



Bulletin

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

The Club meets at
Fairfield Seniors' Centre
80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke, ON
416-394-8687
Cancelled due to Covid-19

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October 2021

B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

The commitment to the West Toronto Stamp Club by its members is evident not only by the excellent participation in our various monthly Zoom sessions but also by the quick response of members to pay their annual membership dues. Payment by e-transfer has definitely simplified the process. As noted in my recent email to members and noted in the WTSC September Bulletin, annual membership dues of \$15 (\$20 beginning November 1) can be paid by e-transfer or by cheque.

- The WTSC email for e-transfer is president@westtorontostampclub.org
- Cheque payable to the West Toronto Stamp Club addressed to:

West Toronto Stamp Club
c/o Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation
10 Summerhill Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1A8
Canada

Speaking of membership, a special welcome to three new members, Darin Cherniwchan, Charles Livermore and Ken Pugh, who all live far from Toronto but can participate via Zoom. Their expertise, knowledge and participation have been and continue to be valued. Having key philatelic leaders join is of benefit to all members and guests and will enable us to even more effectively share knowledge and grow the hobby.

As previously shared, the city-operated Fairfield Centre remains closed; therefore, we cannot yet meet face to face. Prior to that first meeting, a detailed COVID-19 safety plan will be communicated to all members.

Even though this may be still a few months away, now is the time to be sure that you will meet COVID safety requirements for entrance to city-operated recreation centres, which includes the Fairfield Centre.

As advised by the City of Toronto:

"Under the provincial requirements, in order to access certain indoor public settings and facilities, Ontarians aged 12 and older will need to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated, along with valid ID. Ontarians can print or download their vaccination receipt from

the [provincial booking portal](#). Ontario is developing an enhanced electronic vaccine certificate with a unique QR code and a verification app for businesses, which will be available by October 22."

Considering our club demographics and for the safety of all members, the WTSC COVID-19 safety plan will require proof of double vaccination with no exceptions allowed.

October - Philatelic opportunities for WTSC members.

(Check out <http://www.westtorontostampclub.org/> to watch past Zoom Learning Workshop and Discussion Group sessions.)

- 1. Learning Workshop, 7 PM, Tuesday, October 5 - Philatelic - Stamp Collecting Project Under Construction.** Looking forward to another most interesting evening of learning and sharing. The Learning Workshop session planned for **November 2 Original Research** is detailed on page 3.
- 2. Discussion Group, 7 PM, Tuesday, October 19 - Military Toronto.** Guest speaker (and new member) **Charles Livermore**. Plan to attend what will be a most informative session. See page 3 for details.
3. As well, consider attending this month's **(RPSC) Stamp Talk and Stamp Panel sessions.**
 - **Monday, October 11, 7 PM** - Chris Green - *Introduction to the German Colonies & Post Offices Abroad.*
 - **Monday, October 18, 7 PM** - Education and Youth. *Should I get my child involved? What are youth interested in? What can be learned from philately?* Jane Sodero (moderator), Ted Nixon (panelist).

Registration in advance is required for RPSC webinars. See the RPSC website for details.
<https://www.rpsc.org/>

Sid Mensinga

**A Zoom meeting of The
Canadian Aerophilatelic
Society**
**and the British North
America Philatelic Society's
Air Mail Study Group**
will be held on

Sunday, November 7th

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Eastern Standard Time

Please note this is the Eastern Time Change Day.

Cheryl Ganz

will give a presentation on
**British Airship Post: The
Dream to Connect the
Empire.**

Cheryl was the Chief Curator of Philately at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington, DC; is a distinguished exhibitor who has won many awards including the 2018 Single-Frame Champion of Champions Award at the American Philatelic Society's Ameristamp Expo in 2018; and a highly regarded speaker.

Zoom details are:

Topic: Aerophilately Study Group

Time: November 7, 2021, 11:30 AM EST

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84155715409>

The meeting has been set up with a "waiting room" so you do not need a password.

**The meeting is open to everybody interested in air
mail and/or aviation.**

If you would like more information about the meeting, the CAS, or BNAPS, please email Chris Hargreaves at hargreavescp@sympatico.ca

Chris Hargreaves

Chris Hargreaves is editor of The Canadian Aerophilatelist, the quarterly publication of the CAS, and Past President of the CAS. WTSC members are encouraged to attend this Zoom meeting.

