

# CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 124

December 2013



On September 3, Canada Post issued a set of stamps and postal stationery for the NHL teams. Ironically, the stamps came out while the Flames were still facing uncertainty over whether or not they would be able to play in the Saddledome arena, heavily damaged in the Great Flood of June 21. A massive effort by contractors enabled the arena to re-open in time for the new hockey season. More on page 3.

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The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: [www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com](http://www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com) All bulletin ads or articles as hardcopy, plain text file, WordPerfect, or MS Word format only, mailed to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, handed to Dale Speirs at meetings, or emailed to [opuntia57@yahoo.ca](mailto:opuntia57@yahoo.ca) Please do not email club business to this address.

The CPS was founded in April 1922 by Dr. Edward George Mason. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society, and Chapter 91 of the American Topical Association.

A cumulative subject index from issue #1 to date for the CALGARY PHILATELIST exists but because of its length is too long to be published in this bulletin. A copy can be had for free from the editorial address at Box 6830.

## 2013-2014 EXECUTIVE

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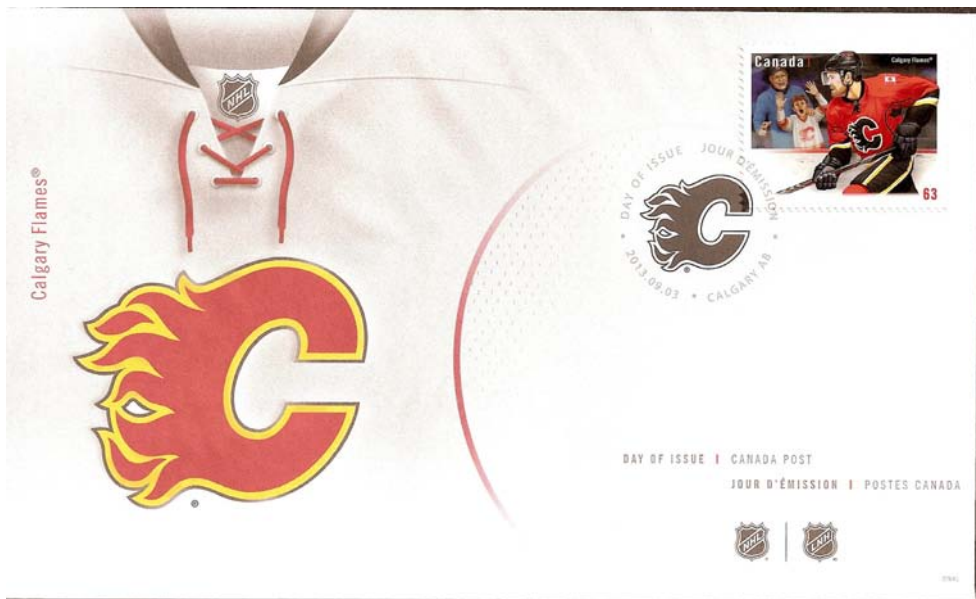
**COMMITTEES** - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons

## CALGARY FLAMES ARE PART OF NHL STAMP SET

On September 3, Canada Post went whole-hog on stamps and other material for the current National Hockey League teams. These are the stamps that will sell among the general public, not portraits of bearded men who did something or other a century ago. The booklet stamp, depicting a bearded man doing something this century, is shown on the front page of this bulletin, while the coil is at right.

A postal card prepaid anywhere in the world was issued, using the booklet stamp design as the imprint but without the denomination. Two souvenir sheets with water-activated gum were also issued, one containing all the team jersey stamps that were in the booklets, and the other with all the puck stamps from the coils. The former was only available from the Philatelic Centre in Antigonish.

Not relevant to philately, but there were coin sets, combination stamp/coin sets, key fobs, plaques, and assorted other knick-knacks. These were obviously aimed at hockey fans, not philatelists.



