



Bulletin

Since 1935

The Newsletter of the West Toronto Stamp Club

Meetings are held at
Fairfield Centre
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Rob Timberg, Editor

President's Message

Happy 78th Anniversary West Toronto Stamp Club!



On February 20, 1935 a group of individuals interested in philately met at the home of Sam Burford at 782 Indian Road in west end Toronto (near Keele Street and Dundas Street West) to discuss forming a stamp club.

Several weeks later on the evening of March 10, the first official meeting of the club took place at the Assembly Hall, then located at 2875 Dundas Street West, west of Keele Street.

Elected to the Board of Directors were: C. Chute (President), S.C. Burford (Secretary), W. Hill (Treasurer), D. Campbell, D. Henderson, R.B. Lindsay, M. McIvor and F.W. Reynolds.

These 8 gentlemen are the founding fathers of the West Toronto Stamp Club. **LONG LIVE WTSC!**

We are already slightly over halfway through our 2012-13 philatelic season. Our Club continues its activities as programmed. Our meetings are well attended. Our monthly Discussion Group brings in in-house and special guests to present on a variety of topics to enhance our understanding and enjoyment of the hobby. We facilitate the Machin Study Group which meets monthly. Our finances are in good shape, and our budget is on target. Our Club continues to thrive.

Our Membership Secretary, Chris Edwards, is currently conducting a survey of collecting interests of members. This information will be consolidated and shared with members only, for their use and information, and will be used by your Club in determining the type of material best suited for our auctions. This project is very worthwhile so please provide Chris with the information when he asks.

Finally but not least, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Jim Koppang and Charles J.G. Verge to the Club. Gentlemen, enjoy!

As always, if you have questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to speak to me or any other member of your Board of Directors. We are here to serve you. Happy Collecting!

From the Editor

This April will mark the 101st anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

All of us know the story about the seemingly unsinkable liner striking an iceberg in the North Atlantic and going down with enormous loss of life.

But how many know that the Titanic was not only a passenger ship but also a mail ship, and that its name included R.M.S. (for Royal Mail Ship)?

R.M.S. Titanic carried 5 postal workers, 2 from Britain and 3 from the USA. All fought to the end to protect the mail. None survived. Their courage, devotion to duty and sacrifice is legendary.

The Postal Museum at the Smithsonian has an on-line exhibit devoted to the 5 postal workers. It is well worth viewing at any time and especially as the anniversary of the sinking approaches. Go to <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/titanic/>

Saving Toronto's Postal Station "K"

Update: According to a report on January 28, 2013 in urbantoronto.ca, Rockport Group, the purchaser of Postal Station "K", "have indicated their intention to work with City [of Toronto] heritage staff and the community to retain the front of the building, while demolishing the rear portion of the structure to construct a residential tower on the property. The plan would also include an enhancement of the public area in front of the building." If this were to occur, the historic front of the postal station would be preserved. Stay tuned.

February Discussion Group Session

On February 19 well-known philatelist and author Charles J.G. Verge spoke on the 1959 St. Lawrence Seaway stamp, jointly issued by Canada and the USA, and the Canadian invert. He provided an insight into the stamp's development, how the invert came to be and the number in existence.



If you missed the talk, or were there but want to learn more, his book on the topic is available from the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation for a modest \$10 plus shipping. See <http://www.greenefoundation.ca/publications.html>

ORAPEX Stamp Show (Ottawa)

A bus trip to the ORAPEX national-level stamp show in Ottawa, May 4-5, is being looked into by the GTAPA (Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance). Current plans are for the bus to leave early Saturday morning (the 4th) and return late Sunday night (the 5th) with Saturday night spent at the Days Inn in downtown Ottawa. Cost is expected to be approximately \$150 per person (bus and inn) if sufficient people book. If you are interested, please see Frank Alusio. For details on ORAPEX, go to <http://orapex.ca/>

Special Thanks

Many of you will recall the presentation on the Celestron microscope made by fellow member Peter Wood. Peter has sold 30 to date, and has donated \$150 (\$5 from each sale) to the Club. Peter, your generosity is very much appreciated.

We must also mention fellow member Vijay Vijayakumar who donates prizes for draws, and provides members with a special discount on philatelic items that he sells. Vijay, your generosity is also greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Club, many thanks to Peter and Vijay!

Miscellany

"I urged them [British postal workers James Bertram Williamson and John Richard Jago Smith, and American postal workers Oscar Scott Woody, John Starr March and William Logan Gwinn] to leave their work. They shook their heads and continued at their work. It might have been an inrush of water later that cut off their escape, or it might have been the explosion. I saw them no more."

Albert Theissinger, Steward aboard R.M.S. Titanic and survivor, speaking of the postal workers who continued to work until the very end.

Membership

As of February 28:

Summary		
Begin 2012-13		84
Renewed	70	
Reinstated	1	
New members	5	
Not renewed	11	
Deceased	1	
Moved	2	
February 28, 2013		76

We extend a warm welcome to new members Jim Koppang (1043) and Charles J.G. Verge (1044).

Mar – Apr 2013 Calendar

All activities are on Tuesday (doors open 6:30 pm)

Mar 05	7:00 pm	Machin Study Group
Mar 12	7:00 pm	Regular meeting, show and tell, and auctions
Mar 19	7:00 pm	Discussion Group (Dr. David Foot): "Eclipse: Presentation on stamps and other philatelic material"
Mar 26	7:00 pm	Regular meeting, short information session, and auctions
Apr 02	7:00 pm	Machin Study Group
Apr 09	7:00 pm	Regular meeting, show and tell, and auctions
Apr 16	7:00 pm	Discussion Group (Frank Alusio): "Evolution of Postal Stationery: introduction to and definition of the various types of postal stationery from 1608 to the present"
Apr 23	7:00 pm	Regular meeting, short information session, and auctions
Apr 30	7:00 pm	Discussion group (Michel Houde): "PowerPoint 101: how program works, using the program to prepare simple presentations from single-page to one-frame"