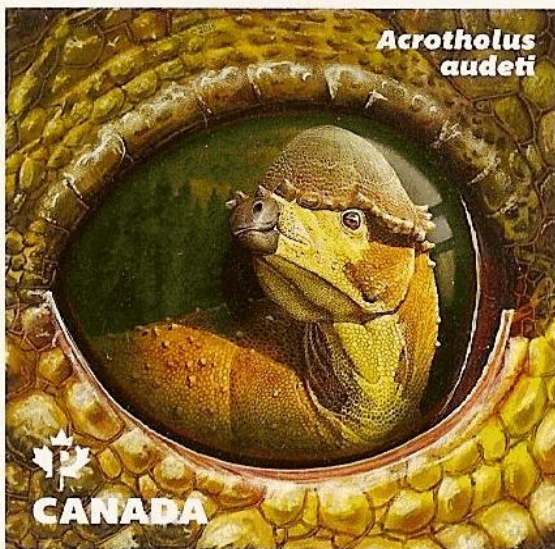
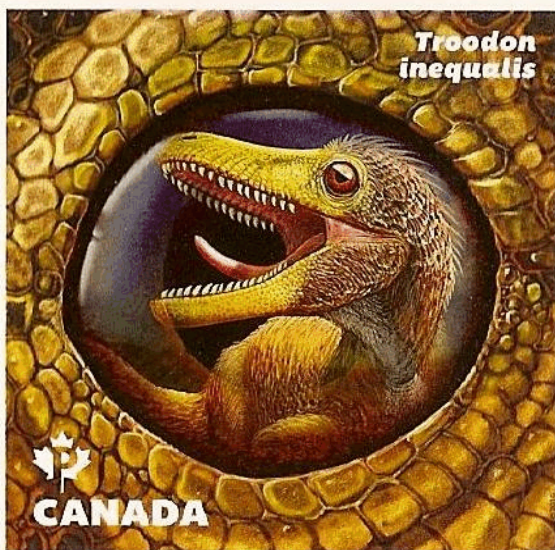


# CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 143

August 2016



On May 26, Canada Post issued another set of dinosaur stamps. Two of the stamps, shown here, are Alberta species. This issue of the bulletin will be mailed with the dinosaur stamps.

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Membership dues for the season are \$15, plus an initiation fee of \$10 for new members. Send to the CPS, Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2L6. Notice of address changes or enquiries about missing copies should be sent to the Membership Chairman, not the Editor.

The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: [www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com](http://www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com)

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, or hand to Dale Speirs at meetings, or email 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 pdf copy can be had for free at [www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com](http://www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com).

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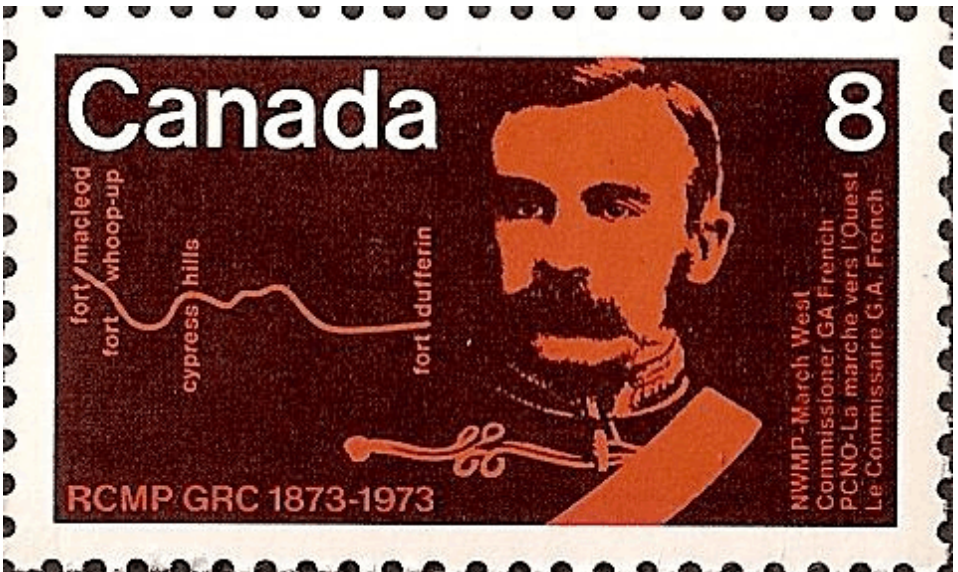
**COMMITTEES** - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons.