## CANADA POST'S FUTURE: PART 2.

### CONFERENCE BOARD OF CANADA REPORT

by Gordon Demke

In a recent article I looked at historical trends in Canada Post's addressed letter mail volumes [1]. The data showed a decline in delivered volumes of addressed letter mail from 5.32 billion pieces in 2006 to 4.26 billion pieces in 2012. Delivered volumes equalled total volumes of transaction mail less outbound (international) mail. Transaction mail was defined as Canada Post's portfolio of services for the creation, delivery and response to letters, bills, statements, invoices and other forms of communications. It included three product categories: domestic Lettermail, outbound Letter-post and inbound Letter-post.

Canada Post recently observed that *"Canadians mailed almost one billion fewer pieces of domestic Lettermail in 2012 than they did in 2006. Almost 30 per cent of that decline occurred in 2012 alone (as domestic Lettermail volumes fell by 6.4 per cent compared to 2011)."* [2]

In a recent report entitled "The Future of Postal Service in Canada", The Conference Board of Canada projects that the downward trend in mail volumes will continue. [3] The report states: *"Our projection suggests that Canada Post's transaction mail, addressed and unaddressed advertising mail, and publication volumes will decline by about 26 to 27 per cent by 2020. Parcel volume is projected to buck the trend and see a 26 per cent increase over the same period, but this will remain small as a share of total mail traffic."* [4]

| Projected Mail Volume to 2020, by Product (millions of pieces)                            |       |       |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                                                                           | 2012  | 2015  | 2020  |
| Domestic transaction mail                                                                 | 4,070 | 3,460 | 2,966 |
| Domestic parcels                                                                          | 110   | 124   | 139   |
| Addressed Admail                                                                          | 1,229 | 1,065 | 912   |
| Unaddressed Admail                                                                        | 3,320 | 2,870 | 2,455 |
| Publications                                                                              | 414   | 359   | 307   |
| Note: The Conference Board provides an annual projection; only selected years shown here. |       |       |       |

The fundamental contributor to this trend, historically and going forward, is the shift from physical to electronic and digital communications arising from technological change. The financial consequences on Canada Post are exacerbated by the

combination of falling mail volumes and the rising number of delivery addresses. The Conference Board projections of mail volume to 2020 by product are as follows. [5] Domestic transaction mail declines by 27% between 2012 and 2020. The report also observes that *“The core demand for postal service now flows from its ability to move physical goods rather than information. And this has important implications for the universal service obligations embedded in Canada Post’s mandate.”* [6] *“While there will probably be some relatively stable, residual level of demand for mail services, it is impossible to determine when and where that level might be reached.”* [7]

The report goes on to examine six possible options (and combinations thereof) for sustaining postal services to Canadians. These include:

Option 1- Large real price increases for mail delivery (i.e., postal rates increasing faster than the rate of inflation)

Option 2: Wage restraint with respect to Canada Post employees

Option 3: Alternate-day delivery of mail

Option 4: Elimination of door-to-door delivery service (e.g., community mailboxes for all residential addresses)

Option 5: Conversion of corporate postal outlets to franchised retail outlets

Option 6: Reduced standards for speed of delivery

Finally, the report notes that declining lettermail volumes are also evident globally. *“The Universal Postal Union reported that between 2006 and 2010, domestic lettermail traffic decreased by 3.5 per cent, while international mail decreased 13 per cent* [footnote: Universal Postal Union, the Global Postal Network-Key Figure]” [8] The Conference Board points out that other postal services are engaging in efforts to reduce costs through greater efficiency and pursuing alternatives to enhance revenues beyond lettermail, including: a) liberalization and privatization to encourage efficiency through competition and market discipline; b) expansion into new lines of business (notably financial services); c) development of digital mail products; d) expansion of parcel delivery services to capitalize on e-commerce; and e) reduction of mail service standards (e.g., cost savings through reduced frequency of delivery).

Of interest to me and perhaps others is what the implications may be for philately. May I suggest the following rather obvious outcomes:

- a) postage rates will continue to increase making the addition of mint examples to collections more expensive;
- b) there will continue to be a plethora of new stamp and related product releases; and
- c) kiloware will become increasingly difficult to obtain and more expensive.

