



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

Volume 81
Issue **409**

Jan 2016

B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

I trust Santa left you a neat philatelic item under the tree for your relaxing pleasure and study over the hectic holiday season. I was the happy recipient of "The Rates and Postal History of Canada's Peace Issue 1946-1952" by Mike Street (2015). (Self-ordered - 40% off as a BNAPS member - a good reason to join!)

For those who attended, the WTSC Christmas celebration at the Canadiana Restaurant was a great success (there was a significant increase in numbers over last year). Besides the spirited conversations and fine food, the evening also allowed us to get to know the partners who support us in our philatelic pursuits. We also recognized Fred Froud's 95th birthday with a delicious birthday cake. A special thank you to those who donated prizes for the evening. If you missed this annual event, plan to attend in 2016.

We were saddened mid-December by the sudden passing of Chris Edwards, our Membership Secretary and interim VP. We would all agree that Chris's contributions to the success of our Club were many. His passing has left a significant hole in the leadership of the Club. For the interim, Frank Alusio has agreed to take over the Membership Secretary role, and Garfield Portch will take on responsibilities that fall to the VP during my absence. Thank you to these two stalwarts of the Club as they once again "step up to the plate".

As we look to the future leadership of the Club, I would ask you to consider putting your name forward to fill a vacancy on the WTSC Board. We will soon be detailing the nominating procedures and vacancies for the 2016 - 2018 term. Volunteering ensures the success of your Club and cannot help but spur on your own enthusiasm for this great hobby of ours.

The beginning of a new year is a good time to recommit to your stamp collecting goals. What one step will you take this month to ensure that you meet the goals you set earlier in the year? Above all, resolve to have fun and enjoy the development of your collections / your personal research and the hunt for that elusive philatelic item. I am looking forward to seeing you in the New Year.

January Activities

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

Jan 05 ~ The Machin Study Group

Jan 12 ~ Regular Meeting

Exchange of information, Show & Tell and Auction

Jan 19 ~ Discussion Group

Guest Speakers: **Rob Taylor / Garfield Portch** will speak on "**Grading and Pricing Stamps & Paper Making and Watermarks**". Rob will discuss the grading of stamps and as a dealer will share his methods of pricing and preparing materials for sale. Garfield will discuss the process of paper making, watermarks and watermark detecting.

Jan 26 ~ Regular Meeting

Exchange of information, Show & Tell and Auction

Board of Directors 2014-2016

These are the sparkplugs who make things happen within the club and keep it functioning.

President: Sid Mensinga
Vice-President: Garfield Portch (interim)
Past President: Frank Alusio
Secretary: Rhonda Kavanagh
Treasurer: Frank Alusio
Membership: Frank Alusio

Directors: Fred Colbourn, Art Leduc, Rob Taylor, Vijay Vijayakumar

Appointees: Reay Cairns (Auctions); Garfield Portch (Program); Denzel Fernandes (Webmaster); Bob Timberg (Bulletin Editor)

Discussion Group Schedule (February – June)

February 16 ~ Dr. Robert Galway

THE RED LAKE GOLD RUSH & BEYOND SEMI OFFICIALS - This will be a continuation of Dr. Galway's presentation of September 2015.

March 15 ~ Peter Butler

PICTURE POSTAGE - A look at this relatively new branch of philately.

April 19 ~ Dr. David Foot

AUSTRALIAN AIRMAIL - Dr. Foot is returning to the West Toronto Stamp Club with another of his wonderful stories of unusual postal history from 'down under' presented as only a master story teller can do. His accompanying single frame exhibit displays flown covers from each of the rocket experiments.

May 17

SHOW & TELL and DISCUSSION GROUP FORUM - This two part meeting will provide an opportunity for members to share and briefly discuss their own material. In the second part, general discussions will provide some direction and guidance for future meetings.

June 21 ~ Charles Verge / Garfield Portch

POSTAL HISTORY WORKSHOP - This meeting will provide a forum for the discussion of the collection of postal history. Included will be the reading and interpretation of markings on covers and the analysis of rates.

Club Competition (May)

It is not too early to start thinking about preparing your exhibit for the Club's competition this May. A summary of the Guidelines and Awards follows.

GUIDELINES

Exhibits will be entered in one of three classes:

Single Frame: to be judged using relaxed National standards by a judge retained for this competition.

Single Page: to be judged using the GTAPA standard evaluation.

Multi Page: an entry of any shape and / or size (2 pages or more) in any format to be judged on popularity by balloting among members present.

AWARDS

The winner of the Single Frame competition will have his / her name engraved on the DRAKE TROPHY. This trophy was donated by Everett Drake.

The winner of the Single Page competition will have his / her name engraved on the FRANK ALUSIO trophy. This trophy was donated by Gordon Payne and Garfield Portch to honour Frank Alusio.

The winner of the Multi Page competition will have his / her name engraved on the TED ALLEN TROPHY. This award was donated by the Etobicoke Philatelic Society when it merged with the West Toronto Stamp Club in 1996. It is named after Ted Allen, EPS President from 1985 to 1995.

A Lighter Moment

This is courtesy of the Saskatoon Stamp Club, of which your Editor is also a member.

A man was walking down the street, when he was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man, who asked him for a couple of dollars for dinner. The man took out his wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked, "If I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead of dinner?" "No, I had to stop drinking years ago," the homeless man replied. "Will you use it to go fishing instead of buying food?" the man asked. "No, I don't waste time fishing," the homeless man said. "I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive." "Will you use it to go hunting instead of buying food?" the man asked. "Are you nuts!" replied the homeless man. "I haven't hunted in 20 years!" "Will you be buying any stamps with this money?" the man asked. "No," said the homeless man as he shook his head sadly. "I sold my stamp collection years ago." "Well," said the man, "I'm not going to give you the money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a shower and a terrific dinner cooked by my wife." The homeless man was astounded and asked "Why?" The man replied, "I want my wife to see what a man looks like after he's given up drinking, fishing, hunting, and stamp collecting."

