

COLLECTING TOWN CANCELS

By **NICK FEDORCHUK**

November— 2006
Volume XLI, No. 3

\$1.00



Town cancel collecting provides a learning opportunity about communities and their history and many hours of entertainment. Town cancel collecting can be easy or difficult depending on the scope of the collection. The simplest is to collect your province of residence. If you live in Manitoba collect Manitoba. If you are ambitious you can collect other provinces of interest or all of Canada. It's a challenging hobby as there are some 30,000 postal outlets listed by Canada Post Archives. The distribution by province is as follows; B.C. 2,272 postal outlets, Alberta 2,530, Saskatchewan 2,845, Manitoba 1,740, Ontario 7,369, Quebec 5,883, New Brunswick 2,299, Nova Scotia 3,061, Prince Edward Island 583, Newfoundland 827, Yukon 58, and North West Territories at 82. You can collect one town cancel for each town or if you are a little crazy you can also attempt to collect different type of cancels or hammers for each town or postal station. Town cancel can be on the stamp, on piece or on the envelope, it's



The Good, the Bad and the Ugly Illustrated here are four cancels. The Virden cds is obviously Good. I count the partial St. Claude as Good because the town name, province and date are fully readable. The rectangular Fort Alexander I class as Bad because it is a Money Order rubber stamp and I just don't like them but will accept them if I cannot get a circular cancel. I must admit that the Fort Alexander cancel is clean and neat, compared to most of Money Order cancels that are in the ugly category. They are usually either smeared or distorted.

names are unique to one province and town name alone may be sufficient.

The basic tool needed is a good magnifying glass. Realistically you also need a computer and a master list of all Canadian town cancels on an Excel spread sheet. It's indispensable as you need an easy way to search and identify partial cancels from a limited number of readable letters. Acceptance of partial cancels is both practical and a must as otherwise it becomes very difficult to make much headway in town cancel collecting. Also, the computer search helps to identify duplicate town names across provinces.

The best place to start town cancel collecting is with the province of residence, as they are likely to be more readily available. Of the 1,740 Manitoba cancels 1,160 are closed and cancels are no longer being produced, while 580 are still open. Here is an analysis of the Manitoba closed post offices derived from Postal Archives data;

your choice. Ideally, the cancel should be Sock on the Nose, clean cancel with a clear and complete impression of the town, province and the date. If you are a perfectionist, the cancel should be dated on a stamp of the proper postal period of use, and if the cancel comes on a nice looking stamp that's bonus. More realistically one has to be satisfied with partial cancels with sufficient imprint to distinctly determine the town and province. The province visibility is important as many town names appear in more than one province. Some town

Number of years
101 yrs plus
91 – 100 yrs
81 – 90 yrs
71 – 80 yrs
61 – 70 yrs
51 – 60 yrs
41 – 50 yrs
31 – 40 yrs
21 – 30 yrs
10 – 20 yrs

No of towns Since closure
228
139
165
83
56
82
103
215
26
63

continued on page 3

The Buffalo

PUBLICATION OF THE
WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Western Canada's Oldest Stamp Club
Website: www.wps.mb.ca

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Collecting Town Cancels	1, 3
Member's Adlets	2, 6
Hong Kong Postmark	3
New RPSC President	3
Editor Notes	4
Spot the Variety Answer	4
Buffalo Chips	5
WPS Meeting Minutes	5, 6
Dear Phil	6

THE WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Box 1425, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2Z1
R.P.S.C. Chapter 86 A.P.S. Chapter 813

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Bob Stanley
1st Vice-President	Des Connor
2nd Vice-President	Russ Thompson
Past President	Clark Grierson
Directors-at-Large(06)	Len Kruczynski
	Forbes Sharpe
	Robert Zacharias
(07)	Ken Kristjanson
	Mike Zacharias
Treasurer	Judy Lipsey
Recording Secretary	Don Fraser
Membership Secretary	

DUTY OFFICERS

Auctioneers	Ken Kristjanson
	Sid Kroker
Buffalo Editors	Alf Brooks
	Axel Olsson
Buffalo Publisher	Rick Penko
Buffalo Mailing List	Rick Penko
Buffalo Mailing	Ron DeWit
Librarian	Robert Zacharias
Programme Chairman	Russ Thompson
Exhibition Chairman	Des Connor
Property Manager	Terry Shestko
Sales Circuit Managers	Len Kruczynski
	Gerry Babij
Name Badges	Rick Penko

Annual Dues Payable July 1st Each Year:

Regular-	\$25.00	Senior-	\$20.00
Spouse†-	\$20.00	Junior-	\$15.00

† A spouse of a member may become a member with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership, but does not receive *The Buffalo*.