## POSTAL HISTORY OF ALBERTA: WHISKEY TRADER POST OFFICES. PART 1

by Dale Speirs

In the middle 1800s, American whiskey traders moved into the Canadian prairies, peddling rotgut to the aboriginal tribes and causing much distress. They generally worked independently of each other, and built forts to do their trading. The forts could be anything from a palisaded compound to an oversize log cabin with a heavy door. This article looks at some locations in southern Alberta that subsequently were civilized and later had post offices. There were many other whiskey forts as well, but they never had post offices. Reviewed here are Whisky Gap (on the Montana border), Stand Off (today the principal settlement of the Kainai Reserve), and Fort Kipp (on the northwest border of the Reserve and long since abandoned).

The problems caused by the whiskey traders became so great that the Canadian federal government created the Mounties to deal with the traders and establish rule of law in what is now southern Alberta. The North West Mounted Police arrived in 1874 and quickly ran the traders out of business. Many of the traders didn't even wait for the actual arrival of the NWMP and skedaddled on the rumours, as a result of which the Mounties found many of the forts deserted. They took over some of them as their own forts. Figure 1 is a stamp issued by the Canadian Post Office in 1973 to mark the centennial of the march west of the NWMP. It shows the route taken into Alberta.



*Figure 1*

The NWMP went through the Cypress Hills on what is now the Alberta/Saskatchewan border, then to the whiskey trader post called Fort Whoop-Up, upstream from Lethbridge.

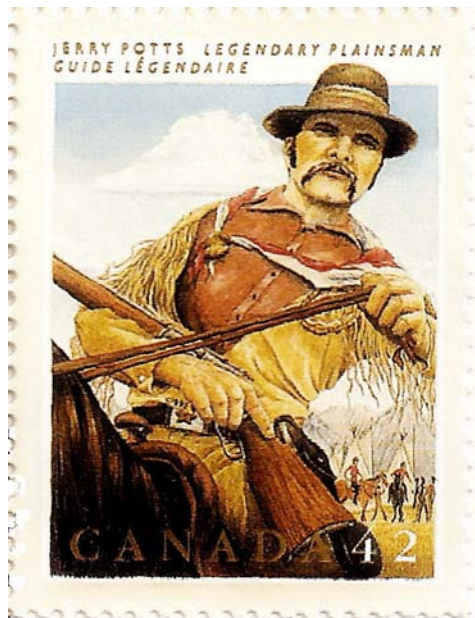


Figure 2

but additionally as an excuse to visit people and keep an eye on them [2]. Pickup or delivery of mail was not by established routes but more or less by random chance.

Orderly Rooms at NWMP forts in southern Alberta accepted civilian mail and sold stamps. The stamps were American stamps prior to 1883 because the only post office routes were to the south via Fort Benton, Montana. The transcontinental railroad came through Medicine Hat and Calgary in 1883, at which time the mail routes switched direction and became part of the Canadian system. Figure 3 on the next page is a map of the general area where the whiskey fort post offices were.

