



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

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B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

Designating October as National Stamp Collecting Month began in 1981 by the Council of Philatelic Organizations and the United States Postal Service. This being the case, October is an opportune time to celebrate, to share and to introduce others to the myriad aspects and depths of the hobby that can be enjoyed. For some of us that enjoyment is the hunt and creative aspects of the hobby and for others it's the adventures into history.

For most of us spending pleasurable hours sorting and pursuing our diverse postal history and country collections / accumulations is key to the hobby's enjoyment. How can we share that enjoyment?

This month consider telling a fellow club member or potential new collector about a resource you use or a new or interesting philatelic find or item from your collection. As ardent stamp enthusiasts we are always interested in knowing what others are reading or working on. Consider sharing what you're doing with a fellow club member.

This month is also a good time to review our philatelic goals for 2019/20. It is a time to ask ourselves what revised / new specific action plans will we set in place: to increase our philatelic knowledge, to add to our collections, and to help us focus, write up and prepare for exhibiting parts of our collections?

A date to circle in your calendar: This year the WTSC Christmas festivities will be held Friday, **December 13** at the Canadiana Restaurant, at Six Points Plaza. More detail will follow as we approach the Christmas season.

As well, your WTSC Executive will be meeting on Tuesday, October 29, the fifth Tuesday this month. If there are items you wish the board to consider, please share those with any board member or send me an e-mail at sidmensinga@gmail.com

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

Sid

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

October Activities

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

October 1 ~ Learning Workshop (starts 7 – 7:15)
The Crowning Touch

October 8 ~ Regular Meeting
Club circuit books, exchange of information, show and tell, and auction

October 15 ~ Discussion Group (starts at 7)
Recently Acquired in my Collection, an all member show and tell

October 22 ~ Regular Meeting
Club circuit books, exchange of information, show and tell, and auction

Membership Renewal

Membership dues remain unchanged from last year - \$15.00 if paid by October 31, and \$ 20.00 thereafter. **If you renew now, you save \$5.00.** For each additional family member, add \$5.00. Dues for new members are pro-rated based on the date of joining.

Payment may be made to Patricia Blanchard at club meetings or via cheque payable to West Toronto Stamp Club mailed to her at 84 Gulliver Crescent, Brampton, ON L6S 1S9. If payment is not received by November 30, you will be deemed to have resigned.

Members are reminded to wear their name tags to meetings. If you need a name tag, please see Patricia.

2019 Shows (GTA & Vicinity)

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**.

October Learning Workshop

The title for our first Learning Workshop of the 2019-20 season on Tuesday, October 1, is "The Crowning Touch" or "Second longest-serving British monarch."

After 66 years, Queen Elizabeth II is the longest-serving monarch of Great Britain and the British Commonwealth — with her image featured on current definitives and many commemoratives.

But her great great grandmother still reigns as the royal whose portrait gave stamps a head start around the world.



World's first postage stamp - 1-pence 'Penny Black' - with Queen Victoria's portrait, on cover posted during its introductory year, 1840



Introduced in 1841, based on the earlier 'Penny Black' design, a 'Penny Red' definitive featuring portrait of Queen Victoria was one of the earliest versions, with millions produced later with perforations and slight changes to the engraved design

As most collectors know, the 1-pence black definitive, known as the 'Penny Black', debuted in 1840, three years after Queen Victoria succeeded her uncle, King William IV, at age 18, on June 20, 1837. Her image was also on the '12-Penny Black', the top value in Canada's first set of stamps, released in 1851.



Canada's third stamp, the '12-penny black', issued in 1851, features a youthful portrait of Queen Victoria

Lesser-known is that this year marks the 200th anniversary of her birth, on May 24, 1819.

Despite the intervening years since her death on January 22, 1901, she remains a topic of interest, including on occasional stamps including the 48-cent 2002 Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association 100th anniversary commemorative. It reproduced an 1898-1902 Queen Victoria 2-cent definitive.



2002 48-cent Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association commemorative reproduced 1898-1902 Queen Victoria 2-cent definitive

The story of her unexpected rise to queendom, the loss of her beloved husband, Prince Albert, who died at age 42 in 1861, and her subsequent 50-year reign, provided the plot of eight movies, starting with 'Victoria the Great' in 1937, and most recently, 'Victoria & Abdul' in 2017. Currently, the 'Victoria' TV series has been popular since it debuted in 2016.

As for stamps, her definitives have long captivated interest in our hobby which, of course, is the subject of this month's Learning Workshop.

Regardless of where your interest lies, many collectors have a 'Penny Black' or, at least, its much more prolific successor, the look-alike 'Penny Red' printed in

red-brown starting in 1841, then for many subsequent years in varying forms.