Application filed July to April

Admission

	Fee	Dues	Total
Regular	\$2.00	\$25.00	\$27.00
Others	\$2.00	\$20.00	\$22.00

Application filed April, May, June

Regular	\$2.00	\$30.00	\$32.00*
Others	\$2.00	\$25.00	\$27.00*

* includes dues for following year

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS \$250.00

RENEWALS

Lapsed memberships or late renewals (paid after September 30th of each year) are charged a \$1.00 reinstatement fee.

All new applicants must undergo a 60-day orientation before receiving full membership privileges.

The *Buffalo* is published monthly except in July and August. Deadline for article submissions and advertising copy is the 15th of each month preceding the month of issue.

WEBSITE:

WWW.WPS.MB.CA

COMING EVENTS

Doors Open 6:00 p.m. - Business Mtg. 8:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd Thursdays (except Jul. & Aug.).
Visitors always welcome.
Main Floor, Deaf Centre Manitoba, located
at the corner of 285 Pembina Hwy. & Nassau St.

2006

Nov. 02 - Business Meeting
- Auction

Nov. 16 - Business Meeting
- Presentation:
Dave Whitely. Canadian
Airmail to the Caribbean
& South America

Dec. 07 - Business Meeting
- Annual Charity Auction

Dec. 21 - No Meeting

2007

Jan. 04 - Business Meeting
- Auction

Jan. 18 - Business Meeting
- Presentation

The first meetings of each month reserved for Auctions.
The second meetings of each month reserved for formal programs.

MEMBERS' ADLETS

**RED RIVER
STAMP BOURSE**

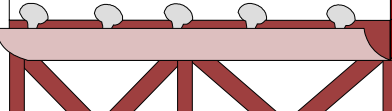
..

**BEST WESTERN
CHARTERHOUSE HOTEL**

330 YORK AVENUE

..

NOVEMBER 12
9:00AM - 4:00PM



Trusted Since 1894

BARDAL 
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORIUM

David E. Pritchard
President

843 SHERBOOK STREET WINNIPEG • MB • R3A 1M6
774-7474

SELECTED Independent FUNERAL HOMES* Member of Association 

www.bardalfuneralhome.com

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
MEMBER ADVERTISERS**

ADVERTISEMENTS

POST CARDS

BUY • SELL • TRADE

CALL KEN @
(204) 489-2249
KARDS@MTS.NET

Home Visits Office Visits
Service at YOUR PLACE of convenience
your "MOBILE LAW OFFICE"
Wm. B.K. Pooley B.A., L.L.B.
837 Downing Street
Winnipeg, MB R3G 2P6
 **783-1632** 
Lawyer, Notary Public
Day, Evening and Weekend Appointments Available

THE WINNIPEG JUNIOR STAMP CLUB

Meets Saturdays from 1:00 to 2:30 PM,
at St. Luke's Anglican Church, 130
Nassau Street N. at Stradbrook. The
entrance is on the North side of the
church. Parking is also available on the
North side. The meeting dates and
topics for the fall are:

November 11

- Perforations, and other ways stamps
are separated

November 18

- Topical collecting

December 2

- How to soak stamps off paper

BUFFALO ADVERTISING RATES

-1/10 page [approximately 2 1/4" x 2 3/4"]
at \$30 per year [10 issues].

MEMBER'S ADLET

-up to 30 words [counting an average of 5
characters per word]:

1 issue -	\$1.00
5 issues -	\$2.00
10 issues -	\$3.00

TERMS OF PAYMENT

-payable to Winnipeg Philatelic Society
in one sum at time of agreement.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE B62 HONG KONG POSTMARK

BY AXEL OLSSON



Hong Kong began issuing its own postage stamps in December 1862, some 2 decades after Great Britain colonised it following the Opium Wars. In all there were 7 different values all with the same portrait of Queen Victoria printed in England on unwatermarked paper.

Just months later, reprints arrived on watermarked paper and the number of values expanded to meet the needs of the changing circumstances of the busy port located at the southernmost tip of China.

The standard postmark introduced in the 19th Century by the Hong Kong Post Office was very similar to those muted handstamps used in Britain and her other colonies at the time. It consisted of horizontal oval bars enclosing the coded B62 chosen for Hong Kong exclusively, and because it obliterated the stamps so successfully it was also called a "killer" cancellation.



In the beginning, the B62 killer appeared in blue ink only, but after 1877 black ink replaced it completely; hence blue cancels generally are harder to come by and will fetch a premium.