### Stand Off.



Figure 4

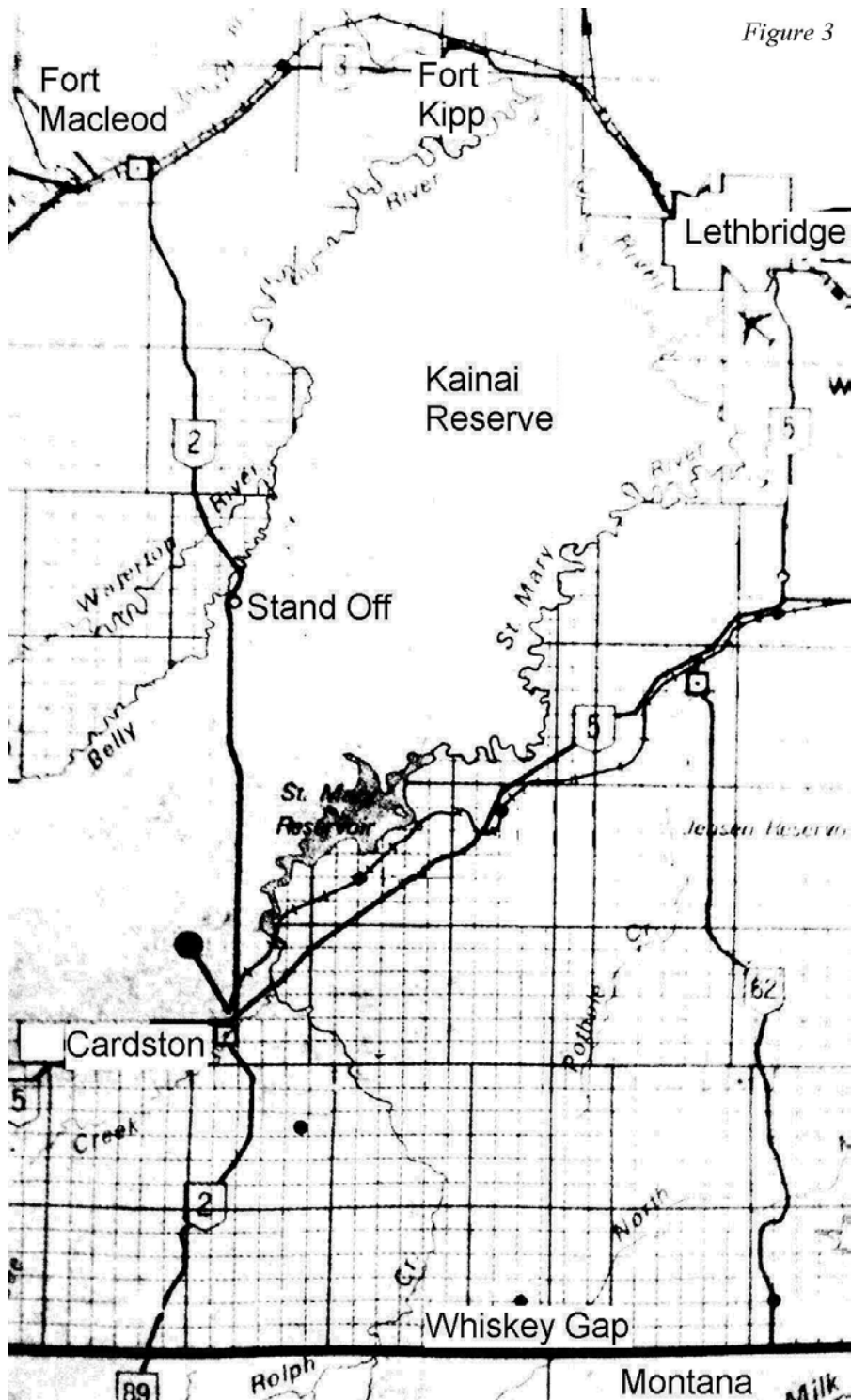
They found the fort abandoned, then moved on to establish their own fort on the Oldman River, named Fort Macleod, which became the command post for their area operations [1]. The Mounties were fortunate to have a half-breed named Jerry Potts to guide them through the area of the whiskey traders (Figure 2). He knew the tribal languages and where the forts were.

### North West Mounted Mail.

Prior to the opening of post offices in southern Alberta, any mail was carried by favour of friends or by the NWMP. The Mounties distributed a lot of mail in southern Alberta before the postal system developed, ostensibly as a courtesy

The only whiskey fort post office still operating today is Stand Off, now the main town of the Kainai Reserve. The Kainai, referred to as the Blood Indians in older references, belong to the Blackfoot Confederacy of the plains tribes (Figure 4). This is the largest Reserve in Canada, officially established in 1885, although the Kainai were settled on the land in 1880. It is a plateau bounded by the Belly and Saint Mary Rivers, with Cardston forming the southern border [3].

