

# CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 178

May 2021



By middle 2020, the image of the COVID-19 coronavirus had become one of the most familiar in the world. This issue takes a look at the virus that made the mighty kneel.

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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, or hand to Dale Speirs at meetings, or email to [opuntia57@yahoo.ca](mailto:opuntia57@yahoo.ca) Please do not email other 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 can be downloaded as a free pdf from [www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com](http://www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com)

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

## COLLECTING COVID-19 STAMPS: THE CORONAVIRUS

by Dale Speirs

*Whatever it is, coronavirus has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could.* (Arundhati Roy, 2020-04-03, FINANCIAL TIMES)

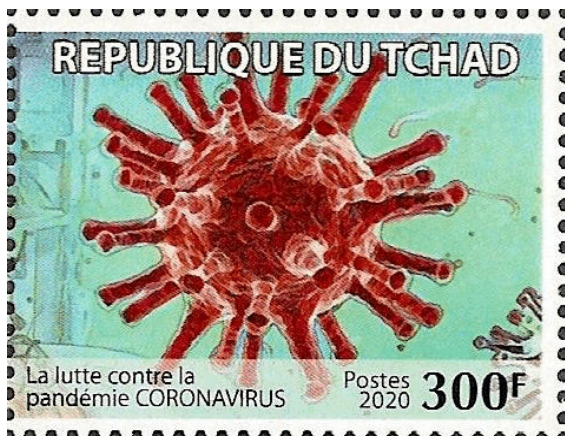
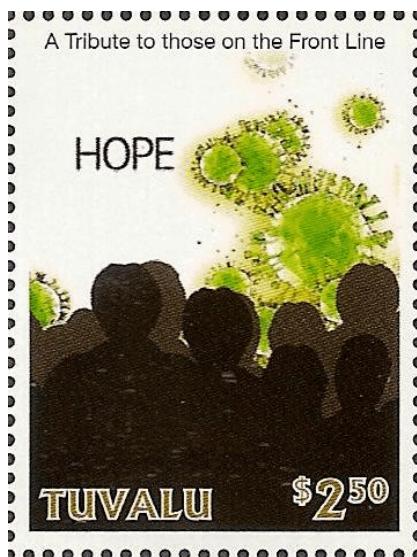
In issue #177 of this bulletin, I discussed social distancing, an outgrowth of the COVID-19 pandemic. Going back to basics, I'll start with the virus itself as depicted on stamps. (I'm using the Wikipedia article as my reference; more details there.)

The word 'corona' is Latin for 'crown' and is also used by astronomers for the outer layer of the Sun from which solar flares are constantly erupting. When these viruses were first identified in the 1960s, the images looked liked photographs of the Sun, hence the name. The spikes help the virus attach to cells without its membrane being attacked by antigens.



Iran issued the world's first stamp about COVID-19, which was also the first stamp to depict the virus. This stamp is a key issue for every topical collection on the subject.

The distinctive shape of coronaviruses has been depicted on several stamps, as shown below.



A Tribute to those on the Front Line



The Coronaviridae is the family of coronaviruses, which are RNA-based and include the common cold and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). This is a relatively new family of viruses, dated back to about 10,000 years ago, and is still rapidly evolving in mammals.

The newer a virus is, the more dangerous it is, because the host hasn't yet developed immunity. The common cold is mild for most humans because it has been around for millennia, while the SARS viruses have only just recently leaped from bats to humans via intermediate species of mammals.

COVID-19 is the disease, while the virus is called SARS-CoV-2. The original SARS virus, known as SARS-CoV, did not spread easily, nor does the other current novel coronavirus MERS-CoV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome).

SARS-CoV-2, however, does spread quite easily, which is why it caused a pandemic, while the original SARS virus did not. The second virus has now mutated into new variants which spread even faster.



The image of the coronavirus is easily adapted to signify its planet-spanning spread, as shown here in stylized depictions.

## LOOK AGAIN, LOOKING BACK: PART 4

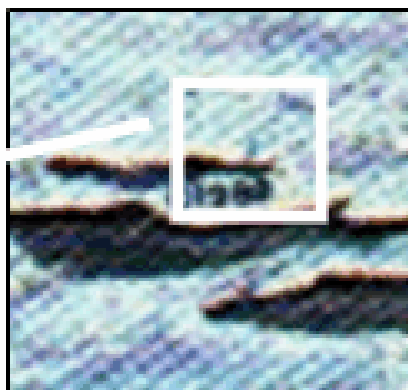
by Tony Doughty

[Parts 1 to 3 appeared in CALGARY PHILATELIST #168, 172, and 174.]

