



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

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**Feb 2017**

B. Timberg, Editor

## President Sid's Message

Our recent mid-year WTSC board meeting made me again realize how fortunate we are to belong to a club where individuals readily step forward to take on a one-time task, an ongoing responsibility and/or come forward with new ideas or suggestions to make our club even better. Thank you to all board members for your enthusiastic innovative leadership and to all of you for your active participation.

One of the new ideas agreed to at the meeting is to begin the development and use of WTSC circuit books. This new initiative will give members a further method to fill those holes in their collections and provide a means to dispose of surplus/duplicate lower value material. Thank you to Simon and Victoria Claughton for taking the lead on this new initiative. Further details will be shared at our upcoming meetings. The WTSC circuit books will debut September 2017 giving members the needed time to put their circuit book pages together.

Secondly, to celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial the board agreed to two exciting initiatives. We will create a WTSC-Canada 150<sup>th</sup> commemorative cover. The cover will include a cachet designed by a club member and will use our logo as picture postage. To make this happen by July 1, members are encouraged and invited to participate in a cachet design competition. Yes! This is your opportunity to explore and display your creative artistic/design skills! Members are asked to submit their sesquicentennial cachet designs with a WTSC focus to me by February 28.

As well the board agreed that the sesquicentennial will be the theme for our Annual Exhibition one page exhibit entries.

More details about both opportunities will be shared at our upcoming meetings.

I trust the above-mentioned initiatives will spark your interest to participate as you share your enthusiasm for our club, your passion for stamp collecting and your interest in the many aspects of this hobby.

I Look forward to your attendance and participation this coming month.

Sid

## February Activities

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

**Feb 7 ~ Learning Workshop** (doors open at 7, meeting starts at 7:30)  
**Extremes in my Collection**

### Feb 14 ~ Regular Meeting

Exchange of information, Show & Tell and Auction

### Feb 21 ~ Discussion Group

Guest speaker **Ted Nixon**, Chairman of the Greene Foundation, will present his International Gold Medal Exhibit **The Paris Star Cancelling Devices**. A cover from the exhibit is shown on the last page of the Bulletin.

### Feb 28 ~ Regular Meeting

Exchange of information, Show & Tell and Auction

## Discussion Group Schedule (March – June)

### March 21

**CLUB EXHIBITION WORKSHOP** – This evening will be a workshop to assist club members intending to submit an entry in the club exhibition on May 9. Members are encouraged to bring their exhibits (single page, multi page, or single frame) and/or potential material in order to receive assistance and guidance in preparing their exhibit. The evening will also feature a brief review of the new judging guidelines for North American exhibits that came into play on January 1 of this year.

### April 18 ~ Mark Stelmacovich

**UKRAINIAN PROVISIONAL STAMPS** – This will be a PowerPoint presentation outlining the speaker's research and award winning exhibit of the provisional stamps of the Ukraine in the 1990's.

### May 16, June 20 ~ TBA

# March Learning Workshop

"Topicals" will be the topic of our 6th learning workshop.

Like many subjects offered for our monthly get-togethers, the popularity of stamps that feature an infinite range of pictorial designs has grown since the mid-1900s. In the words of James H. McMeen, an active thematic collector in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. in the 1960s: "Topical collecting is so entertaining, artistically satisfying and versatile ... it can be the panacea for most stamp ills such as sheer boredom, disgust, disinterest and disillusionment. It can be taken very seriously as a major collecting interest with extensive research and planning, or it may be used as an entertaining and decorative sideline or supplement to a major specialty."

Definitives were the order of the day when 'labels' were sold to prepay postage, starting in Great Britain in 1841, but Canada's first stamp in 1851 featured a popular future thematic topic — a beaver. Since then, our post office has issued several stamps depicting beavers and other critters.

Numerous topics joined the wide world of commemoratives as agencies began choosing subjects other than monarchs, government leaders, coats-of-arms or merely typographed denominations.

Canada's first commemoratives, the 1897 Jubilees that celebrated Queen Victoria's 60th year on the throne, are part of the popular royalty subject. A "Xmas" reference on our next commemorative, the 1898 Imperial Penny Postage stamp, made it the world's first Christmas stamp, a highly popular topic.