Whether the transformational changes in postal service will enhance or diminish interest in philately is less evident. The postage stamp is facing intense competition primarily in the form of digital substitutes: electronic transmission of bills and statements and other documents to customers; electronic bill payments by customers; business-to-business electronic invoicing and payments; and e-mail and instant

messaging. To my way of thinking, a postally cancelled stamp is a unique and interesting collectable that records a communication that has occurred; I am not sure what one would collect as a record of a digital communication!

## References.

- [1] Gordon Demke (2013) "Canada Post's Addressed Letter Mail Volumes in Free-Fall", CALGARY PHILATELIST 123:3-5
- [2] Canada Post (2-13-04-17) "Lettermail volume decline accelerates, hitting 6.4% in 2012", NEWS RELEASE
- [3] The Conference Board of Canada (2-13 April) THE FUTURE OF POSTAL SERVICE IN CANADA The Conference Board is an independent, not-for-profit, applied research organization in Canada.
- [4] *Ibid.*, page ii.
- [5] *Ibid.*, page 21.
- [6] *Ibid.*, page 43.
- [7] *Ibid.*, page 44.
- [8] *Ibid.*, page 4.

## CPS YAHOO DISCUSSION GROUP

If you are a paid-up member of the CPS, one of the benefits of joining is a private discussion group on Yahoo restricted to within the club. The group is used for breaking news that would miss the bulletin, and for any general philatelic discussion that you may have. It is not a heavy-traffic site, so your email inbox won't be swamped. The day's postings by group members are compiled into a daily digest and automatically transmitted to members by Yahoo the following morning.

To join, see Dale Speirs in person at the meetings and give him a slip of paper with your name and email address. He will then send you an email invitation containing a link that you click on to join the group. Yahoo may require that you register but this is free and is not intrusive. No online or telephone registrations can be accepted by Dale, in order to avoid problems with spammers or trolls.

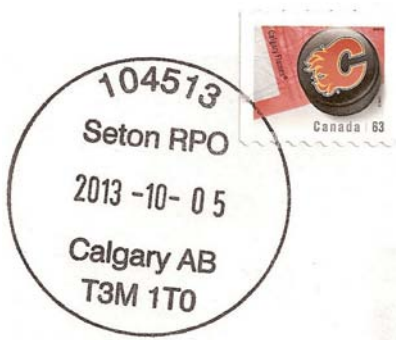
## CURRENT POSTMARKS OF CALGARY: PART 28

by Dale Speirs

### New RePOs.

Seton: Shoppers Drug Mart, 19489 Seton Crescent SE. This new retail postal outlet opened on 2013-09-05 in the extreme southeast of the city, across the street from the new South Hospital. I went to get a postmark a few days after it opened and was astonished when the clerk cancelled the cover with a Copperfield postmark. She told me that they hadn't yet received their own cancellers so they borrowed one from the Shoppers Copperfield RePO. That outlet is not actually in the new suburb of Copperfield but is a few blocks away in McKenzie Towne. Stop and think about that for a second. Two postal outlets using the same Copperfield postmark but neither of them physically located in Copperfield!

I went back to Seton on September 21 and spoke with a different person, the manager of the outlet. First I had to explain to her what a postmark was, and then she finally found the canceller in a desk drawer, which was still the Copperfield one. She had never noticed the name on the device and said she would order a Seton canceller. When I revisited Seton on October 5, they finally had their own postmark.



Downtown: Bow Tower, Centre Street South, Sheffield Express. This new outlet opened on 2013-10-01 in a cigar store on the ground floor.



