

CALGARY PHILATELIST

December 2022

Issue 197



Caribou, also known as reindeer, are discussed by Tony Doughty as a seasonal topic.

Calgary Philatelist is published by the Calgary Philatelic Society. It is copyright by the CPS, except signed articles, which are copyright by the authors. Written permission is required to reprint articles.

Membership dues for the season are \$25, plus an administrative 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 Website is: www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com

Articles or advertisements should be sent to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, 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 only. Small ads and articles as hardcopy, plain text file, WordPerfect, or MS Word format only. No Apple formats such as .page can be used. Mail to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or hand to Dale Speirs at meetings, or email to 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

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Past President	Jim Senecal	547-7681
President	Murray Bialek	241-2006
Vice President	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Secretary	Donna Trathen	272-0804
Treasurer	Cary Hatcher	335-3095
Directors - ex officio, Past President	Jim Senecal	547-7681
- ex officio, Life Members	Janice Brookes	251-1769
- 1 st year	Dave Bartlet	829-3580
- 1 st year	Larry Tweedale	282-9726
- 2 nd year	Wayne Dwyer	519-3836
- 2 nd year	Dwayne Eadie	236-5036
- 2 nd year	James Dunphy	james.dunphy@mac.com

COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons.

RANGIFER TARANDUS: A SPECIES IN DECLINE

by Tony Doughty

Inspired by a story in CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC concerning the decline of caribou of Canada [1], I decided to look at Canadian stamps depicting these majestic animals. Caribou are an iconic symbol of Canada's north. They have evolved over tens of thousands of years to specialized physical adaptations to their harsh northern environment; and are very proficient economizing available resources to master survival. More commonly known as reindeer, these iconic animals are in serious decline.

Reindeer are circumpolar in Canada, inhabiting the arctic tundra, subarctic taiga, boreal coniferous forests, alpine tundra, and sub-alpine forest zones. Areas of increasing human economic exploitation (such as logging, oil and gas exploration, mining and unfortunately forest and tundra fires) and accessibility (roads, electrical utility and pipeline distribution networks, seismic lines and airports) are causing loss of solitude, interruption of migratory routes, and loss of wildlife habitat for these majestic animals.



It has been estimated that at the turn of the 20th century the barren-ground caribou alone numbered in excess of 2.5 million animals. By 1955, this had declined to 279,000 animals.

In 1974, it was estimated that woodland caribou had declined to about 43,000 beasts.

In 1986 the Bathurst Caribou herd numbered nearly 500,000 animals, spanning the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, northern Alberta and northern

Saskatchewan. By 2018, the herd's population was about 8,000 animals. The Peary caribou, pictured on the Canadian Mammals stamp (Unitrade 1180) and inhabiting northern Canada on the Queen Elizabeth Islands, Banks Island and Victoria Islands, is now believed to have declined to less than 13,000 animals.

[continued next page]



Although considered primitive members of the deer family, caribou have adapted to their environment in remarkable ways.

Masters of the cold, their coats are composed of hollow furs providing abundant insulation. Because of the insulating properties of this pelage, indigenous peoples of the North used the caribou hides for

clothing, bedding and shelter. Caribou meat was used for sustenance by indigenous peoples.

Subsisting in the winter mainly on “junk” food each caribou consumes about 4.5kg of lichens a day. Lichens provide little food value, so the caribou digestive systems have evolved to consume their own urea. They supplement their lichen diets with sedges and small twigs.

Summer diets are supplemented with grasses, mushrooms, forbs and vetches. They are not entirely herbivorous and are thought to eat the occasional lemming or gnaw on discarded antlers (shed by bucks in early winter and by cows at the end of May or beginning of June, the calving season) for their mineral content.

For traction in the snowy, icy conditions of their winter habitat, caribou have evolved a method of changing their tires. In summer, their hoofs are adapted to enlarged soft pads, but in winter, bony segments extend down each side of the hooves for traction, while the pads retract for protection.



Relatively short lived, the average reindeer lives to an age of about 4 to 5 years, although individual animals have been recorded living to an age of 13 years. Predation by wolves and, occasionally by bear, wolverine and lynx, constitute major factors in the northern animal food chain and caribou decline.



