

CALGARY PHILATELIST

May 2024

Issue 214



2024 is the centennial of the formation of the Royal Canadian Air Force from older units.

Their aerial acrobatic team Snowbirds has been honoured philatelically in past years. More inside.

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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 \$15 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

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COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons.

CENTENNIAL OF ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

In 1920, the Canadian Air Force was formed, a part-time mostly civilian group. In 1924 the group was re-organized into a full-time regular force, marking the birth of the RCAF. Dave Bartlet produced the cover shown below and also overprinted a sheetlet of stamps previously issued in honour of the RCAF.

100th Anniversary RCAF 1 April 2024



The Canadian Air Force (CAF), founded in 1920 was designated Royal Canadian Air Force one hundred years ago on 1 April 1924.

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ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF
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ÉMIS À L'OCCASION DU
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THE CPS AND THE RCAF

by Dale Speirs

In looking over stamps related to the RCAF, I was reminded that at least two CPS members flew combat missions during World War Two. These stamps remind me of them.



Gordon Hill (1923-2021) served as a fighter pilot during World War Two, flying both Hurricanes and Spitfires. He was active in the CPS during the 1950s and 1960s in a variety of positions including President, and was Life Member #36.

Gordon was a regular attendee of the Calgary Regional Group of BNAPS until shortly before COVID-19 claimed him at the age of 93. It was my privilege to know him and hear some of his stories of the war. I once asked him what was the worst part of being a fighter pilot. His answer surprised me. He said he had a continual sore neck because he had to keep looking over his shoulders and twisting his head up and down to watch for ME-109s.



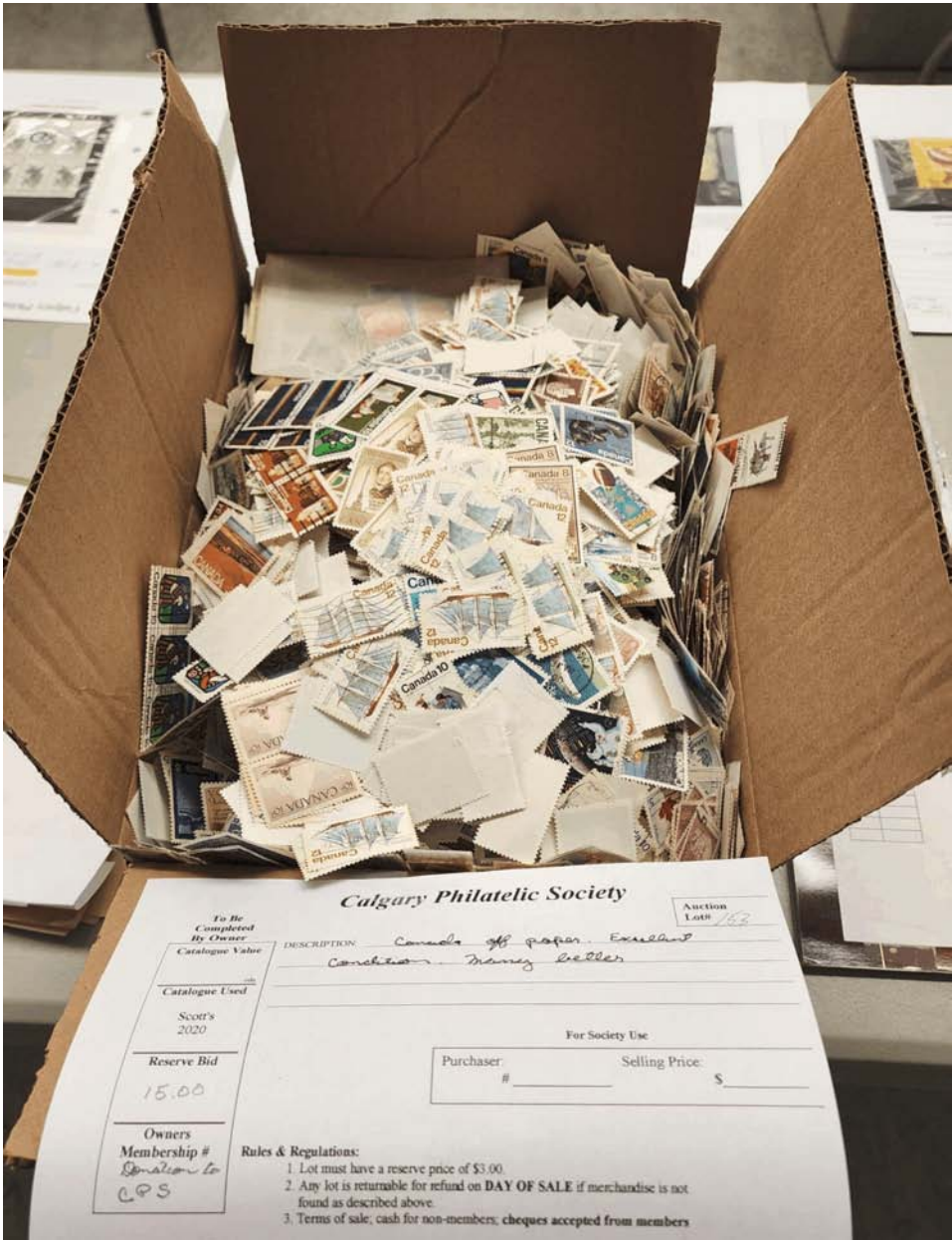
Jim Karr (1920-2002) served in a variety of CPS positions and particularly behind the scenes. He was Life Member #22. He was active in the BNAPS group and a frequent exhibitor at CALTAPEX.

