

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 152

December 2017



In this issue begins a multi-part series about the postal history of a Calgary film developing company, and what can be learned from thousands of its parcel tags.

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The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: 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 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.

2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

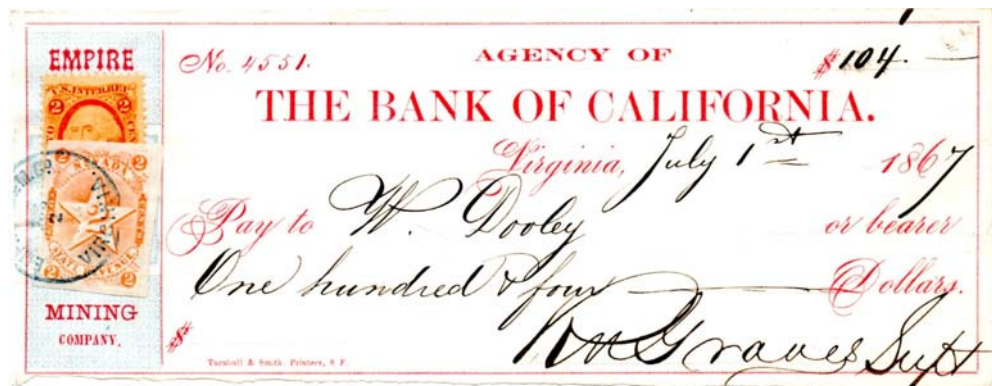
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COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons.

CANADA DAY IN NEVADA

by Murray Bialek

At our BNAPEX 2017 CALTAPEX show, I was looking through a box of dealer's covers when I came across an old U.S. cheque which I instantly purchased based on the sentimentality of its date, July 1, 1867, the day of Canada's Confederation.. The cheque has quite a number of very interesting features as follow.



Two U.S. revenue stamps. The cheque was subject to both a 2¢ Federal (George Washington portrait) and 2¢ Nevada tax, as the law was amended in 1865 to start taxing bank cheques. These stamps come with some variations in paper thickness and wide and thin lines (more research required). The stamps have an “EMPIRE M & M Co.” cancellation.

The cheque was issued by the Empire Mining Company in the amount of \$104.00. This was quite a large amount in those days. It was payable to W. Dooley and signed by R. N. Graves, the company's Superintendent.

All these cheques were printed by “Turnbull & Smith, Printers, S. F. as imprinted at the lower left bottom. This cheque is numbered #4551. I tracked down cheque #3653 dated Nov 3, 1866, and also signed by R.N. Graves. It is payable to the Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company. By comparing these two cheque numbers it can be calculated that this company wrote 898 cheques over the previous eight months.

I was also able to track down cheque #1204 issued on July 28, 1865. It is payable to E. Fitz and also signed by R. N. Graves, which indicates that 3347 cheques were issued between 1865 and 1867. Empire Mining must have been carrying out quite a lot of business!

The cheque is drawn on the Agency of the Bank of California in Virginia City, Nevada. At that time the banking centre of the Western United States was San Francisco, which was the base of the Bank of California. It opened branch operations in the Nevada mining areas to handle the needs of the booming economy and to take advantage of the huge profits being generated from the gigantic gold and silver strike called the Comstock Lode.

Gold Hill is the town just a few miles outside of Virginia City where the actual gold strikes began. At one point it had 8,000 residents. The town prospered until 1888. The Gold Hill post office remained in operation until 1943. Currently it is a ghost town. The Empire Mill and Mining Company was created in approximately 1861 in Gold Hill. It operated for several years, and in 1876 was consolidated with several other mines into the Consolidated California & Virginia Mining Company.

Robert N. Graves (1837 - ?) was born in New York. While superintendent of the Empire Mine, he built a residence at 70 South B Street in Virginia City which became known as The Castle. Started in 1863 and completed in 1868, it was patterned after a castle in Normandy, France. It featured opulent furnishings from the time period. It was once referred to as the "house of silver doorknobs". In 1876 Graves held shares of Consolidated California and Virginia Mining Company that paid \$80,000 per month in dividends.

References,

- 1) Nevada Revenue Stamped Checks, Drafts and Certificates of Deposit ---1862-1902
- 2) Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Nevada, 1865-1873
- 3) Western American Auction #11, Part 1, November 3 , 2001

PHILATELIC FICTION

by Dale Speirs

"Stamped For Death", written by Elizabeth Pennell, is a 1977 episode of the drama series CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER, available as a free mp3 from www.cbsrmt.com A millionaire stamp collector has died, leaving his estate to two quarreling sons and an elderly brother. The millionaire knew his time was coming, and converted his entire holdings into rare stamps. He leaves one stamp, a Brattleboro Provisional, to his brother Morgan and the rest of the collection to his sons Gordon and Jeremy.