Except for a 5 yr-break from 1885 to 1890, the B62 continued to see service until 1893 and though there was just the one General Post Office in Hong Kong, many different types and sizes of the B62 were employed during those 30-odd years to replace those damaged or worn out.

Collectors of Victorian Hong Kong issues will tell you there are at least 31 different types of the B62 handstamp as listed in Col F W Webb's 1961 excellent publication "The Philatelic & Postal History of Hong Kong & the Treaty Ports of China & Japan". Each has its own peculiarities and presents quite a challenge to collect all of them despite the fact the B62 killer was the most common of all the ones used in the Far East.



Naturally, the sharper, deeper and more complete the impression, the more desirable it becomes. And managing to find a scarce B62 type on cover or a high catalogue stamp would make any HK specialist swoon. But it won't come cheap unless you are satisfied with filler quality.



OUR OWN RPSC PRESIDENT

WPS member Rick Penko was elected president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada at the RPSC annual show and meeting in Calgary last month.



Rick joined the WPS in 1966 as a junior (Happy anniversary!). Some more facts:

- Past President, WPS
- Collects Canada, USA, Great Britain, Germany and Bangladesh overprints
- An accredited RPSC judge
- Former member of Canada Post's Stamp Advisory Committee
- Tries *really* hard to understand and laugh at KK's jokes.

Congratulations Rick!

...

COLLECTING TOWN CANCELS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Number of years open	No of towns
Less than 1 yr	65
2 yrs	44
3 yrs	100
4 to 5 yrs	111
6 to 10 yrs	152
11 to 20 yrs	195
21 to 30 yrs	139
31 to 50 yrs	198
More than 50 yrs	255

The scarcity of the town cancel will depend on the volume of mail handled which is a function of size of town, number of years since closure and number of years that the post office was in service. Regrettably most of the town cancels were thrown away with the discarded envelopes. Collectors also had a habit of soaking bulk stamps and packaging them in bundles creating mostly partial cancels resulting in low yields. The best quality town cancels come from older stamps. Town cancel collecting on modern stamps of last 10 years or so is getting almost futile. Mechanization of mail handling at central postal locations has resulted in disappearance of most town cancels and mail obliteration with dot overprints is ruining the appearance of the stamp and the cancel. Many of the rural postal outlets have switched to rubber Money Order cancels producing ugly and smeared appearance. Canada Post has introduced collector town cancels made from rubber. While they can be nicer in appearance they do not compare in beauty to the old hammer cancellations, also they are vulnerable to smearing and typically get overprinted by dot machine cancels ruining the appearance.

EDITOR NOTES

BY ALF BROOKS

Yes, me again.....

WPS has had a minor crisis, with nobody stepping forward last spring when Robin Harris resigned as Buffalo editor (thanks, Robin, for two more years' fine effort). Axel Olsson and I are doing the job this year, with Axel taking over for 2007-08. As I did



Our Fearless Editor Abroad & on Assignment

when I edited a few years ago, I ask for your support; I insist upon it, your knowledge of philatelic topics is important content for future editions. So let me have your articles, either in person or by email (ocharon@shaw.ca).

STAMPEX 2006

WPS members competed in the one-page exhibition again. The Society placed third overall, improving last year's standing. Congratulation to the following WPS members for their efforts; here is the list of awards they received for their pages:

Gold:

Marjorie Hughes, Sid Kroker, Len Kruczynski, Axel Olsson, Rick Penko, John Salmi, Bob Stanley, Gord Turnbull, Al Wingate, Robert Zacharias.

Silver:

Don Fraser, Mike Goodman, Judy Lipsey, Russ Thompson.

Bronze:

Alexander Cumming.

I am sure that the 2007 Show committee would like to see this talent expanded to sixteen pages for next spring. Attend the workshop in January that RZ mentioned last meeting.

Winnipeg Philatelic Society Stamp Auction

Saturday, November 18, 2006

Deaf Centre, 285 Pembina Hwy.

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Viewing of Lots: 9:00 a.m.

