



# Bulletin

The Newsletter of the West Toronto Stamp Club  
[www.westtorontostampclub.org](http://www.westtorontostampclub.org)

The Club meets at  
**Fairfield Seniors' Centre**  
80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke, ON  
416-394-8687

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B. Timberg, Editor

## President Sid's Message

As you would expect, meeting together continues to be unsafe and impossible. The Fairfield Seniors' Centre remains closed and the City of Toronto has cancelled all permits between April 6 and June 30. Therefore all WTSC meetings continue to be cancelled. Our inability to meet face to face has unfortunately become our new weird current reality - a strange new "The Twilight Zone".

Since we cannot meet for the balance of our WTSC 2019/20 philatelic year, our Annual Exhibition previously planned for May will not take place, and club elections will take place in the Fall. Details how we might still celebrate our 85th anniversary and how we will start the 2020/21 WTSC year will be provided when that becomes possible.

As stamp collectors we are most fortunate to have a hobby that keeps our spirits up and minds active. Fortunately, we can enjoy building our collections and exhibits, completing research projects, and pursuing new areas of collecting. As well, we now have new found time to check out many excellent philatelic internet links. I would highly recommend that you go to the Philatelic Specialist Society of Canada PSSC website <https://www.philatelicsspecialistsociety.com/>. There are many excellent presentations and exhibits posted by their members that can be downloaded for your enjoyment and learning.

As well, now is a great time to make those philatelic purchases large and small that will fill gaps in your collections/exhibits. A stamp collector perusing a dealer's website is akin to going to the corner variety or candy store when a child. Oh the joy and choices!!! I understand that philatelic internet sales are up dramatically. For "one stop shopping" support your dealers by going to their online stores through the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association portal link at <https://www.csdaonline.com/>.

Thank you to those members who shared how they are enjoying their various stamp collecting interests during this forced secluded time. Your sharing continues to be of interest and encouragement to your fellow club members. Send your stories, notes and images to editor Bob Timberg at [timberg@bell.net](mailto:timberg@bell.net) or me at [sidmensinga@gmail.com](mailto:sidmensinga@gmail.com) for the June Bulletin.

Stay safe.

## Staying in Touch: Notes from Members

### Improving my Centennial Exhibit / Collection

One of my philatelic endeavours during this time of isolation continues to be the improvement of my Centennial exhibit, "*Higher Value Centennials: A Sampling of Rates - Just Scratching the Surface*". Recently, I have been able to acquire a number of significant covers that will help accomplish that goal.

This difficult-to-find single use 20 cent Centennial cover, double weight airmail letter to the USA after November 1, 1968, is one of those; it is a great find!!! There was no primary single use for the 20 cent Centennial stamp. It was most often used to pay the 40 cent special delivery fee. My years of searching through dealers' boxes, web sites, auction catalogues, etc. had finally paid off.



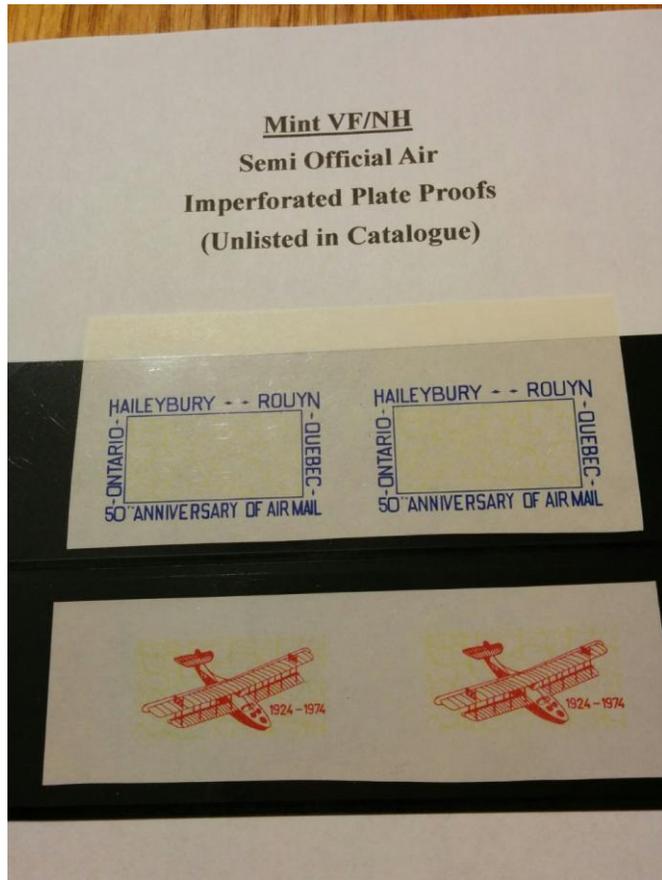
Finding this cover came about as a result of a conversation with stamp dealer Chris McFetridge at CANPEX 2019. We talked about the surging interest in "modern" definitive series, our mutual interest in the Centennials, and the search for scarce and difficult to find covers and usages. A few months after this conversation I was contacted by Chris, who noted that he had recently acquired a significant Centennial collection which included some very interesting covers. I was pleased to purchase three of them. This difficult-to-find elusive 20 cent single use Centennial cover will fill a significant hole in my exhibit story and collection.

Though very pleased with this addition, I am still on the look-out for a scarce single use 20 cent Centennial cover paying the double weight international airmail letter rate to an "A" group country prior to June 1, 1967. ("A" group countries were Bermuda, West Indies, Mexico, Cuba, British Guiana, Central and South America.) The fun continues!