The sons don't trust each other, and in any event are not interested in collecting stamps. They want it to be converted into cash, since both are in desperate need of money. The New York City stamp dealers on Nassau Street seemed like the best place to shop the collection around. The men take an airplane to the big city, with the stamp collection stored in the hold. The plane runs into trouble and crashes en route.

The men survive but the stamp collection doesn't, and they lose everything. Returning to the home town, they importune Morgan to share his stamp with him but he refuses. It turns out to be a moot point because an expertizer declared the stamp to be a worthless forgery. Morgan doesn't tell the sons that though, as he and his wife Martha want to tease them for a while. Morgan doesn't get much chance because the excitement takes him off to the next world to join his brother. Martha succumbs from the shock of Morgan's death and is not far behind to the grave. Gordon and Jeremy frantically search the house for the Brattleboro Provisional. They will never find it.

SHIPLEY PARCEL TAGS: PART 1

by Dale Speirs

Introduction.

In 2017, huge quantities of parcel tags came onto the Calgary philatelic market from a horde squirreled away by an unknown employee of Shipley Photo Service in Calgary. I was able to buy boxes of them at the monthly auctions of the Calgary Philatelic Society. I generally paid \$3 a box, with hundreds of tags in each, which proves it pays to belong to a stamp club.

These tags were used by clients of Shipley to send undeveloped rolls of film to Calgary. The clients were rural pharmacies and general stores who offered a film developing service to their local customers via Shipley. Most of the clients were in rural Alberta but there were a number of them in British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

The tags had common postage stamps on them, mostly definitives but a surprisingly large number of commemoratives and high values, depending on how many rolls of film were sent in the bag or package to which the parcel tag was attached. I bought them for my Alberta postal history collection. There were only about thirty towns represented, and about three or four types of postmarks per town, so I quickly had a surfeit of tags.

I therefore began sorting the surplus by other themes. I don't collect stamp varieties such as engraving marks or shades, but there was some interesting material in the tags by way of usages and cancel types. All of the tags are genuine commercial usage, never philatelic. All but one are addressed to Shipley in Calgary. The company also had an Edmonton branch. Where those tags ended up is unknown to me, if indeed any Edmonton employee saved them.

Shipley Photo Service.

John W.B. Shipley (1922-2001) was born in Calgary. He served in the RCAF during World War Two. Upon returning to civilian life, he took over the photofinishing operations of McDermid Drugs and transformed it into Shipley Photo Service, later opening a second plant in Edmonton. In 1985, the company closed down [1].

The Calgary tags were almost all bright yellow and pre-addressed to Shipley. They had the return address of the client store embossed by an Addressograph machine or mimeographed. That makes it very handy to determine where blind cancels such as rollers and killer corks were applied. The reverse side was blank. The yellow was printed, not part of the cardstock, because often the two sides are different shades. Shipley supplied the tags to its clients as part of its service.

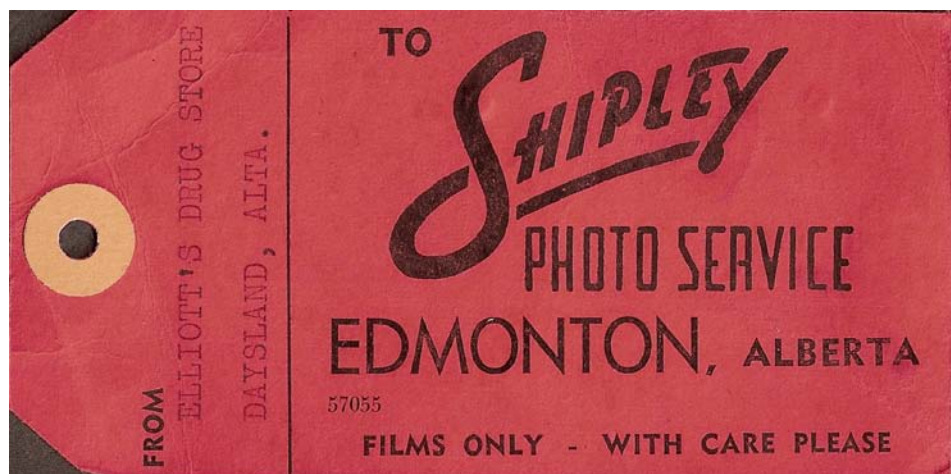
The tags were produced in large rolls. The client simply tore one off, applied the stamps, and attached the bag or packet of undeveloped rolls of film. The tags had a five-digit code somewhere on the address side which was the printer's job number and indicated what year they were produced.

