



Bulletin

The Newsletter of the West Toronto Stamp Club
www.westtorontostampclub.org

The Club meets at
Fairfield Seniors' Centre
80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke, ON
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May 2017

B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

Our WTSC annual club exhibition is just around the corner, on Tuesday, May 9. There is still just enough time for you to make a last-minute decision to complete a single page exhibit celebrating Canada's sesquicentennial.

The exhibition should be most exciting as we experience the creativity and insights that members will share. This year's exhibits focusing in part on Canada's 150th will allow us to celebrate the terrific country we have the good fortune to live in.

Best wishes to all who have challenged themselves to enter a Single Page, Multi-Page and/or One Frame exhibit. Our annual club exhibition will again provide attendees and participants with a greater appreciation for the hobby and their own collections.

Our bi-weekly auctions continue to be a great success, providing a valuable service to members with a means to dispose of unwanted material and as well to acquire interesting material or a philatelic treasure. To ensure continued successful auctions, members are reminded of the following:

- All lots must have a minimum catalogue value of \$5.00
- No lots will be accepted after 6:55 p.m.
- The maximum acceptable number of lots is 10 per member.
- WTSC auction tags must be used. Neat printing or writing is most helpful. Auction tags can be downloaded from our website.

Thank you for adhering to the above requirements.

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

Annual Club Exhibition

As mentioned by Sid in his president's message, we urge you to participate in the club exhibition in any category but especially the single frame. If you intend to participate or need more information, please e-mail Garfield asap at garfield.portch@gmail.com

May Activities

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

May 2 ~ Learning Workshop (starts 7 - 7:15)
Slogans

May 9 ~ Regular Meeting
Annual Club Exhibition

May 16 ~ Discussion Group (Two-Part Meeting)
Part 1: A review/critique of this year's program, and a discussion of topics for next year. Plan to attend; the club needs your input. Part 2: Show and tell. Bring a philatelic item; explain its significance in 1-2 minutes.

May 23 ~ Regular Meeting
Exchange of information, Show & Tell and Auction

Discussion Group Schedule (June)

June 20 ~ TBA

PHSC Symposium 2017

Reminder - July 20-23 is the date of the Postal History Society of Canada's Symposium 2017, to be held in Hamilton. Details including the Symposium brochure may be found on the PHSC website.

<http://www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/Symposium/>

APS Stamp March (Madness) Competition 2017

In a surprise as neither was expected to reach the final round, a Canadian stamp defeated one from New Zealand to win the Stampship. For details, see:

<http://blog.stamps.org/2017/04/12/canada-stamp-madness-champ/>

June Learning Workshop

"Members Buy & Sell" is the subject of the ninth 2016-17 Learning Workshop, the final one for this season.

The idea is to unload those extra stamps, covers, postcards, albums, stockbooks, ephemera, tools and toys, plus philately-related books.

Offering such items to fellow members at our June 6 session, and getting a chance to examine previously-hidden treasures, can be a real learning experience. Don't delay, come early and be ready for bargains.

Remember sellers, if you really want to clear out a closet, bookshelf, garage, attic, doghouse, back seat of your automobile, or wherever those 'I've been meaning to get at them, someday ... really' items are tucked away, be sure to keep the prices reasonable.

And buyers, you never know what will emerge from those secret hiding places.

Finally, unlike our auction nights, there is no percentage sought for the club.

Your Summer Reading

If you're looking for something to read this summer, look no further than the Toronto Public Library. Published last month (March), *"The One-cent Magenta: Inside the quest to own the most valuable stamp in the world"* is available in hard copy, e-book and e-audiobook.

As described by the TPL, "When it was issued in 1856, it cost a penny. In 2014, this tiny square of faded red paper sold at Sotheby's for nearly \$9.5 million, the largest amount ever paid for a postage stamp at auction. Through the stories of the eccentric characters who have bought, owned, and sold the one-cent magenta in the years in between, [author] James Barron delivers a fascinating tale of global history and immense wealth, and of the human desire to collect."

Auction of the Inverted Jenny

The McCoy inverted jenny stamp (position 76) is up for auction on Thursday, May 11. Members may find the auction catalogue of interest. A discussion of the early days of the U.S. airmail service and the jenny and inverted jenny stamps starts at page 12.

<https://siegelauctions.com/2017/1157/1157.pdf>

Epic of Vimy Exhibit

In March, club member Don Hedger's award winning exhibit "Epic of Vimy – A Canadian Pilgrimage" was posted to the web site of the British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS). If you have not seen the exhibit, don't hesitate, view it now. It is impressive.

<http://www.bnaps.org/ore/Hedger-VimyRidge/Hedger-VimyRidge.pdf>

USPS Informed Delivery

The editor thought members might find this news item about a technological advance in mail delivery south of the border quite interesting.

On April 14, the USPS expanded its Informed Delivery service to cover almost all of continental USA. Prior to the 14th, the service was offered only in a few zip codes concentrated in a few metropolitan areas.

The Informed Delivery service offers "images of the mail that will be placed in your mailbox each day. Black and white images of your actual letter-sized mail pieces, processed by USPS® sorting equipment, will be provided to you each morning. Flat-sized pieces, such as catalogues or magazines, may be added in the future." (Per the USPS)

Membership

The membership report in the February Bulletin is the most current report.

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 and Discussion Group); Denzil Fernandes (Auctions); Rob Taylor (Webmaster); Bob Timberg (Bulletin Editor)

