



# 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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**Dec 2018**

B. Timberg, Editor

## President Sid's Message

Listening to Christmas music on the radio as I write this message, I realize that we have much to look forward to and be thankful for: family, friends, the upcoming Christmas holidays and celebrations, and of course our shared philatelic passions.

As president, I am especially thankful for board members and all others who contribute above and beyond what might be expected. Listening to GTAPA reps share about their clubs at a recent meeting, again made me appreciate the excellent participation, interest and enthusiasm demonstrated by members.

As well, we should all be especially appreciative of members and guest speakers who readily share their knowledge and enthusiasm. The insights and information gained adds joy and a greater appreciation of our collections.

To add enjoyment to your busy December, consider attending one or all three WTSC meetings this month.

- **Dec 4** - Learning workshop – "Slogans – Again"
- **Dec 11** - Regular meeting and auction/circuit book evening
- **Dec 18** - Discussion group - The Postal History of Toronto

**Last call** - This coming week I will be finalizing **Christmas dinner** numbers. So yes, there is still time to make a last-minute decision to attend our wonderful WTSC Christmas dinner and festive get together on **Friday, December 7** at the Canadiana Restaurant, Six Points Plaza; arrive between 6:00 and 6:30, dinner is at 7:00. **Contact me no later than Tuesday, December 4** at [sidmensinga@gmail.com](mailto:sidmensinga@gmail.com)

As you participate in the many festive, busy activities and obligations this coming month, be sure to take time to enjoy family and to take a few moments to reflect on the meaning of the season.

On behalf of the WTSC board, Merry Christmas and Happy 2019 to you and your family.

Our first meeting in the new year will be a regular meeting/auction/circuit book evening on Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

## December Activities

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

**Dec 4 ~ Learning Workshop** (starts 7 – 7:15)  
**Slogans - Again**

**Dec 7 ~ Christmas dinner, Canadiana Restaurant, Six Points Plaza.** Arrive 6 – 6:30, dinner is at 7.

**Dec 11 ~ Regular Meeting**  
Club circuit books, exchange of information, show & tell, and auction

**Dec 18 ~ Discussion Group** (starts at 7)  
Club member **Garfield Portch** will present an update and new research on **The Postal History of Toronto.**

## An Invitation From the VGG

Everyone is invited to attend the **Third Annual, almost New Year, Levee** on **Saturday, December 29, 2018** from **noon to 4 p.m.** at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, 10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto. The Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library will open at 10 a.m.

## RPSC Board Election

As a reminder to members of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, nominations for positions on the board of directors for the 2019-2021 board term are due December 12, 2018. Nomination forms are available on the RPSC home page.

## Board of Directors

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

Directors: Simon Cloughton, Fred Colbourn, Jose Restrepo, Rob Taylor, Bob Timberg

## Congratulations to Members

To Garfield Portch for his article in the October 2018 newsletter of the Town of York Historical Society (Toronto's First Post Office). "The Mystery of the Post Office That Didn't Exist" deals with a late 19th century post office at Toronto's Union Station.

Also, to Garfield for his presentation to the North Toronto Stamp Club on November 22, 2018, on the "Pre-1880 Development of the Post Office in Toronto". The NTSC kindly provided photos of Garfield making the presentation.



Photos courtesy Jean Wang of the NTSC.

## Learning Workshop

The title of our third Learning Workshop of the 2018-2019 season on Tuesday, December 4, at 7 pm is **Slogans - Again**.

This wide-ranging subject is popular and two of our members will be offering additional insight into the machinery that started it all in Canada, plus some of the earliest slogans used across the country.

A few examples can be found in most postal history

collections.

Several groups have been formed to specialize in machine cancellations. Key publications include 'The Early Rapid Cancelling Machines of Canada', by David Sessions, 'The Bickerdike Machine Papers' by Geoffrey R. Newman, and 'Canadian Flag Cancels 1896-1919' by Doug Lingard.

In the United States, the first successful postmarking machine was developed in the 1870s, with covers known from 1876.