Figure 3



The name Stand Off came from an incident that led to its founding. A gang of American whiskey traders, including Joseph Kipp, were pursued by a U.S. Marshal northwards from Montana. At that time, the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel boundary between Canada and the USA was not yet surveyed and was unmarked. The traders were exhausted by the chase, and finally stopped and stood their ground. They told the marshal they were on Canadian soil and therefore the officer had no jurisdiction. After an argument, the marshal conceded the point and departed back to Montana. The traders thereupon built a trading post and named it Stand Off in honour of the incident [4].

When the NWMP arrived, they took over the fort in 1878. At first they used it in an on-and-off fashion, but finally established a permanent post to patrol the Kainai Reserve. P.H. Bowes built and rented to the Mounties some buildings, and a hamlet grew up around the fort. Frederic Pace took his discharge from the NWMP and opened a trading post there. He became the first postmaster on 1896-01-01 and served until his death on 1898-12-08. Bowes then took over the store and post office, serving until 1900-06-01 as the postmaster [2]. Mail service came from Fort Macleod, nearby to the northwest of the Reserve.

Bowes sold out to George Pearson, an Englishman who had come out west in 1881 and worked as a cowboy before going into business for himself in Fort Macleod. Although Pearson was officially postmaster, it seems likely that he appointed a clerk to run the post office, since during this time and many years thereafter he had investments throughout the Fort Macleod and the Porcupine Hills area. Pearson resigned as postmaster on 1909-07-12 when he sold out and moved to a ranch in the Porcupine Hills [8].

William T. Butcher was the next store owner and postmaster until 1915-03-06. Following him came Edward McNeil who was the longest serving postmaster, staying until 1941-12-07 when death parted him from the job. His widow Sadie continued to run the store but his son John Edward took over as postmaster until 1948-05-10. The postmastership continued to stay in the McNeil family, when Blakely McNeil stayed in the job until his death on 1953-01-10, followed by his widow Ella M. McNeil. She was postmaster until 1963-12-23, when she sold the store, ending almost five decades of postal service in one family [8].

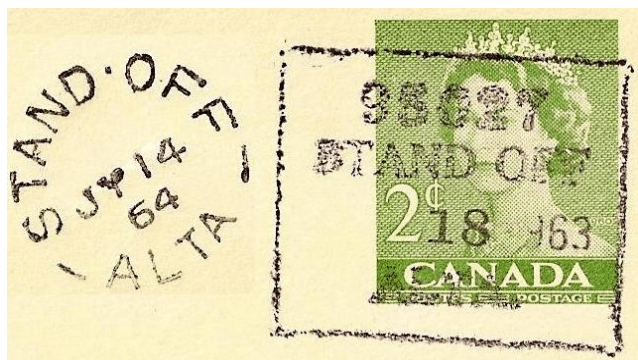


Figure 5

There were two more white folk as postmasters before a major change occurred. Neil Allan Smith served until 1967-02-02, and Robert Stanley Granrude briefly until 1968-09-10, both in the general store. Figure 5 shows samples of the postmarks.

After Granrude, the Kainai took over the post office. Ben Red Crow was the first aboriginal postmaster, taking up the job on 1968-09-30. The post office moved from the store into the Kainai administration building. Mrs. Marion Heavyshields took over on 1971-02-22 but only served briefly [5]. At that point, the postmastership began changing frequently, and it was obvious that the postmaster was simply an administrator who had charge of the post office among other duties.

In 1973, construction of the Chief Shot Both Sides Building was completed, and the post office moved into it where it still was in 2016. This is a combination administration building and shopping mall. Figure 6 shows the building as it was when I visited it in June 2016. Figure 7 is the interior, showing the post office with the original 1970s style sign, unchanged since the post office moved into the building.



