



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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416-394-8687

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**June 2019**

B. Timberg, Editor

## President Sid's Message

With no Spring it's hard to realize that June, the final month of the philatelic year at WTSC, is already upon us. This month we have much to accomplish and special opportunities to celebrate.

Our WTSC Annual Exhibition was again successful. So successful in fact that we ran out of frames with the increase in participation - an encouraging trend. Well done to all who exhibited. Winners will be recognized and awarded their trophies at our June 25 meeting. We were most fortunate and appreciative to have Judge Robert Pinet share his exhibiting knowledge as he provided encouraging feedback to all who exhibited. A special thank you to Garfield for his leadership ensuring the success of this year's exhibition.

At WTSC we are fortunate to have talented writers in our midst who are willing to share their knowledge and passion for the hobby with the larger philatelic community. Congratulations to Dan Buss and Mark Stelmachovich who had their articles published in this month's *The Canadian Philatelist*, the journal of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

Dan's article "Canada at the North Pole: The Plaisted Polar Expedition", highlights a magnificent cover as he details the success of the first expeditionary team to reach the North Pole by snowmobile in April 1968.

Mark's six-page article "Ukraine's Provisional Postage stamps of the 1990s", illustrated by magnificent covers, details how leaving the Soviet Union and experiencing hyper inflation affected postal communications while maintaining and emphasizing Ukrainian identity.

Well done gentlemen; we are proud of you!

I trust that all members are looking forward to an exceptional closing month at WTSC. Be sure:

~ To attend the "A Good Cover Story" Learning Workshop evening on June 4.

~ To celebrate by participating in this year's "Potluck" to be held during the first part of our final meeting on June 25.

~ Most importantly, especially since we are co-

sponsors of this year's Royal, plan to attend at least one day of the Royal 2019 Royale to be held at the Hilton Mississauga, 6750 Mississauga Road, on June 21-23. Volunteers will be appreciated and needed at set up and during the event days. Be sure to let Garfield know of your willingness to be of assistance and when you might be able to help.

I look forward to your attendance and participation during this final month of the philatelic year at WTSC.

Please note: We will not be meeting during the summer. Our first meeting for the 2019/20 year will be Tuesday, September 10.

## June Activities

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

**June 4 ~ Learning Workshop** (starts 7 - 7:15)  
**A Good Cover Story**

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

**June 18 ~ Discussion Group** (starts at 7)  
This meeting will start with a short discussion of **What Do You Want In Next Year's Programme**. Please give it some thought and come with suggestions. Garfield has already contacted four possible speakers for next year; however he wants to ensure that the needs of members are met. The balance of the evening will feature a new PowerPoint presentation, **What's the Rate**, in which a number of Canadian covers with unusual rates will be shown which the audience will be asked to identify.

**June 25 ~ Regular Meeting**  
Potluck, exchange of information, show & tell, and auction

## Volunteers Needed

As mentioned in President Sid's message, the Royal is in Mississauga on June 21 - 23, and WTSC is a co-sponsor. We need your assistance for various tasks, including setting up and taking down, staffing a table for an hour or two, etc. If you can assist, please speak to Garfield.

# 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

## 2019 Shows (GTA & Vicinity)

**Royal \*2019\* Royale**, the 91st annual convention and AGM of the RPSC, will take place in **Mississauga** on **June 21 - 23**.  
<http://rpscopyal.com/>

The **PHSC Symposium 2019** will take place in **Hamilton** and vicinity on **July 18 - 21**.  
<http://www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/Symposium/>

**BNAPEX 2019**, the 2019 convention, exhibition and bourse of the British North America Philatelic Society, will take place in **Ottawa** on **August 30 - September 1**.  
<http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex/bnapex2019-Ottawa/>

Trajan Media's **National Postage Stamp and Coin Show** will take place in **Mississauga** on **September 7 - 8**.  
<https://stampandcoinshow.com/>

**CANPEX 2019** will take place in **London** on **October 19 - 20**.  
<http://www.canpex.ca/>

The Canadian Aerophilatelic Society's **Toronto Day of Aerophilately** will take place in **Toronto** at the Greene on **November 3**.