A typical tag is shown in Figure 1. The stamps were sometimes applied on the address side but more typically on the blank reverse. Edmonton tags were bright red. The only example I have of an Edmonton tag, which somehow got mixed into the Calgary lots, is shown in Figure 2.



Above: Figure 1

Below: Figure 2



Over the years there were a number of variations in the tags as one might expect. All but a few had black text, but early in the company's history some tags had red text. The company seems to have initially used colour-coded tags to quickly sort incoming film. Figure 3 is a red-lettered yellow tag with a 1953 job number on the lower right corner of the tag.

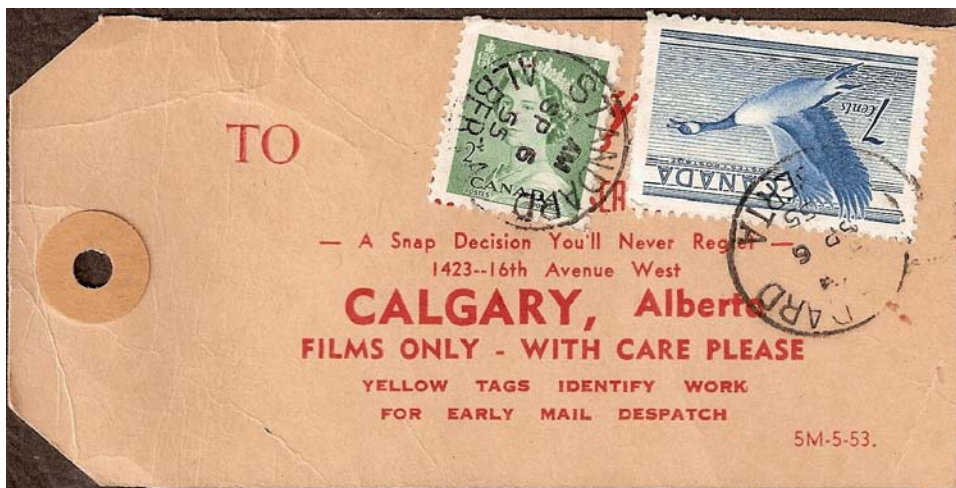
Figure 4 is from the same year but is a buff tag with a different job number. It was apparently used for lower-priority films. This system seems to have been discontinued several years later because all tags to Calgary were yellow thereafter. Figure 5 shows another variation from 1955; note the printer's job number in the lower left.



Above: Figure 3

Middle: Figure 4

Bottom: Figure 5





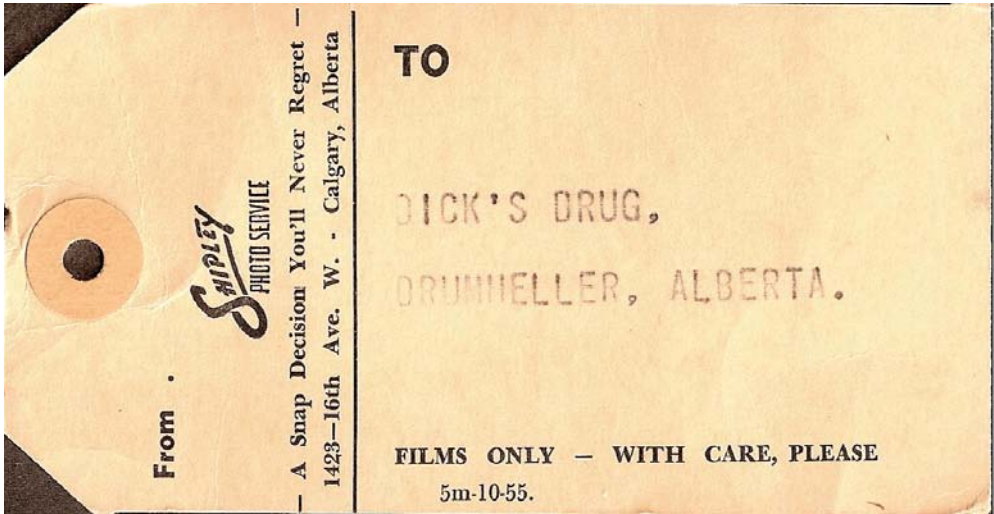
Shipley mimeographed or Addressographed its clients addresses on the rolls of tags but slipped up on one occasion. Figure 6 shows a tag with the return address of Castlegar, Alberta. This wouldn't have made any difference when the client mailed the films from British Columbia. It must have been quickly corrected because this is the only example I have. The roller cancel shows the Castlegar, B.C., postmark.