The first Canadian machine slogans, used in Montreal and Ottawa, commemorated the 1837-1897 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

In 1902, machines from the International Postal Supply Company (IPSC) of New York replaced Montreal-built Bickerdike and Massachusetts-built Imperial Mail Marking Machine units. Within 10 years, post offices in 57 Canadian cities were using IPSC machines.

The first IPSC machine in this country to use a slogan cancel was in Lethbridge Alberta. Its text promoted the 'International Dry Farming Congress Lethbridge 1912'.

Canada's slogan cancels were designed to be applied as 'killer' cancels to the right of circular postmarks that identified the post office, plus the date and time a cancel was used.

"It is preferable to collect slogans on cover but the sheer volume of available material and space required will probably convince the collector to narrow his or her sights," John T. Burnett wrote in a British North America Philatelic Society online article. "The more common material is considered collectable as a cut-out that includes both the slogan and the dater hub cut to approximate size of two inches by four inches."

A few of the subjects are: slogans from one city or town; flags; wartime slogans promoting victory, bond sales, scrap material needed for the war effort; postal services such as 'Mail Early for Christmas' and 'Postal Code' use; public exhibitions; and sporting events.

One of the most popular types of Canadian slogan postmarks were produced during the 1912-19 'Classic Period', when most were applied by Universal Stamping Machine Company equipment built in New Jersey.

"During this period, the popular fair-, flag-, and war-related material made an appearance," Burnett wrote.

He recommends the 2007 'Coutts Slogan Catalogue', by Cecil. C. Coutts, which includes 46 main topics and "scores of sub-topics."

Several firms supplied machine canceling equipment for Canadian post offices later in the last century.

High-volume, rapid cancelling systems have taken over much of the postmarking work at large mail

centers across the country.

A British-designed mechanical segregating, facing and cancelling machine, called SEFACAN, was introduced in Winnipeg in 1962. Later that decade, new Pitney-Bowes Corporation MK-11 facer-canceller machines were installed in several Canadian post offices.

"In 1970 Canada Post chose a proven Belgian coding system and letter-sorting machine, and Japanese-designed, high-speed culler-facer-canceller (CFC) and optical character reader (OCR) equipment," The Canadian Encyclopedia notes.

Although modern jet-spray dot matrix cancels applied at large Canada Post mail centers rarely include slogans, they have been used.

Introduced in 1992, without community names, the sources of these postmarks can only be determined by their postal codes. The cancels also have dates, times, and numeral codes that identify the machine used.

Spray-on bilingual slogans from 1997 which accompany Burnett's article are: 'Santa HOH OHO' promoting the postal code for mailing letters to Saint Nick at Canada Post; 'Best Wishes'; and 'From anywhere to anyone'.

Errors have occurred, with corrections often made quickly due to computerization. Collectors might want to acquire Joel Weiner's book, 'Canada Inkjet (Jet Spray) Cancels 1992-2005' (3rd Edition, 2006), which lists more than 2,300 distinct varieties.

With all this in mind, and some special treasures to share, come for another fun and educational evening in the library at the Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke.