*Figure 6 (above)  
Figure 7 (at right).*



## Fort Kipp.

The same gang that built Stand Off then built Fort Kipp a year later and named it after their compatriot Joseph Kipp. It was located at the junction of the Oldman and Belly Rivers, on the opposite bank of what later became the Kainai Reserve. The Mounties took over the fort when they arrived in 1874. It was about 35 km north-northeast of Stand Off, a day's ride back then. In 1885, Richard Urch, whose ranch was just north of Fort Kipp, built a stopping house near the fort. Over the next two decades, various structures were built, abandoned, rebuilt, and replaced by other buildings. Fort Kipp was littered with buildings in various stages of decay or use. It was still occupied by the Mounties in 1901, but by then it was down to two constables and two horses [2].



*Figure 8*

Albert J. Whitney established a horse ranch at Fort Kipp in 1885 when he came out west from Ontario. A post office was opened in his ranch house on 1886-04-01 with himself as postmaster. Figure 8 is the proof strike of the postmark. Undoubtedly the post office served very few people, just some ranchers and cowboys, and the local Mounties. Whitney was a wheeler-dealer in farmland, horses, and cattle, and was often away from the ranch for long periods. He had as many as 650 horses at one time.

The post office didn't do that much business to justify his time, so he resigned on 1893-01-24. He continued to live on the ranch until 1938 when death claimed him.

Richard Urch and his brother-in-law William H. Long ranched north of the Oldman River. They set up a stopping house on that side of the river and a ferry just upstream of the fort. Urch took over as postmaster, and the post office moved into the stopping house. The place was halfway between Fort Macleod and Lethbridge on the stagecoach route, so mail service to Fort Kipp was from either of those two towns.

The post office permanently closed on 1898-06-30 after a railway began operating directly between Fort Macleod and Lethbridge, bypassing Fort Kipp. The line was 5 km north of Fort Kipp. With no more stagecoach passengers, the stopping house had no further use and became a private residence [6]. Figure 9 on the next page shows the stopping house several decades after it was completely abandoned.

The Long family left the area. After the Mounties abandoned the fort in 1901, the only inhabitants left were Urch and his wife, and the widower Whitney. Any remains of Fort Kipp are now for archaeologists only, and are on private land. There is a hamlet called Kipp about 8 km east of Fort Kipp, but it is not related other than by name. The hamlet had a post office but was an ordinary farm settlement and should not be confused with the whiskey fort.



*Figure 9*

[to be continued]

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

FROM: Michael Teekens  
Mount Waverley, Victoria, Australia

2016-07-07

The article by Danny Chow that dealt with the messy colourful cover was very interesting. It reminded me of a cover I had seen in an article that dealt with a letter sent to three different Christmas Islands.

It was sent first to Christmas Island, Nova Scotia, in the Atlantic Ocean. It was then redirected to Christmas Island in the Pacific Ocean, which was wrong as well. It was eventually redirected to Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean, a territory of Australia. The letter was sent in the early 1900s and took about a year to get to the right Christmas Island.

## **DUES ARE DUE!**

Help our Membership Chairman by mailing in your dues this summer for the 2016-17 season to the CPS Membership Chairman, Box 1478, Calgary, T2P 2L6. He can have your new membership cards ready at the September meeting.

## COWTOWNERS WIN BIG IN PORTLAND, OREGON

The 2016 APS Stamp Show, the annual convention of the American Philatelic Society, was held on the weekend of August 4 to 7. A dozen CPS members crossed the border for the event. Congratulations to all those who won medals in the event!