Here is yet another EFO to watch for (Figure 1). What looks like a small icicle appears on one of the Canadian Eskimo Dog stamps (Unitrade 1219). The icicle appears slightly above the copyright date to the lower left of the dog. I call this EFO the “Icicle in the Snow” variety, and have 24 examples in my collection, including on one stamp in the upper right corner plate block.



*Above: Figure 1*



*Below: Figure 2*



The 14¢ Inuit Travel “Dog Team and Sled” stamp (Unitrade 772) shows an interesting EFO on the flank of the rightmost dog (Figure 2). I call this the “Broken Harness” fault, a small lasso shaped “string” appears superimposed on the dog’s left flank. I have accumulated six of these “Broken Harness” stamps in my philatelic collection since the issue date in 1984..

[continued next page]

Frances Ann Hopkins was one of western Canada’s pioneer artists and was honoured by Canada Post on November 18, 1988, with the issue of a stamp under the Canadian Personalities series (Figure 3). (Unitrade 1227). One of these stamps shows an EFO that I call the “Feather on the Voyager’s Hat” variety. I have three of these varieties in my philatelic hoard.



Above: Figure 3

Below: Figure 4



Figure 4 appears to be a progressive error on the “Simon Fraser”, Exploration of Canada #3 stamp (Unitrade 1201, Page 262). The tail of the Q in PACIFIQUE is severely diminished, or completely missing – appearing as PACIFIOUE. This must be a common error in that I have accumulated 16 stamps with the tail completely missing, and a few with the diminished tail, since the stamp’s introduction in 1988.

The “Bug on Leaf” variant of the Wildlife Conservation stamp Duck Landing (Unitrade 1204I, Page 263) is well documented. But here is an undocumented variant that I call the “Grass in the Marsh” variety (Figure 5). Consisting of a small lasso shaped image projecting vertically to the left of the left-most cattail leaf, it can be seen clearly with the unaided eye. I have accumulated three of these variants in my stamp hoard



*Figure 5*

## **IN MEMORIAM: LINDA CONNOLLY (1961-2021)**

On March 28 the CPS Librarian, Linda Connolly, lost a brief struggle with aggressive cancer. She was survived by her son and various family relatives. Linda was a leader in the local Scouts movement and involved herself in community association activities.

Her son Thomas forwarded her stamp collection, 20 boxes of albums, to Penny Borrowman and Pat Prevey to break up for sale at CPS 2022 BNAPEX. Proceeds will go to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Linda joined the CPS in 1990. She worked many years behind the scenes as an assistant librarian before becoming Head Librarian in 2019. She was a Director from 2003 to 2005. She was active with the north-side junior stamp club. In 2006 she was given the Dr E.G. Mason Award and made a Life Member in 2018.

# GIMME THAT OLD TIME RADIO

by Dale Speirs

Broadcast radio began in the 1920s, flowered in the 1930s, and reached its peak in the 1940s. Mass-market television began in 1948 and quickly stole listeners from radio programmes. By 1955, radio shows were dead, replaced by music, deejay chatter, and talk shows. The radio era between 1930 and 1955 is referred to as old-time radio (OTR).

Until about a decade ago, old-time radio collectors had to buy their favourite programmes on tape, an expensive and bulky way to collect. The advent of the mp3 meant that collectors could store radio shows on a computer hard drive or a memory stick.

The Website [www.otrrlibrary.org](http://www.otrrlibrary.org) has thousands of old-time radio shows available as free mp3s. It is operated by the Old Time Radio Researchers group, who spend countless hours sorting out old tapes, converting them to mp3s, and preparing them for distribution. Comedy, mystery, science fiction, and drama shows are available for endless hours of free listening. Some of the old-time radio shows have philatelic or postal plots, and herewith are a few.

“The Man With The Third Green Eye” was a 1948 episode from the action-adventure radio series I LOVE ADVENTURE, written by Sidney Marshall. Private detectives Capt. Jack Packard and his English sidekick Reggie Yorke were hired to find a stolen 4-cent stamp, used to mail a letter from the Philippines to an American government agency. On the back of the stamp was a map showing some newly discovered deposits of uranium ore. The man who drew the stamp had been murdered. Their job: find the stamp.

The only clue they had was that the agent who had the stamp was in San Francisco and was known as The Man With The Third Green Eye. Off they went by train to the city. In their private compartment they found a jolly fat man, obviously imitating Sydney Greenstreet, who said he was a philatelist who would meet them again in San Francisco.

