

# PhilaJournal

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Area Philatelic Alliance  
Greater Toronto  
**gtapa**  
RPSC Affiliate No.4

## The hobby makes a foray at the 50 Plus Show!

Under the general coordination of Paul Winkler, Chair of the Stakeholders in Philately (SIP) group and Publisher of the Canadian Stamp News (CSN), and led by the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance (GTAPA), the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association (GRVPA), Canada Post and CSN, for the first time philately, made its appearance at the annual "50 Plus Healthy Lifestyle and Travel Show" held on April 30 and May 1, 2004, at the International Centre in Mississauga, ON.

The possibility of a philatelic participation of this type of show was introduced by Mr. Winkler at the last January meeting of SIP group. After discussing the great opportunity to showcase our hobby in a territory never explored by us before, it was agreed that GTAPA would coordinate the exhibits and the seminars, Canada Post would promote its products, while CSN would be present as the philatelic media and perform the general coordination.

The two-day show is a magnet in attracting the 50+ age group but we noted also the presence of a significant number of young persons who came along with their parents. Many visited our booth to inquire about and walk away with a few stamps.

Our main objective was not only to stage a first class exposure of the hobby but also to experiment the behaviour of the visiting public at our booth and displays. We were overwhelmed by the number who visited us.



One of the FDCs signed by stamp designer Saskia van Kampen, during the 50 Plus Show

### The Booth

The operation of the booth was provided by Peter Butler (Friday only as he had to drive to ORAPEX Show in Ottawa), Frank Alusio and Garfield Portch of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance; Howie Mason of the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association; Bret Evans of Canadian Stamp News and Yves Pitché of Canada Post.

The volunteers Reay Cairns, Bruce Coleman, John Laraway, Gord Payne and Tom Marquette of West Toronto also gave us a helping hand in making this project a success.

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• • •

#### An Open Invitation

Philatelic clubs operating in the Greater Toronto Area are invited to join the Alliance. Remember, "we work best when we work together"

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• • •

The Alliance meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at the Vincent G. Greene Research Foundation, 10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto



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# PhilaJournal

The Official Publication of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

PhilaJournal is published four times a year, in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The Journal is distributed free of charge to all stamp collectors (400) who belong to a club which is an affiliated member of the Alliance. Copies are also distributed to selected recipients.

Individuals or Affiliated Members are welcome to reprint material from PhilaJournal, with proper credit given to the source.

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Editor: Frank Alusio

Assistant: Peter Butler

## The Mission

The mission of the PhilaJournal is to provide its readers with news and information on philately in general with emphasis on the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance members giving them something new and interesting to enjoy.

Opinions expressed in articles in this Journal are those of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Alliance. The GTAPA cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any information provided herein.

## Subscription

Non-members wishing to receive a copy of the Journal (four times a year), by ordinary mail, must send a cheque in the amount of \$10.00 to:

GTAPA, Treasurer,  
c/o 331 Rathburn Road,  
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## Advertising

Any reader, dealer, Institution who may wish to place an ad in the Journal to promote their product or service, may contact:

The Editor at Tel: 416-621-8232 or

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1/8 page (bus. card)	\$10.00	\$40.00
1/4 page	\$20.00	\$80.00
1/2 page	\$40.00	\$150.00
Full page (8.5x11)	\$80.00	\$300.00
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Your feed back is important to us. If anyone has any philatelic item for publication, or any suggestions to improve the Journal, please contact the editor.

This is the medium that keeps the members of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance in touch and informed.

This publication is made possible by the contribution of the advertisers. Do patronize them whenever possible. Mention you saw their ad in PhilaJournal.

## EDITORIAL

Early in my life, my ancestors often repeated "if you sow you will reap." In time, this has been proven many times.

In January 2001 Charles Verge (president of the RPSC) asked me to undertake a mini-study as to why people are not attracted to the hobby and what can be done to alleviate the situation.

A month later, a 5-page report was handed in to the National Federation in which I stated a few facts and provided a few recommendations for consideration. One of which was "take the show on the road" and preach. (not exactly the same words but it had the same connotation).

On April 30 and May 1, 2004, GTAPA, in cooperation with Canada Post, Canadian Stamp News and the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association, we did take the show on the road.

Representatives of these organizations participated as "exhibitors" at the Annual 50 Plus Healthy Lifestyle and Travel Show held at the International Centre in Mississauga, ON, taking up a 400 square feet of floor space and showing the public what stamp collecting is all about.

It ranged from explaining the enjoyment derived from the hobby to what you do with stamps (basic Collections on display); from docents explaining the exhibits to providing advice on how to interact with other collectors (clubs); from how to go about appraising philatelic estates to how to dispose of them; from how to learn about the habit (CSN) to acquire new stamps through postal outlets (CPC) highlighted by the presence of one of the stamp designers available to sign FDCs.

The result was a total success. At the end of the day we all asked ourselves: **why have we not done this before?** Read the special feature on the front page for details.

Elsewhere in the publication you will read about the recognition of two esteemed philatelists, the inaugural get-together of the Thematic Group and other interesting articles.

Do note that due to commitments made by the Executive to attend Royal 2004, in Halifax, the GTAPA annual General Meeting, scheduled for May, has been rescheduled for June 23rd and you are invited (see item in the President's report)..

Enjoy the reading.

*Frank Alusio*



## Contributors:

Frank Alusio, Dorothy Attwells, Peter Butler, Efeea, Doug Irwin, Art Halpert, Herb Kucera, Garfield Portch, Bob Thorne.

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## The hobby makes a foray at the 50 Plus Show!

