



Bulletin

Since 1935

The Newsletter of the West Toronto Stamp Club

Meetings are held at
Fairfield Centre
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Rob Timberg, Editor

President's Message

We're off to a great start to the philatelic season. Sixty-three members have renewed and we have 2 new members, Tom Wicks and Simon Claughton. Tom/Simon, welcome. We hope your experience with the Club is rewarding and fulfilling.

Sadly, I have to report that Jack Kewen (863) recently passed away. Our sincere condolences to his family. Jack will be greatly missed.

On the exhibiting scene, WTSC was very well represented by "rising star" Mark Stelmacovich at UKRAINPEX-2012 where he won 4 awards (more below). Mark, congratulations!

We are now attracting more and more members to our monthly Discussion Group sessions, because we have tailored the meetings to the wishes of the membership. If you have never attended before, please come to a session and see for yourself what you're missing.

Last but not least, the Club Christmas dinner is being organized by Fred Froud and Don Hedger for Friday, 14 December at the Canadiana Restaurant (more below). Please join us in celebrating the holiday season.

Remember, stamp collecting is a hobby. Enjoy it!

From the Editor

Last month I listened to an interview on CBC Radio (Sudbury) with North Bay stamp dealer and collector John Beddows. The interview was fascinating. I've been a collector all my life and consider myself fairly knowledgeable, but listening to John I learned for the first time of a place in the North that had had a postal station for 3 years after WW II – La Cave. And because I don't collect modern issues, I've never focused on the fact that some recent used Canadian commemoratives can be scarcer than late 19th century stamps.

The interview reminded me that each of us knows something that others don't. So the next time you're sitting in a Club meeting, strike up a conversation with the person next to you. They will surely know something you don't and probably will be delighted to share it.

To listen to the interview, go to:

<http://www.cbc.ca/pointsnorth/episodes/2012/10/11/stamp-collectors-coming-to-north-bay/>

Saving Toronto's Postal Station "K"

Postal Station "K" is historic. Constructed in 1936 and located on the site of Montgomery's Tavern where William Lyon McKenzie and his rebels gathered in the 1837 rebellion, it is one of the few buildings in the world (the only one in Canada) to bear the insignia (lion and unicorn) of Edward VIII. Canada Post wishes to sell the site. According to the press, over 7,000 people have signed a petition asking that Station "K" be saved. If you wish to sign on, please see Frank Alusio.



Machin Study Group: A Perspective

The Machin Study Group was formed in early 2011 after discovery in late 2010 that 7 Club members were interested in the Machin Head definitive issues of Great Britain. Our first meeting was arranged for that February. E-mails were sent to other GTAPA clubs inviting them to attend.

About 20 members and guests attended the first meeting, which seemed to be a pretty good start. The evening was spent meeting each other and discovering that none of us was an expert and we were all somewhat overwhelmed by the potential complexity of the topic.

A year and a half later, our membership includes not only members of our Club but members of North Toronto, Scarborough, Bramalea, and Ajax/Whitby. Our web presence has attracted a new member from Oakville, and Internet followers in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Chicago and Britain!

In order to have some level of consistency, we agreed early on (more or less) to use the DEEGAM catalogue and numbering system while also following the Machin outline offered by Robin Harris on his adminware.ca website.

Over the next 18 months we continued to meet monthly with all members participating in an education programme. Through individual study we all discovered some aspect of the Machin issue that became worthy of either a show-and-tell or a full PowerPoint presentation. The key to success was that everyone made a valuable contribution and all learned something from every presentation.

For the 2012-13 collecting season, the Group has agreed to participate in the WTSC annual competition in May 2013. To that end, each member has been assigned a specific topic and will prepare a one-page entry on that topic. We expect to present a single-frame entry and a number of single pagers in competition for the Alusio Award.

What have we learned that might attract others to join us? In my view, we learned that: (1) a large and complex issue can be tackled by reducing it to smaller, more manageable components; (2) we can learn from each other; (3) personal discipline is involved in studying a complex issue that can be transferred to other aspects of the hobby; (4) our fellow philatelists are exceedingly generous with their time, knowledge and information, and care about and are interested in the collections of others; (5) philately in a group setting is more fun than working in private frustration at home.

The Machin Group has, in my opinion, been extremely successful. As well as learning about Machins, all of us have enjoyed the camaraderie a small group offers. I invite and encourage you to visit. Who knows, you might be the next person to take up the study of Machins. (Garfield)

UKRAINPEX-2012

At UKRAINPEX-2012 (Toronto, September 28-30), Club member Mark Stelmachovich garnered 4 awards: bronze for "A Sampling of Ukraine's Bogus Provisional Stamps"; vermeil for "Ukrainian Stamps Missing in Action"; and 2 gold for "Ukraine's Contemporary Provisional Stamps, and a Wrapper, 1992-1995", and "Ukraine's Trident-Overprinted Russian Revenue Stamps of Podila 1918-1919". The latter was awarded Best Single-Frame Award. Mark, on behalf of the Club, kudos!

Christmas Dinner

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Club Christmas dinner on Friday, December 14, 6:30 pm, at the Canadiana Restaurant, 5230 Dundas St W, Etobicoke (6 Points Plaza). Cost is \$30 per person, taxes and gratuities included, hors d'oeuvres and alcoholic beverages

extra. Tickets must be purchased in advance from Fred Froud or Don Hedger.

The feast will be sumptuous: rolls and butter, Greek salad, baked potato, entree (choose from chicken, veal, pasta, seafood, beef, and of course turkey), dessert (assorted pastries and fruits), and coffee/tea/soft drinks. If you have dietary concerns, please speak to Fred or Don.

The Canadiana is a fine, centrally-located restaurant with free parking. We will all be seated together on ground level. Dress is smart casual.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Fyi, the Canadiana's web site is:

<http://www.canadianarestaurant.ca/en/home.html>

Membership

As of October 31:

Summary		
Begin 2012-13		84
Renewed	63	
Still to renew	19	
Resignations	1	
Deceased	1	
New members	2	
October 31, 2012		84

For those who have not yet renewed, just a reminder that the \$15.00 renewal fee has been extended to November 13 after which it returns to \$20.00. Please see Chris Edwards and renew asap.

Nov – Dec 2012 Calendar		
All activities are on Tuesday (doors open 6:30 pm)		
Nov 06	7:00 pm	Machin Study Group
Nov 13	7:00 pm	Regular meeting, show and tell, and auctions
Nov 20	7:00 pm	Discussion Group (Michel Houde): "PowerPoint 101: how it works, using the program to prepare simple presentations from single-page to one-frame"
Nov 27	7:00 pm	Regular meeting, short information session, and auctions
Dec 04	7:00 pm	Machin Study Group
Dec 11	7:00 pm	Regular meeting, and invitational auction
Dec 14	6:30 pm	WTSC Christmas dinner at Canadiana Restaurant