He then excused himself and departed. A moment after he left, the men noticed blood stains on the floor. Under the seat was the body of a man who had a tattoo of a postage stamp on his forearm. No sooner had they found the body than the state police burst in and tried to arrest them for murder. Obviously Packard and Yorke were set up to take the rap for the murder and prevent them from finding the stamp.

They escaped and made their way to the fat man’s house in San Francisco. He wasn’t at home, so they let themselves in and began searching the house. On a desk in the library was a stamp album. There is no better place to hide a stamp than amidst hundreds of others. While they searched, they were gassed unconscious.

They regained consciousness on board a ship in San Francisco harbour. The estranged wife of the fat man told them they could find both the stamp and The Man With The Third Green Eye in a waterfront tavern called The Rusty Sword. She wanted them to retrieve the stamp and bring it back to her ship, otherwise she would inform state police of their whereabouts.

In the tavern, they met the fat man again. The Man With The Third Green Eye turned out to be an Arab who wore a turban with a large green emerald set in it. He was about to auction the stamp in a back room filled with international spies. Packard and Yorke got into a scuffle with the fat man and killed him with his own gun. They then grabbed the stamp off the auctioneer's podium and made a run for it. The widow didn't mourn the death of her husband. She told them to take the stamp to their bosses.

This script was repeated in a 1952 episode of the radio series THE MAN CALLED X. The series was a spy action-adventure aired as the Red Scare was peaking. The script itself was modified to make the enemies into Soviet spies. The episode was titled "The Ha'penny Stamp". This time the venue was Egypt and the stamp had details about Iranian oilfields. The heroes were British government agents. The train incident happened on the track to Port Said, in whose harbour the story finished up. The stamp was recovered from a man who wore a turban with a green emerald in it.

FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY was an old-time radio comedy that ran from 1935 to 1953 as a half-hour show before a live audience. The episodes were mostly written by Don Quinn.

"The One Hundred Thousand Dollar Stamp" was a 1950 episode that began with the McGees talking to Mayor LaTriva about hobbies. He mentioned that he collected stamps, which got Fibber reminiscing about his boyhood collection. Fibber mentioned that he had all kinds of strange stamps including a red six-sided one-cent stamp from somewhere in South America.

The philatelic listener will recognize immediately, as did LaTrivia, that this was a British Guiana magenta. The mayor told Fibber the stamp was worth \$100,000. This triggered off a search of the McGee house for the stamp album but was fruitless. Fibber then remembered he had given it to a friend because he thought the collection was worthless.

This set off a mad rush about town, tracking the stamp album from one person to the next. The final recipient was a little girl named Teeny, who told the McGees that she had given the album to a classmate. Shortly after she had done so, the boy's family suddenly came into money, lots of it, and they had left town for points unknown. Teeny's punch line was that as the family had driven out of town in a chauffeured limousine, they blew kisses at the post office as they went past it.

A funny episode for the philatelist, although the obvious question was whatever happened to that second British Guiana magenta.

YOURS TRULY, JOHNNY DOLLAR was an radio series about an insurance investigator named Johnny Dollar. It first aired 1949 and was the last OTR show in existence when it signed off in 1962. Each episode opened with Dollar getting a telephone call from an insurance company, wanting him to look into a suspicious claim.

Dollar traveled all over the USA on commission and was known as the man with the action-packed expense account. Each scene began with him quoting a line item from his

expense account. The running gag was that he shamelessly padded the account. Occasionally he would have to argue with the insurance company about an expense, but usually managed to get it through. One episode took place within walking distance of his office in Hartford, Connecticut, which frustrated him because he couldn't submit an expense account for anything.

"The P.O. Matter" was a 1960 episode written by Jack Johnstone. Dollar was reluctantly dragged into investigating a \$75,000 heist by a thief known to NYPD police. The problem was, the loot wasn't on him. The thief was heading back home to California. He got a smart lawyer to spring him from New York City jail because he had a good alibi and there was no proof that he had the money.

Dollar not only tracked him back to California, he took the same plane and sat next to him. The thief taunted him. Searching the man and his luggage produced nothing. On arrival in California, Dollar suddenly realized there was one method of getting the cash across the continent, in a self-addressed parcel mailed at the post office. He reached the local post office at the same time as the thief, grabbed the package out of his hand, and it was game over.