FREE ADMISSION

ALL ARE WELCOME

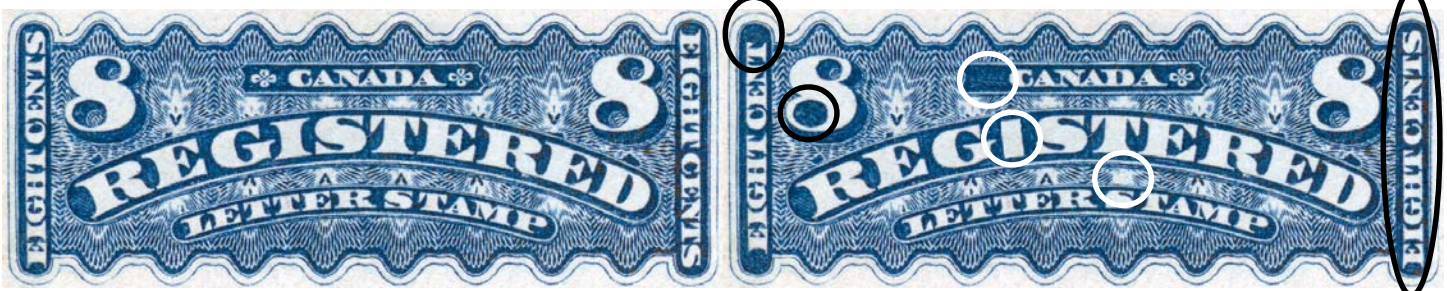
WPS Charity Auction

Thursday, December 7

**Bring in your
non-perishable items
now if you wish to donate.**

**Leave your items with
Robert Zacharias
who will store them.**

ANSWER TO SPOT THE VARIETIES 28





BUFFALO CHIPS

BY ALF BROOKS



British Guiana Magenta

For many years it was the world's most expensive stamp, and it is still one of the most valuable.

In July Guyana issued a souvenir sheet picturing this unique item.



Bargains from Canada Post!

In January our postal rates increase: 52¢ for domestic, 93¢ for USA, \$1.55 for international.

But: Canada Post also issues non-denominated stamps for domestic mail that will go on sale November 16 for 51¢ each, but they can be used (with no additional stamps) after the rates go up in January and for subsequent years (how many? Good question.). So, buy them, save all that money in years to come!

1956 Hungarian Revolution

Hungary Post issued a stamp in October to mark the 50th anniversary of the uprising against communism. The uprising was soon brutally repressed by the USSR (Is an unsuccessful rebellion a revolution?). The stamp is part of a sheet that pictures a montage of 1956 events, centered by the Hungarian flag with a hole where the hammer and sickle were cut out.

Of the approximately 200,000 who fled Hungary after the repression, 40,000 settled in Canada.



Canada 2007 Issues

January: Lunar New Year of the Pig; Celebration stamp.

February: 125th Anniversary International Polar Year.

March: Lilacs.

April: Art Stamp: Mary Pratt; Centenary of University of Saskatchewan; Endangered species.

May: Selection of Ottawa as nation's Capital 150th Anniversary.

June: 250th Anniversary of the birth of Capt George Vancouver 50th Anniversary of Newfoundland's Terra Nova National Park.

July: 100th Anniversary of Jasper National Park; French Settlement in Canada: Chief Membertou; FIFA World Youth Championships

August: Scouting Centenary

September: 100th Anniversary of the Law Society of Saskatchewan and Alberta; HEC Montreal.

October: Beneficial Insects low value definitives.

November: Royal Architectural Institute of Canada; Christmas Issue depicting reindeer and symbols of peace, joy and hope.

Trains from Germany

In October Germany issued four stamps (with surcharges for charity) picturing express trains past and present. The .55+.25 euro stamp pictures the ICE (InterCityExpress) train. It is a great train, a pleasure to ride.



MINUTES OF THE WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2006

BY JUDY LIPSEY

- Bob Stanley called the meeting to order at 7.50.
- We have 1 new member, rejoining the club: Walter Wasyluk, and there are two guests tonight, Dianne Malinoski and Debby Burke.
- An award was given to our resident greeter, Bev Barr.

Reports:

1st Vice president: Des Connor, show chairman:

- The 2006 show was held at the Union Centre and the theme was 100 years of broadcasting. Fewer people attended than in previous years, the weather was blamed. Two dealers pulled out almost at the last (1 double, 1 single) so we lost table fees, and ended up in the red.
- The 2007 show will be held May 4, 5, 6 at Viscount Gort Hotel, west of Polo Park on Portage. We need suggestions for the theme.
- Destination Winnipeg was involved in making a bi book for the 2012 Royal. Letters of support from Gary Doer, Eric Robinson, Sam Katz, Bob Stanley, JM Bumsted and Stuart Duncan were included in the bid. The bid was received and tabled. Edmonton is also interested in 2012 as it is the 100th anniversary of their club.
- Rick Penko has formally been nominated as the president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

2nd Vice President: Russ Thompson:

- This year has been a great year for presentations, there was good participation and an interesting variety.

Treasurer: Michael Zacharias:

- John Salmi did our books. We have a \$400.00 surplus, the show had a deficit of \$1400, there is \$10,500 in the bank. Thanks John.
- Due to the steep cost of mailing *The Buffalo*, Bob Stanley reminded members to pick up their copy at the meeting instead.

