



Bulletin

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

The Club meets at
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Volume 84
Issue **430**

Feb 2018

B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

Our mid-year WTSC board meeting gave the club's leadership team the opportunity to review the past five months and to plan for the balance of the year.

I again realized how fortunate I am to work with an eager team of leaders. Thank you to all board members (officers, directors and appointees) for your willingness to serve, and for your enthusiastic, creative hands-on leadership.

As a club, we have much to be thankful for.

- Our discussion groups, learning workshops and regular meetings/auctions and circuit book evenings are well attended. These weekly evenings provide members with multiple opportunities to discuss and learn, find ways to acquire and dispose of philatelic material, and last but not least foster friendships.
- WTSC is in a healthy financial position. Members, if they wish, are welcome to request detailed financial information. Thank you to our treasurer Lawrence Pinkney and auditor Art Leduc for the fine oversight and accountability provided.

The following are a few decisions made and actions to be taken.

- Insurance coverage will be sought for circuit book materials held in trust for members.
- A committee has been established to create a new/revised, user friendly, up to date website to ensure a more effective web presence.
- Our computer will be replaced as soon as possible.
- The booklet "*Listing of Distinguished Members and Members Collecting Interests*" is in final review. The goal is to provide each member with a hard copy by March.
- Additional frames will be built/purchased so we have a sufficient number for exhibitions.

- Don Hedger has agreed to chair this year's bi-annual election. Consider volunteering to serve on the WTSC board for 2018-2020. The election and confirmation of those who wish to continue in their roles will take place in May.

Events to note in your calendar

February 27 – 3 Club Circuit Book Evening. Plan to attend this new event. Update your want lists and come prepared to fill some holes in your collections.

May 8 – WTSC Annual Club Exhibition. How will you participate this year?

June 26 - Our Annual Potluck

I trust the above is informative and will heighten your interest to participate as you share your enthusiasm for our club, your passion for stamp collecting and your growing interest in the many aspects of this hobby.

I look forward to your attendance and participation this coming month.

3 Club Circuit Book Evening

Reminder – As mentioned by the president in his message, the club will be featuring a circuit book night on February 27. In addition to our own club books, we have invited the Bramalea Stamp Club and the Barrie District Stamp Club to bring their circuit books. Books will be available from 7 - 9 pm.

February Activities

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

Feb 6 ~ Learning Workshop (starts 7 – 7:15)
'Elsewhere or Elsewhat'

Feb 13 ~ Regular Meeting
Club circuit books, exchange of information, show & tell, and auction

Feb 20 ~ Discussion Group

Guest speaker **Dr. Jean Wang** from the North Toronto Stamp Club will present her award-winning exhibit **The Story of Blood**.

Feb 27 ~ 3 Club Circuit Book Evening

Discussion Group Schedule

March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19 ~ TBA

March Learning Workshop

'Thrill of the Hunt' is the topic of our sixth Learning Workshop of the 2017-2018 season.

The search for philatelic treasures is one of the most satisfying parts of our hobby.

Seek and, if lucky and wise, ye shall find!

Whether 'tis hidden within your own collection and long-forgotten, tucked away in a dealer's stock just waiting for your perusal, or lying in wait on the page of a club circuit book, sources are almost endless.

When the deed is done, you may dig deep in your pocket for a nickel, or for some real folding money. The choice is yours.

Perhaps your latest quest is to fill a final gap for a page in the club's upcoming annual exhibition in May. And who knows, you may have been haunted on a long winter's night by the image of a blank space on your album page.

Regardless, on this night at the round table March 6, consider sharing your most recent discoveries along with your methods and locations for searching.

As our wise president, Sid Mensinga, recently observed: "People enjoy the search through piles of stuff."

And sharing is what the Learning Workshops are all about.

Of course the wide, wide world of the Internet has increased the options. Indeed, driving or taking public transit to a stamp show or one of the few remaining shops is still a pleasure for some who like the social aspect, plus the 'hands-on' approach before making a purchase, especially for those living in or near a larger centre. But surfing for gems from the comfort of your den with a computer has become a way of life for many a collector. Given the reach of that method, anyone can search for deals available around the world.

