

# Phila Journal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance



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RPSC Affiliate No.4

## Certificate of Merit Awarded



The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance is pleased to announce the presentation of another Certificate of Merit.

Peter Butler, President of the GTAPA presented a Certificate of Merit to Steve Johnson of the Bramalea Stamp Club in recognition of the work he has done to prepare and maintain the Club web site. The presentation was made at the Brampton Show in February, 2005. Bob Thorne (right), President of the Bramalea Stamp Club looks on.

A Certificate of Merit will be presented to an individual or group that has provided a significant service to philately within the membership of the GTAPA. The proposal is made to the President of the member club who, in turn, presents the proposal to the GTAPA Board for approval.

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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 who belong to a club which is an affiliated member of the Alliance. Copies are also distributed to selected recipients.

### The Mission:

The mission of *PhilaJournal* is to provide its readers with news and information on philately in general with emphasis on the GTAPA 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.

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

### Editorial Staff

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### Subscription

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

GTAPA Treasurer  
Box 45, 260 Adelaide Street East  
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### Advertising

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

Ernie Nyitrai at: Tel: 905-477-1511 or  
e-mail: [enyitr618@rogers.com](mailto:enyitr618@rogers.com)

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Your feedback 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.

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## EDITORIAL

As editor of this Journal, it is my duty to ensure that the publication adheres to certain principles that I would like to share with our readers. There is no significance attached to the order of presentation.

*PhilaJournal*, being the official publication of the GTAPA must inform the readers of the happenings of the member clubs and their respective members. The basic content, therefore, must be generally directed towards the "grass roots" general collector – not the specialist or exhibiting community. This does not mean, however, that the occasional specialist subject cannot be presented.

*PhilaJournal* survives through the generous donations of our sponsors and advertisers. We will always be happy to accept additional advertising material, but the general editorial content must always occupy more space than the advertisements.

*PhilaJournal* is the platform for all collectors in the GTA clubs to share information and express opinions. I am surprised that, after eleven issues, we have not received a single letter to the editor. (*While assembling this issue, I received three letters – all from the same person*). I invite the active participation of all readers. I love applause, accept criticism and appreciate editorial contributions.

*PhilaJournal* is going to tell stories about clubs and individuals. This issue features the story of the West Toronto Stamp Club where the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations are currently ongoing. If you or your club has a story to be told, let us know.

The last statement for this issue is that *PhilaJournal* will have no agendas or politics. The sole purpose of the Journal is to provide a service to our philatelic community and share experiences in the "king of hobbies".

I welcome Royal & SunAlliance Insurance as a new sponsor to the GTAPA and *PhilaJournal*.

gjp

### ERRATA

Apologies to Steve Singh and Elaine Skinner whose names were incorrectly spelled and/or missed in the last two volumes.

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## President's Messages

### Changes to the Board of Directors

Since our last issue of PhilaJournal, a few changes have been made to the Executive of the Alliance. As was reported by Editor Portch in the last issue, Frank Alusio resigned from his two positions on the Board. This created a need to reorganize. You may have noticed changes in the PhilaJournal masthead but a further explanation was not possible before the copy deadline. Let me fill our readers in now, on the changes.

With the financial bookkeeping increasing significantly because of the national and international show coming in the next few years, a treasurer with expertise in this area was a must. Joe Janthur, from the Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society, accepted our request to take over the portfolio. Since then the executive has met with Joe on two occasions and we are delighted, there is no other word for our state of mind, with this arrangement. He has quickly examined the accounts, made some recommendations and provided solid direction for our financial affairs. With the sadness of losing Frank Alusio to the Alliance comes the elation with Joe Janthur taking over the reigns.

It didn't take long to figure out who should be the next editor of our Journal. Garfield Portch has been totally involved with its production since the beginning. With a background in the printing industry, Garfield was a natural to fill the shoes of Editor Alusio. It became apparent very quickly though, that with the added responsibility of the PhilaJournal, he could not carry on with the role of Vice-President. (The Editor will remain on the executive, as an ex officio member.) We, therefore, began the search for a Board member who could take on the VP responsibility. We are very pleased to announce that Robert Owczarz of the Polish-Canadian Stamp Club will take on that position immediately. Robert, since joining the Alliance last year, has brought an enthusiasm for our work that is appreciated and enjoyed by all the Directors. Can anyone who saw his exhibit on Pope John Paul II at the last STAMPEX Show, fail to be impressed with his commitment and excitement for the hobby and the work of the Alliance? So there you have it! Three Board members to three positions of responsibility, all duly installed at the April Board Meeting, and I am nothing short of thrilled to have such a dynamic team to work with through the challenging months ahead.

There's more! Board member for the East Toronto Stamp Club, Steve Haddock, has agreed to take over the responsibility for the website after Garfield has worked through the commitment to get us on line. Garfield and website designer, Doug Biggerstaff, will turn over the maintenance and future development of [www.gtapa.org](http://www.gtapa.org) to Steve over the next month. Once again a talent has been identified and a willingness to help has been given. The Alliance Board is indeed, an incredible collection of committed, talented and dedicated people. They deserve a great deal of

recognition and praise for their work, and they deserve your support and appreciation back at their home club.

