

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 134

June 2015



Alberta is famous for its dinosaurs, and this set of stamps issued on 2015-04-13 will definitely be popular with topical collectors.

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Articles or advertisements for Calgary Philatelist should be sent to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paid-up CPS members. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue for hardcopy, jpeg, or pdf format only. Small ads and articles as hardcopy, plain text file, WordPerfect, or MS Word 1997 format only. Mail to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, handed to Dale Speirs at meetings, or emailed to 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 pdf copy can be had for free at www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com.

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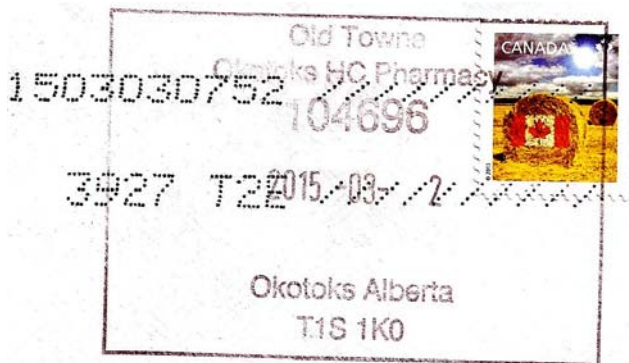
COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons

NEW POSTMARKS IN SOUTHWESTERN ALBERTA

by Mike Braconnier

[Mike lives in Black Diamond and has been keeping track of post office changes in that part of the province.]

I heard that there was another Okotoks retail postal outlet (RePO), and so went looking. The address is 74 Elizabeth Street #1, in the Old Town district, only about 2.5 blocks west of the Okotoks Main Post Office. Why so close, I do not know. I talked to the lady there about the new outlet. She said they opened 2014-08-18 and had an official opening later on. The place is called Remedy's Rx, Okotoks HC Pharmacy.



Millarville General Store has some new owners, so as of April 1 the RePO has a new number. The number changes whenever ownership of a RePO does. The April 8 issue of OKOTOKS WESTERN WHEEL had an article about the change. The Mike and Leslie Patterson family had bought the store in 1992 from the Kinsman family. Their children are now grown and out on their own, so the Pattersons decided to move to Okotoks. The new proprietors of the store and RePO are Hamid and Mazima Nausingani, and their daughter and son-in-law Naureen and Irfanali Moledina.



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Phil Wolf, proprietor, in the store

MILITARY POST OFFICES OF CALGARY: WORLD WAR TWO

by Dale Speirs

Between the two world wars, Calgary's military presence declined precipitously to a few militia units on weekend training with obsolete weapons. The militias were all based at Mewata Camp at the west end of the downtown core, later replaced by the massive and beautiful Mewata Armoury which now marks the western end of the core. World War Two reactivated the old Reservoir Park site on Crowchild Trail SW, which became an RCAF airbase. The map on pages 8 and 9 shows a war-era plot of the base.

At the height of the war there were numerous Military Post Offices (MPOs) scattered throughout Calgary [1]. Some of them were within a stone's throw of each other but with thousands of personnel coming and going, there was lots of work for the postal clerks. It wasn't just the regular postal work they had to handle. Far more so than civilian post offices, the MPOs had a hectic time keeping track of who was stationed where, and forwarding or returning mail for personnel who had moved elsewhere in Canada or overseas.

After the war, the base in the southwest became CFB Calgary, except Reservoir Park, which became Richmond Green Park, with a golf course on top of the underground reservoir [2]. The base closed in 1997, and was redeveloped as housing, with the barracks becoming special-needs schools. The military still uses a couple of the buildings but the rest of the base is now in civilian hands.

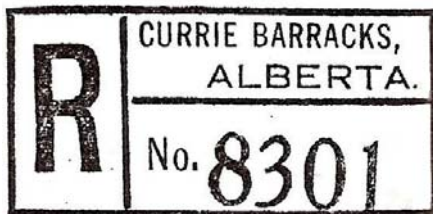
The south side of the base is the Lincoln Park subdivision. Currie Barracks on the east side of Crowchild Trail became the Garrison Woods residential district. The aircraft hangers between 50 Avenue SW and Glenmore Trail west of Crowchild Trail became the ATCO industrial park. They were finally demolished in 2012 when the industrial area was redeveloped.