## Learning Workshops

Plans are underway for another super season of learning workshops, starting in October.

For a variety of reasons, I couldn't attend two of our monthly sessions during the past season, but sharing is a mainstay of our club and the torch was well handled by WTSC friends and trusty leaders.

With that in mind, President Sid Mensinga, discussion group leader Garfield Portch and I recently put our heads together and started discussing ideas for future workshops with the intent to increase the focus on 'Learning'.

In addition to some traditional topics, we would like to focus on studying a definitive series and suggest ways to expand collections, with details provided

about resources which could lead to increased specialization without having to mortgage your home.

As we have said since the learning workshops were launched, ideas from members are always welcome. Several evenings have been based on such input and I encourage one and all to put pen to paper and make suggestions for future consideration. And if you feel comfortable, you could be the lead presenter on a topic you offered.

The emphasis is on sharing knowledge and, hopefully, having fun in an encouraging, supportive atmosphere.

We will, of course, reveal future ideas as the curtain lifts for our 2019 - 2020 season.

As for your role, be it as a presenter of fine philatelic treasures, someone who provides related details around the table, someone who shares anecdotes or a touch of whimsy, asks questions or simply enjoys heading home after an interesting session, all these types of participation are for the good.

As for the first learning workshop in October, what famous monarch was born 200 years ago — who gave the stamp world a head start?

Hint: Who was the capital of Saskatchewan named after? Sort of.

Stay tuned and have a good summer.

Ian

## Annual Club Exhibition

The annual club exhibition on May 14 was an absolute success. For the first time ever the club had more pages to exhibit than we had frames to hold them.

Robert Pinet was our guest judge.

The Drake Trophy for the best one frame exhibit was awarded to Sid Mensinga for "Higher Value Centennials: A Sampling of Rates – Just Scratching the Surface!"

The Alusio plaque for the best single page exhibit went to Simon Claughton for "Toronto Township".

In the multi-page, open class category for the Allan Cup, determined by popular vote at the exhibition, the winner was Dharmendra Patel for his three frame exhibit "Ghandi: Father of the Nation, Bapu and Mahatma".

Many thanks to all members who participated. Thanks to Robert for judging the event and thanks to Denzil for taking photos.

Garfield

Several photos follow, courtesy Denzil Fernandes.





Dharmendra and Garfield holding the Allan Cup



Robert congratulating Sid, holding the Drake Trophy



Simon taking the Alusio plaque from Garfield



Sid explaining the finer points of his exhibit



Robert commenting on an exhibit



# Owen Sound Circuit Book Fair

The multi-club circuit book fair hosted by the Owen Sound Stamp Club on May 25 was a success. We had about twenty customers and sold approximately \$273 worth of items.

Our thanks to Lawrence Pinkney and Janice White, and Kathy Hartley from the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library at the Greene for assisting, and Kathy for taking photos. Their help was very much appreciated.

We left the GTA at 6 am and arrived in Owen Sound at 8:30, and met up with the gang for breakfast at the European Bakery Café. By 9:30 we were setting up at St. Mary's High School for a 10 am start.

By 3:15 we were packed up and heading back to Toronto. We encountered a torrential downpour with flooding on the highway combined with poor visibility and high winds.

Simon and Victoria

The following photos are courtesy Kathy Hartley



Simon busy setting up



Simon and Lawrence in discussion



Lawrence and Simon and the club's circuit books

## ORAPEX 2019

We are fortunate to have two articles from members who attended ORAPEX 2019 in Ottawa in early May. I'm sure after reading them you will say to yourself as I did. I need to get to ORAPEX soon. Ed.