### STAMPEX Up-date

In the last issue I brought readers up-to-date on recent developments in the planning for STAMPEX '05. Here is another up-date on what's been happening recently:

- **John Stuart Pryce**, the artist who created our postcard of the Distillery District at last year's show, has recently completed the black and white drawing for this year's offering. John has also been selling copies of the first postcard at his gallery in the Distillery District. All proceeds are going to reduce the cost of the artwork for card #2.
- **Harvey Shuter**, a member of the North Toronto and North York clubs, has agreed to work with us on the production of unique FDCs for this year's show. Harvey's work is outstanding and this addition to the GTAPA booth will be a crowd pleaser for sure! Welcome to the team Harvey! (We'll publish a few examples in the next PhilaJournal.)
- After discussions with CSDA planners, our partners in STAMPEX, we have agreed to make an adjustment the admission at the year's show. This came about from our noticing that on the Sunday of the CSDA show in April, there were more families in attendance that the other two days combined. You will recall that the '05 edition was announced with an admission fee of \$5.00. We are now announcing that Friday and Saturday will remain at the \$5.00 admission charge but Sunday will be Family Day and there will be no charge for admission.
- Everyone realizes that one of the QE Building shortcomings is the lack of space for meetings, seminars and workshops. We have decided to include in the floor plan a few round tables strategically placed in the bourse, to facilitate small group sessions. Presenters will provide hands-on workshops on specific topics of interest to all collectors (e.g. "How to remove ballpoint pen, scotch tape and hinges from stamps" or "Options for making your own album pages") Sessions will be listed in the program and announced over the PA system for interested collectors to come by and join in the circle or stand by and observe when the seats have been taken.
- Our souvenir program is promising to be a wonderful reminder of the first national show in Toronto for close to a decade. It will contain over 60 pages of everything about the show to articles with reference quality information attendees will want to keep. Many advertisers have already booked their ads. Dealers wishing to place their ads should call Ernie Nyitrai (905-477-1511) soon to insure space

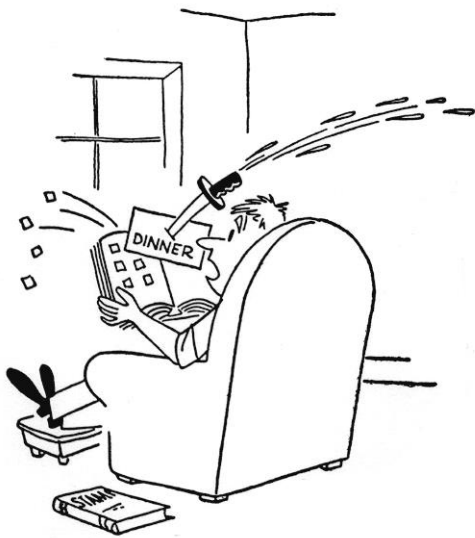
for their important announcements to collectors.

- We are contemplating a special edition of PhilaJournal with further up-dates on STAMPEX including mention of special discount coupons that will be included in the admission package.

That's it! STAMPEX '05 promises to be bigger and better than last year's edition. Remember our motto for this great show: ...**"a new approach to an old passion."** You can't afford to miss this one. Why not volunteer for a stint at the show as a greeter or an exhibition docent? How about helping at the admissions table or the GTAPA booth? A half-day commitment gets you in free and you'll have the time of your philatelic life! Let your club president know your wishes and one of the show managers will be in touch.

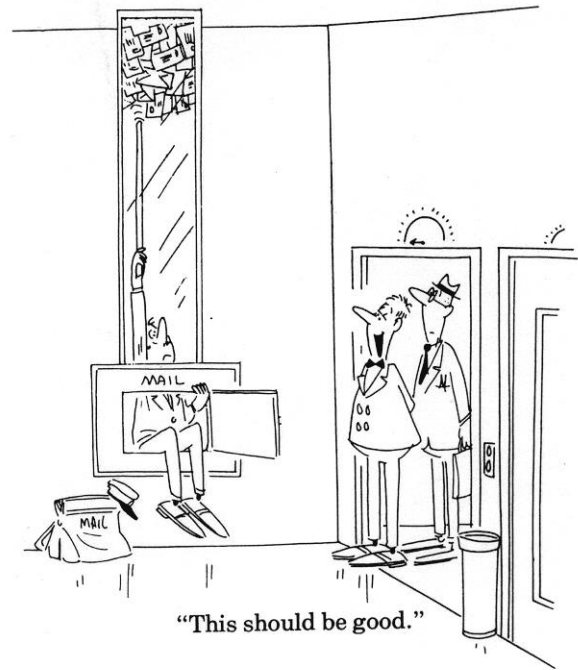
### GRVPA's Grand Fair October 2nd

Seven months has passed us by quickly! It seems only last month when we attended the GRVPA's Stamp Fair hosted by the Bramalea Stamp Club (BSC). (See photo and story elsewhere in this Journal.) Last week I met with Ingo Nessel of BSC to begin planning the slate of presentations for STAMPEX. He told me that the date for the '05 Stamp Fair will be Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year it will be held in Cambridge and once again the member clubs of the GTAPA are invited to have their circuit books and sales table at the show. Circuit Managers please note the date on your calendar and confirm your attendance with Ingo [b62hkg@yahoo.ca](mailto:b62hkg@yahoo.ca) Members of all GTAPA clubs will also want to mark down the date. It's an event not to miss and a great opportunity to meet collectors from across the GTA.



I've just been called for dinner... the second time!  
Enjoy this issue, and your stamps!

Peter Butler



As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his cell phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the radio that there's a car going the wrong way on Highway 401. Please be careful!" "It's not just one car," said Herman. "It's hundreds of them!"

### STAMPEX '05 Organizing Committee

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Life does not cease to be funny when people die,  
any more than it ceases to be serious when people  
laugh.