Sarcee.

The advent of World War Two wasn't a complete surprise, and even before Canada officially entered the war its military was trying to prepare for it. A couple of months before the war began the Sarcee Camp Field Post Office was opened on 1939-07-01, with Arthur Taylor as postmaster. It was renamed on 1940-09-01 as Sarcee Military Field Camp. The military began standardizing the nomenclature of its post offices as MPO numbers, and on 1941-07-13 it became MPO #1301. It closed on 1946-08-01 as the war wound down and the military base was reorganized for what became the Cold War [3].

Currie Barracks.

Currie Barracks, named after the WW1 general, had the next post office, opening on 1942-02-23 as Calgary MPO #1305, and operating until 1945-09-28 to the war's end. It actually served the Sarcee units but was only 400 metres away. MPO #1310 opened as part of Currie Barracks on 1943-04-09 until 1946-03-30 and served the adjacent air base.



After the war, the Currie Barracks relied on other nearby MPOs but their post office was re-opened on 1954-08-25 as a named post office, not an MPO. At left is a proof strike of its registration postmark. The first postmaster was Ronald Clifford Webb, who had previously been postmaster at Swalwell, Alberta.

The Currie Barracks post office finally closed in June 1969. From then until CFB Calgary closed in 1997, any official mail was handled through Orderly Rooms, although soldiers could use them for their personal mail [4]. The CFB Calgary post office used POCON number 582557 from 1981 to 1996, which may show up in postal markings.

Lincoln Park.

This area of the base was named after the bomber airplane. MPO #1309 opened on 1943-03-01 and lasted until 1946-02-15. It overlapped with MPO #1317 which opened on 1945-04-23 and led a variegated life. Sgt. R. McVey was the first postmaster until he was transferred on 1946-10-25.

The post office name was originally Calgary MPO #1317 until 1951-03-23, then RCAF Station Calgary until 1953-02-23, then Lincoln Park until 1960-04-04. It ended life as Calgary Sub #61 until it finally closed on 1961-03-30 with Welby Henry Barkley as the last postmaster. Between McVey and Barkley were four other civilian postmasters but their tenures are not synchronized with the name changes [1].



In its last days, Sub #61 had a MOON number of 8210. At right is the proof strike of its postmark. (The vertical number is a manufacturer's control number stamped overtop the proof strike.)

City MPOs.

Calgary MPO #1313 was located at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology from 1944-05-23 to 1945-04-14. SAIT was and still is the principal polytechnic in southern Alberta for tradesmen to get their journeyman papers. The personnel assigned there were obviously learning trades useful to the military.

Calgary MPO #1316 was at the Mewata Armoury from 1945-08-16 to 1946-07-08 to handle the reservists and militia units.

Post-Base.

After CFB Calgary was closed in 1997, a small detachment of military personnel remained, mostly to handle local militia matters and to assist civilian dependents. There is no longer any post office on the base and non-military mail can be mailed via the Sarcree retail postal outlet in the 7-Eleven at 37 Street SW and Richardson Way. There is, however, a parcel service for families of personnel serving overseas. The description of this service is as follows [4].

“Families and friends can send parcels overseas to deployed CF members at no cost to themselves through the ASU Calgary Orderly Room. Parcels may be dropped off at the Currie Building on the old CFB Calgary Currie Barracks site. We will ensure that the parcel meets the postal requirements and will also provide you with a custom form. The parcels will be sent free of charge through the military system however the process may take somewhat longer than if the parcel is sent through Canada Post. Depending on the mission, it generally takes about a month before such parcels arrive at their destination. Note that, as space on CF aircraft is limited, a limit may be placed on the number of packages sent.”

References.