A number of tags are simply pieces of cardboard cut to shape and size and then addressed and stamped to Shipley. Evidently the client had run out of the pre-printed tags and used whatever was at hand. Some of them used miniature tags of the kind used for key tags or small items. I collect miniature envelopes and postcards, and so was delighted to add them to that collection. An example is shown in Figure 7.

*Left: Figure 6
Below: Figure 7*

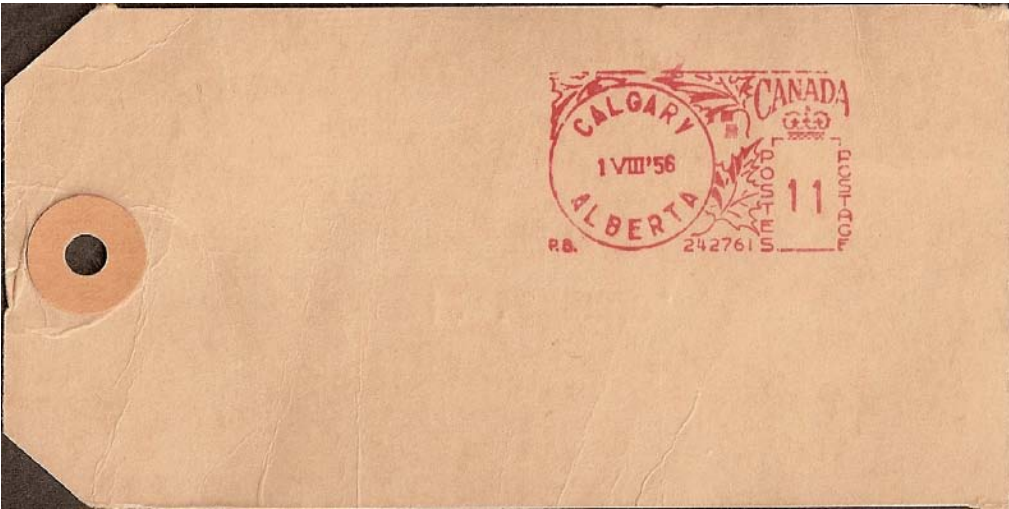


For obvious reasons, there are only a handful of tags going in the opposite direction when Shipley mailed the developed photographs back to the client. Shipley paid the postage with a meter imprint. The two sides of an example are shown in Figures 8 and 9.



Above: Figure 8

Below: Figure 9



Sometimes the client recycled the tags, such as in Figure 10 (next page), putting stamps over the Shipley meter mark. The other side of this tag has the Shipley address overwritten atop the original address.



Above: Figure 10

[to be continued]

References.

- 1] Glenbow Archives (downloaded 2017-06-10) Fonds Glen-3820, John Shipley fonds.
ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesMainSearch.aspx

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. Yahoo may require that you register but this is free and is not intrusive. No online or telephone registrations can be accepted, in order to reduce problems with spammers. Yahoo has changed its rules so that moderators can no longer sign up members. Instead, the new member must send a request to Dale, who will then approve it. That is why he needs to know your name and email address in advance.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL CONTEST

by Walter Herdzik

At the Christmas Social on December 6, there will be a clothesline competition in the following categories. Bring a one-page exhibit and win a prize!

Class 1: Ugliest, messiest, or most abused cover

Class 2: Nicest, prettiest, or most attractive cover

Class 3: Most colourful cover

Class 4: (New this year) Most interesting postcard

STUDY GROUPS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society meets second Wednesdays during the season. After a short business session, there is a presentation by someone, followed by a show-and-tell by members.

At the September 13 meeting, members heard a presentation by Dave Bartlet on the recent Kiosk stamps issued by Canada Post. Some of them are extremely scarce because they were only dispensed for a month or so, and few collectors knew about them at the time.

For the October 11 meeting, BNAPSers saw a presentation by Bill Wilson on the Incentive Letter rates of Canada Post during the 1980s and 1990s, which still continue today. Before you toss any metered mail, take a close look at the postage rate and meter markings, for they tell a story. The most common Incentive rates have markings that say either 1A or 1B.

TWO JUNIOR CLUBS NOW OPERATING

The CPS now has two Juniors clubs operating, one for the north half of the city and the other for the south half. They meet monthly September to November and January to May on second Saturdays (north side of city) and third Saturdays (south side of city). Details from Jim Senecal at 547-7681 (north side) or Patricia Prevey at 238-3435 (south side). Jim and Pat would appreciate offers of assistance in running the Juniors clubs.