Does attain sexual maturity at about 16 months of age, bulls a little older. Rutting occurs in October and November with a gestational period of seven-and-a-half to eight months allowing birth in late May to early June, usually to a single fawn.



A newborn calf can stand, albeit on very wobbly legs, and walk with a hopping gait 30 minutes after birth.

They can run after about 90 minutes and can outrun a person when only one day old. Newborns suckle about two to four hours after birth, and start to graze about two week after birth.

[continued next page]

Canada has produced several stamps depicting caribou, starting in 1956 the Wildlife stamp (Unitrade 360); the Peary Caribou stamp in 1990 (Unitrade 1180); the Arctic booklet (Unitrade 1574, Booklet 184); the Baby Wildlife stamps (Unitrade 2504b, 2507 and 2510); the cartoon-like Christmas stamps starting in 2013 with the Cross-stitched Reindeer (Unitrade 2687b and 2690); and in 2017 the Christmas Animals (Unitrade 3045c and 3049).

Fortunately, one of the *R. tarandus* reindeer species continues to flourish in isolation. Know by me as sub-species *Rudolphus* and sub-sub-species *Rosy-nosy*. This reindeer is confined to regions of the globe unidentifiable by COSEWIC.

Once a year, *Rudolphus Rosy-nosy* emerges on a spectacular overnight global circumnavigation. This appearance is so rare, and consistent, that NORAD annually tracks the route taken by *Rudolphus Rosy-nosy*. This reindeer has but one purpose in life, to deliver treats and presents to good girls and boys, or ladies and gentlemen of all ages.



Seasons greetings. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. May 2023 be your best philatelic year ever, and your collection evolve beyond expectations. I sincerely hope you will find those elusive stamps needed to compliment your collection. Please frequent our philatelic dealers and our support institutions before they too suffer the demise of the caribou.

References.

- 1] A. Mitchell and P Mather (2021 Sep/Oct) An Empty Landscape. CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC Pages 34 to 44
- 2] A.W.F. Banfield (1974) THE MAMMALS OF CANADA National Museum of Natural Sciences. University of Toronto Press.
- 3] THE CANADIAN ENCYCLOPAEDIA (1985) Volume 1. Hurtig Publishers Ltd.

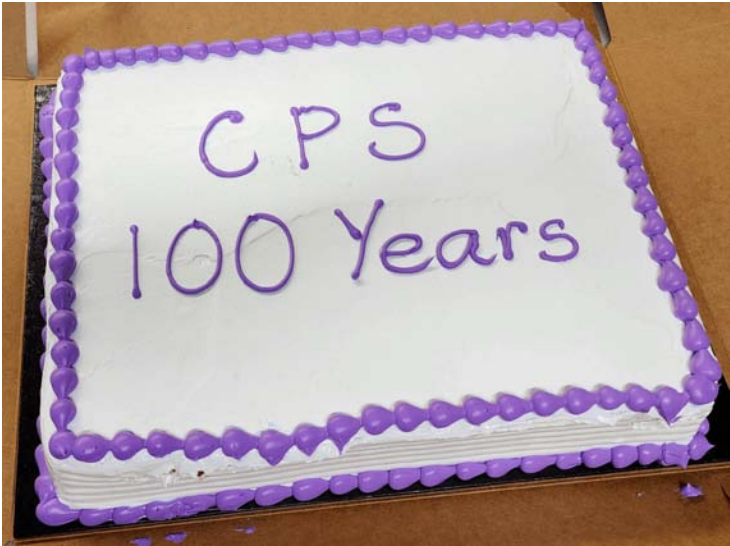
CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 2022

The final event of the year for the CPS was the Christmas Social on December 7 with a potluck supper, clothesline exhibits, a quiz, and a costume contest. 30 or so members and spouses attended and the proverbial good time was had by all.

