



Since 1935

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

Club Year 2025/26 - Vol. 91
Issue 7 – March 2026



Chapter 14



Chapter 148

PRESIDENT SID'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

The Winter Olympics have dominated the television viewing in many of our homes this past number of weeks, as we vicariously experienced the excitement, the anticipation, as well as the thrill of winning, and the agony of defeat and loss.

As stamp collectors and postal historians, we can also experience these same emotions as we pursue our hobby.

Let us put aside the agony that one might experience as an under bidder, when participating in an auction or not finding that elusive item needed to further advance our study or complete a collection. This month's club activities and those available to us in the larger philatelic community, enable each of us to also directly experience these same positive emotions as we fully participate in our hobby.

This month at WTSC, we can look forward with excitement to:

- Our WTSC Annual Exhibition
- Our Circuit Book Multi Club Event
- Our "What its worth" Learning Workshop
- Simon's Discussion Group presentation "The Postal History of Jane Austen"

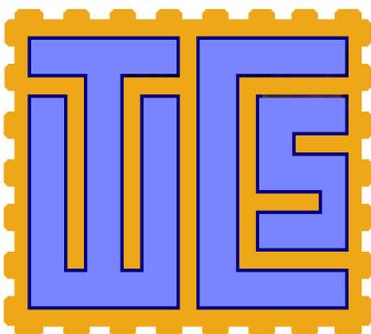
Beyond the physical and online walls of the club we can with eager anticipation join in events/activities detailed in the sections of this Bulletin entitled:

- ONLINE PHILATELIC LEARNING & ENJOYMENT
- OTHER PHILATELIC OPPORTUNITIES

From the comfort of our stamp dens/desks there are many excellent auctions being held this month to participate in, enabling us to know the thrill of that winning bid.

There is so much to enjoy privately and with friends in our philatelic community.

MARCH PHILATELIC OPPORTUNITIES



March 3 - LEARNING WORKSHOP, 7 p.m. via Zoom: "What's it worth?" with guest expert **Bill Longley**.

March 10 - AUCTION & CIRCUIT BOOK EVENING - In-person - Fairfield Centre.

March 17 - DISCUSSION GROUP, 7 p.m. via Zoom, **Simon Cloughton** will present "The Postal History of Jane Austen."

March 24- WTSC ANNUAL EXHIBITION - In-Person - Fairfield Centre.

March 31 MULTI CLUB CIRCUIT BOOK EVENT - In-Person - Fairfield Centre.



WTSC ANNUAL EXHIBITION Tuesday March 24th

Thank you to those who have committed to exhibit this year and to those who plan to attend and view the many excellent exhibits that will be on display.

For those who are hesitating, **yes**, there is still time to join in the fun and to assemble a Single Page or a Multi-Page entry into this year's club exhibition. Why not try putting together a one page or a few pages and create a small Topical Exhibit?

Our annual exhibition is always a time to learn and to grow in our philatelic knowledge. We are pleased to announce that this year's judge will again be John Wilson. John's excellence in judging is always appreciated and his sharing at the end of the exhibition evening is most helpful and informative.

As a reminder:

- To assist with planning and set up, please let Garfield know as soon as possible of your intent to exhibit a single page, multi-page and/or single frame exhibit. garfield.portch@gmail.com
- WTSC online/distance members can participate by sending a scanned copy of their single page exhibit (8 ½ x11 or 11x17), to sidmensinga@gmail.com by Friday, March 20th at the latest. This printed single page exhibit will be shown and judged along with the other single page exhibits at the club competition.

Our new scoring criteria for the Single page exhibits

WES		Single Page Exhibits Scoring Sheet (8-11 Bronze, 12 – 15 Silver, 16 – 20 Gold)							WES	
Exhibit #	TITLE	Story/Description	Elements (1,2,3) Can be same type	>3 types of Elements	Fits a single page exhibit	Knowledge & Quality	Creativity & Pres.	Total Score		
1		4	/3	/1	/1	/5	/5	/20		

As well, we look forward to welcoming Al Hills, the Co-Chair-Royal2026Royale to our annual exhibition. Alan will share a brief presentation on the Royal*2026*Royale. He will detail the planning progress, the show program, and share how members can help make the event a success. He will also bring registration forms and exhibit forms for members who wish to take the next step in exhibiting.



Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society since 1955



DELTA HOTELS WATERLOO

98th RPSC Convention & Exhibition
98e Congrès et Exposition de la RPSC

Royal * 2026 * Royale

hosted by / présentée par

KITCHENER-WATERLOO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

June 12-14, 2026

10 am - 4 pm daily

Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex
101 Father David Bauer Drive, Waterloo, On N2L 0B4

*Competitive Exhibits • Dealers • Social Events
President's Reception and Awards Banquet
Youth & New Collector Booth • Fully Accessible Venues*

Free Admission • Entrée libre

DISCUSSION GROUP - UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Discussion Group for **March 17, 2026** will feature Simon Cloughton who will present postal history in the context of the Jane Austen period.

We are going to lighten up a bit for the meeting **on April 21** when we will feature a member participation show & tell on the theme of "The oldest Item in My Collection". Anyone having two or more items in their collection has, by definition, one item that is the oldest, so we expect lots of participation. If you can't scan your item into a PowerPoint piece, please send scans of your discussion piece to me for inclusion in a group PowerPoint show.

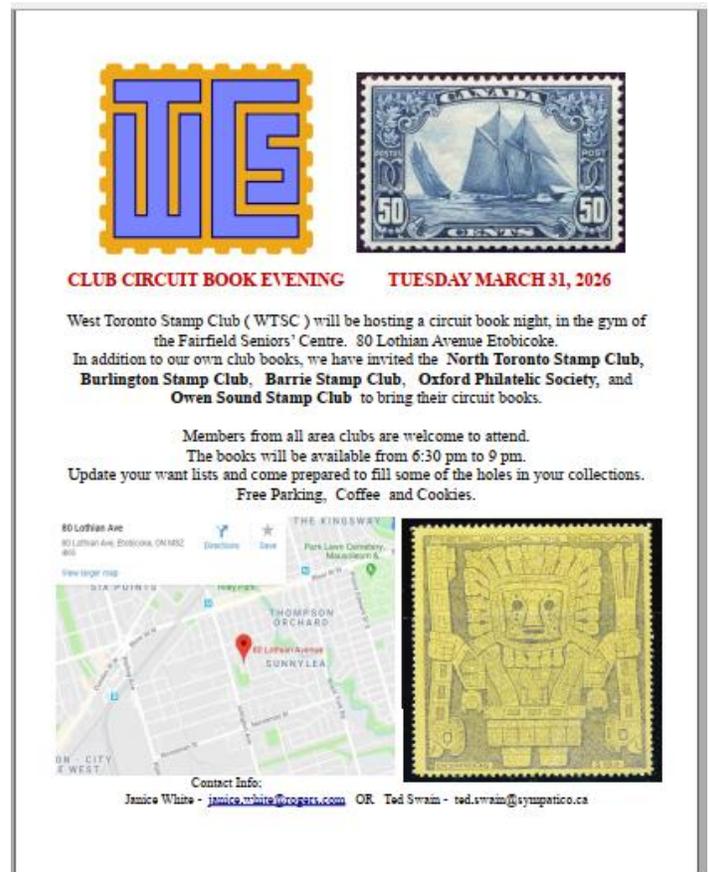
In May we will continue the lighthearted approach with a second show & tell asking "What is this doing in my collection?" This could be laughing at yourself for a foolish purchase, or it could be an item that became a keystone of the collection or exhibit. As usual, we don't know what to expect from our members and guests.... but it should be a lot of fun.

June will feature the traditional 'Town Hall' where members and guests have the opportunity to suggest content for the 2026-27 season as well as critique this year's program. We will follow up this meeting with an unrestricted 'show & tell'.

MULTI CLUB CIRCUIT BOOK EVENING - Tuesday, March 31st!! Join the fun.

Who knows what treasures await your discovery.

Oh, the joy of the hunt!



CLUB CIRCUIT BOOK EVENING TUESDAY MARCH 31, 2026

West Toronto Stamp Club (WTSC) will be hosting a circuit book night, in the gym of the Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 30 Lothian Avenue Etobicoke.

In addition to our own club books, we have invited the **North Toronto Stamp Club, Burlington Stamp Club, Barrie Stamp Club, Oxford Philatelic Society, and Owen Sound Stamp Club** to bring their circuit books.

Members from all area clubs are welcome to attend.
The books will be available from 6:30 pm to 9 pm.
Update your want lists and come prepared to fill some of the holes in your collections.
Free Parking, Coffee and Cookies.

80 Lothian Ave
80 Lothian Ave, Etobicoke, ON M9C 1K5
New Street map
THE KINGSWAY
Parks Lawn Cemetery, Mount Pleasant
THOMPSON ORCHARD
80 Lothian Avenue, SUNNYLEA
ON - CITY, E. WEST

Contact Info:
Jamie White - jamie.white@rogers.com OR Ted Swain - ted.swain@sympatico.ca

ONLINE PHILATELIC LEARNING & ENJOYMENT. This month I would like to highlight three outstanding **interactive** website resources, maintained by three of our WTSC members. The depth of information found will astound you!