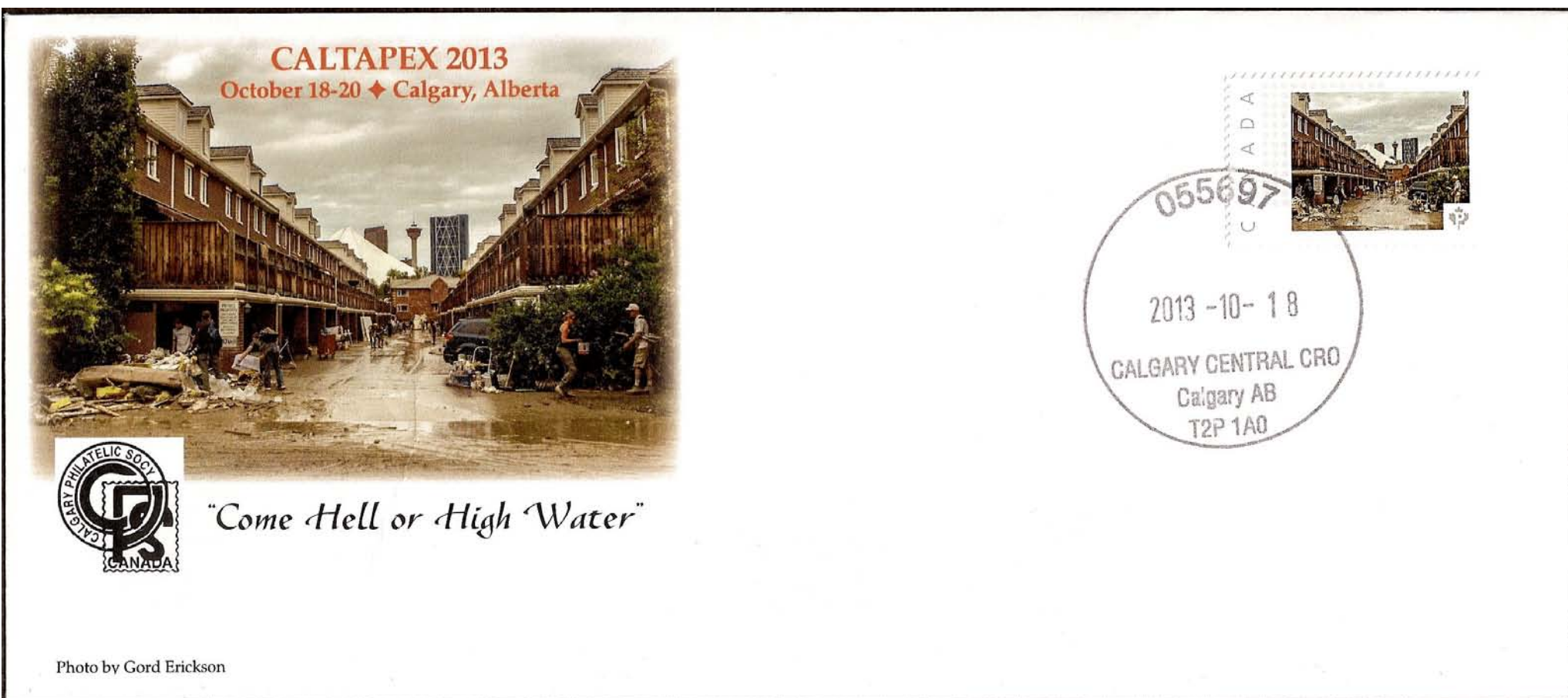
"Come Hell Or High Water" was the theme of this year's show for obvious reasons. The show cover, in full colour, was prepared by Peter Fleck. The cachet and the personalized stamp were both based on a photo by Gord Erickson, taken in the aftermath of the great flood. It shows the cleanup in the Erlton district after the Elbow River decided to take the short cut through their houses instead of looping around the neighbourhood. In the distance can be seen the Calgary Tower and the Bow Tower. The cover was cancelled on the opening day of the show at the Central Post Office downtown, which was knocked out of action for several days during the great flood.

On the Friday evening of the show, there was a seminar and dinner in honour of the chief judge George Constantourakis. He is a world authority on maximaphily, or

maximum cards. His talk was on "Philatelic Concordance", which is the importance of ensuring that the stamp, postmark, and postcard are all in concordance with each other when used to produce a maximum card. The earliest types of maximum cards date back to the 1870s. George had a display of such material in the Court of Honour.