### Multi-Frame Competition.

James R. Taylor: "Continental Drift And Plate Tectonics" won Gold and Best in Thematics

Janice Brookes: "Evolution Of World Wildlife Fund Logo" won Gold

Steve B. Davis: "6-cents USA Transport Airmail Issue Of 1941: Usages And Rates" won Gold and U.S. Cancellation Club Award

Norma Nielson: "Story of Lloyd's: From Coffee To Commerce" won Gold and American Topical Association Second Award

Donna Trathen: "Christina Broom: Her Work As A Photographer" won Gold

### Single Frame Competition.

Jon Johnson: "Canadian Military Hospitals At Sea" won Vermeil and American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honour

Walter Herdzik supplied photos from the Portland event, shown here and on page 15.



left to right:  
Pat Prevey, Penny  
Borrowman, Linda  
Connolly

## **WARNING!**

### **MAJOR CHANGE AT KERBY CENTRE PARKING LOTS**

The Kerby Centre, where the CPS meets, has had considerable problems with unauthorized users in its two parking lots over the years. They have now contracted out to a private security company to enforce parking restrictions. These restrictions are in place 24 hours, seven days, and the CPS is not exempt. Please read the following message from the Kerby Centre carefully. If your car is towed or clamped while you are at a meeting, the CPS is not responsible and cannot help you.

#### **Parking Enforcement Changes at Kerby Centre**

Starting in September 2016, Kerby Centre will be contracting parking enforcement responsibilities to Endeavor Parking Corp. This change is in response to an increased amount of unauthorized parking in both of Kerby Centre's parking lots. Endeavour Parking Corp will have the ability to ticket, place wheel locks, and tow unauthorized vehicles 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Parking in Kerby Centre lots is only allowed when the person parking the vehicle is entering the Kerby Centre building. Parking and going anywhere except Kerby Centre is considered unauthorized. This is monitored on a constant basis.

Kerby Centre will be eliminating the hanging blue parking passes for member's vehicle mirrors and will be switching to electronic record keeping of all authorized parkers by license plate. All members who currently pay for parking privileges will be automatically updated into the new computer based system. Members who do not renew their memberships/parking pass by December 31 will be considered expired and unauthorized on January 1. Any changes to vehicle permits (license plate changes, adding a second vehicle, etc.) must be notified to Kerby Centre immediately to avoid enforcement.

Visitors/guests/renters coming to Kerby Centre are still welcome to park in Kerby Centre lots when accessing the building. **However, all license plates MUST be signed it at the Reception desk or the Gymnasium entrance upon arrival. Sign in will be done electronically through mounted computers. This sign in will be required 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Any vehicles with no electronic membership parking privileges and who are not signed in may be ticketed or towed.**

There will be a sign in at the main reception on the second level as well as the gym entrance. Kerby Centre are in the midst of hiring extra staff for the evenings so there should be someone there to assist with the sign in (particularly for the first month or two of it).

Your guests will have to sign in each time they park in the lot. One option for regular goers could be to purchase a Kerby Membership with a parking pass for \$23.00 (good for a year) and they would not need to sign in their vehicle each time.

# SELECT STAMPS AND COVERS

#901 Westview Heights,  
825 - 8 Avenue SW  
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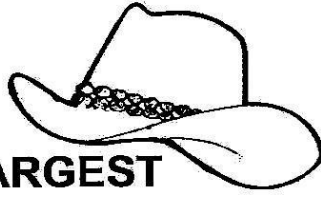
Canada and Worldwide  
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## NEW !!!

CPS members can take collections home on approval.



*Phil Wolf, proprietor, in the store*



## **CALGARY'S LARGEST STAMP SHOPPE**

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quality material.**

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and we'll make an offer.**



## **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](mailto:calphilso@shaw.ca), but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

FOR SALE: Queen Elizabeth Machins, stamps and strips of four VFNH, about \$100 face value. WANTED TO BUY: Early German and British Colonies stamps to George VI. Call Godfrey at 464-3252.

WANTED: Pilot-signed First Flight covers and also any signed material by Canadian notables. Contact Glenn at [pgdaze@gmail.com](mailto:pgdaze@gmail.com)

FOR SALE: Current Canadian stamps, very fine used. Contact Michael Teekens, 83 Headingley Road #1, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia, or [michateekens@gmail.com](mailto:michateekens@gmail.com)

WANTED: We volunteer at the MCC thrift store in Calgary. They raise money for worldwide disaster relief and are looking for donations of old albums and pages, covers, and bulk stamps. Contact Greg Lang at 282-1644 or Gerry Vader at 293-0158.