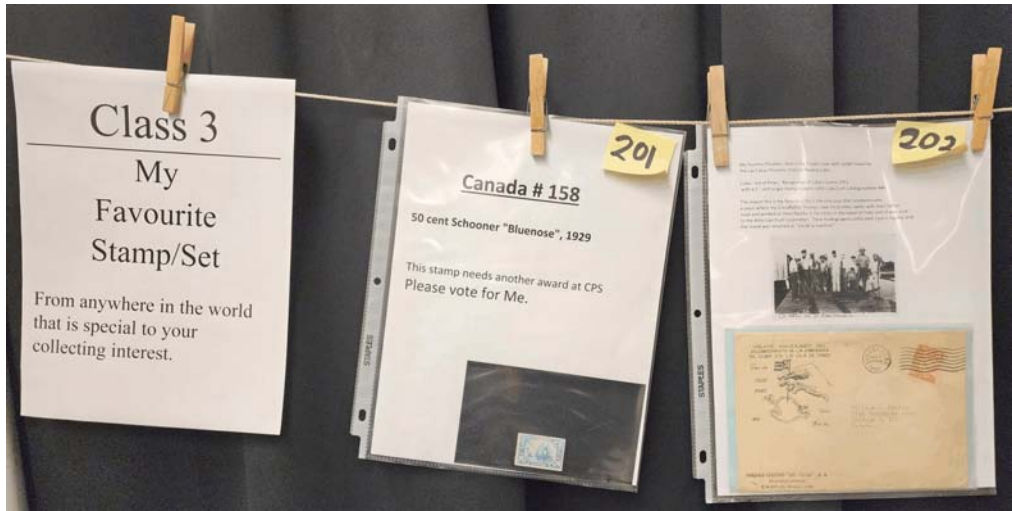


The Founders' Award for 2021-22 was given to the entire CPS 2022 BNAPEX committee. There can be no doubt that the big show on the Labour Day weekend was the highlight of the CPS centennial year. It would be invidious to pick any one individual on the committee since so many people put so many hours into preparing for the show. This is the first time the award has been granted to a group.

The party featured one final birthday cake for the CPS, shown here being cut by Murray Bialek.



In the clothesline exhibits, the winners were as follow:
Class 1: Worst stamp design - Dave Russum
Class 2: Postal system failures - Milton Lowe
Class 3: My favourite stamp set - Milton Lowe



Top: The Christmas costume contest
Bottom: Happy eaters



MEMBERS' BOURSE NIGHT IN JANUARY

by Jim Senecal

(403) 547-7681 or jsenecal@telusplanet.net

On the normal CPS auction night, January 18, there will be a members table night to allow those who wish to sell their extras and accumulations to other members. Tables will be \$5 each and can be reserved by contacting Jim Senecal. The event is scheduled between 19h00 until 21h00.

CALGARY BNAPS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society held its monthly meeting on November 9 via Zoom. Dave Bartlet was the host and there were 15 participants from across Canada and the Caribbean. BNAPS is devoted to the study of Canadian stamps and postal history, plus the pre-Confederation provinces that had their own post offices. For more information, visit www.bnaps.org

The theme of the meeting was Remembrance Day. Doug Lingard began by showing the National War Memorial stamp issued in May 1939. He showed the stamp on proofs, as varieties, and postal history thereof.

That stamp was printed in two colours, for which the next presenter Mark Oakley showed how the central vignette shifted up or down during the printing process. As a result, the stamp can be found in ten varieties, with 0 to 9 steps at the base of the monument visible depending on how far down the vignette was shifted.

Dave Bartlet showed the Picture Postage poppy stamp produced for the CPS 2022 BNAPEX show in honour of John McCrae. A few mint booklets and covers are still available. Contact him at (403) 829-3580 or dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

Dale Speirs showed Remembrance-related covers on modern junk mail and mail art. Eldon Godfrey then illustrated slogan cancels for Armistice/Remembrance Day since 1919. Jon Johnson displayed a turned cover sent in February 1945, made from a sugar package wrapping and mailed on board a merchant freighter during a convoy run.

Ray Villeneuve showed postal and philatelic items relating to Dr John McCrae. Murray Bialek mentioned how on a trip to the National War Museum he discovered that on November 11, sunlight shines through the front doors onto the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Off topic but of interest anyway was Arnie Janson's presentation on Canada Pence stamp varieties such as re-entries and die cracks.

SELECT STAMPS AND COVERS

#107B Westview Heights,
825 - 8 Avenue SW, T2P 2T3

(403) 264-1551 or selstamps@telus.net

Canada and Worldwide
Stamps and Covers

20% discount on foreign stamps and collections
for CPS members

Good stock of better Canada



Philip Wolf, proprietor, in his 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 email to opuntia57@yahoo.ca. Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain Time.