...(continued from front page)

### Display

Ten 16-page frames of philatelic material were on display for the occasion. Nothing extravagant; but just basic collecting to attract the visiting public to the colourful and informative display.

The first Frame (created by Frank Alusio) was dedicated to the basics of collecting taking the viewer, in easy-to- follow progression, from the introduction of the first adhesive postage stamp through collecting the world, to something more manageable such as one nation, a time-period, a simple topic.

The following three frames we invited individual members (listed below) of Clubs affiliated with GTAPA to assemble one-page mini exhibits and we were overwhelmed of the response (Are these our future exhibitors?)

The fifth frame was mounted with material issued by postal administrations for the film "Lord of Rings" prepared by Peter Butler.

The sixth was a topical/thematic collection of "King of the Knight" by Karl Wysotski of Scarborough Stamp Club followed by the attractive and colourful frame of "Canadian Colorano Covers" assembled by Gord Payne of West Toronto Stamp Club. Mr. Payne also participated with another frame of FDCs on "The American Wildlife Stamps" issued by the US postal administration during CAPEX '78, World Philatelic Exhibition held in Toronto.

The attractive Display culminated with two frame exhibits one by Garfield Portch "Getting to the Fire" and one by Frank Alusio "Victoria and the Penny Black" - exhibits which are ready to make an appearance on the national scene in the very near future.



Exhibitor Gord Payne entertaining the visiting public at his frame.

### Autograph Session

The special guest at our booth was Saskia van Kampen, who designed four stamps for Canada Post, including the Bryan Adams photo of the Queen stamp issued in 2004. Van Kampen, for whom we are most grateful, was signing FDCs of the stamp during the two sessions: one on Friday and one on Saturday. Indeed a popular addition to our booth.



Stamp designer Saskia van Kampen performing her duty to volunteer Tom Marquette. Yves Piché of Canada Post is looking on.

### Prospective New Collectors

During the two-day show we also learned that a good number of the visiting public were not aware of the number of stamp clubs in the GTA. In talking with various persons who visited our booth, I personally recorded that a number would come visit clubs; six to West Toronto Stamp Club; four to Scarborough; three to North York; and two to Bramalea, they and might become members. This proves that we have to make ourselves visible and be present at every opportunity to promote philately in order to attract latent and new collectors.

### Philatelic Estate Appraisal Service

What we also gathered from this experience was that a number of persons among this segment of the public were seeking advise on how to go about appraising and disposing of philatelic estates. A service of this kind is barely provided but certainly is not being widely advertised. We certainly will take this into account and will ascertain that a process is put in place and available to those who need the service.

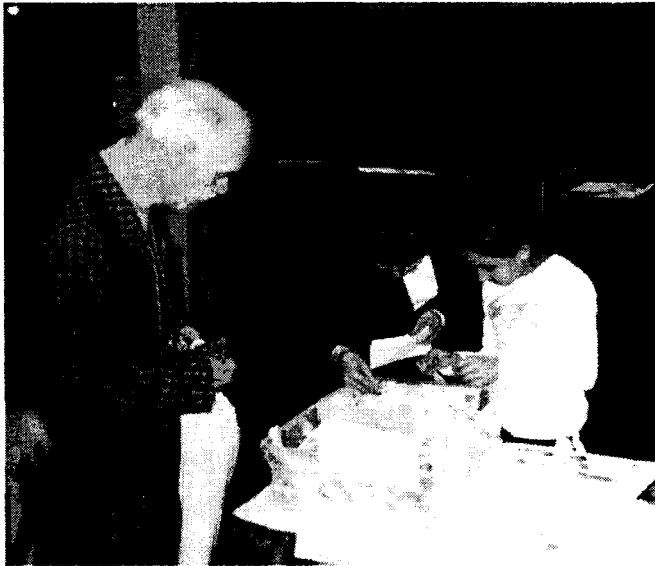
### Feature

One of the successful stories of our venture was the "stamp grab container" in which literally millions clean cancelled stamps were available to the public for the taking.

These stamps were kindly donated by Etobicoke stamp collector Ted Allen to promote stamp collecting among the youth.

Through experience we found that giving stamps away for nothing gives the impression that they are useless. What we thought would be momentous was that by displaying a sign on the container saying that a

monetary donation would be appreciated for a cause has a greater impact and meaning. It worked! The amount was collected \$41.31. It will certainly help develop the youth program.



Volunteer Bruce Coleman with philatelic bargain hunters.

### Seminars

Unfortunately the two seminars scheduled in the program by the Organizers of the show for 4:30 pm were not as successful; in fact, they did not take place at all due the lateness of the day. (The public started to leave the show around 3:30pm). Next time around we will make sure that the seminars are rescheduled earlier in the day around 11:00 am.



Canada Post Door Prize won by Mrs. Joan Howard of Etobicoke.

### Conclusion

All in all, it was a venture well worth the effort and we recommend it to other philatelic organizers to consider such exposure. However, this can only be achieved with the cooperation of all the stakeholders in philately with one common objective in mind: **Promote philately.**

There is a cost involved and we alone (the collectors groups) will never be able to stage such a venture; but we

are always ready and willing to provide the expertise and the displays - all for the love of philately.

These are the other collectors who participated with a one-page exhibit.

West Toronto Stamp Club: David Ashley, Gerard Bennett, Reay Cairns, Bruce Coleman, Milton Dorman, Mac Hill, Allison MacDuffee, George MacLean, Ilga Manko, Tom Marquette, Aulis Narhi, Gord Payne, Gerry Quidzinski, Stan Shakespeare, Victor Skidra, Terri Tettmar  
Scarborough Stamp Club: Don Beaumont; and North Toronto Stamp Club: Geoff Ewing and John Wilson.

