue - Madonna
- 4 Been Caught Stealing - Jane's Addiction
- 5 Groove Is In The Heart - Deee-Lite
- 6 Enjoy The Silence - Depeche Mode
- 7 Man In The Box - Alice In Chains
- 8 U Can't Touch This - MC Hammer
- 9 Unbelievable - EMF
- 10 Vision of Love - Mariah Carey

## Twin Peaks - TV Show from producer-director David Lynch

Twin Peaks was a prime-time continuing drama that ran on ABC in 1990 and 1991. It was a dark but wonderfully wacky show with some truly weird characters, co-written, co-executive produced and directed for television by David Lynch. It was like nothing else ever seen on television at the time. It was a story of the grisly murder of a high school homecoming queen in small sawmill town in the Pacific Northwest. It juxtaposed the physical beauty of the surroundings with the darkness typical of works by David Lynch.

The Twin Peaks cast included Kyle MacLachlan, Michael Ontkean, Richard Beymer, Lara Flynn Boyle, Peggy Lipton, Jack Nance, Joan Chen, Piper Laurie and Russ Tamblyn.

Helix Courier Limited



Spice up your package!  
Put a Helix waybill on it!


453-0501

## Royal Canadian Mint Commemorative \$200 Proofs



Starting in 1990, the Royal Canadian Mint issued a series of commemorative two hundred dollar proof gold coins. The coins are produced in 22 carat (karat) gold, and contain slightly over half an troy ounce of fine gold.

These coins are mostly collectibles and as such are priced according to collector demand as well as for actual gold content



The Canadian Maple Leaf Bullion Coins (2010 version shown above) on the other hand, are mostly priced by their one ounce .999 fine gold content plus a small premium for production and handling. In 1990, these coins could have been purchased for not much more than the per-ounce trading range of gold, between \$399.00 USD on January 1 and \$385.00 USD on December 28, the last trading day of that year. Today's price, at the end of September, 2010, is over \$1,300 USD.

Gold and silver have been an outstanding investment over the last two decades for those who have been patient with the inevitable swings in price. Some analysts think that the rally is just starting. We'll see.

During 1990, the average price of silver per ounce was \$4.83 USD. The price is now well over \$21.00 per ounce.

### 1990 vs. 1989

**Q.** Why are 1990 dollar bills worth more than 1989 dollar bills?

**A.** One thousand nine hundred and ninety dollar bills are worth one dollar more than one thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine dollar bills.