Engravers produced several portraits of Queen Victoria for Canadian definitives. Some are rare, while others are readily available.

Canada's most expensive stamp is the laid paper variety of the 2-cent 'Large Queen' definitive introduced in 1868, of which three were proved to be genuine. The first was discovered in 1925, the second ten years later and the third in 2013 — in an American Philatelic Society sales book, for \$60. Despite being creased and torn, it was sold in 2014 by Eastern Auctions for \$247,500 including the 15% buyer's fee.



Third genuine laid paper variety of 2-cent 'Large Queen' definitive bought in 2014 for \$60, sold a year later for \$247,500

Among the most popular — and readily available at reasonable prices — are the 'Small Queen' definitives produced between 1870 and 1893. Printed in the mega-millions, with different colours and eight denominations, they have provided the basis of many a specialty collection, due to myriad shades, perforations and engraving varieties. Also highly popular is the 1897 Queen Victoria 'Jubilee' set, which bears a youthful portrait on the left and a late 19th century portrait on the right.



Beautifully-centered half-cent 'Small Queen' definitive (left) and 1897 5-cent Queen Victoria 'Jubilee' commemorative featuring her youthful and late 19th century portraits (right)

Finally, I included a bit of a tease in our June newsletter: "Who was the capital of Saskatchewan named after? Sort of."

The answer is: Wascana, North-West Territories, Cree for "Buffalo Bones" was renamed in 1882 by Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, wife of the Marquess of Lorne,

the Governor-General, after their 1881 visit, to honour her mother. Since Queen Victoria's name was chosen for British Columbia's capital, Fort Victoria, in 1843, a different name was required. Since Regina is Latin for a female monarch, that was an appropriate alternative. Incorporated as a city in 1903, it became Saskatchewan's capital in 1906, just over 8 ½ months after the territory joined Canada as a province, on September 1, 1905. Numerous Royals have visited over the past 138 years, including Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Phillip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne.

With all that in mind, bring stamps and covers from the Victorian Era for another enjoyable evening of show, tell and share at the Fairfield Seniors' Centre's library, 80 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke.

Ian

Congratulations

Four members won awards at the Royal in Mississauga this past June for their exhibits. In alphabetical order:

Denzil Fernandes

Large Silver for "Alphabets Spell Life for Travelling Post Offices / Railway Mail Service in British India"

Large Silver for "Overseas Mail Via Bombay, 1860 - 98" and RPSC Novice Award and A.A.P.E. Novice Award

Don Hedger

Gold for "A Canadian Soldier's Postcards - Mailed from the Somme and Flanders WWI - May 1915 to April 1916" and PHSC Best Military Exhibit - Rich Toop Award

Garfield Portch

Gold for "The Half Cent Small Queen of Canada"

Large Vermeil for "The One Cent Rate in the Small Queen Period 1870 - 1897"

Mark Stelmacovitch

Gold for "Ukrainian Provisional Postage Stamps, 1992 - 1996" and APS Award of Excellence, Post 1980

Large Vermeil for "Ukraine's Trident-Overprinted Russian Revenue Stamps of Podillia, Years 1918 and 1919" and RPSC Medal of Excellence for Title Page

New Exhibit at Toronto's First Post Office

Air Mail Takes Off: The Lufthansa South Atlantic Service

Curated by Andrew Selbie, from September 12, 2019 to January 11, 2020.

Explore the development of the first scheduled trans-oceanic air mail delivery system over the South Atlantic during the 1930s. Discover how this was achieved through the innovative use of flying boats and catapult ships!

<https://townofyork.com/exhibits/>

Alberta Wide Stamp Gathering 2019

The July 2019 issue of *The Calgary Philatelist* has an article by editor Dale Speirs summarizing an Alberta-wide gathering of philatelists at Red Deer, halfway between Calgary and Edmonton, on May 25. Many of the comments made by participants apply also to philatelists here in Ontario, including:

"The biggest problem was recruiting new and hopefully younger members. [Jim] Senecal [Calgary] mentioned that youth club efforts are generally wasted unless there is a philatelic father or grandfather to mentor the youth and keep them interested.

[Richard] Barnes [Edmonton] mentioned that clubs must have a Web page because that is how the younger generation communicates. It is no longer an option.

All were worried about escalating operating costs such as rising rents. One common financial danger was to sell life memberships because that dropped membership income but maintained expenses. The main income from clubs nowadays was from auctions. Circuit books are stagnant. *[Ed: Circuit books are not stagnant here at West Toronto, thanks to the efforts of Simon and Victoria.]*

Barnes mentioned the strength of an organization is not how many members it has but how many step forward to volunteer. All the clubs have tried reach out to non-philatelic community organizations, which have failed to bring in new members. Those activities were a waste of time and effort."

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