Thank you very much fellow collectors. Your participation contributed immensely to the success of our venture. ■

Frank Alusio



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In the midst of a very busy season for stamp shows, it is rewarding to take a few quiet moments to sit down at the computer and reflect on the issues that the GTAPA is active and involved with in this, the second year of existence.

### GTAPA & the 50+ Show

Elsewhere in this issue our editor, Frank Alusio, has written about our commitment to the *50-Plus Healthy Lifestyles and Travel Show*. In cooperation with the *Canada Post Corporation*, *Canadian Stamp News* of the *Trajan Publishing Corporation* and the *Stakeholders in Philately* group, our organization took on the responsibility of creating a program to awaken non-collectors to considering our hobby as a possible pastime. May I add my thanks to Frank's words of appreciation, to all those who assisted at the booth or submitted one-pagers for display. Let's hope all our clubs benefit with inquiries about membership.

### Article III of the GTAPA Constitution

One of the seven purposes written in our founding document is that the organization will, "share the vast amount of knowledge and expertise available within the member Clubs."

This year I am aware of several instances where clubs have invited members of other clubs to come and speak or lead a workshop. Since the GTAPA's inception the sharing of judges among the clubs has increased and visitations from club to club have been discussed. Who knows what joint activities might be proposed in the future.

### And Further Afield...

By now every club is aware of the joint venture of the GTAPA and the GRVPA, to bring the all the circuit books from 16 clubs together for a special event this Fall. The Bramalea Stamp Club will be hosting the get-together. Please make sure Sunday, October 3 rd, 2004 is

marked on your calendar and plan to attend this "clubs only" circuit books bourse. Your president has promotional material to give anyone interested in inviting friends and neighbours who are thinking about becoming collectors. What a great way to be introduced to philately! What a great way to increase membership!

### GTAPA ANNUAL MEETING

This year, the Alliance's Annual (General) Meeting will be held in June, and we would like to make a special event of it. As you probably know, an organization's Annual Meeting is "short & sweet," with yearly reports from executive members and the passing of amendments/additions to the constitution and bylaws. There will be no discussions and no new business. As a member of the active clubs in the GTAPA, you are invited to join us for what promises to be an enjoyable and informative meeting.

We have invited Harry Sutherland, the esteemed chair of the Greene Foundation to be our guest speaker, following the meeting. After his presentation, there will be refreshments and an opportunity to chat with guests and Board members. If you have not yet seen the Library, this would be a great opportunity to visit and browse through this fine philatelic collection of resources.



**GTAPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 23 rd at 7:00 p.m.**  
**at the Vincent G. Greene Foundation**  
**10 Summerhill Ave. (at Yonge St.)**

### Toonie Adlets in PhilaJournal

The newsletter editorial staff would like to include in issues of *PhilaJournal*, individual member's advertisements. You may place an ad for a "toonie," yes, that's right, only two dollars. For that bargain basement price, you can write up to five lines and reach nearly 400 readers with your request. Philatelic requests only please! A few of our Board members have placed such ads in this *PhilaJournal*, to give you the idea. E-mail or send your ad through the post, to the newsletter editor. The toonie can go with your Board rep. to the monthly meetings.

### Philatelic Exhibitions

As I write this message for the summer edition, it has hardly turned to spring! And by the time you receive copy, I will have attended three stamp shows: *ORAPEX*, Ottawa's National Stamp Exhibition, *ROYALE \* 2004 \* ROYALE*, the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's annual Convention & Exhibition in Halifax, and my own club's *SCARPEX 2004* in Scarborough. Each in its own way will be a great experience. They will provide wonderful opportunities to meet collectors from across the country, the province and the GTA. I will be a better philatelist because of these experiences and I invite you to consider doing the same at some point in your stamp collecting experience. It's a little late to consider attending the Ottawa and Halifax shows this year, but don't let too many years slip by before committing to such a plan. In the meantime, enjoy the summer... and enjoy your collecting.

### The East Toronto Stamp Club Gains New Life!

As a founding member of the GTAPA, the *East Toronto Stamp Club* has been an integral part of our organization. There have been rumbling for some time now, that with falling numbers and an aging membership, the club was in jeopardy of folding. The good news out of East York is that there is new life in the aging club and optimism about the future. I asked Dorothy Attwells, their president and representative on the GTAPA Board, to give us the details of the, "resurrection." In her own words... the good news:

"Some people have been talking and whispering that the East Toronto Stamp Club is going 'belly up.' Don't you believe it! We are going to continue, maybe not in the same way you may be used to, but it is going to keep on going. We have been approached by the coordinator at the Stan Wadlow Club House, to become part of their program. All the details have not been worked out as yet, but there are all kinds of people who meet there and we have been approached to use the facilities and also to encourage their other members to come and join with us as part of their activities. There will be a membership fee as is usual, but as far as we can tell, we are being encouraged to carry on as usual. We will let you know when the plans have been finalized and hope that as many of our members as possible will continue to come out and enjoy the friendships we have built up over the years, and continue to talk 'stamps' and all of the ramifications that go with it."

There you have it. A chance to increase membership and involve a whole group of would-be collectors with great leadership from experienced collectors. We are delighted with East Toronto's good fortune, we pledge assistance in any way they deem helpful, and above all, we wish the members good luck, as they begin a new life in their club.

Sincerely,

Peter Butler



## CLUB MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

### **Bramalea Stamp Club**

Meets the 1st Sunday (from 2:30 to 4:30pm), October to June and the 3rd Tuesday (from 7:30 to 9:30pm) year round at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd. and Bramalea Rd.), Brampton. For more information, contact Bob Thorne at 905-792-3526 or Email: [r.thorne@Sympatico.ca](mailto:r.thorne@Sympatico.ca).