NTSC October Program

On **Thursday, October 14**, 2021 at **7 PM** join club member **Simon Cloughton** as he presents to the North Toronto Stamp Club on **Some Bolivian Covers - Postal History from 1885 to 1948**. Email NTSC.Membership@gmail.com to receive a link to the meeting.

Bolivia is a landlocked nation in central South America. It has a varied geography with a highland plateau and mountains in the west, and a lowland basin including a rainforest in the east. The presentation covers a period of over 60 years of mail delivery across hostile terrain.

This presentation is not to be missed.

Royal-2021-Royale Virtual National Philatelic Exhibition

Mark October 14-17, 2021 on your calendars.

Royal-2021-Royale is a Virtual National Philatelic Exhibition conducted by The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and hosted by CANPEX.

Exhibits will be in both multi-frame and single frame classes. Exhibitors receiving a vermeil or higher for a single frame exhibit will be eligible to submit their exhibit to CAPEX 22.

As added features, seminars will be offered and dealers will be present. **Garfield Portch** will be one of the speakers, presenting on **Street Post Offices of Toronto 1881 - 1901**.

For details, see <https://www.canpex.ca/>

Quote of the Month

"The philatelic world seems to have taken more interest in deltiology over the past 10 years." *George Sachs, President, The Toronto Post Card Club, in their newsletter Card Talk, Fall 2021, p. 3.*

Board of Directors

President: Sid Mensinga

Vice-President: Ian Robertson

Past President: Frank Alusio

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Lawrence Pinkney

Membership: Patricia Blanchard

Directors: Simon Cloughton, Fred Colbourn, Denzil Fernandes, Don Hedger, Jose Restrepo, Bob Timberg

Welcome to October, the Second 'ber' Month

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

« L'automne est un second printemps où chaque feuille est une fleur. »

Albert Camus

Upcoming Discussion Group Meetings

October 19: A new member, **Charles Livermore**, will provide an excellent historical presentation entitled **Military Toronto**.

November 16: **Patrick Durbano** will return to present **the second part of the story of the perforated O.H.M.S. stamps of Canada**.

December 21: Speaker and subject not yet confirmed but there will be a presentation.

Members and guests are reminded that recordings of many meetings from earlier 2021 are available for viewing on the WTSC website. Thank you **Denzil Fernandes** for making this happen.

For members who do not attend the Discussion Group meetings, I can only say that you are missing some brilliant presentations. You don't need to participate at the specialist end of the philatelic spectrum to enjoy these sessions. If you don't wish to be seen, turn your camera off. If you don't wish to participate in the conversation, you can mute your microphone. You are, however, encouraged to log in and listen. We would love to have everybody with us.

Garfield Portch

Congratulations to Members

Jim Dixon had his article, *1864: The first Bill stamps*, published in the April - June 2021 issue of *BNA Topics*.

Lawrence Pinkney's article, *Unauthorized Precancel Stamps and Unauthorized Precancel Covers*, was published in the September / October 2021 issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*.

Mark Stelmacovich exhibited at SAVPEX 2021 (South Africa's Sixth Virtual Philatelic Exhibition) in July 2021. His exhibit, *The 'KLCs', KYIV's 'Souvenir Sheet', and Usage for both, 1992 - 1995*, received a score of 78 in the traditional category.

WTSC Bulletin, October 2021, p. 3

November Learning Workshop

Beginning at **7 PM, Tuesday, November 2, 2021** via Zoom, our second virtual **Learning Workshop** of the 2021-2022 season is entitled **Original Research**. It's a short title, but carries a lot of weight.

Despite a plethora of articles, books and notes written for presentations and exhibits, new ground is still being broken on numerous topics.

Whether a collector has discovered varieties in modern or old issues, the thrill of the chase — especially if something previously unreported is discovered — can be exhilarating.

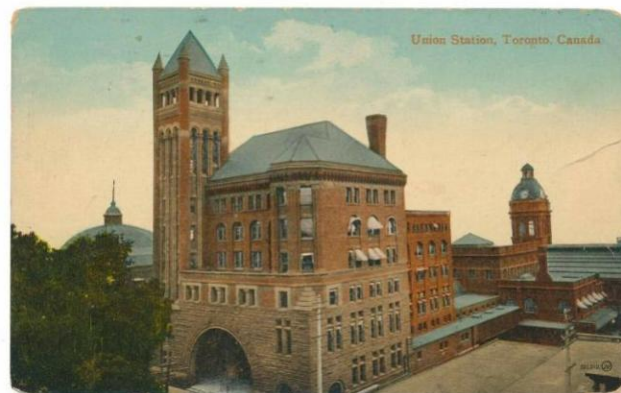
The same is true for postal history, including about people whose names are on envelopes they sent or received.

A Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada member recently related how he garnered the life story of a southern Ontario lawyer. Based simply on a cover addressed to him, details about his life, family and careers emerged from myriad sources, including his diary in the Ontario archives.

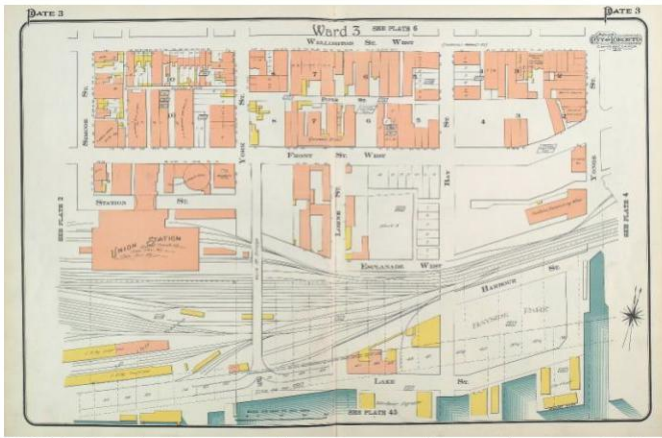
Sources include previously-published information, but original research requires going further. Some sites that can provide information include: Postmaster-General's annual reports; biographies and encyclopedias; Library & Archives Canada files; city archives, directories and maps; plus old newspapers.

For this Learning Workshop, we will have the pleasure of hearing about several successful research adventures.

Garfield Portch will describe learning about the little-known postal activities at Union Station, before a post office was opened there in 1927.



Old Union Station, Station and Simcoe Streets, Toronto, on colorized postcard mailed in 1914 from city's main post office.



1884 Ward 3 map of Toronto shows former Union Station beside railway tracks (centre left).

Our president, Sid Mensinga, assembled quite a postal history collection related to Gravenhurst, Ontario, one of his favorite communities. In addition to information about the town's post office, postmasters and postmarks, he garnered details about Camp Calydor. Known as Camp 20, it was a federal government-operated prisoner-of-war facility between 1940 and 1946, where German officers wrote and received mail from home.



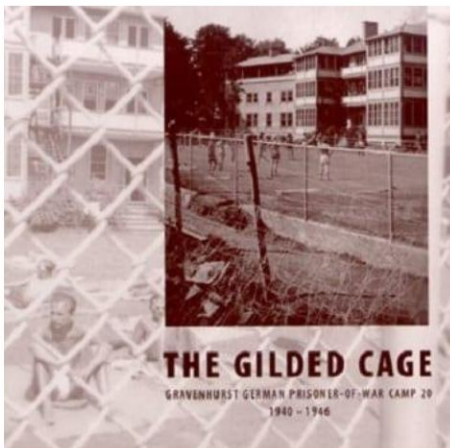
Photo of 'Lager Zoo' for animals at Camp 20, a 1940-46 prisoner-of-war facility at Gravenhurst, Ont.



Censored Airmail cover, from prisoner-of-war to Germany, postmarked at Camp 20 in Gravenhurst, Ont. on Nov. 20, 1944.



German officers held 1940-46 at prisoner-of-war camp in Gravenhurst, Ont., escorted by Canadian soldiers (Photo courtesy of Town of Gravenhurst).



'The Gilded Cage', an out-of-print 164-page 1999 book about German prisoners-of-war in Gravenhurst, Ont., 1940-1946.



(Left) July 27, 1897 Gravenhurst, Ont. circular postmark on Queen Victoria 3-cent 1897 Jubilee commemorative. (Right) Union Station Toronto '1' roller cancel on Queen Victoria \$2 Jubilee commemorative attached to bulk mail newspaper shipping receipt book.

Hopefully others will share tips about their research into favorite subjects, which might put like-minded members on the right path to further enjoy our hobby.

As always, participation in our workshops is rewarding and contributes to continuing teamwork, knowledge and friendship. Make a note on your calendars and tune in via Zoom for another entertaining virtual get-together.