*George Bernard Shaw*

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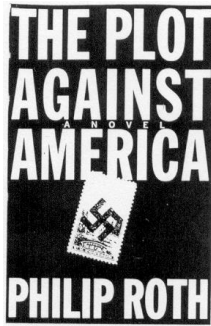
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## Best-Selling Novel Book Review



When was the last time you saw a postage stamp on the cover of a best-selling novel? For me, it was several years ago with the release of mystery novel, *The Chalon Heads* by Barry Maitland. On the cover was an envelope with two Canadian imperforate 12 penny blacks (# 3 Scott's cat.) with a magnificent bull's-eye cancellation. Well, another best-seller, *The Plot Against America*, is Philip Roth's latest, it has one stamp on the cover and it's a dandy read! The book cover shows the one cent green Yosemite National Park stamp (USA, Scott # 740) with an overprinted Nazi swastika. Furthermore, stamps are an integral part of the story for the main character is a younger Roth growing up in New Jersey who believes stamps are the entry point to the larger world. The lad states early in the book that the approvals he received from

H. E. Harris & Co. were the only mail besides birthday cards that he remembered receiving. The book is classed as an alternative history based on real historical figures and happenings, but transforms the past to explore how history could have been different.

Perhaps your knowledge of history will include the 1940 re-election of Franklin Roosevelt. He defeated Charles Lindberg a great American hero, for the presidency, but this story has Lindberg as the winner. He quietly sides with Germany and Japan signing a non-aggression pact and slowly begins to target American Jews. Walter Winchell, Fiorello LaGuardia and Henry Ford are all in it. The "what if this had happened?" scenarios keep the reader engaged. As things begin to unravel, in the historical context, so too does the young lad's stamp collection. Swastikas beginning to appear on his stamps and the mishaps with his stamps create nightmares. History buffs will thoroughly enjoy Roth's masterful telling of a story that could have happened, but didn't. The author knows philately and weaves a great deal of his collecting expertise into the text. David Cohen's review in Linn's a few months ago, mentions that collectors will surely see a bit of themselves as beginning collectors, in the young lad who is central to the story. This fact will endear the book to many in the hobby. It's a great read. Book stores have it and so do the public libraries. (Thanks to Cohen's review for assistance.)

*contributed by Peter Butler*



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# GTAPA NEWS

*Editorial Note: Royal & SunAlliance Insurance has agreed to sponsor the Club News section of PhilaJournal rather than taking a traditional advertisement.*



## BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB

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

Check out our web site at [www.tht.net/~stevem/](http://www.tht.net/~stevem/)

The club takes its summer break from Sunday meetings until Sunday October 2 when we will resume our regular voice auctions. Tuesday meetings will continue to feature a silent auction. A new feature for Tuesday meetings will be a continuation of "theme night" that was successfully launched at our April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Members were asked to bring an item of interest from their collection related to the letter E. The items were available for viewing during the meeting and then each person was asked to briefly talk about what they had brought. The items shown included stamps of Queen Elizabeth and Elvis, stamps of Egypt and Ecuador, covers to and from Egypt, Essays, a pre-stamp cover from Edinburgh and an interesting enclosure. The next theme (as chosen by member Geoff Green) is the colour green.

Club members Paul Nicholls and Jerry Piotrowski spent an evening with the 9<sup>th</sup> Bramalea Cubs and Scouts in a session to introduce them to stamp collecting and showing them how they could prepare a small collection towards their Collectors Badge. Special thanks to Garfield Portch and the West Toronto Stamp Club for providing a couple of "Ted's Tubs" as a supply base for the youngsters to select the material for their "collections".

*Jerry Piotrowski*

The Bramalea Stamp Club was recently asked to make a stamp-collecting presentation at the monthly meeting of the Men's Club at the Southbrook Retirement Home in Brampton. Jerry Piotrowski and I volunteered for this task.

Following a wonderful roast beef and roast potato lunch washed down with an appropriate cold beverage we got down to the business we had come for.

Jerry started things off by talking generally about stamp collecting and passing around items from his collections to illustrate points. I then took over using

two frames I had recently assembled as a first time exhibitor at the Bramalea Stamp Show. I concluded by speaking about specific things that person could do as part of stamp collecting. Finally the men circulated around the room, having a second look at our material, asking lots of interesting questions and also looking at a collection that one of the residents had brought with him.

Paul Nicholls  
Membership Chairman  
Bramalea Stamp Club



## EAST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

The East Toronto Stamp Club was founded on February 27, 1952. It became a chapter of the Canadian Philatelic Society (now the RPSC). The club through the years, has supported youth clubs, joint club exhibitions and has exhibited at the Home Show held at the CNE. Normal club activities included speakers, table and floor auctions, exhibitions, sales circuits and stamp collecting seminars.

Special club activities included tours of Canada Post's South Central Plant on Eastern Ave., the East Letter Plant on Progress Ave. a trip by bus to Ottawa to visit the National Postal Museum and to attend ORAPEX.'83. Bus trips were also arranged to attend the Oxford Philatelic Society's exhibition in Woodstock and to Guelph for the Guelph Stamp Club Exhibition.

Unfortunately, age and demographics started to take their toll. Membership through the years has fluctuated from a high of 85 to the present 10. The club has sufficient funds to be active but a rapidly declining membership. Last year the members were surveyed and decided to try a change in time, location and format. The club executive met with Sue Francis and Bev Evans from the City of Toronto Parks and Recreation Department and created a stamp program as follows:

- Meetings are at Stan Wadlow Senior's Action Centre on Cedarvale Ave., (Woodbine & Cosburn area) on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, October to May, at 9:30 to 11 :00 a.m.
- The membership fee is \$5.00 yearly, payable to the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse for Seniors.
- Activities include stamp exchanges, a stamp dealer who buys and sells stamps, estate evaluations and disposals, stamp chats and fellowship.
- Full benefits at the centre are available to the members including: social events, bus trips, card playing and exercise classes.

The objective of the club is to provide a meeting place to enjoy the hobby. Stamp collecting is often



a solitary hobby so having a place to meet and enjoy the various activities, in a social atmosphere, is very worthwhile.

