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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Chapter 14 **Chapter 148**

PRESIDENT SID'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

Fred Jarrett's quotes; *"Soaking, sorting, counting and playing with stamps is good therapy"* and *"Our Hobby brings relaxation to the busy mind"* continue to hold true. I am sure you would agree that our hobby offers that welcomed respite from the daily chaos around us and the constant stream of unsettling news.

This month I particularly valued the camaraderie and support of fellow philatelists within the club and the wider community. Their help allowed me to pursue next steps with my Camp 20 exhibit, and the images individuals provided enable me to expand two personally significant philatelic data bases. I hope you, too, enjoy this same spirit of support and camaraderie.

The disappearing fall colours and cooler days and the fact that Halloween is over reminds one that the weeks are flying by and that holiday festivities will soon be upon us. That being the case, have you signed up for WTSC Christmas 2026 Festive Get Together & Dinner **Tuesday December 16th?** The cost is $60. per person (tax & tip included)**.** You can sign up during the upcoming meetings or contact Sid at sidmensinga@gmail.com

Payment can be made in cash or by E-Transfer: *president@westtorontostampclub.org*

See the last page of this Bulletin for the *WTSC Christmas Invite* noting further details.

Also recognizing how quickly the months pass by and wanting to give ourselves ample time to prepare; this is the month to decided how will you participate in this year's WTSC Annual Exhibition? Members are invited to exhibit in one or all the three exhibit categories: Single Page, Multi-Page or One Frame Exhibit. If you intend to create an exhibit with a topical or thematic focus, be sure to check out Jean Wang's recent informative/instructive presentation posted on our club website. https://www.westtorontostampclub.org/resources/df_WTSCDG_jw-gp__20261021_Thematic_Collecting_Exhibiting_Subject-Blood_.mp4

As last year, the WTSC Annual Exhibition will take place the fourth Tuesday in March. Holding our WTSC Annual Exhibition on **March 23rd** will again enable WTSC's best 3 single frame exhibits to be selected to participate in the interclub "*Garfield Portch Ontario Club Single Frame Competition"*. Any Ontario-based philatelic club that is a member of the RPSC may compete by entering 3 single frame exhibits. Six Clubs competed in 2026, with the West Toronto Stamp Club taking home the trophy, an achievement we can be proud of. How many clubs will participate this year? Let's be sure we are ready. The 2027 Competition will be held at the Hilton Mississauga/ Meadowvale Hotel on April 3 - 4, 2027.

NOVEMBER PHILATELIC OPPORTUNITIES

Nov. 3 - LEARNING WORKSHOP, 7 p.m. via Zoom, **Show & Tell meeting on the theme of the letter "M"**. Guests and members are encouraged to present anything and everything "M".

Nov. 10 - An *Auction & Circuit book evening* - In-person - Fairfield Centre.

Nov. 17 - DISCUSSION GROUP, 7 p.m. via Zoom, will be a Show & Tell entitled **"Canada's First Stamps".** See page **2** for further details

Nov. 24 - *Auction & member/vest pocket dealer tables* - In-person - Fairfield Centre.

FROM THE DESK OF THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

October 31 st is Halloween evening when all the ghosts and goblins come shelling out for goodies. As your membership director I am knocking on your door, asking those of you who have not yet renewed, to shell out for your West Toronto Stamp Club membership for the coming season.

Nothing scary here, just the continuation of a relationship with like minded philatelists and the opportunity to fill your own goody bag with philatelic treats.

Renewal before October 31 st is still $15. After Halloween it will cost you a scary $20.

Payment can be made by e-transfer or by cheque.
Details are as follows:

E-TRANSFER: The WTSC email for e-transfer is:
president@westtorontostampclub.org
CHEQUES: Make your cheque payable to WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB
And send it to:

West Toronto Stamp Club
c/o Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation
10 Summerhill Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1A8

We have a great mix of members from both near and far. For those whom I don't see at my membership table, I look forward to seeing you on one of our great zoom sessions!

If for some reason you wish to no longer be a member, please let me know and your name will be removed from future notifications.

Happy Stamping!
Ted Swain
Membership Director

WTSC CIRCUIT BOOK UPDATE



WTSC Circuit Books at the Woodstock Show this past month, a most successful event!

As our fall is coming to a close and winter is fast approaching, we have only 1 more out of town circuit book show which is in Hamilton on Friday, November 6 from 5 pm to 9 pm.