## **NEW CPS LIBRARIAN NEEDED**

by Penny Borrowman

Due to the retirement (after 30 years) of Penny Borrowman and the untimely passing of Linda Connolly, the CPS needs new library staff. Questions and suggestions can be sent to Penny at [stampbuddy.pb@gmail.com](mailto:stampbuddy.pb@gmail.com)

The librarian's duties are:

To keep the cabinet keys safe and be early to unlock the library and lock the cabinet again at the end of every general meeting.

To keep an eye on the collection and obtain newer editions of relevant catalogues and reference books.

To keep track of all borrows and returns each general meeting and make sure the books are in the cabinet in an easy-to-track location.

To follow up on members who have not returned material, and to arrange for the return of said materials.

To be able to help members locate information of their collecting interests or reading enjoyment.

To ensure all periodical subscriptions are kept up to date and renewed on time to keep the issues flowing. Periodicals are stamped and put out on the table by the door for members to borrow and return to the table at a later meeting.

## ZOOM MEETINGS

All Zoom meetings are free. They can be viewed on smartphones, tablets, or laptops. Members will receive an email the day before with a link in the message. Click on the link 10 minutes before the meeting begins and Zoom will automatically connect you. Technical help is available from Dave Bartlet at [dave.bartlet@shaw.ca](mailto:dave.bartlet@shaw.ca)

**CAPE:** The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors met on March 24 with 12 participants. Moderator Dave Russum began with news of virtual stamp shows around the world. All of these fill up rapidly for exhibiting, so if you are thinking of displaying in any particular show, then get your entry in early.

Norma Nielson, who is an accredited judge, spoke on the problems of judging mixed exhibits. She used as an example a one-frame display in an eastern Canadian online show which had a mixture of photos, a passport, cachets, and medals. She remarked: *"If we get exhibitors to read the manual, that's a good step in the right direction."*

Ray Villeneuve discussed a one-frame online exhibit he is in the process of preparing and some of the problems in organizing it. Don Wilson showed off a custom-made Sudan stamp album he printed when he was a boy, using his family's printing press.

**Show Committee:** This club will be 100 years old next year. The Show Committee held a meeting on March 31 with 16 participants to continue planning for a national-level show on the weekend of September 1 to 4, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. By then the pandemic will definitely be over. Extensive business details were discussed, amongst which was the decision to name the show CPS 2022 BNAPEX, with the theme "100 years of stamp collecting in Calgary".

**CPS:** The monthly general meeting of the CPS was held on April 7 with 21 participants and club president Erika Peter presiding. After the usual business session, she presented the President's Pot to Dale Speirs for taking this bulletin to monthly frequency for the duration of the pandemic and funding the extra costs. The presentation was by Ed Kroft on the high-value Ivri Doar issues of Israel.

**BNAPS:** The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society met on April 14 with 19 participants. For more information about the regional group, contact [dave.bartlet@shaw.ca](mailto:dave.bartlet@shaw.ca). The meeting began with a brief review of online stamp shows coming up in 2021, with lots of exhibits and Zoom seminars, including a virtual BNAPEX 2021 out of Winnipeg but open to anyone.

Gary Tomasson and Jon Johnson spoke on Canadian perfins, which began in 1895. There are numerous fake OHMS perfins created in the 1950s and distributed by Roy Wrigley and Fred Eaton out of Vancouver. Johnson observed that as he examined collections over the years, the further away from Vancouver they were, the higher the proportion of genuine stamps. To help collectors, a free pdf catalogue is available from [www.bnaps.org](http://www.bnaps.org) under the Publications tab.

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*Phil Wolf, proprietor, in the store*

## 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:** Contact Penny Borrowman at 403-667-1543 or email stampbuddy.pb@gmail.com Price reduced for multiple item purchase.

1) Set of CHINA PHILATELY magazines. Complete run of 1983 to 1998. 96 items, 6 issues per year. All in English, all in excellent condition. \$100 if you can pick up, postage added if they must be mailed.

2) ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF THE LOCAL POSTAL SURCHARGE LABELS AND RECEIPTS OF HUBEI PROVINCE, PRC \$10.

3) PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA OFFICIALLY SEALED LABELS, first supplement \$10.

4) NOTES ON THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF CHINA, 1878-97 \$7.

5) MONOGRAPHIE DES GRANDS DRAGONS DE CHANGHAI 2nd ed. Updated and expanded \$20.

**WANTED:** Calgary Stampede covers, letterhead and collections. Please contact Dave Freeman at 403-281-0500 or email at dfreeman@latitude.ca

**WANTED:** Italian or French colonies pre-independence, Western Europe pre-1940, British colonies pre-QE2, Australian States. Call Jim Senecal at 547-7681.