Sid Mensinga

**Mint VF/NH Semi Official Airmail Imperforated Plate Proofs (Unlisted in Catalogue)**

This semi official airmail stamp was designed by Louis S. Kurowski to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Hawker-Siddley HS2L flight of 1924. Although this stamp had no official status (hence 'semi-official'), Canada Post allowed (and cancelled) its use on all flight covers provided for the 50th Anniversary Flight in 1974. As with other semi official airmails, it was used on the back of the covers. Canada Post even prepared a special bilingual slogan cancellation for both the Haileybury and Rouyn post offices.



After 1974, the remainder of stock of these stamps, both perforated and imperforated, as well as the proofs, were sold to a Toronto dealer. Apparently he had no time to do anything with them and put them away until 1986 when he sold them to Kasimir Bileski. I recently purchased Bileski's stock, and now have several related items available for sale.

Jim Dixon

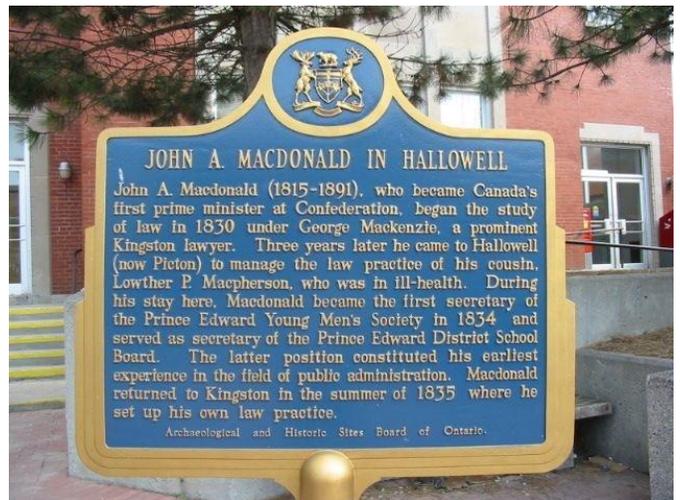
**Sir John A. Macdonald**

I am sharing 3 images related to Sir John A. Macdonald, who first practised law in the Village of Hallowell, which became the Town of Picton in 1837. My friend Steve Campbell, publisher of County Magazine, shared the photo of Sir John wearing a mask during the current covid-19 pandemic, taken by Peggy de Witt, a local photographer.

Ian Robertson



Canada permanent postage stamp issued January 11, 2015, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald



Sir John A. Macdonald plaque in front of Picton's former post office (photo by Ian Robertson)



Statue of Sir John A. Macdonald outside Picton's public library wearing a mask during the covid-19 pandemic (photo by Peggy de Witt)

## Preparing for SAVEX, and Carrying On

I am working on my two exhibits which will be entered in the South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVEX), a single frame exhibition. Club member Robert Pinet was nominated by The RPSC as Canada's judge. Robert was accredited as a national-level judge in 2018.

As an exhibitor, we learn a lot by doing. If any member wants to discuss an exhibit or needs assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at [don.hedger@gmail.com](mailto:don.hedger@gmail.com) or (416) 621-9982.

If anyone is working on a single frame exhibit, I have a single frame display (it holds 16 pages) which only requires a tripod. It will allow you to see how your exhibit will look at a show. Equally important, it will allow you to easily move pages around as you try to find the best way to tell your story, which is much better than sorting and rearranging them on your dining room table.

Apart from the hobby, I have been delivering Meals on Wheels for the Red Cross and am just back from a fishing trip for trout northwest of Alliston. I can't give away all the secrets, however I did get a couple of decent ones.

Don Hedger

## Life in these Unusual Times

Janice and I go out walking the dogs and everyone we meet keeps their appropriate distance. We have never met so many dog walkers and neighbours.

Meanwhile, I have been working on stamps for lotting in the next Spark's auction. I have been also working on my Precancel collection and have sent scans of my Unauthorized Precancel covers to David Marasco of the BNAPS Precancel Study Group for inclusion in his next discussion paper with the group.

I have as well been working on my proposed Steele Briggs Corporate exhibit and have been successful in obtaining more covers and early catalogues on eBay and elsewhere. Unfortunately, I have been outbid on some that I really could have used but that is life.

Of course, I continue to work on my Plate 1 Map Stamp exhibit with Garfield's assistance and guidance.

Other than that, all remains somewhat quiet!!!!!!

Lawrence Pinkney

## Helen Mine

I have spent some of my time searching for postal history from northern Ontario having a connection to my family's early days in the north. My great-grandfather arrived from Scandinavia in 1905 with his very young family and headed to the Helen Mine north of Wawa where he had work waiting. Many of the

miners were from the Nordic countries.

The Helen Mine was an iron ore mine which started up around 1900. It had a post office for a few years, and I have been looking for a postal cancellation for the longest time. I finally was able to acquire a cover last month, and a perfect one to boot, dated November 11, 1908 and sent to Denmark.



Bob Timberg

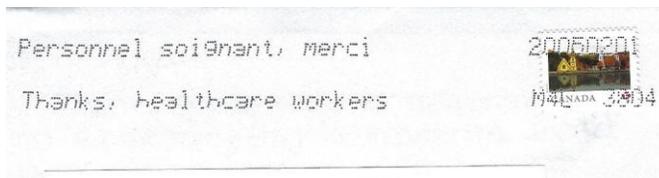
## BNAPS eLetter

This will be of interest to club members who do not belong to BNAPS. BNAPS has posted its monthly eLetter to members on its web for all to read.

<http://www.bnaps.org/hhl/eLetter.htm>

## Slogan Thanking Healthcare Workers

I recently received in the mail a cover with a slogan thanking healthcare workers, which is very appropriate in these times. Editor



## WTSC Board of Directors

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