



Bulletin

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

The Club meets at
Fairfield Seniors' Centre
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416-394-8687

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B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

The recent beautiful spring weather and our ever-engaging hobby thankfully allow us to put the "tyranny of the urgent" aside or at a minimum on the "the back burner". I trust that this past month and during the weeks ahead you will continue to gain that sense of peace and calm as you take time: to write up and/or complete album pages; to search for that needed special stamp/cover; to visit stamp collecting web pages; to read a philatelic newspaper, journal, or reference text; to continue to build that special philatelic project; or to continue to work on that possible future exhibit.

What is on your stamp collecting/philatelic horizon this coming month? Consider taking a few moments to share what you are working on by writing a brief paragraph or two that could be included in the next bulletin. Your submission can be sent to Bob Timberg timberg@bell.net or to me sidmensinga@gmail.com.

I am pleased, as I am sure you are, with the fine participation of members and guests who attend our Zoom sessions and those sessions presented by WTSC members to other organizations. Thank you to the WTSC enthusiasts who attended **Garfield's superb presentation, The Street Post Offices of Toronto, 1881-1897, to Toronto's First Post Office** on May 20. Well done and **congratulations** to Garfield. Ongoing learning and building of comradery take place as we take advantage of the multiple Zoom sessions that are available to each of us.

If you missed one of the RPSC Stamp Panels or Stamp Talks via Zoom or wish to review them at your leisure, they can be accessed through the links below.

Stamp Panels
https://www.rpsc.org/zoom/public_zoom.php
Stamp Talks
<https://www.rpsc.org/zoom/>

June philatelic opportunities for club members

Learning Workshop, 7 pm, Tuesday, June 1 – People who influenced the world around them – and beyond. The Zoom link has been sent to all members. *Leaders fit into many categories whether it is or was as head of a country, a religion, in a creative or sporting category, for having made an important discovery, or contributing to better living.* Looking forward to another most interesting evening of

learning and sharing. The learning workshop session planned for July 6 is detailed on page 3.

Discussion Group, 7 pm, Tuesday, June 15 – The Perforated O.H.M.S. Stamps of Canada with **guest speaker Patrick Durbano**. Plan to attend what will be a most informative session.

As well, again consider attending this month's **RPSC Stamp Talk** and **Stamp Panel** sessions.

- a. **Monday June 14** - Jane Sodero "*Not Quite 50*"; John A. Sharp "*A stamp collector visits Antarctica*"
- b. **Monday June 21** – *Communications during War. What can I collect? How did it work? Were the soldiers well served?* George Pepall (panelist), Leigh Hogg (panelist), David Hobden (panelist)

Registration in advance is required for both webinars. See RPSC website for details. <https://www.rpsc.org/>

CANPEX 21 success! Completing a philatelic project and bringing it up to a certain level of excellence is most gratifying and rewarding. **Congratulations to Don Hedger and Mark Stelmacovich** as they achieved excellence with their **outstanding exhibits** entered at the recent CANPEX national level virtual one frame exhibition. Success at this level allows them to exhibit at the upcoming CAPEX 22 international exhibition to be held June 9-12, 2022.

The **FREE/FOR SALE/WANTED MARKETPLACE** at the end of this bulletin continues to be a service for WTSC members. Ads will appear in the WTSC Bulletin for up to 3 months. Send your ads to Bob Timberg timberg@bell.net or me sidmensinga@gmail.com



Sid Mensinga

Quote of the Month

"When buying stamps, especially if a stamp represents a substantial expenditure of money, it is best to exercise as much caution as you can, because the market is fundamentally a caveat emptor (buyer beware) situation. It is possible to minimize mistakes in buying, but every serious collector makes unwise acquisitions which may be a disappointment – I know this from experience. But such acquisitions are always a valuable learning experience which will help you avoid repeating similar errors." *Robert Zeigler, APS President, Buying Advice (From Regrettable Personal Experience), President's Column, March 31, 2021.*
<https://stamps.org/news/c/start-collecting/cat/aps-membership/post/buying-advice-from-regrettable-personal-experience/fbclid/iwar2ja5uoi8wkkwqkewitvovd1nqi9vajekk8jobgseblk05hni62de38py#.YGMsVMOMw4o.facebook>

Quote From a COVID-19 World

"I never thought it would come to this. I am feeling overwhelmed. Not by the virus. By the number of [Zoom philatelic] programs. Every month I have too many to choose from. All are good, interesting, but I'm tired. Tired from the lack of personal contact. Tired from staring into my computer. Tired from a poor Internet connection. Tired from watching something go technically wrong in the presentation. Sometimes all I want to do is watch quietly. But I can't get away with that in the world of Zoom. Someone will say, 'Fred [not their real name] has joined. Fred, how are you?' And I have to talk. Or if I have my camera turned off, someone will pipe up, 'Fred, we can't see you.' Maybe I have my camera off because I don't want to be seen. Maybe I want to do something while listening to the program in the background. Zoom meetings may be part of our future. But I wait for the day when we can again meet in person and an occasional Zoom presentation will be a treat." *'Fred' wishes to remain anonymous. Their comments have been edited for clarity.*

2024 Total Solar Eclipse

Victoria and I are members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada ("RASC"). In early April, Randy Attwood, president of the Mississauga Centre of RASC, updated Mississauga Centre members on a total solar eclipse ("TSE") that will be visible across parts of southern Ontario on April 8, 2024. Randy is chair of the RASC 2024 TSE Task Force and a member of the American Astronomical Society's 2024 TSE Task Force.