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

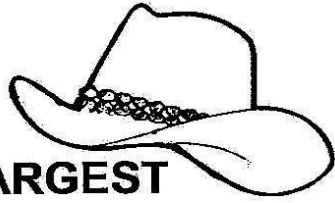
**BUY, SELL, OR TRADE:** Great Britain and colonies, Canada and provinces, many other countries. Let me know interest. Robin Mitchell at (250)346-3275, mitchellcb39@gmail.com, or Box 56, Brisco, British Columbia V0A 1B0.

**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, 912 Olympia Crescent SE, Calgary, T2C 1G7, 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.



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

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## CLUB NEWS

The April issue of this bulletin was mailed with the crabapple flower commemoratives. It was sent on March 22 from the Woodbine Shoppers Drug Mart RePO at Woodview Drive SW and Woodfield Drive.

Publications by CPS members:

The March 30 issue of CANADIAN STAMP NEWS carried an extensive front-page report about Dave Bartlet's COVID-19 covers for cancelled stamp shows.

That same issue of CSN also had a full-page review of Earle Covert's two new books on modern Canadian postal stationery.

## CIRCUIT BOOKS

by Larry Tweedale

Circuit book exchanges will continue through May before closing for the year-end in June. Please contact me at 403-282-9726 to let me know what your collecting interests are. We can then arrange a pick-up time using my mailbox. Hopefully in the summer and beyond, I can have visitors again at my house.

New books are still required, especially for September. Blank books are only \$1 each. Very recent Canada, as well as Great Britain and British Commonwealth are in demand, however all countries are welcome. I hope to hear from you soon!

## COMMITTEES

|                    |                                  |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Archives           | Dale Speirs                      | opuntia57@yahoo.ca   |
| Auctions - regular | Doug Kollar                      | 547-3838             |
| - silent           | Mike McPhail                     | 239-9730             |
| Bulletin - Editor  | Dale Speirs                      | opuntia57@yahoo.ca   |
| Circuit books      | Larry Tweedale                   | 282-9726             |
| Communications     | Peter Fleck                      | pcf1@telus.net       |
| Juniors            | Jim Senecal (north side of city) | 547-7681             |
|                    | Pat Prevey (south side of city)  | 238-3435             |
| Library            | vacant                           |                      |
| Life Members       | Janice Brookes                   | 251-1769             |
| Membership         | Murray Bialek                    | 241-2006             |
| Programmes         | vacant                           |                      |
| Show Committee     | Walter Herdzik                   | herdzikw@shaw.ca     |
| Webmaster          | Dave Bartlet                     | dave.bartlet@shaw.ca |

## MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

**All events are conditional due to the pandemic.** Watch the CPS Website for breaking announcements ([www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com](http://www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com)). If you are unfamiliar with Zoom software, advice can be had from Dave Bartlet at [dave.bartlet@shaw.ca](mailto:dave.bartlet@shaw.ca)

### 2021

|           |    |                                         |
|-----------|----|-----------------------------------------|
| April     | 28 | CAPE meeting - via Zoom                 |
| May       | 5  | General meeting - via Zoom              |
|           | 12 | BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom |
|           | 19 | Deadline for June bulletin              |
|           | 26 | CAPE meeting - via Zoom                 |
| June      | 2  | General meeting - via Zoom              |
|           | 9  | BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom |
|           | 16 | Deadline for July bulletin              |
| July      | 21 | Deadline for August bulletin            |
| August    | 18 | Deadline for September bulletin         |
| September | 1  | Annual general meeting - via Zoom       |
|           | 8  | BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom |
|           | 15 | Deadline for October bulletin           |
|           | 22 | CAPE meeting - via Zoom                 |
| October   | 6  | General meeting - via Zoom              |
|           | 13 | BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom |
|           | 20 | Deadline for November bulletin          |
|           | 27 | CAPE meeting - via Zoom                 |

GENERAL MEETINGS are by Zoom until further notice. Paid-up CPS members will receive emails with meeting links the day before.

BNAPS (Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society) meets second Wednesdays via Zoom. For details, contact Dave Bartlet at [dave.bartlet@shaw.ca](mailto:dave.bartlet@shaw.ca).

JUNIOR CLUB meetings cancelled until further notice. 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 via Zoom. For details, contact Dave Russum at [russumd@telusplanet.net](mailto:russumd@telusplanet.net)