In 1928, Canada launched a new definitive series that replaced the-then king on medium- and high-denomination stamps with a range of scenes and themes from across the country. Except for a single Queen Elizabeth II definitive, recent definitives have for years shown a wide variety of domestic scenes.

By the early 1950s, presses everywhere were cranked up to accommodate even more concepts, including trains, planes, automobiles, ships, buildings, animals, birds, fish, insects, soldiers, authors, historic events, fictional superheroes, musicians, educators, sports heroes, activists, late leaders, and anniversaries.

Elsewhere, many small nations that rely on collectors for revenue began issuing stamps that often have no local ties: cartoons, especially Disney characters, plus rock and movie stars top the list.

Topical subjects can also include postmarks and slogans — the latter a future Learning Workshop topic.

This hobby is about the fun of collecting. So whatever turns you on is fair game. Members with topical stamps or covers from anywhere are invited to the meeting.

There are resources that could guide current or future thematic enthusiasts. An excellent resource is the American Topical Association. Founded in 1949, it has published numerous handbooks and lists of topics. Check it out online: [www.americantopicalassn.org/](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/)

Our round-table sessions offer everyone a chance to participate. Come early for a seat.

Ian

Illustrations

CRITTERS - Canada's first stamp, issued in 1851, depicted a beaver



ROYALTY - The first in a set of 16 'Jubilees' issued in 1897 for Queen Victoria's 60th anniversary as monarch



CHRISTMAS - Imperial Penny Postage 1898 commemorative was the first to have a Christmas reference



CANADIAN SCENERY - 1928 10-cent Mount Hurd stamp was the first large-format thematic definitive when Canadian themes replaced the reigning monarch on higher-denomination definitives



COMIC BOOK CHARACTERS/SUPER-HEROES - Superman, co-created by Canadian-born Joe Shuster in 1938, is featured on 2013 Canadian souvenir sheet



ENTERTAINERS - Lucille Ball and husband Desi Arnaz on 1999 U.S. stamp featuring the husband-and-wife team on the hit 1950s TV show "I Love Lucy"



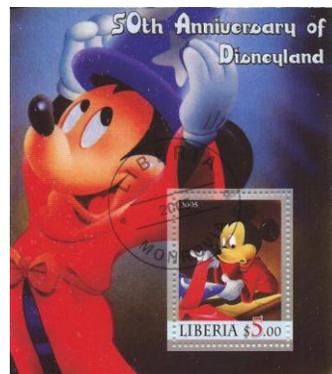
HISTORIC EVENTS - Yukon gold rush and Dawson City



ANNIVERSARIES/SITES - Five-cent commemorative for 100th anniversary of Toronto becoming capital of the province of Ontario



DISNEY CHARACTERS - 2005 Liberia \$5 souvenir sheet featuring Mickey Mouse, Walt Disney's first hit character, issued for 50th anniversary of Disneyland in California



## Project High Class

Toronto Police have cracked a break-and-enter ring targeting high end homes primarily in the west end. Twenty-three of the 26 break-ins occurred in south Etobicoke.

Eight individuals have been arrested and almost \$500,000 in stolen property recovered.

Press have reported that stolen goods included coin and stamp collections.

This is a clear reminder to all of us that we need to ensure our collections are adequately protected, and also fully insured.

Details on the investigation and arrests may be found at:

<http://torontopolice.on.ca/newsreleases/37062>

<http://tpsnews.ca/stories/2017/02/500k-property-recovered/>

## Membership

As of January 31, 2017, we have 81 paid-up members. We have had 4 new members this collecting year. However 18 members from the 2015-2016 year have not continued their memberships.

We have recently had 2 new members: Andre Lichtenfield (# 1086), and Mark Kanzo (# 1087). Our sincere welcome to both.

## Cover from Ted Nixon Exhibit



## WTSC Board 2016-2018

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, Art Leduc, Jose Restrepo, Rob Taylor, Bob Timberg

Appointees: Garfield Portch (Auctions Chair, Discussion Group, and Webmaster); Denzil Fernandes (Auctions); Bob Timberg (Bulletin Editor)