Bramalea club continues its traditional Tuesday night meetings through out the summer. Come and visit us if you can. The dates are:

June 15 • July 20 • August 17 • September 21

During the summer period we have general gab fests along with show and tell. These meetings are a great chance to ask questions and learn about stamp collecting

Please do not forget that when we get back to our regular meeting schedule the first October meeting date is October 3 rd. The Bramalea Stamp Club we will be hosting the **Grand Fair** with the 14 clubs of the GRVPA and the 7 clubs of the GTAPA joining forces for the first time on a combined event. The event will take place at

**Jim Archdekin Centre  
292 Conestoga Drive  
North of Bovaird (Hwy 7)  
between Hwy 10 and Kennedy Road  
ONLY SALES CIRCUITS FROM THE CLUB**

no dealers, but Canada Post will have retail facilities there. Also expect a few surprises. Remember the last time we held a Grand Fair we actually flew a kite in the room.

It is with sadness to report that we lost a good friend and founding member of the Bramalea Stamp Club, Gerry Heuvingh. He will be missed. ■

### **Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society**

Meets the 3rd Thursday at 6:00pm of every month from September to June (Except in December, when it is the second Thursday) on the premises of Canaccord Capital Corporation, 320 Bay St. 13th floor, in Toronto.

The I&BPS will have its wrap-up of the year's activities in June. There are no meetings scheduled for the months of July and August. ■

### **East Toronto Stamp Club**

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday, from September to May, at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, Cedarvale Avenue Toronto. After a short business meeting, there usually is a presentation by Club members. Refreshments are always available. ■

### **North Toronto Stamp Club**

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from September to June (except December), starting at 7:00 p.m., at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street, east side at Heath Street. The Club's circuit books are available to members and visitors, and some of the members who are dealers provide material for purchase as well. A brief business meeting is followed by a speaker's presentation, a panel discussion, or a club auction. No admission charge. Visitors are always welcome. Coffee and cookies are served.

Calendar of Upcoming Meetings:

#### **May 13**

- **Judges Critique** and a presentation by our grand award winner, **Don Welsh** on "Fiji-The Piroque Issues 1893- 1902" • Club sales circuit opening about 6:30 PM • Table auction • Three to five club dealers

#### **May 27**

- **Nicholas Coddington** will speak on "Imperial India" • Club sales circuit opening about 6:30 PM • Table auction • Three to five club dealers

#### **Jun. 10**

- **Derek Paul** will discuss "Science as applied to the First Issues of Belgium" • Club sales circuit opening about 6:30 PM • Table auction • Three to five club dealers

#### **Jun. 19**

- **Summer Bourse**, Edward Gardens Centre, 10am to 4pm, • Club sales circuit, • 25 dealers

#### **Jun. 24**

- **Members trading night.** A number of 10¢ books will be available both from dealers and club sales circuit. Meeting starts about 6:30 pm

#### **Jul. 15**

- Summer get together and dinner at the Bedford Arms, Yonge at Lawrence (northwest corner), 6 pm

#### **Aug. 19**

- Summer get together and dinner at the Bedford Arms, Yonge at Lawrence (northwest corner), 6 pm. ■

### **North York Philatelic Society**

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 6:30 to 9:00 pm (July & Augusts 3rd Wednesday only) in the Skaters' Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue West, (1 1/2 blocks west of Bathurst Street), Toronto.

Meetings feature convivial atmosphere, speakers, auctions, a sales circuit and a number of dealer members. Membership is only \$10 per year. Ample parking is free. NYPS is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance. For more information, contact:

Art Halpert at 416-643-2020 (days) or 416-499-4406 (evenings / weekends); Email: [ahalpert@sympatico.ca](mailto:ahalpert@sympatico.ca)

Summer get together nights are scheduled for Wednesday, July 21st and Wednesday August 18th. Come out and buy, sell and meet with your friends. ■

### Scarborough Stamp Club...

#### *Hold the Press, Just One More Item!*

For the second year, SSC's Stamp Exhibition and Bourse has happened a few days after the deadline for items for the next issue of *PhilaJournal*, and for the second time, editor Frank has agreed to hold the press so we can get the results of our show to GTAPA readers. Our thanks to Frank Alusio for being so flexible.

**Scarpex 2004** was a great success. At the end of the day, Rick Howard, our dealer organizer, said that the dealers were very happy with the day's sales. **Doug Cockburn, Karl Wysotski, Harold Leonhardt** and **Dave Stone** worked the member's sales table and reported almost \$500.00 in sales. The sales circuit under **Jerry Merelaid**, did very well also, with the Woolworth's Table seldom having an empty chair all day. The Welcoming Table under **Dave Ashley's** leadership earned over \$100.00 with the raffle. **Dave's** wife, **Ann, Mac Babin** and **Hilya Ekberg** warmly welcomed visitors to the show, distributed programs and gift covers and sold raffle tickets. **Susan Butler, Alice Burke, Wendy Bargh, Nancy Carleton** and **Mary Lock** provided refreshments for dealers and showgoers. Grilled cheese and egg salad sandwiches were very popular. **Jim Carleton** and **Frank Lock** provided security for the show and put up the exhibit frames with some help from anyone who happened by.

To all these members and friends of SSC, and to any others I have inadvertently neglected to mention, I extend a sincere vote of thanks for their assistance. It takes a great team effort to create a successful show, and collectively, you did it in grand style.