- 1] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2013-05-22) Post offices and postmasters. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices
- 2] Cuniffe, R. (1975) SCARLET, RIFLE GREEN, AND KHAKI. Published by Century Calgary. 40 pages.
- 3] Robinson, William G. (1985) A CHECKLIST OF ALBERTA POST OFFICES. Privately published by William Topping, Vancouver, British Columbia. Pages 13 and 44.
- 4] Ministry of National Defence (downloaded 2011-02-25) Area Support Unit Calgary. www.army.forces.gc.ca/asu_calgary/mailing.asp



COWTOWNERS SHOW EDMONTON HOW IT'S DONE

At the Edmonton Spring National stamp show on March 28 and 29, Calgary philatelists did very well. Jim Taylor was the Chief Judge at the show.

Norma Nielson: “The Story Of Lloyds” won Gold, the Reserve Grand, and Philatelic Specialist Society of Canada Award

Sandra Freeman: “Bolivian Airmails” won Gold, the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society Award, American Airmail Society, and the APS Medal of Excellence

Eldon Godfrey: “Foreign Exchange Control In Canada” won Vermeil, the Novice Award, APS Medal of Excellence, and the BNAPS Research Award

Dave Bartlet: “Canadian Computer Vended Postage” won Vermeil, APS Medal of Excellence, and the AAPE Gold Pin
“The Baby Sisters” won Gold and the Best BNA One-Frame
“14th World Scout Moot 2013” won Silver-Bronze

Earle Covert: “Modern Registered Mail” won the Corgi Award
“Not All Canadian Mail Gets Through Uneventfully” won Vermeil and the AAPE Creativity Award
“Canadian Aerogrammes” won Gold

Donna Trathen: “Christina Broom, Photographer” won Silver and the WE Award

In addition to the judged exhibits, Edmonton had a section for one-frame group exhibits. The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors did “What I Collect”, with pages contributed by Jim Taylor, Hugh Delaney, Dave Bartlet, Dale Speirs, Donna Trathen, Sandy Freeman, Don Wilson, and Walter Herdzik. A photo of the exhibit taken by Jim is shown on page 11.

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society also put in a frame, “An Introduction To British North America Philately” (Version 2), with pages contributed by Dave Bartlet, Eldon Godfrey, and Jon Johnson. Unfortunately no photo is available.

Congratulations to the CPS members above on their awards!

STUDY GROUP NEWS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society met on March 11 and saw a display by Graham O'Connor on the RCMP great trek of 1874. At the April 8 meeting, Eldon Godfrey presented a slide show of Canada slogan cancels relating to World War Two. For more details, contact Dave Bartlet at 829-3580.

CAPE (Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors) Group of the Calgary Philatelic Society met on April 22 at the Stampede Stamps Board Room (rear entrance) courtesy of Dwayne Miner. Jim Taylor chaired the meeting with 11 attendees. Current philatelic journals were circulated. The results of the recent Edmonton National Stamp show were reviewed. It was noted that the CAPE Group and the Calgary Philatelic Society exhibitors were a large segment of the Edmonton exhibit entries and that we will continue to support the Edmonton Stamp Club and the show. The Edmonton show is currently the only annual national RPSC show in western Canada. All collectors should support its continued success.

There are several important considerations in constructing a Gold Medal exhibit. The next several CAPE meetings will review these considerations. The first at the May meeting will be Philatelic Research. There are points awarded for exhibits showing philatelic research: what is it? where do you start? what research sources are available? how does one become an expert?

All philatelic exhibitors and wannabe exhibitors are invited to attend CAPE meetings. There are no additional fees (save your \$ to spend on stamps). Parking is free; phone ahead for parking and entrance instructions if your first time. For more details about CAPE, phone Jim Taylor at 238-3698.