## Our Visit to ORAPEX 2019

Janice (as photographer of many exhibits, especially page 1, for me) and I (Lawrence Pinkney) as a collector and potential exhibitor, visited ORAPEX 2019, located in the RA Centre of Ottawa, for our very first time. (ORAPEX stands for Ottawa RA Philatelic Exhibition.) The theme of the ORAPEX 2019 show was "Elizabethan Era Philately".

To say that we were impressed with the show is an understatement. The 40+ exhibits on display, from one frame to eight frames, were absolutely spectacular, and each received their appropriate ribbons and awards. (The judges must have had a most difficult time deciding on the various ribbons and awards as each exhibit seemed to be almost perfect to us.)

As well as meeting many dealers with whom we were very familiar with from the various GTA shows, like R. Maresch & Son, Longley Auctions, Eastern Auctions, Sparks Auctions, William Coates Philatelist, Hugo Deshayé (Philatelist) Inc., and C. Frank Hoyles, we also met with many dealers that do not usually attend GTA shows, like The Stamp Fridge, Ottawa Valley Stamps, Northwind Stamps, and Andy M. Palochik.

The atmosphere in the large arena style room gave a feeling of true sense of family. We spent two full days with all of the various dealers at the show reviewing their various stocks and boxes in quite some detail. We were able to acquire many missing stamps that found an appropriate home in our own collection and many stamps that would be useful for future exhibits.



We arrived late Friday evening and unfortunately missed a most appetizing dinner and talk on the Large Queens that we had hoped to attend. We did attend the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada breakfast on the Sunday morning (which was excellent) and were duly impressed with the featured speaker, Robin Harris of Unitrade Catalogue fame, with his talk and slide show on the details of the Lowe Martin Serpentine cut coil stamps. We had not realized that many of the modern Canadian stamps contained so many varieties.

We also attended the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors meeting emphasizing the Role of Importance in Exhibiting and Judging. We reviewed the various Guidelines associated with the relatively new Exhibit Evaluation Form, especially on the subject of philatelic importance. Most of the attendees in the room learned a great deal from Bill Shultz, a most experienced exhibitor and judge of exhibits, who was able to discuss the subject in a most pleasing way.

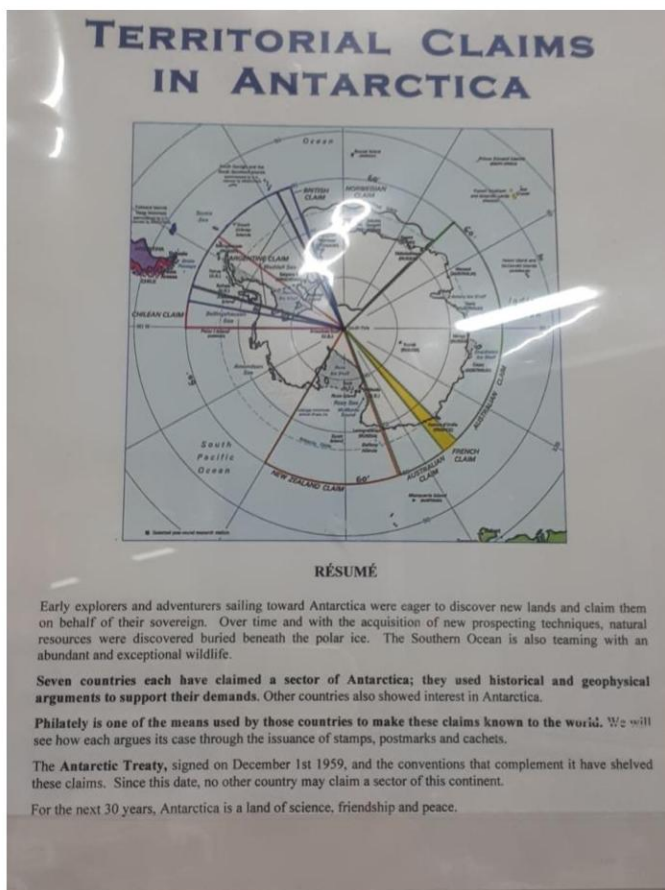
We do look forward to returning to ORAPEX 2020.

