



Bulletin

The Newsletter of the West Toronto Stamp Club
www.westtorontostampclub.org

The Club meets at
Fairfield Seniors' Centre
80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke, ON
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B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

I trust you have had a restful summer and are eagerly anticipating the 2016/2017 philatelic year. The year started for some of us when we attended the RPSC National Convention in late August. The Royal was as expected a spectacular event, with opportunities to hunt for and to purchase new treasures, to listen to informative speakers, to reconnect with fellow stamp enthusiasts, and to view and to appreciate many outstanding exhibits.

The following impressive research based exhibits are some that captured my attention.

- Expansion of the Post Office in Toronto, 1880 to 1899 (Silver, Garfield Portch)
- Canada's Barrel Handstamp Cancels (Gold, David Oberholtzer)
- The Imperial Airways Africa Route London to Capetown, 1925-1932 (Silver, Chris Edwards)
- Airmail to Canada's Gold Fields, 1924-1926 (Gold, Neil Hunter)
- Canadian Errors & Varieties During the Elizabethan Era (Vermeil, Doug McAndless)
- World War1 - Messages Home in Silk (Vermeil, Doreen Fitzgerald)
- In Defense of the Border - Canadian Military Mails, 1628-1885 (Court of Honour, David Hobden)
- The 1994 Great Britain Definitive Mini Sheet – A 20 Year History (Silver, David Gooderham)

The Exhibits such as the ones noted above not only preserve history but set the mark. They raise the bar by demonstrating commitment and excellence. As well they encourage us to learn more and to delve deeper in the hobby, encouraging us to bring order and to find the stories hiding or lost in our collections and accumulations stuck in the corners and stock books of our stamp rooms.

Last September I listed the following possible goals for you to consider.

- Go through your collection to build a detailed want list to fill specific holes or gaps
- Delve deeper into a definitive series by writing up what you have and know and want to learn
- Remount/mount parts of your collection by designing and utilizing your own pages
- Build your personal philatelic library and make better use of the Harry Sutherland Library at the Greene
- Assemble the components for a one page, multi-page or one frame exhibit, so that you will be ready by May to participate in the WTSC Annual Exhibition
- Join a new study group or philatelic society
- Seek a mentor or be a mentor

What will be your specific goals and plans for this year?

A Special Notice and Thank You

For those who are on the Machin email list, you will know that the Machin Study Group has run its course. Thank you to David Gooderham and Garfield Portch for their leadership, motivation and willingness to share research and knowledge. I am confident that the participants have valued your efforts and the many opportunities they had to learn about and appreciate the complexities of an interesting definitive issue.

A New Plan for the First Tuesday in the Month

For details on a new series of get-togethers on the first Tuesday evening of the month, called the Learning Workshop, see the third (last) page of this Bulletin.

September Activities

Meetings are held on Tuesday evening unless otherwise specified. Doors open at 6:30, meetings start at 7.

Sept 13 ~ Regular Meeting

Exchange of information, Show & Tell and Auction

Sept 20 ~ Discussion Group

Guest Speaker: **Leon Mathys** will speak on "**THE GREAT HALIFAX EXPLOSION**". This is the story, told through a philatelic exhibit, of the 1917 explosion in Halifax Harbour following a collision between the munitions ship Mont Blanc and the vessel Imo.

Sept 27 ~ **CANCELLED**

Our room is not available.

Discussion Group Schedule (October – June)

October 18 ~ Ken Pugh

FAKES AND FORGERIES OF CANADIAN AND BNA STAMPS - Ken Pugh of Chilliwack, B.C. is a noted researcher, author and general authority on this topic.

November 15 ~ Dr. Robert Galway

AVIATION IN WESTERN CANADA – This will be a continuation of the presentation begun in September, 2015 and will deal with the development of airmail service in the Canadian West.

January 17 ~ Ian Robertson

MR. LIVINGSTONE, I PRESUME - The story of a shopkeeper from Picton, Ontario who branched into postcards before World War 1 and distributed what may be the best quality photographic postcards of Ontario scenes.

April 18 ~ Mark Stelmacovich

UKRAINIAN PROVISIONAL STAMPS – This will be a PowerPoint presentation outlining the speaker's research and award winning exhibit of the provisional stamps of the Ukraine in the 1990's.