OUT-OF-TOWN COWTOWN

In Adelaide, Australia, a national stamp show called STAMPEX 2017 was held October 6 to 8. Jon Johnson won Silver for his one-frame exhibit on Canadian military hospital ships. Donna Trathen won Large Vermeil for her exhibit about the photographer Christina Broom.

UNEXPO 17 was a specialized international stamp show held the weekend of October 27 and 28 in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, at the headquarters of the American Philatelic Society. It was jointly sponsored by the APS and the United Nations Philatelists, and classified as part of the World Series of Philately. Delegates from the U.N. Post Office attended. Norma Nielson won a Large Vermeil for her exhibit on the U.N. Chagall Window Issue.

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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paid-up CPS members. 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: Zillions of Stamps is a Website organized by country and catalogue number using Scott, Michel, Stanley Gibbons, or Yvert, as well as by topics such as birds, trains, Scouts, or famous people. I am one of the contributors and have listed over 35,000 worldwide items under I. Rudyk. Contact Ihor Rudyk at ivrudyk@shaw.ca or visit www.zillionsofstamps.com

FOR SALE: Stamp collector's storage cabinet; white, six drawers and six mail boxes. Drawers are divided for storing various sized covers and loose items. \$100 May be viewed on Kijiji under Hobbies. Contact Al at 282-1030 or dorandal@telus.net

FOR SALE: Seven Unity Canada stamp albums in a case. Annual pages to end of 2016. About 65% of stamp slots filled. Initial years mostly used. Recent years almost 100% mint. Price to be negotiated. Contact Al at 282-1030 or dorandal@telus.net

WANTED: Canadian perfin covers and Canadian military covers and postcards. Contact Jon Johnson at 253-8411 or jcjperfins@hotmail.com

BUY, SELL, OR TRADE: Great Britain and colonies, Canada and provinces, many other countries. Let me know interest. Robin Mitchell at (250)346-3275, mitchellcb39@gmail.com, or Box 56, Brisco, British Columbia V0A 1B0.

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

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

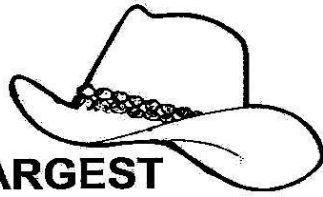
WANTED: We volunteer at the MCC thrift store in Calgary. They raise money for worldwide disaster relief and are looking for donations of old albums and pages, covers, and bulk stamps. Contact Greg Lang at 282-1644 or Gerry Vader at 293-0158.

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

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



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CLUB NEWS

The October bulletin was mailed with the 2017 QE2 booklet stamp from the Southcentre Mall retail postal outlet at Shoppers Drug Mart. The postmark has a spelling error; the name is spelled Southcenter instead of Southcentre, which is how the mall owners spell it.

The British North America Philatelic Society have made Dave Bartlet and Eldon Godfrey members of the Order of the Beaver, the society's equivalent of Fellows. Jon Johnson received the Hall of Fame award for services rendered to BNAPS.

Publications by CPS members:

Dale Speirs had an article "The Fall Of The Twin Towers" in the 2017 Sep/Oct issue of CANADIAN PHILATELIST. In that same issue was a two-page colour spread about the 95th anniversary of the CPS.

At the October 4 general meeting, the President's Pot was awarded to Mike McPhail for past services rendered. At the November 1 meeting it went to Keith C.V. Brown.

The speaker at the October 4 meeting was Peter Fleck, who spoke on Canadian stamp varieties and how to search for them. At the November 1 meeting, Hugh Delaney spoke about how the Canadian Confederation came about, illustrated by stamps and covers.

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
Juniors	Jim Senecal (north side of city)	547-7681
	Pat Prevey (south side of city)	238-3435
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

WARNING!

WARNING!

WARNING!

WARNING!

Vehicles 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 clamped or towed.

2017

November	11	Junior Club - North side meeting
	15	Auction
	18	Junior Club - South side meeting
	22	CAPE meeting
December	6	Christmas social
	13	BNAPS Regional Group

2018

January	3	General meeting
	3	Deadline for February bulletin
	10	BNAPS Regional Group
	13	Junior Club - North side meeting
	17	Auction
	20	Junior Club - South side meeting
	24	CAPE meeting
February	7	General meeting
	10	Junior Club - North side meeting
	14	BNAPS Regional Group
	17	Junior Club - South side 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.

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 September to November and January to May on second Saturdays (north side of city) and third Saturdays (south side of city). Information from Jim Senecal at 547-7681 (north side) or Pat Prevey at 238-3435 (south side).

CAPE (Calgary Association Of Philatelic Exhibitors) meets fourth Wednesdays except June to August and December. For details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698.