Doug Cockburn, Treasurer  
East Toronto Stamp Club

*Editor's Note:*

*With the spring weather membership is beginning to grow at the ETSC. Four new members attended the first meeting of April. That's not all the good news! The executive sent a cheque to the March GTAPA Board meeting with Representative Elaine Skinner - a donation of \$200.00 to be used in support of the youth programs of the Alliance at STAMPEX. The Board is very appreciative of this gesture and sincerely thanks the ETSC for their kind donation.*



## INSURANCE & BANKING PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets at 6:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from September to June (except December when it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday). Meetings are held in the offices of Canaccord Capital Corporation, 13<sup>th</sup> floor, 320 Bay Street in Toronto



## 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.

- May 26, 2005 Clothesline Exhibits (One Page)
- June 9, 2005 Sales Circuit Seminar
- June 23, 2005 Members' Buy, Sell or Trade
- July 21, 2005 Social meeting at the Bedford Arms
- Aug. 18, 2005 Social meeting at he Bedford Arms
- Sept. 8, 2005 T.B.A.



## NORTH YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 6:30 to 9:00 pm (July & August, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday only) in the Skaters' Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue West, Toronto (1½ blocks west of Bathurst Street)

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. Our annual show, NYPEX, is held in May and features 20+ dealers, our sales circuit, raffles and hourly auctions.

NYPS is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the GTAPA.

For more information, contact Art Halpert at 416-643-2020 (days) or 416-499-4406 (evenings & weekends) or e-mail [ahalpert@sympatico.ca](mailto:ahalpert@sympatico.ca)



## POLISH-CANADIAN COIN AND STAMP CLUB "TROYAK"

Club "Troyak", meets on the last Sunday of each month, except holidays, at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403), Mississauga, Ontario.

Club's mailing address is: 550 Goldenridge Road, Unit 34, Mississauga, ON L4X 2S3.

"Troyak" was established with goals towards education, collecting and preservation of coins, stamps, paper money, orders and medals of Poland's history.

The Club is officially registered member at the Ontario Numismatic Association and is an active member of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance.

The Polish-Canadian Coin and Stamp Club "Troyak" is a non-profit organization that can always provide assistance in dealing with issues involving coins and stamps. Persons who are interested in the education and study in numismatic and philatelic matters are welcome.

"Troyak's" Executive Team established in February 2005, "Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club, and Zygmunt (Ziggy) Borowski is club's director . For more information, contact: Ziggy at 416-454-2790 or [bzygmunt@hotmail.com](mailto:bzygmunt@hotmail.com)

"Troyak's" next meetings are: May 29, 2005; June 26, 2005; Sept. 25, 2005; at 4:30pm. Refreshments are always available. Club's summer break is in JULY and AUGUST. Club issues monthly info & bulletin on its website, and also publishes bulletin for the members who attend club's meetings.

For more information, contact: Ignac K. at 905-273-5561 or, Wieslaw G. at 416-258-1651 or, Robert O. at 416-462-9097.

[www.troyakclub.com](http://www.troyakclub.com) [info@troyakclub.com](mailto:info@troyakclub.com)

"Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club !

The Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club "Troyak" Executive Team has established in February 2005, "Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club in Mississauga, Ontario. Official introduction of the "Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club took place during the II Polish-Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show on February 20, 2005, at John Paul II Polish Cultural

Centre in Mississauga. Club's Director, Zygmunt (Ziggy) Borowski, invites all children and their parents and also teenagers to join "Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club. Meetings taking place at: John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403), Mississauga, Ontario. For more information, contact: Ziggy Borowski at 416-454-2790 or [bzygmunt@hotmail.com](mailto:bzygmunt@hotmail.com)



## TORONTO STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB

Toronto Stamp Collectors Club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from September to, and including, June. Our regular meetings are held at the Royal Canadian Military Institute, 426 University Avenue, Toronto, starting at 8pm. Business attire with a tie is a requirement of the RCMI.

For more information contact John Talman at 416-363-9997 or by email at [jtalman@interlog.com](mailto:jtalman@interlog.com)



## SCARBOROUGH STAMP CLUB

The Scarborough Stamp Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays, September to June, at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, two blocks south of Markham and Lawrence and east on Eastpark Blvd., behind Cedarbrae Collegiate. The first Tuesday meeting is given to trading and using the club's sales circuit books. The third Tuesday meeting has a brief business meeting followed by a program activity: speakers, workshops, slide shows, etc. There is often a floor auction. Visitors are always welcome.

For more information call President Peter Butler 416-690-4666.

## SCARPEX '05

We may not be the biggest show in town but we are the most friendly! That's what we heard anyway, from a few folks who attended our annual stamp show held at Cedarbrook Community centre on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. One of our dealers remarked how she enjoyed the complimentary coffee and Danish before the doors opened, and another said how much he appreciated an opportunity to "order" lunch, and have it delivered to his table. Others mentioned the warm reception they received at the Welcome Table.

This year, Rick Howard, our dealer coordinator, had arranged for 17 dealers to be present. While there were several dealers everyone recognized, they always attend SCARPEX, there were seven new dealers to this show. The day had a slow start, but by 11:00 a.m. many of the dealer chairs were full and the show was humming! The club circuit books and the sales table did well and, as usual, the Woolworth's Table (5 & 10 cent books) was

very popular. This means that club members who entered sales items and circuit books profited by the day's sales.

Both the raffle table and the café turned a decent profit so financially, the day proved worthwhile. The most important factor though, was the team effort put forward by the members of the club who came out and gave time and energy to make the day successful. We are also appreciative of the members of our affiliate clubs in the Alliance who came out and supported the SSC; Garfield Portch and Tom Marquette from West Toronto, John Robertson and John Wilson from North Toronto, Jerry Piotrowski from Bramalea and Robert Owczarz from the Canadian-Polish Club. (We hope our roving reporter didn't miss anyone!)