February 11, March 21, May 16, June 20 ~ TBA

Board Meeting

The board held its summer meeting on September 6, 2016. Highlights of the meeting include:

Auctions ~ Auctions were again a success. The Club earned a total commission of \$637.00 and there were \$945 of donated items.

Membership ~ As of the beginning of the new philatelic year, the club has a total membership of 94.

Finances ~ Frank Alusio presented various financial reports as at the end of August 2016 including:

- Summary – The Club is again solid financially.
- Statement of Income and Expense - Income of \$3,729.56, Expense of \$4,244.81, for a small deficit of \$515.25.
- 2016-17 Budget – Income and Expense are budgeted to be \$3,300.00

Copies of the reports are available to members upon Request.

Membership Renewal

Membership dues remain unchanged from last year - \$15.00 if paid by October 31, and \$ 20.00 thereafter. **If you renew now, you save \$5.00.** For a family membership, add \$5.00. Dues for new members are pro-rated based on the date of joining.

Payment may be made to Patricia Blanchard at Club meetings or via cheque payable to West Toronto Stamp Club mailed to her at 84 Gulliver Crescent, Brampton, ON L6S 1S9. If payment is not received by November 30, you will be deemed to have resigned.

Members are reminded to please wear their name tags to meetings. Not everyone knows everyone else.

WTSC Board 2016-2018

President: Sid Mensinga
Vice-President: Ian Robertson
Past President: Frank Alusio
Secretary: Rhonda Kavanagh
Treasurer: Lawrence Pinkney
Membership: Patricia Blanchard

Directors: Simon Claughton, Fred Colbourn, Art Leduc, Jose Restrepo, Rob Taylor, Bob Timberg

Appointees: Garfield Portch (Auctions Chair, Discussion Group, and Webmaster); Denzil Fernandes (Auctions); Bob Timberg (Bulletin Editor)

The Learning Workshop

Starting on October 4, then on the first Tuesday evening of each month, a new series of get-togethers will offer an opportunity for club members to share their varied interests in our hobby.

The first 'Learning Workshop' -- titled "My Favorite Philatelic Thing (Stamp/Cover/etc.)" -- will be held in the library behind the auditorium.

Be it old or modern, the question is simple: Why did you pick it? Is it old or modern? Was it the beautiful engraving, its over-all appearance, the colour, the size, appealing artwork -- a combination of all of the above? Or ... Well, you get the idea. The most important factor is participation. Your session doesn't have to be long. And the more the merrier, as the old saying goes.

Whether the 'Learning Workshop' opens a door to influence expansion of your collecting interests, or will just be another good opportunity for fellowship, stamp collecting at all levels brings us together.

If you have any ideas for topics, please let me (Ian Robertson) know, either at a regular meeting, or on special green slips of paper available at the members' table in the auditorium. Even your own notepaper will work.

We look forward to hearing from you, and will welcome volunteers for future first Tuesday get-togethers. Come, enjoy, and share. Don't be shy!

Ian Robertson

Club Website

Our web site was totally redone over the summer by Garfield. It is now one of the best club websites in the country.

Members should check it frequently as updates will be the order of the day. By clicking on "WHAT'S NEW" in the top toolbar you will be able to view the dates and nature of changes.

Take a look at <http://www.westtorontostampclub.org/>

Garfield, thank you!

Submitting Lots for Auctions

Please Take Careful Note - At the most recent meeting of the Board, it was agreed that auction lots could be submitted until 6:55 p.m. after which time a strict cutoff curfew will be applied. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Canadian Stamp News (CSN)

Did you know that club vice-president Ian Robertson writes an article (or two) every two weeks for CSN? If you've never read one of Ian's articles, find a recent copy of CSN, grab a tea or coffee (or maybe something stronger) and settle down in a comfortable chair and read. You won't be disappointed. Articles over the past month include "Postal history's many attractions include just plain fun" (August 23 - September 5) and "Hefty shipping fees discourage bidding" (September 6 - 19). The former article focuses on our club's June discussion group presentation by Garfield and Charles Verge.