Bill Burden maintains a website <https://wgburden.ca/> dedicated to documenting re-entries, retouches, plate markings, and constant plate flaws on Canada's Small Queens and currently on Canadian Admiral stamps.

Gilles Morell maintains a webpage <https://cartier17cent.com/> that includes a detailed guide to plating the Canada 1859 17¢ Cartier stamp with descriptions in English and French and a cover census showing the use of the stamp.

Michell Houde maintains an interactive homepage <https://michelhoude.com/BMSM/Index.html> dedicated to Firm Chops, Forwarding Agents, PERFINs, Arrival Markings, etc. on Straits Settlements stamps.

NATIONAL SURVEY TO CHART THE FUTURE OF PHILATELY

This is your opportunity to help shape the future of the hobby. See the last page of this bulletin detailing how you might participate. Scan the QR code or email Sebastien Crete at sebastien.cr@hotmail.com to be added to the participant list.



APRIL LEARNING WORKSHOP

Starting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2026 via Zoom, the topic for our seventh virtual Learning Workshop of the 2025-2026 season is: **“Interpreting Postal History?”**

The study of all facets of post office operations, from the earliest days to modern times, has become a philatelic specialty.

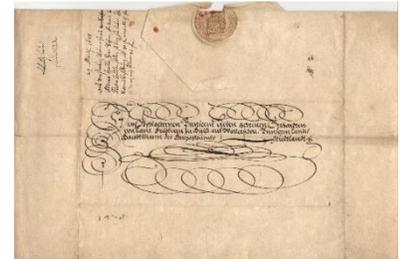
That term has been attributed to John Harry Robson Lowe (1905-1997), a British philatelist, stamp dealer and stamp auctioneer, according to Wikipedia.

He wrote many works on the subject, using 'Postal History' in his first major book, 'Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680-1900', published in 1937. Rowe described postal historians as “Students of Humanity.”



This popular topic covers a wide range of related subjects, basically anything related to the function of collecting, transporting, and delivery of mail through a mailbox or over a post office counter.

Included are: Stamps on covers, cancellations, transit marks, markings related to service disruptions — including postal strikes, train or plane crashes and wars — postal rates, postcards, envelopes and their contents which gave rise to the term ‘entire’, postal



policies, free mail from federal and provincial politicians, plus political effects on postal systems. There are also thematic topics, including: Aerophilately, Balloon mail, Express mail, Military mail, Paquetbot/Ship mail, Parcel Post, Postal stationery, Railway Post Office mail, Registered mail, Rocket mail, Special Delivery mail, and Maritime mail.

Geography also has an important function, such as providing an opportunity to specialize in mail to

and from a community, a region, or country, whether out of general interest or influenced by family roots. Identifying writers and/or recipients of letters has also provided collectors with a worthwhile topic.



The evening will begin with introductions and comments by three panelists—Chris Green, Garfield Portch, and Ken Snelson.

Participants can then ask a broad range of questions and discuss their covers, with scans and queries forwarded to WTSC President Sid no later than March 31. They will be added to Power Point presentations. Email: sidmensinga@gmail.com

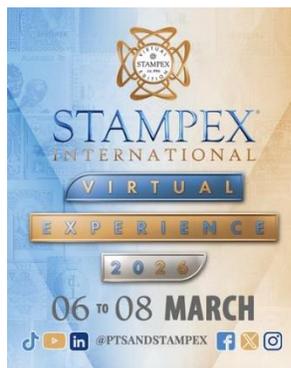
This should be a terrific evening. Stay tuned. - Ian Robertson

OTHER PHILATELIC OPPORTUNITIES



ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA: Virtual ZOOM sessions Registration in advance required. <https://www.rpsc.org/>

- STAMP TALKS March 9 - Arnie Janson - **Forgeries, Fakes, Counterfeits, Reproductions and Fantasy Stamps**
- STAMP PANELS March 16 - **Trajan Canada Specialized Stamp Catalogue** - [Robin Harris Mike Walsh]



VIRTUAL STAMPEX 2026 March 6-8.