On Saturday, the dealer bourse was busy all day. The CPS hosted an auction on the second floor, with hundreds of lots. In the evening, the Awards Banquet was held at the nearby Danish-Canadian Club.

Sunday's only event was the morning Judges' Critique, held in a third-floor classroom. George mentioned that as you raise your exhibit from local to national to international shows, the standards are much higher and petty little details become important. One point more or less doesn't matter locally, but it does at international shows.



Below are the Chief Judge George Constantourakis (left) and Show Chairman Walter Herdzik. (Photo by Jim Taylor)



### **CPS MONTHLY MEETINGS: PROGRAMMES NEEDED**

by Penny Borrowman

We have no presentations planned for the general meetings after February 2014, and would like some members to put their hand up and volunteer. Otherwise what would we do for stamp talks? Thanks.

## PRINCE GEORGE STAMP

With no publicity until a few days before issue, Canada Post issued a commemorative stamp for the royal baby. It is quite obviously an effort to attract the younger generation's attention, who have more interest in Kate and William than our dear old Queen or even Chuck.

At right is the stamp with a first-day cancel from the Britannia Pharmacy postal outlet at Elbow Drive and 49 Avenue SW. Keep that address in mind for any future stamps depicting royals!



## HIGH RIVER POSTAL SYSTEM PREPARING TO RESTART

Canada Post has announced that the main post office in High River will re-open on November 18 at a temporary location at 409 Centre Street South, a few blocks from the main building. The main building is still being gutted and rebuilt after the great flood of June 21 and it will be some time yet before it re-opens. The Shoppers Drug Mart postal outlet will re-open on November 28. The store had to be completely stripped and rebuilt after waist-high water ploughed through it.

During the five-month shutdown of all postal services in High River, citizens had to drive north 25 km to Okotoks. That post office has been operating as two post offices in one. The Saddlebrook refugee camp on the south edge of Aldersyde has no postal services, and its inhabitants also have to drive to Okotoks.

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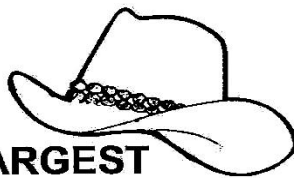
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## **SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS**

These ads are free to paid-up CPS members, and will also appear on the CPS Website at no additional cost. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at meetings.

**NOTE TO INTERNET VIEWERS:** Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain Time. Any advertiser can be reached through the CPS e-mail at [calphilso@shaw.ca](mailto:calphilso@shaw.ca), but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

**FOR SALE:** Fine used modern Canada and Australia. Please contact Michael Teekens at 805-4442 or [michateekens@gmail.com](mailto:michateekens@gmail.com)

**FOR SALE:** Extensive collection of Alberta postmarks uniquely filed in 28 binders. Supplemented with historical data items of postal relevance. Contact Al at 282-1030 or [dorandal@shaw.ca](mailto:dorandal@shaw.ca)

**WANTED:** Used GB Machin Queen stamps with any selvage attached. Cash or trade (many countries). Call Georg at 547-0409.

**WANTED:** I volunteer at the Mennonite Community Centre store in Calgary. They raise money for worldwide disasters, and are looking for donations of old albums and pages, covers, and bulk stamps. To donate, please contact me, Greg Lang, at 282-1644.

**FOR SALE:** Lightly used Lighthouse album binders with protective slipcases. \$20 for one, \$36 for two, five or more for \$15 each. Contact Peter Fleck at 590-1574 or [peterfleck@telus.net](mailto:peterfleck@telus.net)

**FOR SALE:** USA mint sheets from 1967 to 1995 (Scott #1331 to 2979). Asking face value plus exchange rate and GST. Contact Peter at [peterhay@shaw.ca](mailto:peterhay@shaw.ca)

**FOR SALE:** various QE2 Canada plate block sets between Scott #727 and #1070, various QV to KGV Canada VFNH singles and pairs between Scott #51 and #300. Contact Les at 278-3511.