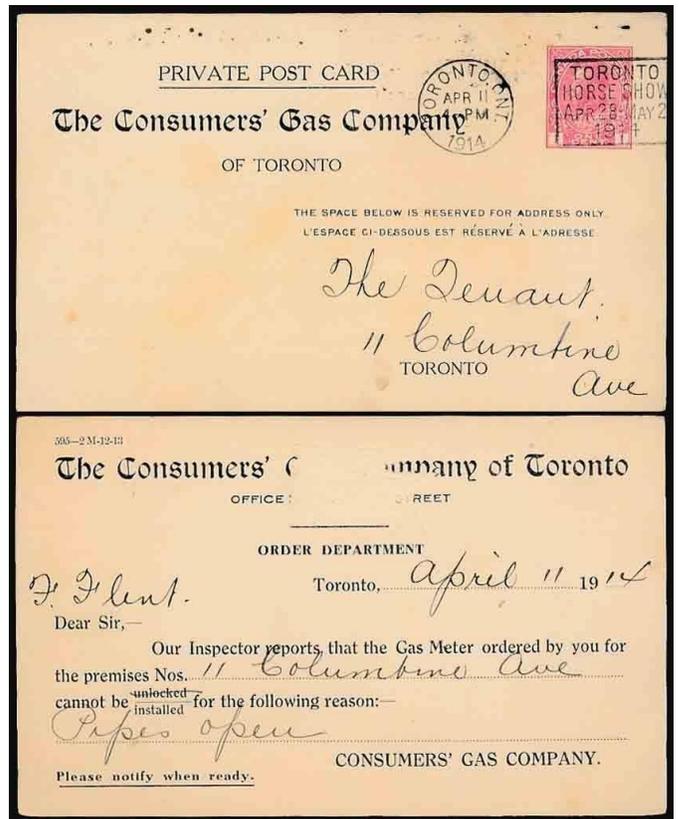
Ian Robertson, WTSC vice-president

Several illustrations of slogans are copied below. To see the slogans clearly, magnify your pdf copy.

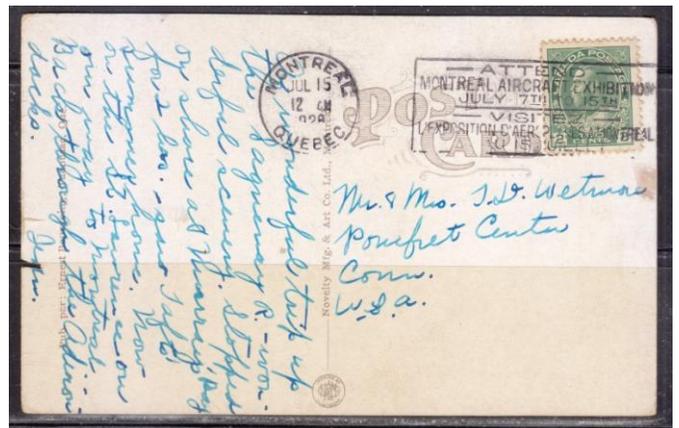
1925 Detroit, Michigan slogan cancel, 'Let's Go! Citizens Military Training Camps' offering men basic training without obligation for active duty call-up 1921-40



Early Toronto machine slogan cancel promoting 'Toronto Horse Show Apr 28-May 2 1914'

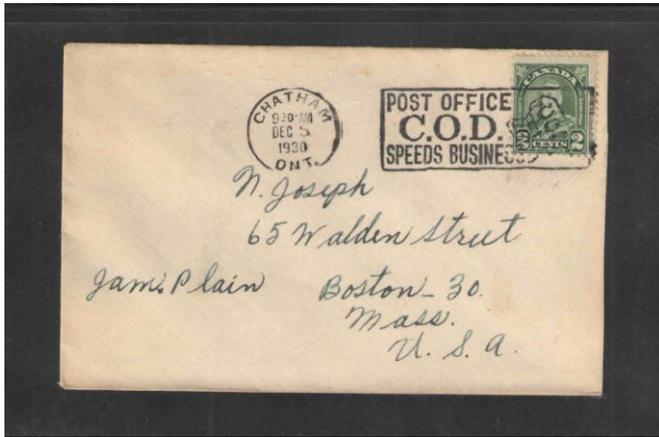


Montreal 1928 bilingual machine slogan cancel, 'Attend Montreal Aircraft Exhibition' on postcard

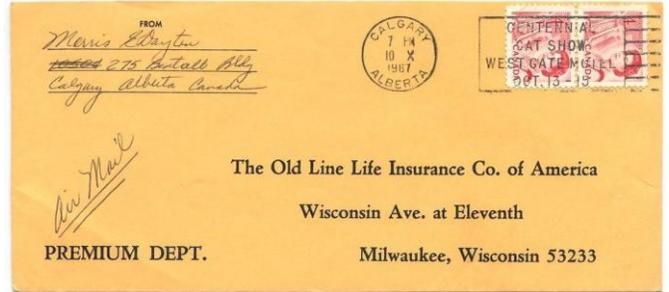


1930 Chatham, Ont. cover with 'Post Office C.O.D. Promotes Business' machine slogan cancel offered Cash On Delivery service for parcels paid for when delivered by mail