WTSC member Duncan Barber notes - My submission "Great Britain Pre-Decimal Registered Express to Europe at UPU Rates 1892 to 1971" has been accepted and will be loaded into the system ready for the Live show, opening on the 6th March. Friends, family, and fellow philatelists who might want to view my Display and/or experience the show, can find marketing materials here: <https://www.stampexinternational.com/marketingmaterial>
The link to register/ login to the Live event is: <https://stampex.vfairs.com>
Regards,

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North Toronto Stamp Club Postage Stamp Bourse

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, M4T 1Z9

The North Toronto Stamp Club will be holding a Bourse from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sale features more than 20 dealer tables, the NTSC circuit books, 10-cent books, and members' items for sale. There will be 3 draw prizes awarded at 12 noon for everyone who attended before the draw and completed a ballot.

Phone: 437-259-3714

Email: ntsc.bourseschair@gmail.com

Web:

<http://www.northtorontostampclub.ca>

Mar 21/26

Oxford Philatelic Society OXPEX & OTEX 2026

Oxford Philatelic Society
St. Mary's Catholic High School 431 Juliana Drive
Woodstock, Ontario

9:30 am - 4:00 pm.

OXPEX & OTEX 2026 St. Mary's Catholic High School, 431 Juliana Drive Woodstock ON, N4V 1E8 Oxford Philatelic Society presents: 74th OXPEX & 44th OTEX Join us as we celebrate 77 years of Philatelic Excellence. Show is open from 9:30 am - 4:00 pm. Framed and Judged Exhibits. Free admission and parking. Up to 12 Dealers, Youth Gift Bags, Sales Circuits, Draw Prizes, Everyone Welcome

Contact: Don Eaton

E-mail: dhfe@silomail.com

Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

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Burlington Stamp Show (BURLPLEX 2026)

Burlington Seniors' Centre, 2285 New Street, Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4

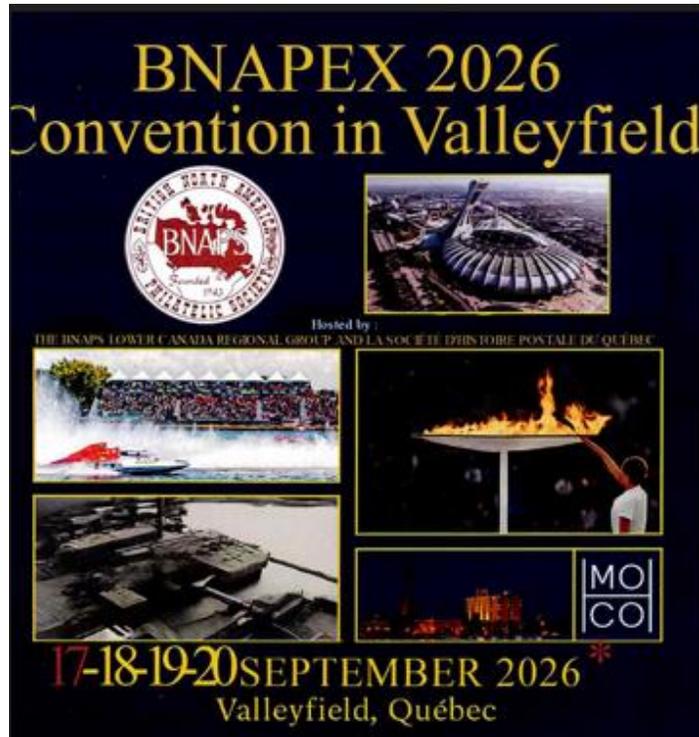
Hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It features 10 dealers, circuit books, two silent auctions and a snack bar. Wheelchair accessible, plenty of parking.

Phone: 905-335-3034

Email: jellingham@cogeco.ca

Web: <http://burlingtonstampclub.ca>

LOOKING AHEAD



BNAPEX 2026
Convention in Valleyfield

Hosted by:
THE BNAPS LOWER CANADA REGIONAL GROUP AND LA SOCIÉTÉ D'HISTOIRE POSTALE DU QUÉBEC

17-18-19-20 SEPTEMBER 2026
Valleyfield, Québec

MO
CO

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Montreal Olympic Games, and the 86th anniversary of Valleyfield's regattas, with a 160-frame BNA exhibition and participation of 22 dealers. BNAPS Study Group meetings and seminars. Tours of the historic MOCO cotton mill.