### SHOW PALMARES

(That's "philatelic" for a listing of the exhibition awards)

- Gold:** **Peter Butler** "The Great Mail Robbery"  
**Josh Hodgson** "Registration Labels"
- Vermeil:** **Don Beaumont** "Queen Elizabeth II Stamp Varieties of Canada, 1953 to 1983"
- Silver:** **Dave Ashley** "1937 Coronation Omnibus Issue"
- Bronze:** **Don Beaumont** "Yukon, Canada's True North"  
**Jim Carleton** "Canada's Pictorial Cancels"  
**Doug Cockburn** "Canadian Philatelic Exhibitions"

Our thanks are extended to judge **Peter Madej** for coming to **Scarpex** to evaluate our exhibits. The exhibitors appreciated his positive comments and encouragement.

SSC also appreciated the support of members from the *West Toronto Club* and the *North York Philatelic Society* who attended our show to support our efforts. ■

### West Toronto Stamp Club

Meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesday at 7:30pm, from September to June, at Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Avenue, (3 blocks south of Bloor St. West, and 2 blocks east of Islington Ave.).

Membership is only \$15 per year, renewals are \$12. Ample free parking, Club's Newsletter, Regular and Invitational Auctions, Study Group Sessions, Dealers Tables, and Exhibitions.

The activities schedules for the next three months are:

**June 8** Regular meeting and Auctions

**June 15** The annual competitive stamp exhibition, the **Everett Drake Trophy**, will take place this evening. The competition is open to the members of West Toronto who submit a 16-page exhibit which will be evaluated according with an established local show criteria.

**June 22** Regular Meeting and Auctions

During the months of July and August the club is closed for the summer. It will resume in September when the first regular meeting of the new season will take place on September 14th.

For more information, contact Frank Alusio at 416-621-8232, or e-mail: [falusio@sympatico.ca](mailto:falusio@sympatico.ca). ■



## CLIPPINGS & COMMENTARY-5

PB

*Excerpts from the philatelic press...*

...and comments from Peter Butler

### What's a Postage Stamp?



In the February '04 issue of the *Saugeen Stamp Club's* Bulletin, editor **Jim Measures** wrote the following, under the heading of, "*What is the Role of a Postage Stamp?*"

As philatelists, we need to think occasionally about the role of these little treasures that we collect and value so highly. The Gibraltar Post Office has issued a statement of what they believe is the role of a postage stamp. According to *Gibraltar Post* the role of the postage stamp is: "*To promote understanding, communication, and international cooperation; the miniature and most prominent ambassador of the country; the cultural identity and heritage of a nation; prepayment for postal services; a specific brand image; king of hobbies.*"

Not much to disagree with there, **Jim** mused, but he was surprised that *Gibraltar Post* had put the "prepayment of services" fourth in a list of six roles. Surely a postal authority would list that role as number one. **Jim** got my vote on that thought, and it caused me to think further about the profound impact these little pieces



of paper (postage stamps) have in so many areas of a country's identity. Wouldn't it be interesting to take a look through several philatelic reference texts to find out what other sources said about the role of postage stamps. Few reference books I looked at, made such an attempt. In fact most of the indexes didn't, even list a definition for what a postage stamp was, never mind its role.

At lunch the following day, I asked my stamp buddies, "So what's your definition of a postage stamp?" There was no hesitation, "A receipt for the prepayment of postal services." With the inclusion of the word, receipt, I realized that I had not looked in my copy of Robert Lowe's great book, *The British Postage Stamp*, published by the National Postal Museum in England for a definition. It was the Roland Hill concept that turned around the charges for postal service from the receiver of mail to the sender of mail. Thus the notion of prepayment started, followed with the issuance of a receipt... a postage stamp.

Here is what Roland Hill said himself, of his "invention" of the adhesive postage stamp, almost exactly as we know it today. "A bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp and covered at the back with a glutinous wash which the user might, by applying a little moisture, attach to the letter." (The stamp in its sense meant a postage paid mark. The whole item would be a label.)

It is interesting to note that in the 1840's there was no notion that people would save the stamps and not use them. This would have been tantamount to insanity, prepaying for a service but never intending to use the service. Mint stamp collectors please take note!

The Canadian Oxford Dictionary defines a postage stamp as: "an official stamp affixed to or imprinted on a letter indicating the amount of postage paid." The author of that description forgot the rule that you can't define an object using the same word you are defining, namely "stamp." Wouldn't the word, label have been a better one to use? Under "stamp" alone, the dictionary says, in the fifth meaning out of ten: "a small adhesive piece of paper indicating that a price, fee or tax had been paid."

*Stamp Collecting for Dummies* by R.L. Sine offered this: "Stamp is a term for an adhesive label for postal purposes." Rather thin gruel for such a serious topic, don't you think?

My favourite definition comes from a text that I expected a lot more from, *Fundamentals of Philately* by L.N. Williams, and published by the *American Philatelic Society*. The only definition I could find was: "A stamp is a piece of paper, watermarked or un-watermarked and of a particular texture and with a particular finish, bearing a design applied by a particular process or particular processes, in a particular colour or combination of colours, with or without addition by the same or different process or processes and in the same or different colour or colours, the whole being provided or un-provided with means of easy separation."

It does go on to suggest that the definition does require a further limitation around the terms, "used" and

"unused" stamps. *Certain purists will cavil at the description of a stamp as a piece of paper.* Thus, the above definition is offered, I suppose, as the quintessential word on what is a postage stamp. No doubt cynics would suggest that lawyers were involved in this one.

Having lowered the level considerably with that definition, let me close with this lofty description of a postage stamp. It is written in large bold letters above the entrance to the gallery of the Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History, Regis College, in Weston, Massachusetts, 25 miles northwest of Boston.