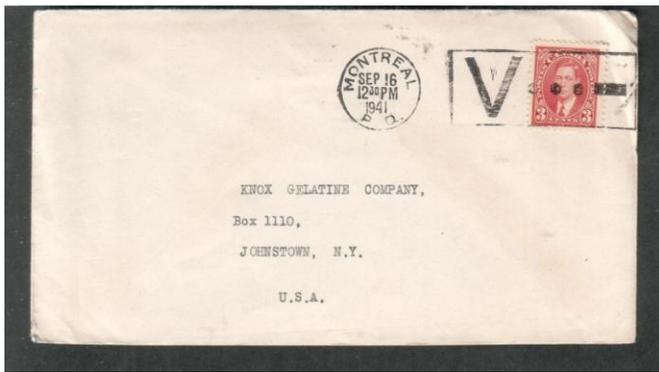
[See next page, left hand column.]



Calgary 1967 machine slogan cancel promotes 'Centennial Cat Show West Gate Motel Oct. 13-15' during Centennial Year



1941 Montreal cover with 'V ... -' slogan, representing V for victory, including Morse Code used in telegrams, was the most prolific of Second World War patriotic machine cancels applied at Canadian post offices



Sechelt, B.C. unique experimental 1988 double-circle cancellation with common 'Postal Code/Code Postal' slogan cancellation



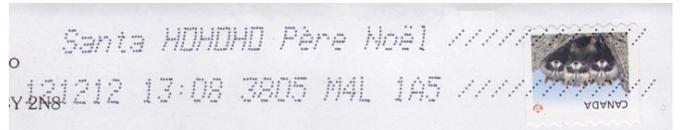
Hillsborough, N.B. 1989 machine cancel with slogan promoting 'Home of /Chemin S&H Railway Museum / Musee'



1954 Singapore machine slogan cancel 'Post Early for Christmas' is similar to one used in many countries to promote early Yuletide mailings to avoid delays



'Santa HOHOHO Pere Noel' bilingual Canada Post dot matrix spray-on postmark applied Dec. 12, 2012



## CANPEX Stamp Club Challenge

CANPEX has announced a National Stamp Club Challenge for next year's CANPEX in October 2019. The challenge is open to any stamp club in Canada and is an opportunity for club members to collaborate on a one frame (16 page) exhibit on the theme of military history. The exhibit will be judged by the visiting public as "The People's Choice". The challenge is discussed in Canadian Stamp News at <http://canadianstampnews.com/national-stamp-club-challenge-issued-by-canpex-organizers/>

## RPSC Newsletter

Several months ago the RPSC launched an electronic newsletter to supplement its magazine *TCP (The Canadian Philatelist)*. The newsletter is issued every one to two months, and is intended for members of the Royal but is available to anyone. If you are not a member and wish to receive it, please let me know and I will add your e-mail address to the distribution list. I can be reached at [timberg@bell.net](mailto:timberg@bell.net).

The November 2018 newsletter is available at <https://rpsc.org/blog/index.php/2018/11/>

## Thailand 2018

Just as this newsletter was completed, results were received from the Thailand 2018 World Stamp Exhibition. Club member Don Hedger received 78 for his exhibit "Epic of Vimy – A Canadian Pilgrimage" in the One Frame (Thematic) class. In FIP competition one frame exhibits receive a certificate and not a medal. For multi-frame exhibits however, 78 is a Large Silver. Congratulations to Don. Approximately 2500 frames of exhibits are on display in Thailand, having a total value of 100 million Euros.

## An Early Post Office, of Sorts

I was reading a book recently on the history of South Africa and came across a description of an early post office of sorts which was set up in the 1500's.

"When the British and Dutch began to compete with the Portuguese, they viewed the Cape with more approval [the Cape had been viewed previously as a place to avoid, due to unfriendly inhabitants, barren terrain and storms], for they urgently required an unoccupied half-way station on the trade routes to the East. In the early days ships of both nations called at Table Bay [at present day Cape Town], and there was a friendly relationship between the seamen. One way in which the place was used was as a sort of *poste restante*. Under large stones inscribed with names and instructions, mail was left ashore for collection by passing ships." *A Short History of South Africa*, John Selby, 1973, p. 14.

For those unfamiliar with the term, a *poste restante* is a service offered by a post office. Mail is held until it can be collected, usually by a traveller. Ed.