Membership: Don Fraser:

- 3 closed albums: Heinz Rummel, Oct. 2005, Bob Kenal, Dec. 2005, George Ewing, June 2006.
- As of June 30th, 2006, we had 158 members, average attendance was 51, 12 life members, 15 new members, honorary patron is his Honour Lt. Gov. John Howard, and we have 25 honorary life members. Two new life members are Letty Taylor, and Tom Woodward.
- Bob Stanley then thanked his executive for helping the club run smoothly.

Library: Robert Zacharias:

- \$110.00 was spent on a subscription to Scott monthly.
- \$70.00 was spent for Stamp magazine.
- \$160.00 was spent on Michel catalogues.

continued on page 6

Oct. 5, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

-The next auction will be Nov. 18th, in the Deaf Centre, 9.00 a.m. viewing and start at 10.00 am. The final day for submitting items, limited to 10 per member, minimum bid \$2.00, is Oct. 17th.

- An exhibition workshop is being planned for January at the Scandinavian Club.

Circuit Books: Len Kruczynski & Forbes Sharpe:

- Who handle the Commonwealth circuit books, encouraged members to put more books in the circuit, and to look at the ones there. There was over \$1000.00 made.

Circuit Books: Gerry Babij:

- Rest of world circuit books, said his albums of sheets did better than the books and they are easier to make up. There was some pilfering, some \$70.00-80.00 lost.

Other:

- Rick Penko reminded us that the website is still up and running.

- Alf Brooks announced that he will assume the role of Editor of the Buffalo until June 2007. Rick Penko and Axel Olsson will help out with articles.

- At the Royal in Calgary, Gord Turnbull won vermeil for his exhibit of Canadian booklets and David Whitely won silver and the BNAPS best 2-4 frame award.

- Sid Kroker announced that Sunday, Oct. 8, from 10-4.30 the Red River Bourse will be at the Charter House/Best Western Hotel. There will be another opportunity, Nov. 12th. And Sid's stock will be available in his office (130 Fort St.) the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.

- Ken Kristjanson said that anyone can start bringing in items for the charity auctions, Robert will store them upstairs.

Meeting Adjourned at 8.35.

Draw winners:

- Rick Penko, Lottie Reimer, Fred Ostapchuk, Judy Lipsey, Richard Johnson, Letty Taylor

MINUTES OF THE WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY OCTOBER 21, 2006

BY JUDY LIPSEY

- Bob Stanley called the meeting to order at 8.00.

- We have two new members: Dianne Malinoski and Debby Burke.

- Des Connor announced that a theme for the next show is needed. Submit your suggestions to him.

- Bob Stanley announced that for purposes of the senior discount on membership for the WPS, senior's age is 65 and older.

- Robert Zacharias announced that the next big auction will be Nov. 18th, viewing begins at 9.00 a.m. and the auction starts at 10.00 a.m. Lots are limited to 10 per member and have to be given to Robert no later than tonight. The list will be ready at next meeting.

- Michael Zacharias said that Don Fraser couldn't make it tonight so he would be happy to accept membership dues. Also, there are catalogues here for the taking.

- Bob Biggs passed away Sat. Oct. 14th, 2006.

- There will be a show committee meeting, 7.00 p.m. at Des' house, Oct. 26th.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:08 p.m.

Draw winners:

Ken Kristjanson, Dave Whitely, Fred Ostapchuk, Dianne Malinoski, Des Connor, George Elias.

Tonight's Presentation: Barrel Cancells of Canada.



Dear Phil,
I read recently of something that really bugs me. In September someone broke into a Post Office in Lac du Bonnet and stole over a \$1000 in stamps and coins. And I remember that a few years ago there

was a similar robbery in Stonewall.

What's happening here? Is nothing sacred anymore?
Disturbed

Dear Disturbed,

When I received your letter I immediately spoke to one of my contacts at Canada Post. He assured me that Canada Post is also very much disturbed by break-ins such as this, and that it is doing all that it can to bolster security. When I asked if it were possible to have post offices more strictly secured, I was told that armed guards had been suggested, but this was rejected; it was pointed out that if Canada Post were to follow this line of action it would be an admission that the terrorists had won.

Phil



Place mailing label in same
direction as this text

BLANK ALBUM PAGES
8½" x 11"
ACID FREE • WHITE • 100 LB. STOCK
IDEAL FOR FREE HAND OR COMPUTER PRINTERS

100 PAGES FOR ONLY \$10.50

TO ORDER CALL:
(204) 896-3800