If SCARPEX is the friendliest show in town, it's because that was our goal. If we don't have the tradition, we do have the desire to make sure those who attend, have a pleasant and happy experience. Well done SSC!



## WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from September to June at the Fairfield Senior's Centre, 80 Lothian Avenue (3 blocks south of Bloor Street West and 2 blocks east of Islington Avenue). The regular meetings feature a voice auction and a silent table auction.

The Study Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the same location.

There is ample free parking.

March 10, 2005 marked the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the West Toronto Stamp Club. The story of this event appears elsewhere in this issue of PhilaJournal

The April 19 study session featured John Robertson speaking on "The Royal Train of 1939". His presentation was followed by an exhibition of single page exhibits each of which was based on a railway theme. We were pleased to have exhibits presented by 22 members!

The Ted Allen Cup will be contested at the May study session. This fascinating exhibition has no rules. Members are invited to show anything they collect in any form that is suitable or convenient. The winner of this popular competition is by popular vote (secret ballot) of the attendees.

The Drake Trophy competition for single frame exhibits will be held at the June meeting. This is an opportunity to compete and be judged at a more formal level. The top three exhibits are selected as the West Toronto entry to the Challenge Cup at STAMPEX.

As part of the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the West Toronto Stamp Club, a Show is being held at the Fairfield Centre on June 29. Exhibits will include the winners of the Drake, Allen and Alusio Trophies. A limited number of dealers will be invited to participate.

For further information, contact Frank Alusio. [falusio@sympatico.com](mailto:falusio@sympatico.com)



### IN MEMORIAM Otto Franz Zeman

We are sorry to report the passing of a long standing member of the West Toronto Stamp Club. In his 77<sup>th</sup> year, Otto died peacefully at his home in Kitchener on March 31, 2005 after a long battle with cancer.

Our condolences to the family. Otto is survived by his wife Christiana, three children and three grandchildren.



### Special Greetings Go to Founding President

Herb McNaught informed *PhilaJournal* recently that Joe Malboeuf, former President of the North York Philatelic Society and a founding president of the Alliance, is now in a nursing home. It was Joe, Ernie Nyitrai and Peter Butler who met originally, to discuss the feasibility of forming an organization that would represent all the clubs of the GTA, with the aim of improving the state of the hobby. Joe had a hip replacement some time ago, but he required a second operation which has left him unable to stand or walk. The tragedy is that the staff at the home will not allow him to have his stamp collection at his bedside. Herb says he is very unhappy with this development. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Joe. Thanks to Herb for bringing us the up-date.



### You read it here first!

Art Bone, a former Board member of the Alliance from the North York club, informed me that at the international show in Sydney, Australia, Commissioner Charles Verge took 18 collections to exhibit and that Canadian entries from Ron Brigham, Fred Fawn and Herb McNaught won prizes. Congratulations to these three gentlemen, we are proud their accomplishments... doubly proud because they're all from the GTA!

### IN MEMORIAM Jim A. Hennok

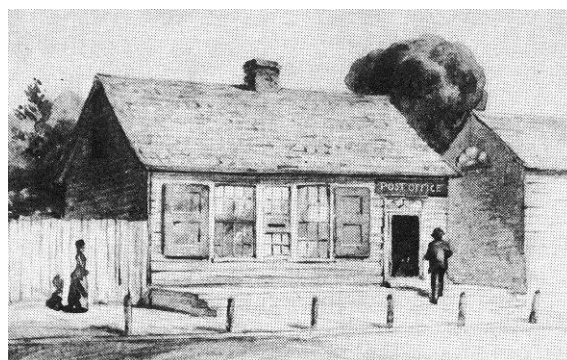
As we finalize this issue of *PhilaJournal*, we note the passing of Jim Hennok. The following is taken from a notice in the *Toronto Star*, May 12, 2005.

HENNOK, Jim. A. - 67, passed away May 9, 2005, at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto. Born in Estonia, he came to Canada with his parents in 1949. They lived briefly in Rapides-des-Joachims, Quebec before settling in Toronto. Jim studied photography at school and then worked briefly for the *Toronto Star* before joining the RCAF as a photographer. He became an instructor at the Photography School in Camp Borden. While in the RCAF he was active in competitive shooting. Among his awards were Silver and Bronze Medals at the Pan American Games in smallbore rifle.

As a teenager, Jim took an interest in philately. He produced his first "List of Stamps for Sale" while still in high school. Today, more than 50 years later, the firm of Jim A. Hennok Ltd. still operates in Toronto as one of Canada's premier auction houses. Jim earned recognition as a National Philatelic Judge and served on the Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation Expertizing Committee.



### YORK THE FIRST POST OFFICE 1816 – 1827



Located on the east side of Frederick Street south of King Street East and north of Front Street. The building was demolished.

The Postmaster was William Allan

The above is a reduced image of a post card printed by the Town of York Historical Society



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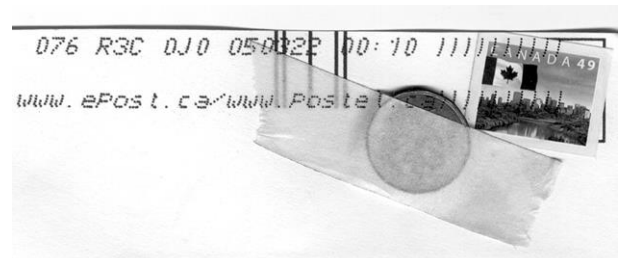
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**INTERESTING FRANKING**



*49¢ + 1¢ pays the 50¢ domestic letter rate*

This item was recently donated to my collection of peculiar postage combinations. It is, however, too good to be kept under wraps. Thanks to "spray on" cancels, the coin is also cancelled!  
Thank you Jerry!