Randy explained that the 2024 TSE will be the first to pass through Canada since 2008 (which was in the far

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north and virtually inaccessible). Before that, there were total eclipses in 1979, 1972, 1970 and 1963.

Although the 2024 eclipse will not be total in Mississauga and Toronto (both will have about 99% totality), it will be total in Niagara Falls, Hamilton, Burlington, Belleville and Kingston. Weather prospects for April 8 in Ontario are however generally poor (the best weather prospects will be in Mexico and the southern USA). The last TSE in Mississauga was January 24, 1925 and the next will be in October 2144.

Randy has over 40 years experience in promoting astro-themed news items and is a professional go to resource for many outlets. He has been involved with Canada Post in the past with respect to astro-themed stamp issues. He reported that we may see a stamp commemorating the TSE, a first for Canada Post, and there may also be a coin from the Royal Canadian Mint.

Simon Claughton

Donate to CAPEX 22

One year from now, on June 9, 2022, CAPEX 22, the world's first International One Frame Stamp Championship Exhibition, opens at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The organizing committee has been hard at work throughout the pandemic getting ready for the show.

CAPEX 22 is organized by the Canadian Association of Philatelic Exhibitions - Association Canadienne des Expositions Philatéliques (CAPE-ACEP), a registered Canadian charity. Financial support from individuals, as well as clubs, societies and trade firms, is an important element of CAPEX 22's business plan. Please consider donating to the show. An official donation receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations over \$25.00. Every donation, no matter how small, helps.

Donations may be made by cheque payable to CAPE or to the Canadian Association of Philatelic Exhibitions and mailed to:

Canadian Association of Philatelic Exhibitions
P.O. Box 69100
St. Clair Post Office
Toronto, ON M4T 3A1

or by credit card at <https://capex22.org/sponsor-donate/donate/>.

If you are a BNAPS member and donating by cheque, include a note mentioning your affiliation. If paying by credit card, enter BNAPS in the affiliation line in the online form. BNAPS will match all donations from members to a total amount of Cdn\$10,000.00.

Donors will be recognized on the CAPEX 22 website by name unless they advise that they wish to remain anonymous.

CANPEX 21 Palmares

As mentioned by Sid in his president's message, club members Don Hedger and Mark Stelmacovich were successful at CANPEX 21; specifically:

Large Vermeil

- Don Hedger: Epic of Vimy (80)
- Mark Stelmacovich: Kyiv•Oblast Original Design Utilitarian Postage Stamps and Usage, 1992-1995 (78)

Vermeil

- Don Hedger: A Soldiers Postcards - Mailed from the Somme & Flanders WWI (75)

Special Award

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors
Award of Honor (Gold)

- Don Hedger (Canada): A Soldiers Postcards - Mailed from the Somme & Flanders WWI

Don and Mark, congratulations!

Free/For Sale/Wanted

WANTED - Canadian Centennial covers 1967-1972 going to foreign destinations other than Europe. Contact Sid: sidmensinga@gmail.com.

FOR SALE - "Canada Post Offices 1755/1895" - Frank W. Campbell - an invaluable reference for the serious Canadian collector - Quarterman Publications Inc. 1972 - \$20. Contact Sid: sidmensinga@gmail.com.

FOR SALE - "Constant Plate Varieties of the Canada Small Queens" - Hans Reiche - Unitrade Press - \$10. Contact Sid: sidmensinga@gmail.com.

Board of Directors

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Vice-President: Ian Robertson

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July Learning Workshop

Beginning at 7 pm, Tuesday, July 6, 2021, our 11th virtual Learning Workshop of the 2020-2021 season is entitled **What's in your philatelic library? Or not!**

Depending on your interests and experience, a more

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fitting term could refer to a bookshelf's contents.

Delving into a particular subject in books, stamp society journals, magazines, hobby papers and newsletters can yield helpful, interesting and valuable background. It can also be fun and, particularly in these days of social distancing, a great way to pass some otherwise mundane time and catch up on questions that may have tucked away for a rainy day.

Some philatelic tomes address specialized topics. Others are more general, such as catalogues.

For a collector wanting to know more, there are books that describe a country's postal history starting in pre-stamp days, progressing with details about early to later issues, methods of printing and myriad reasons for choosing topics and designs.

Other titles offer guidelines for collecting a topic or topics, from stamps to postmarks. A few authors have also written books describing roles played by individuals, geography, economics, politics, plus places and events depicted on definitives and commemoratives.

If you don't know what's out there, you don't know what you need. Before getting started, explore what is available and how to obtain the best books.

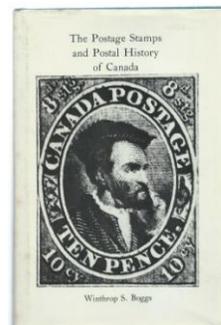
It also helps to know how far you want to go. Specializing in stamps from a country that produces few new issues may not require a full shelf. Dealers, club members, philatelic societies and the Internet are good places to begin.

For those with little room for stacks of books, there are other resources: The Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in downtown Toronto has an excellent library, as does the American Philatelic Society (APS) in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Check them out on the Internet, or ask a member of our club's executive

As always with our workshops, participation is the name of this game and teamwork helps us all gain.

So book the right time and prepare to speak or hear volumes via Zoom.

Ian Robertson



1974 reprint of classic 1945 Canadian philatelic reference book, 'The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada', by Winthrop S. Boggs