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

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

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.

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)

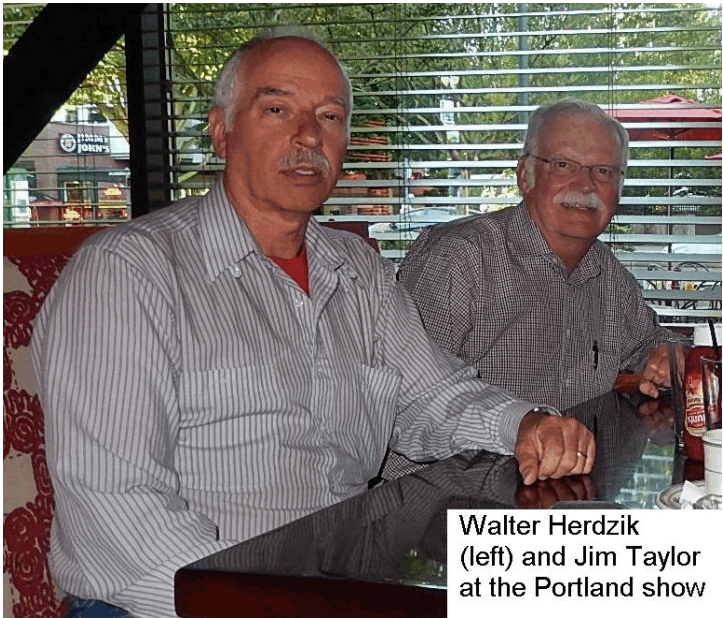
WANTED: Canadian military covers and postcards with hospital ships (white with red crosses). Contact Jon Johnson at 253-8411 or [jcjpferfins@hotmail.com](mailto:jcjpferfins@hotmail.com)

**CLUB NEWS**

The July issue of this bulletin was mailed by the Editor from Vulcan again, but this time using the Star Trek starship coil stamps and the regular postmark.

The Kerby Centre hosted its annual Stampede breakfast on July 15, and a group of CPS members enjoyed the free food and entertainment. Lots of provincial and federal politicians there, and a western band.

Dale Speirs published a postal history of Dinosaur Provincial Park in the 2016 July/August issue of CANADIAN PHILATELIST. The British North America Philatelic Society published Earle Covert's book DEVELOPMENT OF CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN AIR LETTERS 1942 TO 1996, available at [www.bnaps.org](http://www.bnaps.org).



Walter Herdzik  
(left) and Jim Taylor  
at the Portland show

**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         | Penny Borrowman   | 686-2662 |
| Webmaster          | Dave Bartlet      | 829-3580 |

## MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### 2016

|           |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September | 7        | Annual general meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|           | 7        | <b>NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!</b><br>Vehicles parked in both Kerby lots must have licence plate numbers registered inside the building at the computer terminals. This is a 24/7 policy and the CPS is not exempt. Otherwise your vehicle will be towed or clamped. |
|           | 7        | Membership dues are due!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|           | 7        | Deadline for October bulletin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|           | 14       | BNAPS Regional Group meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|           | 21       | Auction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|           | 28       | CAPE meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| October   | 5        | General meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|           | 12       | BNAPS Regional Group meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|           | 14       | CALTAPEX - show set-up 17h00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|           | 15 to 16 | CALTAPEX 2016                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|           | 16       | CALTAPEX - auction<br>lots submitted 10h00<br>auction called 13h00                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|           | 19       | Auction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|           | 26       | CAPE meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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 viewing. If you park in either of the two Kerby lots, don't forget to register your vehicle's licence plate at the computer terminals in the building.

CALTAPEX 2016 will be held in the Kerby Centre gymnasium. Details from Walter Herdzik at 238-7845.

BNAPS (Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society) meets second Wednesdays. For details, 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. For details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698.

BNAPEX 2017 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the Labour Day weekend. Details to be announced.