gjp

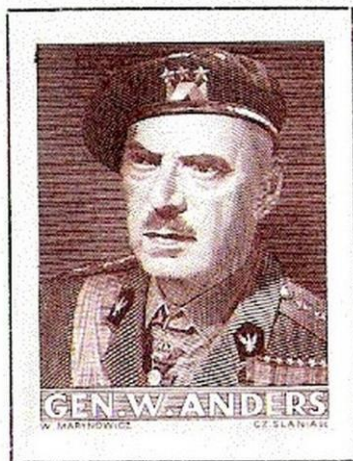
## Czeslaw Slania (1921-2005)

Master stamp engraver Czeslaw Slania died on March 17 in Stockholm at the age of 83. Slania was born near Katowice, Poland and his first forays into the world of printing were in the form of helping prepare forged documents during the German Occupation of Poland during World War II. After graduating from the Krakow School of Fine Arts he began working for the Polish Government Printing Works and engraved his first Polish stamp in 1951. In 1956 he was able to leave Poland and settled in Sweden where several years later the Sweden Post hired him. His work was so highly thought of and respected that in 1972 he was appointed Royal Court Engraver of Sweden. Subsequently he received similar appointments from Denmark and Monaco. During his lifetime Slania did the engraving for more than 1000 stamps for over 32 postal administrations as well as the engraving for banknotes of 10 countries. Slania also did the engraving for highly collectable labels featuring amongst others the likenesses of movie stars, boxers and world leaders. Many Slania study groups and societies exist around the world. Ironically he passed away on March 17, five years to the day, after the Sweden Post Office issued his 1000<sup>th</sup> stamp!



From SVENSK FILMHISTORIA Souvenir Sheet

XXV



MONTE CASSINO  
15. VIII. 1969.



contributed by Jerry Piotrowski

THE WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB  
A BRIEF HISTORY  
by Frank Alusio, FRPSC

The West Toronto Stamp Club traces its beginning to 1935 when a group of philatelic minded individuals met on 20 February in the home of Samuel Burford, at 782 Indian Road, for the purpose of establishing a stamp club in the Toronto west-end. Election of Officers pro-temp resulted in R. B. Lindsay being elected President; S. C. Burford, Secretary; and D. Campbell, Treasurer.

The first official meeting took place on 10 March 1935 in the Assembly Hall, 2875 Dundas Street West, near Keele Street in Toronto. The elections of the officers resulted in V.C. Chute being elected President; S.C. Burford, Secretary; N.W. Hill, Treasurer.

D. Henderson, R.B. Lindsay, and F.W. Reynolds were elected Directors. It is therefore without a doubt that these seven gentlemen are the founding members of West Toronto Stamp Club.

In the fall of the same year, the Secretary issued the following notice:  
*"Did ever a small club spring into existence and grow in membership and popularity with the rapidity experienced by WTSC, since its inauguration and without press advertising or publicity." The membership at the time numbered 20.*

In the first year of operation, the Club established a fixed meeting place; drafted, read and adopted its own Constitution; a Bulletin was produced to communicate and promulgate news; a stamp exchange session was a feature at every meeting; stamp auctions were established and well attended; and the occasional guest speaker was invited to promote philately.

Towards the end of the first year, again Secretary Burford, in his periodical notice, wrote:  
*"This will be our last meeting of the year and the Executive feel that the Club has justified its existence. If nothing else, that it has been instrumental in bringing together collectors from various parts of the city and from the various walks of life. We have become acquainted with each other and have formed friendships that in most cases will last through the coming years and probably long after the memory of this little club has faded into the dim past."*

Throughout the years, the Club has enjoyed prosperity. The number of members who have been associated with the Club has now reached 974. Such prosperity can only be obtained through the enthusiasm and dedication of members such as: Bob

Woolley, Cyril Woodhead (who concurrently held the presidency of WTSC and that of the Canadian Philatelic Society, now the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada), Bill Sparrow, Everett Drake (the longest to hold the Office of the President, 22 years, of which 21 were consecutive), Arnold Tuthill, Art Insley, Jim Webb and Frank Smith (who were all instrumental in organizing and conducting the auctions), Fred Charles (the longest to hold the Office of the Secretary, 14 consecutive years), Frank Alusio (the longest to hold the Office of the Treasurer, 31 consecutive years), and Keith Cain (the longest to hold the Office of Membership, 20 consecutive years).

Many of the activities in the past 70 years have centred on stamp auctions -Regular, Jumbo, Invitational, and the like; Annual Stamp Exhibitions among its membership and competing with other clubs; Inter-club visit exchange with other local as well as out-of-town clubs such as Oshawa, Hamilton, Buffalo, and wherever the Canadian Philatelic Society met, the WTSC contingency was always there; well-known speakers have addressed the membership over time, namely: Fred Jarrett, the Dean of Canadian philately, Jim Sissons, Doug Patrick, Vincent Greene, Walter Bayley, L. M. Rathburn, Dr. G. M. Gelderd, L. M. Lamoroux, Dr. Earl S. Ball, Harry Sutherland, John H. Lowe and many others.

On 21 November 1939, WTSC became affiliated with the Canadian Philatelic Society and is currently chartered under the RPSC as Chapter 14.

The West Toronto Stamp Club's membership record lists illustrious philatelists. We find names such as: F. Jarrett, G. E. Davenport, Dr. R. Maresh, J. H. Lowe, Robert G. Lowe, Dr. C. M. Jephcott, Ken Rowe, Wm. H. Slate, Bill McCann, Frank Alusio, Garfield Portch, and many more. This proves how active and influential WTSC must have been to attract such well-known names in philately.

The West Toronto Stamp Club is currently an affiliate member of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance, the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and the American Philatelic Society.