During the war he flew heavy bombers and survived an incredible 33 missions over Europe. He once told me of arriving on night raids over burning German cities where they glowed like orange blankets, with bright white flashes sparkling where the bombs were detonating.

When I look at the stamps, I think of these two men and all the others who served Canada.

SEEN AT THE AUCTIONS

Mirko Zatka was kind enough to donate some auction lots to the CPS. They included a big box of stamps, shown below, of thousands of better quality stamps. Bidders ran the lot up to a hammer price of \$60. That was a good bargain for the buyer, who will have many happy hours sorting the contents.



Each auction has about 200 lots. A couple of randomly-selected lots are shown here.



Above: A set of St Helena overprinted for Tristan da Cunha.

Below: Canadian airmails, including the accent mark error and correction.



PHILATELIC FICTION

by Dale Speirs

“The 12 Penny Black” by Lyal and Barbara Brown aired on CBC Radio on 1994-11-26. It was an episode of a mystery series called FLYNN, which in turn was part of THE MYSTERY PROJECT . The project had several different unrelated series within itself. Available as a free download from the Old Time Radio Researchers at www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary

Flynn was a private detective who had been hired by a Montréal stamp dealer named Van Allen to guard a 12 Penny Black first-day cover in the process of being sold. Several years earlier, Van Allen had been in a bad accident in the USA and ran up \$90,000 in hospital debt during a long recovery.

Canadian medicare didn't cover the out-of-country costs. Van Allen came back with walking difficulties and severe vision problems. He was getting on in years and decided to sell the cover so that he and his wife Noreen could go traveling while they still could. She didn't want him to sell the cover.

Van Allen was undeterred and negotiated a sale for \$190,000. The buyer naturally insisted on expertization. The cover proved to be a counterfeit. Searching online bulletin boards (this was 1994; no blogs yet) revealed that the real stamp had been sold to a Texas collector by Noreen.

She explained to her husband that she had sold the stamp to cover the \$90,000 hospital debt. Because Van Allen's eyesight had worsened, she substituted a forgery that he would never notice.

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

If you have not been taking part in Zoom meetings, email Dave so that he can put you on the mailing list. A day or two before the meeting, you will receive an email containing a link to the meeting. About five minutes before the meeting, click on the link and Zoom will automatically connect you.