This event will be held at the Bishop Ryan High School, 1824 Rymal Road East Hamilton Ont. L0R 1P0

There will be about 6 clubs with their circuit books at the show. An auction will also be held that evening

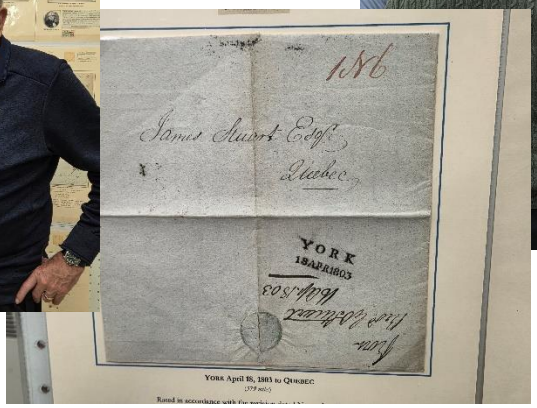
Ted and Janice
Circuit Book Co-ordinators

WTSC IN-PERSON MEETING SHARING

Sharing at our WTSC in-person meetings is always most informative and well received.
Thank you to Garfield for his many postal history sharing sessions.









As well this past month, thank you to Simon for telling us about his most interesting “three - dimensional” recent philatelic purchase.



What might you share with your fellow club members in this coming month and in the months ahead?

WTSC online DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group meeting for **November 17** will be a Show & Tell entitled **"Canada's First Stamps"**. Members and guests are asked to present stamps, preproduction material and postal history from the Pence period, 1851 to 1859. Presenters are asked to show in PowerPoint format to avoid holding material to the camera. Presenters not having access to PowerPoint are asked to send jpeg images to Garfield to be included in a group PowerPoint. garfield.portch@gmail.com

The December Discussion Group meeting is cancelled this year in favour of a holiday season dinner to be held at the Canadiana Restaurant.

WTSC DECEMBER LEARNING WORKSHOP

Starting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026 via Zoom, the topic for our third virtual Learning Workshop of the 2026-2027 season is '**Festive Holiday Season Philately.**

December is a big festive season for many, featuring cultural, religious and seasonal celebrations across Canada and around the world.

For collectors, there are related stamps, postmarks, postcards.



Here are some major December holidays:

- Saint Nicholas Day: Also called the Feast of St. Nicholas, December 6 or on the evening before in Western Christmas countries and on December 19 in Eastern Christian countries, honours Saint Nicholas of Myra (270-343 AD), an early Christian bishop who gave gifts to poor people and is revered for instigating miracles. The better-known Santa Claus name plus Father Christmas in Britain, are derived from Saint Nicholas.
- Buddhism: The Day of Enlightenment is celebrated on December 8, honouring the historical Buddha — Shakyamuni — experiencing enlightenment.
- Hinduism: Celebrated mostly by Hindu Tamils, from December 3 to 6, Karthika Deepam is a festival of lights held on the full moon day. Pancha Ganapati is a modern five-day festival celebrated from December 21 through December 25 in honour of Ganesha, a revered elephant-headed Hindu deity known for removing obstacles, and as an arts and sciences patron.
- December Solstice (Yule), also called Winter Solstice, which marks the winter solstice on December 21, celebrating the longest night of the year plus return of the sun in the Northern Hemisphere. Evidence of celebrations from the Neolithic and Bronze Age have been found in archaeological sites — including Stonehenge in southern England.





- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: Celebrated on December 24 and 25, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, also widely observed as a secular family holiday with trees, lights, candles, toys and other gifts.
- Christmastide: A longer season in Western Christianity, best-known as the 12 Days of Christmas, celebrated from December 25 to January 5.
- Hanukkah: The Jewish Festival of Lights, with dates varying each year, in mid-to late December.
- New Year's Eve: People celebrate the arrival of the new year starting on December 31.





Canada is credited with producing the world's first Christmas stamp, on Dec. 7, 1898. Featuring a global map and inauguration of Imperial Penny Postage, the two-cent letter rate commemorative has a map of the world with British Commonwealth countries highlighted in red. 'XMAS 1898' at the bottom was added after William Mulock, Canada's postmaster-general, told Queen Victoria the stamp would be issued on November 9 to "honour the Prince" — referring to the Prince of Wales. But when the monarch, who was not keen on her eldest son, the future King Edward VII, asked 'What Prince?" Mulock hastily replied, "Why, madam, the Prince of Peace."

As for the world's first stamp issued specifically for Christmas, several claims have been made. Least-known are three issued for British Forces in Egypt to use for mail sent home. Overprinted 'Xmas 1935 - 3 Millemes' and 'Jubilee Commemoration 1935', they were not included in the Stanley Gibbons catalogues until the mid-1960s — earning them the first Christmas-stamp title, Wikipedia notes.