## President's Annual Report

From the beginning, the Alliance has stated its mission, our *raison d'être*, to be the promotion of stamp collecting and the enhancement of the art of philately. In the three years the organization has existed, we have made an indelible mark on the Canadian philatelic scene and specifically on the member stamp clubs of the Greater Toronto Area. Many who are members of this great hobby of stamp collecting, in this heavily populated area of Southern Ontario, are aware of what exciting, innovative and dynamic programs this organization has created in the three years.

In that time, we have been praised for our work by writers in the *Canadian Philatelist* and the *Canadian Stamp News*. We have been instrumental in the creation and the ongoing work of Stakeholders in Philately (SIP), a national organization of all levels of organized stamp collecting, working collaboratively to support all levels of the hobby. Our newsletter, *PhilaJournal*, has quickly become a respected and progressive commentary on the activities of the nine member clubs and the hobby in general. The rejuvenation of STAMPEX in three years, to become a national show once again, is indicative of how hard work, innovative thinking and mutually beneficial partnerships can have a positive impact on the stamp collecting community. We believe STAMPEX has responded to the grassroots of the hobby by creating what it wants out of a stamp show.

And while all this has been happening, the Alliance has also spearheaded all kinds of initiatives amongst the member clubs. Who would have ever heard of Frank Alusio, Garfield Portch, John Wilson, Ingo Nessel and Art Halpert, to name just a few, prior to 2002? These, and others, have shared their expertise with other clubs beyond the influence of their own club, because the Alliance has facilitated their visits to other groups. The same is true for judges, making the rounds from club to club to assist regional and local shows with the judging of exhibits. The good word has spread!

The phenomenon of Ted's Tubs is another great example of the effectiveness of an Alliance initiative. The tubs have raised money for youth philately that never would have happened if West Toronto had simply made it an "at home" program. There are other examples from the sharing of a pool of exhibition frames to the sharing of club newsletters and circuit books, that could be mentioned. You get the picture.

With this success, is it now the time to sit back and rest on our laurels? The question is rhetorical. With all the accomplishments and the notoriety, it is still no time to slow down... there's much more that needs our attention. It is incumbent on me, as your president, to share some of my thoughts on what the future might hold for GTAPA.

The number of clubs in the Alliance has grown from six to nine over the three years. It is my objective to continue to expand the membership and the influence of our organization to more clubs in the GTAPA. An outreach program especially to the east and north of the GTA is slowly beginning to take root. Invitations to our members to speak and lead workshops beyond the Toronto area, is a reality and will grow.

We have found that our expectations are well beyond the reality of serving youth and other beginners to the hobby. This needs more than just our attention; it needs volunteers to work with prospective collectors. A few initiatives have been discussed and some inroads have begun. I will announce some preliminary plans for these in the fall.

Lastly, but by no means of lesser importance, is a planned increase in collaboration with our colleagues to the west... the member clubs of the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association. We were invited to their Stamp Fair last year and we have been invited again this October. We have yet to identify a GTAPA project which we could create and return the invitations, but that will happen in the not-too-distant future. Rather than plan a similar event in Toronto in return, we have decided to do something different to offer our "western" colleagues. There is so much potential here for a growing partnership to promote the hobby and enhance philately.

It goes without saying that our expectations for the success of the national and international show that we are committed to organize, are high. Over the next few years the Toronto scene will become the most important centre in Canada for the hobby, and the GTAPA and its partners will be the organizations to do the job well.

If you and your club have strong feelings about what the Alliance could be doing to strengthen its influence and its activities, please attend a Board meeting or write us an e-mail and tell us. We are good listeners. We are activity-oriented and we are not intimidating. We have been appointed by you to respond to your club's wishes in a forum of mutual respect and collegiality. Your input is needed and will be respected.

The GTAPA is the most exciting thing I have done in my many years of stamp collecting and I am honoured and proud to be your leader. Thank you for this great opportunity to serve the clubs and collectors of Greater Toronto and beyond.

Sincerely, Peter Butler

*My report to the Board was given at the Annual General Meeting on May 25th. Some of your colleagues in the nine member clubs attended that meeting. The Board requested that my message be given to the PhilaJournal Editor to be reprinted in this copy of the Alliance newsletter so all members could read what the message contained.*

SESSIONS NICKLE "LOCH" BRASSLER LUBKE LUDLOW BAYES TORREY HILL  
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 DAVIS BOYD HEWITT CARR JAMIESON PLOMISH EPSTEIN WILLSON SIMRAK  
 DWORAK STEINHART MARKOVITZ HURST TREFONAS DENISON "HARBOUR"



## Letters to the Editor

### Interesting Web Site

I was surfing the net the other day looking for some philatelic information when I came across an interesting site. This is a site where people can send in scans of material they cannot identify and then in most cases someone else provides the answer. It has sections for regular stamps, cinderellas and revenues. I have only looked at part of it but actually found information about a set of stamps I had but could not identify.

Check it out at [www.raster.it/stefano/a/default.htm](http://www.raster.it/stefano/a/default.htm)

The site has an address for Italy but is in English.

Jerry Piotrowski (Bramalea)

### Another Web Site

I have been in e-mail contact with a Bob Ingraham who is the President of the British Columbia Philatelic Society. As well as being a philatelist he is a historian. He has some extremely interesting pages/articles on his web site. I was directed to his web site for further information about a couple of crash covers I have and have subsequently read a second set of pages he wrote as a result of him purchasing a picture postcard and reading the message on the back of it. Over the next little few weeks I intend to read the rest of the material on his web site.