**FOR SALE:** Large accumulation used off-paper, mostly pre-1990s commemoratives. Canada, USA, GB, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and kiloware. Phone Roland 243-1637 or [decaenr@shaw.ca](mailto:decaenr@shaw.ca)

**FOR SALE:** Major collections of many countries at liquidation prices. Call John at 474-1212.

**FOR SALE:** British colonies KGV to QEII, New Zealand and Australia, very reasonable. All mint, LH or NH. Phone Felix at 464-3252.

**WANTED:** Owl stamps worldwide. Cash or trade. Call Pat at 238-3435.

**WANTED:** Canadian military covers and postcards with hospital ships (white with red crosses). Contact Jon Johnson at 253-8411 or [jcjperfins@hotmail.com](mailto:jcjperfins@hotmail.com)

## CLUB NEWS

The October bulletin was mailed from the Mayland Heights RePO at the Rexall Drugs on 19 Street NE, using the Flames logo coil stamp.

At the October 2 general meeting, Penny Borrowman spoke on her recent round-trip cruise ship voyage between New York City and Southampton, England, via the polar great-circle route. Icebergs were seen and a good time was had by all. The philatelic covers she mailed back home arrived safely without felt pen scribbles by posties.

For the November 6 meeting, Fitz Roett, the leading authority on early Barbados stamps, spoke about the Britannia issue, showing examples from his International Gold collection. His book on the subject is at the publication stage and will be the standard reference on it for years to come.

A reminder that the December 4 general meeting will be displaced by the annual potluck Christmas social. Please bring a plate of finger food items. There will be some special events as well as the annual awards.

Because the first Wednesday of January 2014 is New Year's Day, that meeting is postponed to the second Wednesday on January 8. All else remains the same; the auction will not change its date. In February, the general meeting will be on the usual first Wednesday.

And finally, please pay your membership dues if you haven't already.

## COMMITTEES

|                      |                   |          |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Archives             | Dale Speirs       | 701-0174 |
| Auctions - regular   | Doug Kollar       | 547-3838 |
| - silent             | Jim Senecal       | 547-7681 |
| Bulletin - Editor    | Dale Speirs       | 701-0174 |
| Circuit books        | Larry Tweedale    | 282-9726 |
| Library              | Penny Borrowman   | 686-2662 |
| Life Members         | Jim Taylor        | 238-3698 |
| Membership           | Julius Szekrenyes | 282-7982 |
| Private Treaty books | Gerry Vader       | 293-0158 |
| Programmes           | Penny Borrowman   | 686-2662 |
| Sergeant-At-Arms     | Dave Russum       | 284-4775 |
| Webmaster            | Dave Bartlet      | 829-3580 |

## MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### 2013

|          |    |                  |
|----------|----|------------------|
| November | 20 | Auction          |
| December | 4  | Christmas social |

### 2014

|          |    |                                                                                                                                           |
|----------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January  | 8  | General meeting<br>(Because the first Wednesday is New Year's Day, the meeting is postponed to the second Wednesday for this month only.) |
|          | 8  | Deadline for February bulletin                                                                                                            |
|          | 15 | Auction                                                                                                                                   |
| February | 5  | General meeting                                                                                                                           |
|          | 19 | Auction                                                                                                                                   |
| March    | 5  | General meeting                                                                                                                           |
|          | 5  | Deadline for April bulletin                                                                                                               |
|          | 19 | Auction                                                                                                                                   |
| April    | 2  | General meeting                                                                                                                           |
|          | 16 | Auction                                                                                                                                   |
| May      | 7  | General meeting                                                                                                                           |
|          | 7  | Deadline for June bulletin                                                                                                                |
|          | 21 | Auction                                                                                                                                   |

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, Room 205 (Lecture Room), 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 19h30. Auction lots should be in before 19h30 to allow bidder viewing.

CALGARY REGIONAL GROUP of the BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY meets second Wednesdays. For details about meeting places and times, contact Dave Bartlet at 829-3580.

CALGARY ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS meets fourth Wednesdays. For details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698.