Janice and Lawrence

The following photos are courtesy Janice White



Elizabethan Era Philately, the theme of the show



Top: the crowds at the show; bottom: from an exhibit.



The exhibits

## APS Facebook Page

This posting on the APS Facebook page from May 2, 2019 caught my eye (Ed.):

"Calling all educators: did you know that when you teach kids about the stories behind stamps, they also learn about history, social studies, science, the arts & more! We have curriculum and supplies available for teachers and youth club leaders who want to introduce their students to stamp collecting in a fun, multi-faceted, and educational way."

## RPSNZ

The March 2019 newsletter of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand has a summary of a presentation on early Canadian postal history made at its February 18 meeting.

<https://www.rpsnz.org.nz/images/stories/royal/New%20letters/nl201903.pdf>

## My Visit to ... ORAPEX 2019 (Postage Stamp Show)

By Denzil Fernandes – see attached pdf file

Due to last minute technical issues with my computer (Ed.), I was not able to integrate Denzil's presentation into this newsletter, hence the separate pdf file.

## From the Editor

As we head into the summer months, I would be remiss if I did not thank everyone who contributed in many different ways to the newsletters throughout the year and especially this one. You made my work very easy and fun.

Over the next few months I will be working on a new look for the newsletter. As the saying goes, stay tuned.

Enjoy the summer. Be safe.



# My visit to...Orapex 2019 (Postage Stamp Show)

Saturday, May 4th & Sunday May 5th, 2019 were the two days in which I could attend the Orapex exhibition that was held in Ottawa, Canada. Although the exhibition hall was crowded on both days, I was able to meet and chat with several of the members I knew from different clubs around the Toronto, Hamilton and other GTA areas who were also present at the show.

US, Canada, GB, China/Hongkong, Sierra Leone and India were some of the countries well represented in the postal exhibits that were on display. Several pages from the many displays showed pieces from each country all in immaculate condition and were very significant along their respective story lines.

I had the good fortune to have some of my family members with me on Sunday as they expressed an interest in wanting to go visit a Stamp Show but had no idea that one was happening in their own city until I shared my interest with them. The show Organizing Committee did a good job of handing out stamp collecting kits to the children in our group and having the stamp tubs for kids to pick out a sampling of stamps.

The dealers were kept extremely busy and it was impossible to get anywhere near the covers they had for sale during the timespan that I was in attendance there. The only complaint I heard was that it was a bit cold in the hall than the weather which was quite warm outside!

It is my hope that future stamp shows continue to be as exciting as Orapex 2019 was, as my first impression of attending this show was about seeing the atmosphere in the hall where people were meeting, speaking and interacting with each other made a considerable positive impression.

Congratulations are due, to all Exhibitors at Orapex 2019 for winning the different awards as a lot of thought and hard work were evident in the displays which were of exceptional quality. Special thanks must also be attributed to the Judges who did a remarkable job in their evaluations and later in explaining to the exhibitors their thoughts on the reasoning behind their respective judging scores.



*Explaining an exhibit to visitors/attendees at the show*



*A youngster reviewing the Orapex 2019 Program literature and absorbing the exhibits on display; finally excited to show his brother and parents an item of his interest!*

In closing, I must mention that one of the great pleasures I find in stamp collecting is the ability to appreciate the very many exhibits of different collectors. The differences that can be viewed around the style of exhibiting is highly rewarding when

viewed as a storyline and as showcased by each exhibitor's narrations, relevant postal description and images, taking viewers on a captivating journey.



*Judges & Exhibitors sharing views and scoring decisions about their respective exhibits*

Great credit is due also to the Orapex Organizing Committee members who published a fine Program literature and helped with setting up the postal exhibits and making the whole show very enjoyable!