***"Stamps are miniature documents of human history. They are the means by which a country gives sensible expression to its hopes and needs, its beliefs and ideals. They mirror the past and presage the future. They delineate cultural attainments, industrial works, domestic, civil and social life. In a word, these vignettes give a vivid picture of the world, its occupants and their multifarious endeavors."***

Francis Cardinal Spellman

The Cardinal was one of America's most celebrated stamp collectors. The museum attests to his great contribution to the hobby. Unfortunately, the gallery where a part of his famous collection is displayed, was closed for renovation, the day Susan and I visited the museum. I did copy down the quotation though, for I knew some day I would find a place for such a literate description of what is a postage stamp. And there you have it. Thanks Jim Measures, for getting me going on this little journey. I hope you're satisfied!

Yours, in philatelic fun. ■



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The oldest postal guide is contained in the Goblets of Vicarello (c first century AD), otherwise known as the Apollinaire Vases - four silver goblets about 10 cm high, discovered in 1852 in an old spa north of Rome. They bear engraved on their sides the names of relay stations between Cadiz and Rome and other intervening distances.

## The Royal Philatelic Collection

Housed in St. James's Palace, the Royal Philatelic Collection is the most comprehensive collection in the world of postage stamps devoted to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Although a personal asset, the collection has always been regarded as an heirloom; however, The Queen does make loans of material from the collection for display at exhibitions and next year a traveling Jubilee stamp exhibition will allow wider public access to some of the collection's most interesting treasures

Some of the younger members of the Royal Family had already started stamp collecting by 1864, but the first serious collector in the Royal Family was Prince Alfred (Queen Victoria's second son, later the Duke of Edinburgh), who was Honorary President of what is now the Royal Philatelic Society from 1890 until his death. Before his death, he sold his collection to his elder brother The Prince of Wales (later Edward VII), who later presented it to his son, The Duke of York. Some of his collection now forms a core of the Royal Philatelic Collection today.



The Duke of York (later George V) was a very able philatelist, who was executive President of the Royal Philatelic Society from 1896 until he became King in 1910, when he became its patron. An astute and enthusiastic collector, he made every effort to obtain the rarest stamps at the first available opportunity. Although the Royal Collection mainly consists of unused stamps, George V also

acquired used specimens (purchasing covers if necessary, and he was particularly keen on bisected stamps) and added air mail covers from the early routes to the Collection. The King preferred to have mint blocks of four or six stamps and in doing so set a fashion which lasts to this day.

As Duke of York, he had by 1904 bought both the 1d and 2d Post Office Mauritius of 1847 - the first stamps issued by a colonial Post Office and among the most prized stamps in the world. The Penny Orange-red was bought from a collector, and the equally matchless unused example of the 2d Blue was bought at auction in 1904 for £1,450 (then the highest price for a single stamp). A courtier was reported to have asked The Duke of York if he had seen that some fool had paid £1,450 for a postage stamp: "Yes" was the reply, "You're talking to him!"

As King, George V had to approve designs of new issues which bore his image, and a certain number of official presentations helped to build up the collection. However, by far the largest proportion came from purchases (the King employed an agent to bid for him at

auctions), either as individual stamps from important collections broken up for sale by dealers, or as complete collections. Between 1907 and 1918, at least 18 important single-country collections and four collections of Great Britain were bought intact. By his death, the King's collection was housed in 328 albums (the 'Red Albums'), each of some 60 sheets. The first four albums contain the so-called Treasury essays, which were the results of the open competition which the Treasury held before the UK issued the first postage stamps in the world.

George V also took a great interest in stamp design. Once the stamp-sized artists' sketches, which were submitted for his approval, had been used by the printers for engraving the die, making plates and matching colours, they were returned for inclusion in his collection. In addition, a number of earlier sketches, die proofs etc. were purchased or given, and amongst the sketches there is one of two pairs of water colour sketches sent to Rowland Hill to show him how the designs for the proposed 1840 Penny Black and Two penny Blue would look. In collecting artists' drawings, die proofs, plate proofs and colour trials, the King was ahead of his time in recognising the importance of these items and a pioneer in this area.

Edward VIII apparently considered selling the Royal Philatelic Collection but he was advised that he could not do so: although the collection is the personal asset of the Monarch, it was and is regarded as an heirloom. George VI took a personal interest in the collection, but he did not share his father George V's specialized knowledge. Nevertheless, the Collection continued to expand and much material mounted - or still today awaiting mounting - was added during George VI's reign and is or will be in the Blue Albums.

During The Queen's reign a considerable volume of material has been acquired, much of which is still to be mounted - in time these will be in the Green Albums. Two major additions have been a collection of pre-adhesive covers of Great Britain and a collection of the pioneer air mail flights envelopes of Canada. The Queen also has a collection of first day covers from the UK and the Commonwealth which date from 1952, the year of her accession to the throne. In addition, the collection receives a mint copy of every stamp issued in the world and stamps of the UK and the Commonwealth in mint blocks of four or six.

Over the years, donations and purchases have continued -one of the most poignant and significant was that of the stamp album believed to have belonged to Tsesarevitch Alexis (murdered with his family in Russia in 1918). The album was stolen by a soldier and sold on to a worker for a British company in Russia, who brought it to this country when he fled from the Bolsheviks in 1923; the album was subsequently given to The Queen by his son, who wanted Her Majesty to have the album for her collection.

The most recent significant purchase, for £250,000, has been the famous cover bearing ten Penny Blacks used on the first day of use - 6 May 1840.