MEMBERS’ BOURSE IN JUNE

As in past years, the Third Wednesday meeting of June 19 will not be an auction but a bourse for CPS members. The cost is \$5 per table. Here is a chance for members to sell by the box or the album, and to show many sheets of philatelic material.

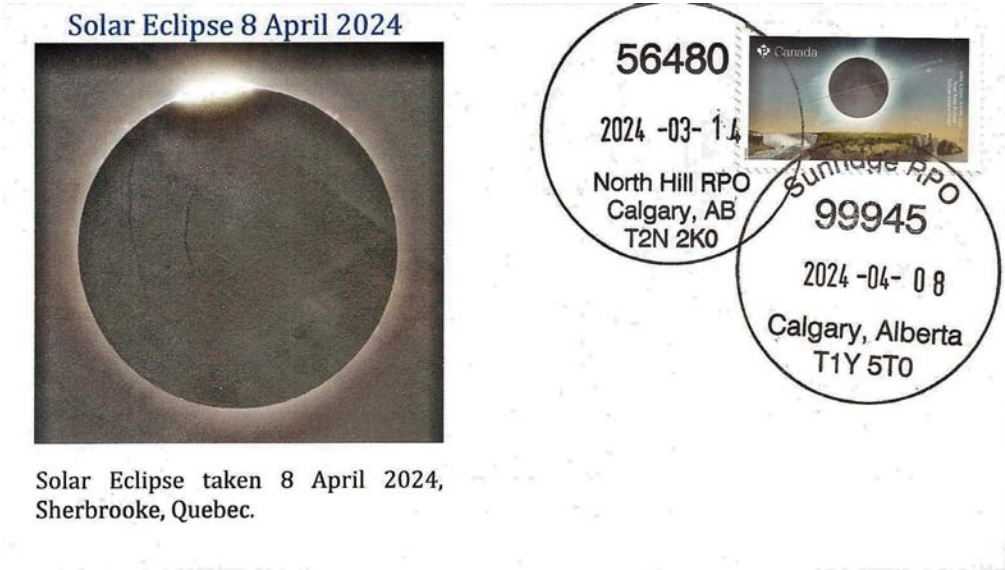
Contact Jim Senecal as soon as possible so that he knows how many tables to set up. He can be reached at (403) 547-7681 or jsenecal@telusplanet.net or see him at the May auction or June general meeting.

ECLIPSE DUAL COVER

Dave Bartlet prepared some interesting covers for the April 8 solar eclipse. Canada Post issued the eclipse stamp on March 14, which Dave had cancelled on blank envelopes as first-day covers.

On the big day, he was able to obtain a photograph of totality in Québec over the Internet and print it on his covers as a cachet. Because of the time zone differences, he was able to get his covers to the Sunridge retail postal outlet at Shoppers Drug Mart and have them postmarked a second time.

[Editor’s note: I had to adjust the image on my computer, otherwise the cachet would have printed completely black.]

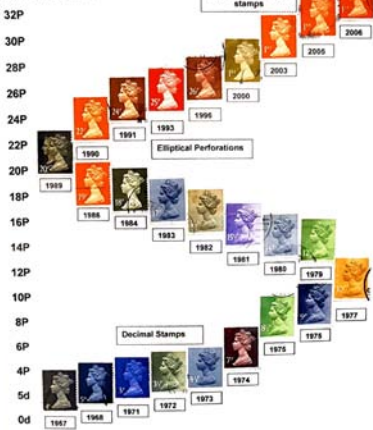


SPRING BOURSE 2024

Some views of the dealer bourse and the auction, which had more than 300 lots.



The Machins and 1st Class Postage in Britain (1967-2006) - An enduring stamp in inflationary times



The bourse had a mini-competition for 1-page and 1-frame exhibits. There was no formal judging but there was People's Choice voting.