- Thursday 17 and Friday 18 Tours
- Friday night out (dinner)
- Saturday reception & awards banquet
- Admission: \$5 / Day

*Free admission for members attending one of the events

Dealers' opening hours

Friday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Contact Sébastien Côté
126 Jacques-Cartier Nord, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu,
QC J3B 6S5
sebastien.cr@hotmail.com

Hotel MOCO Valleyfield
40 Centenaire Avenue, Saint-Jean-de-Valleyfield, QC J3S 3L6
Hotel reservations: (450) 373-1500
Reservation code: 2026BNAPS

BNAPS ORG

WTSC MARKETPLACE: FREE/FORSALE/WANTED

WANTED

1. Mail addressed to Camlachie, Ontario and any mail postmarked Camlachie, Ontario. Also happy to learn about any other postal history you may have related to Camlachie. Please contact John at jd33smith@yahoo.com
2. Looking for Scott number 33 for plate collection. Contact David Bray dbray12traditions@gmail.com
3. WANTED: Queen Elizabeth II era Canadian covers 1950's - 1980's. Registered, special delivery, auxiliary markings, foreign destinations, anything unusual. Email Ingo at b62hkg@yahoo.ca if you have some for sale or trade.
4. WANTED - Straits Settlements with clear company hand stamps.
SEE: <https://michelhoude.com/BMSM/Index.html> email: mjrhoude@gmail.com
5. WANTED- German "Germania" stamps of any wmk. nowmk. overprint, surcharged from Germany, and all the regions, countries occupied by Germany. Please contact Vijay at vijaystamps@gmail.com.
6. If you are burdened with an excess of used Canada Admirals, I may be able to help. I am always looking for Admirals in quantity to further my research on plate flaws. Contact wgburden@mac.com for details. Thanks.
7. Looking for common USA definitives from the last 20 years to check variants. See if you have surplus of those and can help me. Thanks. Jose Restrepo - WTSC Member #1034 - restrepo.jg@gmail.com

	WE BUY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSTCARDS • STAMPED ENVELOPES (COVERS) • STAMPS • OLD PHOTOGRAPHS 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAPER COLLECTABLES • ADVERTISING • POSTAL HISTORY • CANADIAN AND FOREIGN
<p>IMMEDIATE PAYMENT FOR OLD COLLECTIONS, HOARDS, DEALER STOCKS, SMALL OR LARGE HOLDINGS, SPECIALISED OR DISORGANISED</p> <p>PETER PISZKO 416-618-4398 ppiszko@hotmail.com</p>		

FOR SALE

1. **BRIGHAM AUCTION CATALOGS W/ DATES OF SALE** ~ fully illustrated in colour, a definitive study of each issue, for those who collect the following issues:

Large Queens ~ 1868-1897	Feb. 22, 2014	Late Victorian Issue ~ 1897-1902	June 6-7 2014
Admiral Issue ~ 1911-1931	Mar. 6-7 2015	Geo. V / Edward VIII / Geo. VI 1917 -1935	June 13 2015
Small Queens ~ 1870-1879	Apr. 6 2016	Quebec Tercentenary 1908	Jan 23 2016
MacDonald / Cartier Centenary 1914	QE II 1953 - 1995	Edward VII 1903-1911 / QEII 1953 - 1995	Jan 23 2016

Contact Don Hedger at e/m < don.hedger@gmail.com > for price & availability.

2. **BOOKS**

1. The Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada; printed 2017 - \$10.00

Used – Excellent condition. Contact Janice.white@rogers.com

2. Canada's Small Queen Era 1870 – 1897; by George B. Arfkin, - \$50.00

Used – Excellent condition. Contact Janice.white@rogers.com

3. The Edward VII Issue of Canada; by George C. Marler, printed 1975 - \$30.00

Used – Excellent condition – Contact Janice.white@rogers.com

4. The Admiral Issue of Canada; by George C. Marler, printed 1982 -\$30.00

Used – Excellent condition – Contact Janice.white@rogers.com

- 3.

FOR SALE
 UNITED STATES MINT PLATE BLOCK COLLECTION
 IN BLUE RIBBON MOUNTS ON 71 Minkus ALBUM PAGES
 1982 thru 1985..... 103 pcs. including 24 blocks of 20
 And 79 blocks of 4.....all 796stamps are MNH
 2017 Cat. Value = \$967.00 - Face Value(postage)= \$167.20
 Your Price.....only \$80.00 !
 A TRUE BARGOON !!!

Contact Michael Graf at mljig@icloud.com



THE FUTURE OF PHILATELY - CANADA 2026 MAJOR CONSULTATION

BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION - RECEIVE THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE GENERAL STATEMENT

Let's work together to tell the story of philately.

JOIN OUR UPCOMING CONSULTATION TODAY

25-question survey sent in March.

Are you a collector, club member, or dealer? Your opinion matters.

Information collected:

Last name – First name – Phone number – Email address

Consent to use your data

(Confidential – Use strictly related to the General Statement)



Take part in the General Statement for a chance to win!
6 prizes • \$300 Metro or Canadian Tire gift card • Unitrade 2026 Catalogue + more
For participants only. See all the details on the FQP website



metro