Check out the site at: [www.ingraham.ca/bob/sitemap](http://www.ingraham.ca/bob/sitemap)

The two sections I read were A Christmas Tragedy at Prestwick (Item #3 in section A) and Joe Hicks and the Battle for Europe ( item #3 in section B). Granted, there is very little philately in either of these articles but both of them stem from items owned by a philatelist. All of his other articles also seem to be based on covers or picture postcards.

I think it is worth the read.

Jerry Piotrowski (Bramalea)

### Reflections on a Past Issue

I thought that the quotation from Fred Allen on page 5 and the joke on page 6 of the last issue were a great little touch. I am sending you a few little tid-bits that I have seen here and there for you to use in future issues where you need to fill a space or two.

My wife says I never listen to her--at least, I think that's what she said.

And from a piece called "Office Posters You Wish You Had" come the following:

TEAMWORK.....means never having to take all the blame yourself.

Never put off until tomorrow what you can avoid altogether.

The beatings will continue until morale improves.

Rome did not create a great empire by having meetings, they did it by killing all those who opposed them.

If you can stay calm while all around you is chaos....then you probably haven't understood the seriousness of the situation, or your Prozac is working.

And especially for the editor:.....

Editing is a rewording activity.

Help stamp out and eradicate superfluous redundancy.

Plagiarism saves time. Why reinvent the wheel?

Jerry Piotrowski, (Bramalea)

*Thank you for your input Jerry. I was hoping for something to start this column and was rewarded with these three (unsolicited) items.*

*gjp*

*To our readers:*

*PhilaJournal is the forum for all members of GTAPA clubs. You are encouraged to submit letters (or e-mails) to the editor for publication.*

*Your editor will be pleased to receive feature articles, photos of philatelic events, news clippings or anything that may prove to be of interest to our readers.*

*We are considering the introduction of a "question & answer" column in a future issue. If you have a question you would like to pose, I will be pleased to present it to the readers. If you don't wish to have your name published with the question or response, we will respect that request.*

*I would also like to begin a regular feature that would present "My Favourite Page". Every collector has one page of which he/she is especially proud. I am sure that others would like to see what you do and how you treat specific subjects. With the current interest in single page exhibiting, we would also encourage the sharing of club exhibits with the entire GTAPA.*

*gjp*



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# The Victoria Cross

Garfield Portch

Following the recent issue of the stamps depicting the Victoria Cross, I decided to do some research into the recipients of this distinguished award who were born in Toronto.



## **DUNN, Alexander Roberts**

Born in York, Upper Canada, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1833  
Unit: 11<sup>th</sup> (Prince Albert's Own) Regiment of (Light) Dragoons (Hussars), (British Army)  
The medal is at Upper Canada College.

During the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, Lieutenant Alexander Dunn won the V.C. when, having emptied his revolver at the Russians he flung it at them and resorted to his sabre, which he used to such good effect that he saved Sergeant Bentley's life by cutting down several Russians who were attacking him.

Dunn Avenue is named for his father, John Henry Dunn who was a pioneer property owner in the area.

## **COCKBURN, Hampden Zane Churchill**

Born in Toronto, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1867  
Unit: The Royal Canadian Dragoons  
The medal is at Upper Canada College.

During the South African War, Lieutenant Cockburn and two others won the V.C. in a gallant defence of the guns at Komati River. He and a small party formed the rearguard for the 84<sup>th</sup> Battery that was attacked by 200 mounted Boers who got within 70 yards of the guns before they were stopped. Lt. Cockburn and his party held the attackers at a critical moment and were deliberately sacrificed to allow the guns to get away. Cockburn was wounded and his entire party was either killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

## **HORNELL, David Ernest** (posthumous)

Born in Mimico, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1910  
Service: Royal Canadian Air Force  
The medal is at Air Command Headquarters in Winnipeg (on loan from the family).

On June 24, 1944, during the Battle of the Atlantic, Flight Lieutenant Hornell was the pilot of a twin-engine amphibian engaged in anti-submarine action near the Shetland Islands. After several hours on patrol, a surfaced submarine was sighted. Despite fierce and accurate anti-aircraft fire, Hornell dropped to low altitude and attacked with depth charges sinking the submarine. The aircraft had been hit several times, was on fire and had one engine fall off but Hornell was able to bring the airplane down on the heavy swell. There was not sufficient room in the single surviving dinghy for the entire crew so they took turns in the water holding to the sides. The crew was rescued after 21 hours but Hornell died shortly after being picked up.

Hornell Avenue and Hornell Public School in Etobicoke are both named in his honour.

## **TILSTON, Frederick Albert**

Born in Toronto, June 11, 1906  
Unit: The Essex Scottish Regiment  
The medal is at the Essex and Kent Regiment in Windsor

On March 1, 1945 at The Hochwald, Germany, Major Tilston won his V.C. leading his company in an attack over 500 yards of open ground. After being wounded in the head, he destroyed a machine gun position with a grenade. Approaching the woods, he was hit in the hip with shrapnel. He was hit in the other leg during close fighting, but his company held the ground. As medical assistance arrived, his only words were "We held."

## **TOPHAM, Frederick George**

Born in Toronto, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1917  
Unit: 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion  
The medal is at the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa Museum.

Corporal Topham, a medical orderly, parachuted to a heavily defended area east of the Rhine. On March 24, 1945, he went forward to replace two orderlies who had been killed treating a casualty. As he worked on the wounded man, he was shot through the nose. He carried the wounded man through heavy fire back to the shelter of the woods then continued his duties for another two hours until all other casualties had been evacuated. Only then did he receive assistance for his own wound

"They shall not be forgotten."

## STAMPEX '05 PREVIEW

If you enjoyed the postcard featuring the Distillery District at STAMPEX last year, you won't be disappointed with the offering for 2005. Below is one of the preliminary drawings featuring the St. Lawrence Market District by John Stuart Pryce.



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