Other early Christmas stamps include: Two that Austria issued in 1937, featuring a rose and zodiac signs; Cuba issued Christmas stamps in 1951 featuring poinsettias and bells — often credited for being the first Yule issues. By the 1990s, Wikipedia notes, about 160 postal administrations were issuing Christmas stamps, mostly annually.





Also popular are Christmas seals, issued starting more than a century ago by many countries including Canada, to raise money for the Red Cross and medical research, including Tuberculosis.

In addition to stamps, collectors have cancellations to consider: Christmas Island; Holly, Ontario; Mistletoe, Kentucky; Nazareth, Pennsylvania; Dasher, Georgia; Santa Claus, Arizona; and Eggnog, Utah, after a favourite Christmas drink. In Mexico, there is Barra de Navidad (Navidad is Spanish for Christmas).



In Canada, slogan postmarks urging early postings to ensure mail arrived before December 25.

As always, Learning Workshop participants have an opportunity to share and encourage discussion about December holiday philatelic subjects.

This should be a fun evening, featuring a wide range of topics.







- Ian Robertson

OTHER PHILATELIC OPPORTUNITIES

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

November 9 - Arnie Janson - Military Postal History Varieties

Nov. 19 Unresolved Mysteries: The 1-Penny Stamps Released "By Mistake" by Paul Sarjeant

Nov. 26 History of a Small Town through Postcards by George Sachs

Hamilton Fall Fair 2026

November 6, 2026 to **November 7, 2026**

Bishop Ryan Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, ON, L0R 1P0

Hamilton Stamp Club invites you to the Fall Fair 2026. Show hours: Friday 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday: voice auction 6:30 p.m., viewing 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and guest club sales circuits 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday: 12+ dealer bourse, silent auctions and Youth Booth. Free admission, parking, light food and refreshments.



WTSC MARKETPLACE:

WANTED

1. **Camlachie** – always looking for postal history related to this small community in Lambton County. Especially interested in covers addressed to Camlachie dated 1930 to 1954 but any cover to/from Camlachie will be of interest no matter the era. John at jd33smith@yahoo.com
2. **Centennial Collector?**
   Please get in touch at ted.swain@sympatico.ca I have a mountain of surplus centennials to trade to fill the gaps in my collection.
3. **Looking for WW 1 mail to Canada** from Canadian military serving overseas; contact Wayne Schnarr at gwschnarr@rogers.com

FOR SALE

1. **Selling Italy and Italian** area including **Italian States and Colonies**. Want lists welcome. Contact Mattia at 647-990 4073 email stampsofitaly@yahoo.ca
2. **Selling Canada postage lots**, minimum purchase of $100 face value. Discounts between 30 and 50% depending on denominations. Contact Mattia at 6479904073 email: stampsofitaly@yahoo.ca
3. **Canada Lighthouse Hingeless Albums** – Looking for an album without breaking the bank? I have six binders with pages. 1970 to 2009 appears to be complete across three very full red binders with sleeves. Three more binders are filled with pages which are either duplicates and/or 2012 to 2015 although no year appears entirely complete. Most pages are very clean. A reasonable offer will not be refused. John at jd33smith@yahoo.com.
4. For sale: 1861 First Cents Cover with SC #14 & 4 - SC#14b mailed from Collingwood Harbor to Newmarket ON. For advanced collectors. price $250.00 Contact Jim at tazzwild@hotmail.com

REMINDER TO WTSC MEMBERS: Ad space is free. Send to sidmensinga@gmail.com



WTSC Christmas 2026 Festive Get Together & Dinner.

Date & Location

Tuesday Dec. 15th

at the Canadiana Restaurant Six Points Plaza

Arrival between 6:00 and 6:30, dinner at 7:00.

Dinner Details:

Rolls & Butter and a Salad of Tossed Mixed Greens.

A choice of the following menu options (decision to be made the evening of)

- Roast Prime Rib of Beef au Jus
- Roast Turkey Dinner with Stuffing/Gravy
- Atlantic Salmon Filet with a Cranberry Salsa

The meal will conclude with Assorted Pastries & Fruit Platter + coffee/ tea

Included will be a complimentary glass of red or white wine.

There will also be a cash bar and donated prizes.

Cost

The cost, subsidized by the club, is $60. per person. (tax & tip included)

Sign up during the upcoming meetings or contact Sid at sidmensinga@gmail.com

Payment can be made in cash or by E-Transfer

E-TRANSFER: *president@westtorontostampclub.org*

CANADIANA
RESTAURANT AND BANQUET HALL

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