For the 1-page exhibits, the winner was Dave Russum for his Machins first-class stamps 1967 to 2006, shown at left.

In the 1-frame category, Dave Bartlet won for his exhibit on Newfoundland savings stamps booklets (below).



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Murray Bialek

mbialek@shaw.ca or (403) 241-2006

The CPS continues to be a very active and progressive club. We offer a large variety of activities for our members on a monthly basis: a newsletter, emails, guest speakers, stamp clothesline, circuit book sales, two auctions, Juniors Club, Zoom meetings such as BNAPS (British North America Philatelic Society) and CAPE (Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors), a members-only website section where stamps may be sold, etc.

Many bargains were had at our Spring Bourse whether from our stamp dealers or our huge auction after the show closed on Sunday, April 21. Membership renewals will be due next month and at \$25 for a full year the cost is cheap at any price! You may renew in person at our June meeting with cash or cheque or via e-transfer or Canada Post.

BNAPS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society held its monthly meeting on April 10 via Zoom. Dave Bartlett was the host and there were 10 participants from across Canada. After a brief discussion of forthcoming stamp shows, the meeting went on to its theme of the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Dale Speirs led off on the Nanton Lancaster bomber, depicted on a Canadian stamp as well as a pictorial postmark of Nanton. The Bomber Command Museum of Canada is located in Nanton and well worth the drive south from Calgary.

Dave Bartlet then mentioned the items he had produced for the centennial (see page 3) and showed postcards of the early days of military flying at Camp Borden, Ontario, during World War One.

Jon Johnson then discussed MAILCAN of World War Two, when converted heavy bombers were used to airlift tons of mailbags per flight. Arnie Janson showed a variety of RCAF covers. Ray Villeneuve's father served in the RCAF during WW2. Ray showed assorted documents, ration cards, and stationery from his father.

David Hanes then exhibited a variety of modern Camp Borden covers commemorating various events in the early days of Canadian military flying. Mark Oakley finished up with a look at an early Canada Special Delivery stamp which showed Curtiss JN-4 biplanes.

For the May 8 meeting of the BNAPSers, the theme will be Canadian kiosk and automated stamps. For more information about the Calgary Group, contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca



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CLUB NEWS

The April bulletin was mailed with the solar eclipse stamp on Eclipse Day, April 8, from Sunridge Shoppers Drug Mart retail postal outlet.

At the May 1 general meeting, Jon Johnson spoke on the postal history of World War One nursing sisters. The President’s Pot was presented to Bill Cowling for his work behind the scenes at club activities.

PUBLICATIONS BY CPS MEMBERS

Tony Doughty began a new series of articles in the April 2024 issue of EDMONTON STAMP CLUB BULLETIN about bi-gauge perforations on modern Canadian stamps.

Dale Speirs published JOURNAL OF ALBERTA POSTAL HISTORY #33, which covered the post offices along the transcontinental railroad from Redcliff to Brooks to Bassano, including a spur line to Scandia and the later village of Rolling Hills. JAPH is available as a free pdf from Academia.edu. Go to: independent.academia.edu/DaleSpeirs

COMMITTEES

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Membership	Murray Bialek	241-2006
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Show Committee	Walter Herdzik	238-7845
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

CPS MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2024

May	8	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	15	Auction - Kerby Centre
	22	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
June	5	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	5	Deadline for June bulletin
	5	Stamp Line - Calgary Stampede
	12	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	19	Members' bourse - Kerby Centre
	26	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
July	3	Deadline for July bulletin - 18h00
August	7	Deadline for August bulletin - 18h00
September	4	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	4	Deadline for September bulletin
	11	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	15	Deadline for CALTAPEX entries
	18	Auction - Kerby Centre
	25	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
October	1	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	1	Deadline for October bulletin
	9	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	16	Auction - Kerby Centre
	18	CALTAPEX set-up - 17h00 to 19h00
	19 to 20	CALTAPEX - Kerby Centre gymnasium

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 547-7681.