TRADE WANTED: Interested in trading stamps? I have older Canada, British Commonwealth, and some worldwide stamps to trade. Email Dwayne Eadie at deadie@telus.net for a listing of available stamps and my want list in Excel format.

FOR SALE: Danish West Indies. Call Henning at 271-2596

WANTED: Helper to prepare eBay listings for stamp store. Contact Philip Wolf at 264-1551 or selstamp@telus.net

FOR SALE: Set of CHINA PHILATELY magazines from 1983 to 1998. In English, complete run of 96 issues. Price negotiable. Contact Penny Borrowman at (403) 667-1543 or email pkborrowman@yahoo.ca

WANTED: "A Beginner's Stamp Album" with letters in a black frame on a blue background. Produced by Hilroy 1960s. Call Milton at 403-797-6644.

FOR SALE: The Commonwealth Collection 14th March 1983 limited edition issued by the Commonwealth Secretariat. Certificate of authenticity and a letter from Queen Elizabeth. Hard cover book in a sleeve, mint condition. Souvenir Collection of postage Stamps of Canada from year 1979 to 1991. Books are in mint condition, most unopened. Prices vary depending on the year. Call Willi at 519-381-9203

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

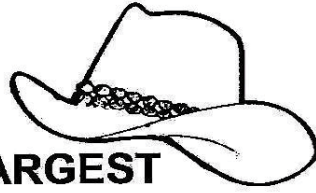
WANTED: Italian or French colonies pre-independence, Western Europe pre-1940, British colonies pre-QE2, Australian States. Call Jim Senecal at 547-7681.

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

FOR SALE: Current Canadian stamps, very fine used. Contact Michael Teekens, 912 Olympia Crescent SE, Calgary, T2C 1G7, or michateekens@gmail.com

ZOOM MEETINGS

Zoom software is free and can be viewed on laptops, smartphones, or tablets, regardless of operating system. It is best to view the meeting on Wifi. If you use your data allowance, a typical meeting consumes about 200 megabytes per half-hour. For technical assistance, please contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca



CALGARY'S LARGEST STAMP SHOPPE

R.D. MINER PHILATELICS

STAMPEDE CITY STAMPS

(403) 233-7541

rdminer@telus.net

1613 - 14 Street SW, ground floor

Parking at rear, off 16 Avenue.

Bus routes 2, 6, 7, and 22 stop by the building.

Open Monday thru Saturday.

We carry a full selection of supplies.



CLUB NEWS

The November issue of this bulletin was mailed on November 7 from the Crowfoot RePO (Shoppers Drug Mart). The Sgt Tommy Prince Remembrance Day stamp was used.

The CPS is a chapter of the American Philatelic Society. Among other activities, the APS has an annual competition for local club newsletters and websites. For 2022, the CALGARY PHILATELIST won a Vermeil award and the CPS website a Large Vermeil.



COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	opuntia57@yahoo.ca
Auctions - 1 st Wednesday	Mike McPhail	239-9730
- 3 rd Wednesday	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	opuntia57@yahoo.ca
Circuit books	Larry Tweedale	282-9726
Communications	Peter Fleck	peterfleck@telus.net
Juniors	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Library	Donna Trathen	272-0804
Life Members	Janice Brookes	251-1769
Membership	Murray Bialek	241-2006
Programmes	Dave Russum	284-4775
Show Committee	Walter Herdzik	238-7845
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2023

January	4	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	4	Deadline for January bulletin
	11	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	18	Members' bourse - Kerby Centre
	25	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
February	1	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	1	Deadline for February bulletin
	8	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	15	Auction - Kerby Centre
	22	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
March	1	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	1	Deadline for March bulletin
	8	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	15	Auction - Kerby Centre
	22	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
April	5	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	5	Deadline for April bulletin
	12	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	15 to 16	Spring Bourse - Kerby Centre
	19	Auction - Kerby Centre
	26	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
May	3	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	3	Deadline for May bulletin
	10	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom

Vehicles in both Kerby parking 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.

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

BNAPS (Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society) meets via Zoom on second Wednesdays. Contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca.

CAPE (Calgary Association Of Philatelic Exhibitors) meets via Zoom on fourth Wednesdays. For details, contact Dave Russum at russumd@telusplanet.net

Junior Club meetings information from Jim Senecal at 403-547-7681.