Consider offering some tips about hunting that way.

And here's a nice thought. As I've happily experienced, some of our members don't hesitate to

alert fellow club members when they spot something they know will interest a friend.

That's part of the camaraderie that brings people together through a hobby and a club like ours.

Remember, the doors open at 7. Come early, choose a good seat and prepare to share — and have fun, naturally.

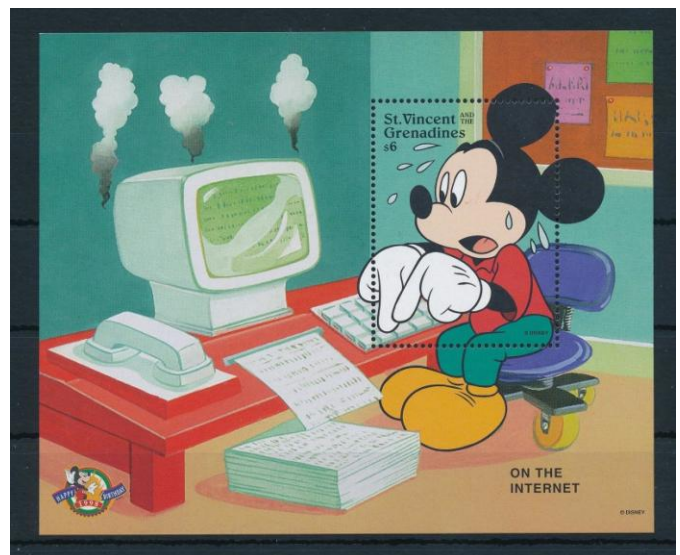
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Illustrations

Are you a collector of classic Bavaria stamps who is haunted by a blank space on your album page?



Don't be a timid mouse. Searching the Internet can yield great stamp and postal history finds.



Harry Sutherland Library

Reminder – The Harry Sutherland Library at the Greene, which is open Monday to Thursday from 10 to 4, will again have extended hours this month. The library will be open Saturday, February 10, from 10 to 4, and on Wednesday, February 28, it will be open in the evening until 7.

Discarding Philatelic Material

Before Christmas, I (your editor) was contemplating tossing into recycling thirty years of back issues of Australia Post's Philatelic Bulletin, from 1976 to 2006, which I no longer needed. A quick check with Kathy Hartley at the Harry Sutherland Library confirmed my suspicion that they did not need the bulletins as they were not Canadian material. However Kathy wisely suggested I also check with the American Philatelic Research Library at APS before discarding the material. I contacted APRL thinking that surely they would have all issues and contacting them was a formality, only to learn that I had four issues that they needed to fill gaps in their collection. I dropped the four issues in the mail and they are now in the library at APS. The moral of the story is, always check before discarding. (The other 116 issues did end up in the blue bin.)

BNAPLEX Convention Programs

BNAPS is missing convention programs for the following years: 1955, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1970 and 1974. If you have a missing convention program, they would love to hear from you.

National Postage Stamp and Coin Show in Mississauga

James Barron, the author of the book *The One-Cent Magenta: Inside the Quest to Own the Most Valuable Stamp in the World*, will be speaking at the National Postage Stamp and Coin Show in Mississauga on Saturday, April 7.

For details, see <https://canadianstampnews.com/new-york-reporter-will-show-dish-quest-one-cent-magenta/>

Barron will be available after the talk to autograph his book which will also be available for purchase at the show.

Members may recall that the June 2017 issue of our Bulletin has a two-page summary of the book.

CBC's This Hour has 22 Minutes

Members may find this clip humorous.

https://www.facebook.com/22Minutes/videos/10155283595353339/?hc_ref=ARS98YpsvtP7NP5DEEBsDW3sQ97BSSOUMI7fZsLZ-rcCTmNveXqOGSph9xSQM6TGfXU&fref=nf&hc_location=group

