

The Bulletin

Give the Hobby Away update.....Peter Kritz

A very good discussion occurred at our meeting March 7th in regards to providing starter kits to newer collectors. Thanks to everyone for your input.

In summary, here are the very good ideas that came out.

- Instead of starting with 50 kits we should go with 10 and see how the uptake is
- Have kits made up and ready to go at anytime instead of doing it for Christmas. Give a kit anytime we can find an interest
- Consider whether just putting it out to a charity will have the desired effect for either the club or the recipient. If the recipient has no interest in the gift it might just get tossed aside with no value to anyone.
- Ask for help in obtaining resources from Canada Post, GRVPA and RPSC if they have items for new collectors.
- In general, everyone liked the idea of providing help and support to new or renewed collectors. The consensus was to try to find potential recipients through networking and promotion. Seniors communities, community events, being 2 high value locations based on the results from Jim Measures presentation to the Clifford seniors club.

Although not spoken about specifically we did have success with young collectors at schools when members went to volunteer at school clubs. Money would have to be raised to fund the project and ideas were discussed on that. Members all indicated they would have stamps to contribute to the project, which is great. Next meeting we will discuss the best direction to go for the club and potential collectors. Looking for ways to connect between now and then is everyone's task. Are you or could you be connected to an organization or location or event where we could meet collectors who

are just not aware of the great resources we offer for helping enhance their experiences in the hobby? Could you post a part of your collection on Facebook to see who in your network responds? We all know the hobby is both fun and beneficial for mental health and social well-being.

Next meeting we revisit this and vote on direction.

Upcoming Meetings

- Saugeen Stamp Club
Tuesday April 3
- Kincardine Stamp Club
Wednesday April 4
- Owen Sound Stamp Club
Wednesday April 18
- Guelph Stamp Club
Tuesday April 3
Tuesday April 17
- KW Philatelic Society
Thursday April 12

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN.....Walt Berry

The month of March is half over and old man winter hasn't moved on – snow still covers the land in most areas. According to the television, the folks living on the east coast may be in for another wack of snow in the coming days. Of course, with the winter weather, it presents a great opportunity to spend some time on our hobby. BUT – MOVE ON Mr. Winter we are ready for some warmer weather.

Our annual show will be upon us soon – are you planning to put together an exhibit? Ralph is working to fill the slate of dealers and gathering suitable items for door prizes. Canada Post is once again sending us items for both handouts & door prizes – thanks to Jim Philips and his team.

Members will be asked to make their contribution to the lunch counter and offer assistance to Anna – she will make sure there is ample fare to feed those in attendance. Members should plan to visit the show and step in to cover the various activities required to have a successful show.

Linn's has issued a listing of planned stamps that will be issued by Canada Post. Canadian Illustrators will be featured in April along with Queen Elizabeth II's 65th anniversary of her Coronation, David will be happy see the issue for May as it will highlight Native Bees, also hockey fans will be chilled to receive another hockey issue for the Junior Hockey Memorial Cup 100th anniversary. Star gazers get treated by the 150th anniversary of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. The issues include Sharks in Canadian Waters, Weather wonders, Birds of Canada, Emergency Responders, Bighorn sheep & Christmas.

Spend some time to enjoy your collection – collect the way which you want – and what you want!!

What's coming up:

See the Grand News for complete details for the following:

April 7-8 - National Postage Stamp Show

April 21 – Burloak Monthly Stamp Show

May 5 – Saugeen Stamp Club Annual Show

June 22-24 – Royal *2018* Royale, St Catharines

One Page Exhibits - Upcoming Topics

April: Toys

May: Airmail

June: Watercraft

Another Measured Moment.....Jim Measures

Tiflis

“Tiflis” is the local spelling of “Tbilisi” the capital of Georgia, formerly a province of the Russian Empire. Among philatelists “Tiflis” has become the name given to the rarest of all Russian stamps. This stamp is colourless and is simply embossed with a coat of arms, so could easily be passed over by many collectors. In the Scott catalogue volume 3, the stamps of Georgia are listed and before #1 there is a note about a 6k local stamp that is considered by Russian specialists to be the first stamp issued in Russia. It is extremely rare as there were believed to be only 5 copies still surviving; that is up until recently.

According to a story in the December 2017 RPSNZ’s magazine *The New Zealand Stamp Collector*, Robin Gwynn, a prominent NZ philatelist attended an auction in Auckland, on 16 August 2014, and purchased an 1876 stamp album, chiefly because it was such an old album in perfect condition although the stamps were of little interest to him. Once he got the album home and examined his purchase he noticed a few unidentified stamps that looked interesting. He attended *London Stampex* in 2015 and took along these stamps to attempt to identify them. One proved to be a “Tiflis”. Word got out and Robin promptly received an offer of £5,000 for the stamp “sight unseen”. At that point, he didn’t know whether it was genuine or a forgery. So he chose to investigate further. After study by the expert committee of RPSL and comparison with a known genuine copy in the Smithsonian collection in Washington D.C. It was determined that it is definitely a 6th copy of Russia’s first adhesive stamp.

Robin has now sold this stamp at an auction in England for £165,000. The RPSNZ are in the process of purchasing a new building for their headquarters and Robin has donated \$100,000 from the sale of his Tiflis to the cause.



Saugeen Stamp Club

Chapter 220, Royal Philatelic
Society of Canada
Chapter 1538, American
Philatelic Society
Chapter 21, Grand River Valley
Philatelic Association

Meeting at St. Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church
356 9th Street
Hanover, Ontario
Use 11th Avenue Entrance

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We are on the web!
<http://saugeenstampclub.webplus.net/index.html>

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Some Valuable Websites

- A challenge the average collector has relates to the cost of acquiring the latest Canada Specialized Catalog. Although very informative, its bulky and more expensive than the average collector may like on an annual basis. Online catalogs are an option then and I discovered one recently which is well worth a look.
- Go to www.canadianpostagestamps.ca and you will find a data base of Canadian with great pictures and info about each stamp. You can search by keyword, or by denomination. I searched by color for the heck of it and that works as well. This site has some other advertising on it which does not really detract too much. The internet is a great resource for collectors, especially when collectors start creating the sites based on collectors needs. This one is well worth a look although the downside is no Scott #'s.
- <https://stamps.org/Free-Album-Pages> This is a link to the American Philatelic Society. They have available USA album pages for 2008 onwards. These are printable and so much cheaper than buying commercial pages.
- <https://www.stampworld.com/en/> - This is another site that has a stamp catalogue on-line. Good colour pictures and info you need.
- Any other sites you would like to share let me know.
The Editor