The Royal Philatelic Collection has never been counted in terms of total stamp numbers, and it is impossible to value the collection as it contains unique items (including drawings and proofs) for which the market has never been tested. Much of the Collection remains stored in high security, carefully regulated conditions in chemical-free packets. It is estimated that there is enough material to fill another 2,000 albums - the material is kept filed for reference and study purposes.

Although much of the Collection is fragile, in that exposure to light or heat can fade or otherwise damage the stamps, examples are occasionally on public display. Each season, the opening display at the Royal Philatelic Society (of which The Queen is patron) consists of material from the Collection - a custom started shortly after the First World War by George V and continued today by The Queen. Selections from the collection are displayed once or twice a year in the United Kingdom and are also exhibited at many of the major international stamp shows (most recently in Australia, China and Bulgaria in 1999, at the Stamp Show 2000 in London and in Madrid in 2000, and in Belgium and Denmark in 2001). The exhibiting of these selections, and responsibility for the Royal Philatelic Collection as a whole is under the care of a Keeper, the current Keeper being Michael Sef. (The guest speaker at the upcoming PSSC's 50th anniversary dinner). ■

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## IN BRIEF

effea

### Recognition

GTAPA is very proud to present its Certificate of Merit to two highly esteemed philatelists:

**Herb Letsche** "in recognition of his outstanding contribution to philately for managing the North Toronto Stamp Club Sales Circuit and Club's Bourse for many years", and

**C. E. "Ted" Allen** "in recognition of his lifetime of service to philately in Etobicoke, ON and for donating several hundreds of thousands of postage stamps to GTAPA to promote youth philately."

Congratulations, fellow collectors.

The Certificate of Merit is presented to an individual of an active club of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance in recognition of outstanding contribution to its home club and philately.

If any member knows of any individual who deserves to be recognized, please contact your president who, in turn, will request the certificate from GTAPA. ■

### STAMPEX 2004

The Prospectus and the Entry Form are available to exhibitors who would like to participate at this annual philatelic exhibition.

PhilaJournal Summer 2004

Whether you are a member of an affiliate club of GTAPA or a philatelist residing in the GTA, you qualify to enter either in a competitive or non-competitive class. If anyone is interested please contact:

**Exhibits Chairperson, STAMPEX 2004,**  
**c/o McGowan & Portch Insurance,**  
**4894 Dundas St West,**  
**Etobicoke, ON M9A 1B5 or**  
**e-mail [falusio@sympatico.ca](mailto:falusio@sympatico.ca)**



## 50 YEARS AGO

by Garfield Portch

In the Canadian Philatelist, April 1954, the bored and frustrated general collector is presented with a recommendation by Russell Waineg. He suggests that one should advance from "collecting" to "philately" and to "specialization."

The CPS was gearing up for the annual convention in Kitchener.

The US Post Office issued a new book "Postage Stamps" that contained the following statement in the forward: *"The postage stamps of a nation are a picture gallery of its glories. They depict, in miniature, its famous men, the great events of its history, its natural wonders. Because of this, philately has a distinct educational value. No one can pursue the hobby intelligently without developing a greater knowledge of his national heritage."* (ed. note: perhaps this is another definition to be added in the Clippings & Commentary column elsewhere in the *Journal*).

The lead item in BNA Topics was a set of "Notes on Postage Rates in Canada from 1897 to 1951." This contains great information for the general collector.

Of interest to the West Toronto Stamp Club, past President Everett Drake was proposed for BNAPS membership by Robert Lyman in April '54.

For those interested in the Connell Stamp of New Brunswick, the May issue provides transcripts of the correspondence relating to the issue.

Hans Reiche presented an interesting article explaining the reasons behind "Coil Jumps." ■

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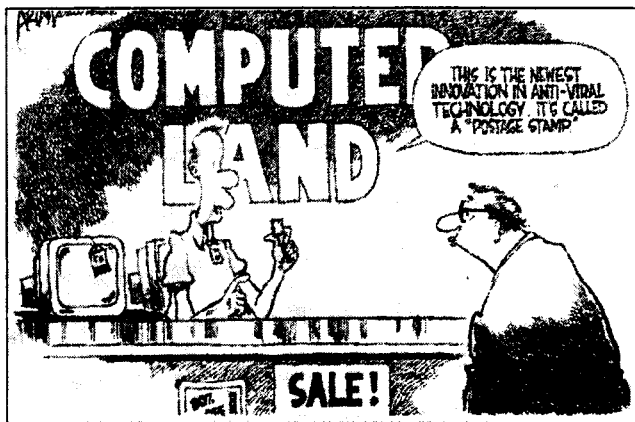
## Philatelic Trivia

by Garfield Portch

Here is a short quiz to test your knowledge of philatelic Canadiana.

1. What was the effective date of the Post Office Act of 1867?
2. Who was the first Postmaster General of Canada?
3. When did the treaty launching the Universal Postal Union become effective?
4. When did Canada become a member of the U.P.U.?
5. How many holes are there in a 5-hole OHMS perfin?
6. Who said "Neither snow nor rain nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."?
7. What country copied the frame of the 3¢ Small Queen for its own use?
8. Which province issued the greatest number of stamps prior to joining Confederation?
9. Identify the 2nd ship on the Bluenose stamp (Scott #158).
10. Which Postmaster General has his own likeness featured on a stamp?
11. In which Canadian city was tagging first tested?
12. Where was Little Norway?
13. Where did Canada's first official Air Mail flight land?
14. When was the first Postal Strike in Canada?
15. What is a MOON cancellation?
16. In describing stamp gum, what does PVA mean?
17. Where was the first Post Office in Canada?
18. What is the basis of measurement for a perforation gauge?
19. When did prepayment of postage by the use of stamps become mandatory in Canada?
20. How many different frames or borders were used in the design of the Numeral Issue of 1898?

