



Bulletin

Since 1935

The Newsletter of the West Toronto Stamp Club

Meetings are held at Fairfield Centre
80 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke, ON

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Sep - Oct 2011

Frank Alusio, Editor

Greetings

Welcome to the new philatelic year in west-end Toronto. I hope you all had a restful summer and ready to get back to our hobby. The Club is beginning the year with a membership strength of 77 who are eager to renew old friendship, and make new friends all sharing the same collecting interest(s). The members of the Board, however, have not been idle; we:

- Reviewed and up-dated the Club's Constitution
- Conducted the Audit and prepared the Financial Report on our finances
- Developed the program for our Discussion Group
- Discussed ways to improve the Auctions
- Developed the 2011-2012 meetings schedule
- Presented various reports in our areas of responsibility.

Enjoy the hobby!

Constitution

Every five years we are required to review the document to ascertain that it reflects our current operations.

Our Membership Secretary, Chris Edwards, took the bull by the horns and conducted a systematic review, article by article, making the necessary changes. Comments were provided by Board members and incorporated in the document. After three revisions, the final draft was presented to the Board, receiving unanimous approval. Chris was thanked for the time he took to produce a professional document.

A copy of the revised Constitution is available to members upon request.

Meetings

We will continue to meet four times a month on the first, second, third and fourth Tuesdays with the exception of December (2 Tuesdays and July and August).

Members interested in the Machin Study Group meet on the first Tuesday.

Those interested in Auctions, Show-and-Tell and demonstrations meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays.

And those who would like to participate in the Discussion Group meet on the third Tuesday. This group at times is addressed by a guest speaker.

Our 2011-12 Spark Plugs

OFFICERS	
President	Frank Alusio
Past President	Reay Cairns
Vice President	Don Hedger
Secretary	Stan Shakespeare
Treasurer	Fred Colbourn
Membership	Chris Edwards
DIRECTORS	
Fred Froud, George MacLean, Aulis Nary, Gord Payne, Rob Taylor	
APPOINTMENTS	
Reay Cairns	Auctions Chair
Garfield Portch	Machin Group Chair
Gerry Quidzinski	Board Advisor
GTATA Representatives	
Garfield Portch, George MacLean	
Serving The RPSC	
Frank Alusio	Vice-President

Finances

During the month of August a financial audit was carry out by Frank Alusio of the Treasurer's records (Fred Colbourn). The financial records and transactions kept by the Treasurer were found to be acceptable.

2010-11 was another successful year. The Income (\$2,472.45) exceeded the Expense (\$1,604.60) by \$867.85.

The Summary, the Statement of Income and Expense, and the Reserve General Fund of the West Toronto Stamp Club for the year ending 31 August 2011 were prepared and have been presented to the Board for review and approval.

In the Auditor's opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position for the year then ended 31 August 2011.

The Annual Report is available to members upon request.

Membership

We closed the 2010-2011 year with 80 paid-up members. However, three sadly passed away. So we will enter the new philatelic year with 77 active members.

Information

BULLETIN

The BULLETIN will continue to be produced bimonthly and distributed electronically to members with an e-mail address (55). A hard copy will be available to the others (22).

FLASHnews

36 FLASHnews were sent electronically last year. These notifications are sent the weekend before meetings to remind the membership of the upcoming meeting and for "special" news. Positive feedback was received from many members for receiving this service.

Auctions

In order to improve the quality of the material submitted and to ensure that lots are hammered at a reasonable price, the following changes were agreed by the Board and will take effect starting this September:

Single stamps or sets of stamps

Lots for the Regular Live Auction must be well described and have a minimum catalogue value of \$10.00 to be accepted. For the Invitational Live Auction the minimum catalogue value is \$20.00.

"Bulk" lots

Bulk lots of penny value items in bags, or in a box, do not belong in the Live Auction. They can be accepted and placed in the Silent Auction regardless of the catalogue value.

Starting bid

The Live Auction lots will have a minimum starting bid of 10% of catalogue value. If there are no advance bids or floor bids the lot will be withdrawn from sale.

The opening bid for the Silent Auction lots starts, as before, at 50 cents.

Reserve bids

Vendors are encouraged to protect their lots, especially the good ones, with a reserve bid. If it is not protected, there is a possibility that it may be sold below their expectations.

Displayed on our Website

Some of the better items will be scanned and displayed on the Club's website to attract visitors.

For examples as to how to mount and describe properly a lot on a card, look for the display on the table next to the auction lots. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Why join The RPSC

Are you still not a member? Here are the benefits of individual membership in The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada:

- Six issues per year of *The Canadian Philatelist*
- Group collection insurance at low rates
- Information on your local chapter and other affiliates of The RPSC
- Opportunities to exhibit at our annual convention and internationally
- Theft protection network
- Access to the VGG Philatelic Research Library in Toronto
- Advice on the preparation of collections for disposal
- Use of the RPSC sales circuit, as both buyer and seller
- Live telephone contact with the National Office in Toronto
- Access to Canada Post Corporation through a Board Director
- The right to participate and vote in our AGM
- The right to hold elected office
- RPSC Website access

If you would like to join, see our own Garfield Portch and you'll become a member on the spot.

Calendar of Activities

All the activities are on Tuesdays

Sep 06	6:30 pm	Doors open
	7:00 pm	Machin Study Group
Sep 13	6:30 pm	Doors open
	7:00 pm	Meeting & Reports
	7:45 pm	Live & Silent Auctions
Sep 20	6:30 pm	Doors open
	7:00 pm	Guest Speaker
Sep 27	6:30 pm	Doors open
	7:00 pm	Meeting & Demonstration
	7:45 pm	Live & Silent Auctions
Oct 04	6:30 pm	Doors open
	7:00 pm	Machin Study Group
Oct 11	6:30 pm	Doors open
	7:00 pm	Meeting & Show-and-tell
	7:45 pm	Live & Silent Auctions
Oct 18	6:30 pm	Doors open
	7:00 pm	Discussion Group Session
Oct 25	6:30 pm	Doors open
	7:00 pm	Meeting & Demonstration
	7:45 pm	Live & Silent Auctions

Pay the Dues now and save \$5.00

Renewals in September-October are \$15.00
After the 1st of November is \$20.00