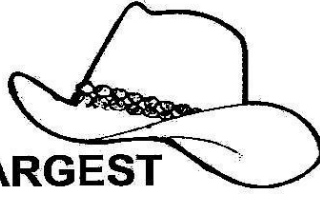
HOME URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR CPS SHOW FRAMES

by Larry Tweedale

We urgently require a storage space for our exhibit frames. It must measure approximately 12 feet by 4 feet and be at least 6 feet high. The space must be clean, dry, and secure. A second key must be supplied to the CPS Executive. The club will pay \$580 per month. Call Larry at 282-9726.

JUNE 17 WILL BE MEMBERS' BOURSE

Instead of the regular auction on the third Wednesday in June, there will be a members' bourse. You can rent a table for \$5 and unload your philatelic material. Contact Doug Kollar for details and bookings at 547-3838.



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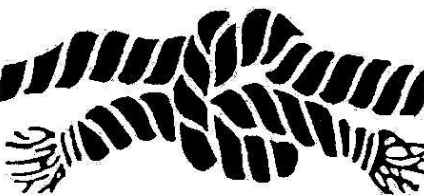
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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

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, but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

FOR SALE: Just released book, INTERNATIONAL RAPID CANCELLING MACHINES, WESTERN CANADA. 115 pages, coil-bound. \$30 postpaid from cec.coutts@telus.net

WANTED AND FOR SALE: Wanted: stamps of India. For sale: Stamps of Egypt, Ceylon, and Burma (advanced collection). Contact jay_chahal@shaw.ca

WANTED: International machine cancels (year at bottom of cancel hub) on cover from Ontario, Quebec, and Maritimes. Email to: cec.coutts@telus.net

FOR SALE: People's Republic of China from 1990 to 2014. MNH, asking 50% of Scott. Phone Willi at 239-2273.

WANTED: complete set Dutch stamps 1852-1940. Contact Rob at 288-7501 or lrwestra@shaw.ca

WANTED: Book of Alberta proof strikes by Robert Lee. Call Milton Lowe at 243-0412 or email at aromatics@excite.com

FOR SALE: Fine used modern Canada and Australia. Please contact Michael Teekens at 805-4442 or 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

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: 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

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

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

CLUB NEWS

The April bulletin was mailed with the Sir John A. Macdonald stamp at the Dominion Drugs RePO, northwest corner of 8 Street SW and 7 Avenue. The Dominion postmark fit in beautifully with the stamp.

At the April 1 meeting, the guest speaker was Mark Badior, who discussed the early issues of the Penny Black. The May 6 meeting had a presentation by Fitz Roett about the Barbados shilling stamps.

The President’s Pot was awarded to Donna Trathen at the April meeting, and to Murray Bialek at the May meeting, both for their volunteerism.

In the May/June 2015 issue of CANADIAN PHILATELIST was Part 1 of Dale Speirs’s article on the postal history of Nanton and district.

CORRECTION TO APRIL ISSUE: SNOWDON, NOT SNOWDEN

Thanks to a run-amok spellchecker, the article on Gordon Snowdon mis-spelled his name as Snowden. Your editor’s computer decided it was the correct spelling and I completely missed the alteration. I suspect the spell-checker was thinking of Edward Snowden.

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	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Membership	Julius Szekrenyes	282-7982
Programmes	vacant	
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	829-3580

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2015

May	20	Auction
	27	CAPE meeting
June	3	General meeting
	10	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	17	Members' bourse: \$5 per table
	17	Deadline for July bulletin
August	12	Deadline for August bulletin
September	2	General meeting
	2	Deadline for October bulletin
	9	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	16	Auction
	23	CAPE meeting
October	7	General meeting
	14	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	16 to 18	CALTAPEX 2015
	21	Auction
	28	CAPE meeting
November	4	General meeting
	4	Deadline for December bulletin
	18	Auction
	25	CAPE meeting

CALTAPEX will be at the Kerby Centre, main floor gymnasium. Details from Walter Herdzyk at 238-7845.

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.

BNAPS (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.

JUNIOR CLUB meets monthly on Saturdays. Information from Jim Senecal at 547-7681.

CAPE (CALGARY ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS) meets fourth Wednesdays at the Condon Building boardroom. For details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698.