(see page 14 for the answers)



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Wednesday, June 23 rd  
at 7:00 p.m.  
at

the Vincent G. Greene Foundation  
10 Summerhill Ave. (at Yonge St.)

## PSSC's 50th Anniversary



On October 18, 2004, the Philatelic Specialists' Society of Canada will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The occasion will be celebrated at a dinner to be held at the National Club on Bay Street, Toronto, ON.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Michael Sefi, the keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection.

The PSS has graciously extended an invitation to members of the clubs making up the GTAPA.

This is an opportunity to attend the event of a lifetime. There will be an admission fee of \$75 to cover the cost of the dinner. There will also be a cash bar.



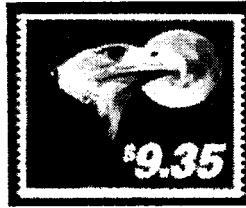
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## STAMP SHOWS & MARKETPLACES

FA

### October 3, Bramalea, ON

The Bramalea Stamp Club we will be hosting the 10th Annual Club Fair with the 14 clubs of the GRVPA and the 7 clubs of the GTAPA joining forces for the first time on a combined event. The event will take place at Jim Archdekin Centre, 292 Conestoga Drive, North of Bovaird (Hwy 7) between Hwy 10 and Kennedy Road

### October 15, 16, 17, Toronto, ON

Fall STAMPEX 2004, hosted by the CSDA and GTAPA, will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Building Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON

Friday October 15 11:00am to 6:00pm

Saturday October 16 10:00am to 6:00pm

Sunday October 17 10:00am to 4:00 pm

Free admission, Exhibits, Seminars, door prizes, Youth area.

## Thematic Group



A number of topical / thematic collectors have shown interest in forming a specialized group.

The inaugural meeting will take place on July 15, 2004,

(and every third Thursday of each month thereafter) at Garfield Portch's residence:

102 Prince George Drive  
Etobicoke, ON.

The informal sessions / workshops, will center around the collecting, the technique applied and basic and advanced exhibiting aspects of this branch of philately.

The group will also view the aspects of the Display / Open Class Division.

For further information, contact Frank Alusio

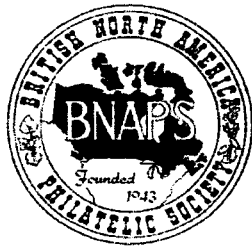
tel: 416-621-8232 or

e-mail: [falusio@sympatico.ca](mailto:falusio@sympatico.ca).



### Philatelic Trivia Answers (from page 12)

1. April 1, 1868
2. The Hon. James Morris
3. July 1, 1875
4. 1878
5. Forty six
6. Herodotus (Greek historian, circa 430 BC)
7. Liberia in 1881 (Scott #21)
8. Newfoundland
9. Also The Bluenose
10. Charles Connell of New Brunswick
11. Winnipeg
12. Toronto, at the foot of Bathurst Street
13. Camp Leaside, June 30, 1918 (now Eglinton Avenue East at Laird)
15. 1965
16. Money Order Office Number
16. Poly Vinyl Alcohol
17. Halifax, 1754
18. Two centimetres
19. October 1, 1875
20. Eight ■



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## THE POSTILLION

by Effe

Paper was first used as writing material by the Chinese in the second century BC. It was spread overland to Western Asia by the mid-eight century AD and Arabs are known to have manufactured paper by AD 751, using flax fibres and later cotton. From Asia Minor the use of paper spread to Greece and the Byzantine Empire in the late eleventh century. The Empress Irene is reputed to have used paper about that time, although the earliest extant Greek manuscript on paper dates from the mid-thirteenth century. It was first manufactured in Europe by the Moors of Spain in the twelfth century and came to Italy by way of Sicily during the Arab occupation. The oldest European document made of paper is a deed of King Roger of Sicily dated 1102. The earliest letter written on paper is dated cAD 1216 and is preserved in the Public Record Office, London. It was written by Raymond, Duke of Narbonne, to King Henry III of England. Paper was widely used for letters by the late thirteenth century, and rapidly superseded parchment.

Blotting paper is known from 1465, and was made of coarse, grey, unisized paper, yet sand continued to be popular as a drying agent until the eighteenth century. Brown paper for wrapping parcels is known from 1570. ■

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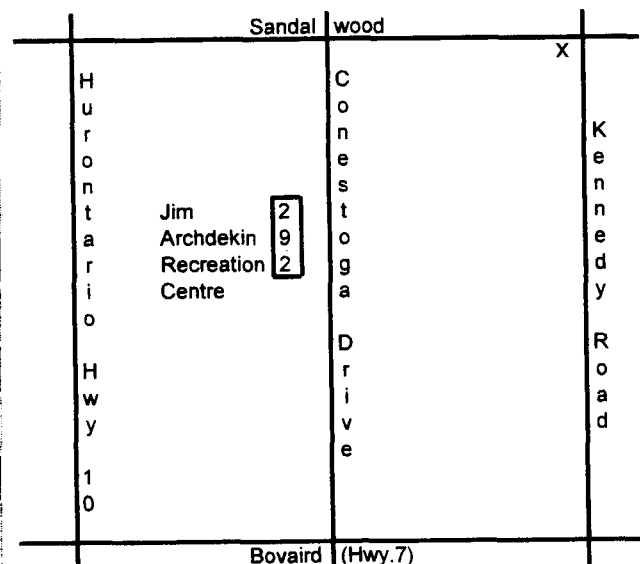
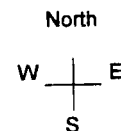
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