



Since 1935

Bulletin

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

The Club meets at
Fairfield Seniors' Centre
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B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

To fully enjoy the festive season, one must be able to include a few moments of solitude and relaxation. For most of us that means retreating to a private space to pursue a philatelic/stamp collecting activity. I trust you found or took a number of those moments during the past few weeks and that they have recharged your philatelic batteries.

As I eagerly anticipate 2019, I ask myself what new philatelic project or endeavour would be the most pleasurable and fulfilling. Realistically and probably the most satisfying will be to get at that philatelic project that is highest on the list, the one just begging for completion!

Making specific plans and committing to certain goals helps each of us to move ahead on our intentions. For those who like to set New Year's resolutions there are two you may wish to consider.

A most worthwhile resolution is to share your current stamp collecting interest, knowledge and questions. An effective way to accomplish this is to participate in the WTSC learning workshop evenings. These sessions are non-threatening, worthwhile opportunities to learn and to further appreciate what we collect. The first learning workshop for the 2019 year will be on Tuesday, February 5. The evening will have a military theme - "Canada: A Nation Touched by Conflict". Plan to join others for an around-the-table evening of sharing about a specific Canadian military philatelic item, artifact or story.

A positive second resolution is to better focus/streamline our collections. Most of us, in pursuit of our hobby, have accumulated philatelic items, country or thematic collections we will never get to or that no longer capture our interest. Streamline what you collect by participating in our Club circuit book program. Fill new circuit book pages with surplus stamps/covers and plan to attend our annual circuit book event on Tuesday, February 26. Update your want lists and come prepared to fill some of the holes in your collections.

I look forward to your attendance and active participation at our January meetings. A reminder, the first meeting of the 2019 year will be a regular meeting/auction on Tuesday, January 8. (Being away on holidays I will not be able to send you a reminder

notice as I would normally do.)

Board members are also reminded of our mid-year board meeting on Tuesday, January 29. If club members have any suggestions or comments for your executive to consider, please e-mail them to me at sidmensinga@gmail.com See you in 2019.

January Activities

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

Jan 8 ~ Regular Meeting

Club circuit books, exchange of information, show & tell, and auction

Jan 15 ~ Discussion Group (starts at 7)

Guest speaker **Rod Paige** will present his award-winning exhibit **The Gold Coast**.

Jan 22 ~ Regular Meeting

Club circuit books, exchange of information, show & tell, and auction

Jan 29 ~ Board Meeting (starts at 7)

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 Claughton, Fred Colbourn, Jose Restrepo, Rob Taylor, Bob Timberg

Thailand 2018

Congrats to club member Garfield Portch who produced the PSSC sesquicentennial publication that received a silver at Thailand 2018. We inadvertently neglected to mention Garfield in the December newsletter. For an article on the show, see Canadian Stamp News at <https://canadianstampnews.com/canadian-winners-at-thailand-2018/>

After 51 Years, the Search for a Cover is Over

On March 17-19, 1967, the Kapuskasing Stamp and Coin Club held a stamp and coin exhibition, KAPEX. I was 16 at the time and finishing grade 12. The club designed a cover in English and French for the exhibition and for reasons I don't now remember, I never received one.

Last fall, more than 51 years after the exhibition, I finally found a KAPEX cover offered for sale on eBay for a few dollars. The seller was an individual in British Columbia.

The cover is postmarked March 17, 1967 and cancelled with the slogan KAPEX STAMP AND COIN CLUB EXHIBITION MARCH 17-19.

In 1967 the little town of Kapuskasing in northern Ontario had a thriving stamp community. Several members of the local club were also members of the Royal. The club closed many years ago. Today not a single person in the town belongs to our national stamp club. Ed.



February Learning Workshop, and More

The title for our fourth learning workshop of the 2018-19 philatelic season on Tuesday, February 5 is "Canada: A Nation Touched by Conflict".

In addition to the learning workshop, this wide-ranging subject provides two additional opportunities for members: the club annual exhibition in May, and the National Stamp Club Challenge at CANPEX in October.

LEARNING WORKSHOP

Collectors of militaria know the wide range of subjects this topic offers, beginning with British regiments in the early 1800s that were established to guard against raids from across the Canada-U.S. border.

As decades passed, Canada's military was involved in several major conflicts, including the War of 1812, later rebellions in the North West Territories, the Boer War in South Africa, the First World War in Europe, the Second World War, the Korean War, plus subsequent peacekeeping missions around the world.

Many of these subjects have been featured on Canadian commemoratives, including last year's Armistice issue marking the end of the First World War, plus the 2017 joint issue "Battle of Vimy Ridge" stamps of Canada and France.

Collectors also include the War Tax postage stamps and revenue stamps produced more than a century ago, the two-cent 1939 National War Memorial commemorative, 1942-43 War Issue of definitives and two Allied War Effort airmail stamps, plus Second World War savings stamps.

Even greater variety is available to Postal History collectors, including covers with cachets representing regiments, patriotism, battles and victories. Other subjects include: Wartime aerogrammes; Military Post Office (MPO) postmarks; Prisoner of War letters and postcards; soldiers, airmen, sailors, military nurses and doctors, airplanes, ships and training camps depicted on postcards; covers with censor labels; postcards showing a wide variety of wartime subjects; covers with war-related machine cancels — including the iconic 'V' for Victory.

Open your albums, yet-to-be-sorted filing boxes and special collections, and bring items to share at another fun and educational evening.

CLUB EXHIBITION

Each May, members prepare entries to present at the club's annual exhibition. An accredited judge reviews the displays and awards are given, along with one for the exhibit that gets the most votes.

More information will be provided at future meetings and in the newsletter, with help readily available for anyone considering preparing an entry.

CANPEX 2019

This year's topic for CANPEX 2019, which will be held in London on the weekend of October 19 and 20 is the proud military history of London and Southwestern Ontario.

CANPEX is the acronym for **CA**nadian **N**ational **Ph**ilatelic **EX**hibition, which was launched in 2016.

Hosted by the Middlesex Stamp Club and managed by volunteers from stamp clubs in Southern Ontario, plus related philatelic organizations and societies, CANPEX is one of a few national level exhibitions and stamp marketplaces held yearly. It is sanctioned by The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and is part of the American Philatelic Society's "World Series of Philately".

The WTSC executive hopes members will consider participating in this year's CANPEX.

For more information about deadlines and exhibit formats, see <http://www.canpex.ca/>

Ian

Following are illustrations of material that fall within the theme of the February learning workshop

2012 commemoratives issued for 200th anniversary of The War of 1812, depicting Sir Isaac Brock and Tecumseh, a loyal war chief



First World War real photo postcard showing soldiers marching past a Bank of Toronto somewhere in Canada, with no postmark or note



Two King George V 'Admiral' stamps with 1-cent war tax altered engraving, for use on mail to raise taxes to pay for First World War costs



1941 Special Delivery cover with RCAF Trenton, Ont. MPO 303 cancel to Toronto



1973 'CFPO 5005' Vietnam ICCS Forces Air Letter to wife of Major Richard 'Dick' Malott, a Canadian military post office specialist



