

The Bulletin

VOLUME 20, No. 7

JULY 2017

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Got one in your Collection?

FAMOUS STAMPS



CANADA'S TWELVEPENNY BLACK

In 1851, the Province of Canada issued stamps depicting Queen Victoria. For the stamp image, sometimes referred to as the Black Empress of Canada, the Queen's portrait by Alfred Edward Chalon (1780–1860) was used. Printed in New York, this design is called the Chalon Head and is Scott #3. This rare Canadian stamp is now in the il-

lustrious company of other top selling stamp rarities of the philatelic world. At a 2009 auction of material from billionaire William Gross' collection, a copy on laid paper with original gum sold for a record breaking \$273,000 CAD. At the time, that was the most money ever paid for a single Canadian stamp, and well over the hoped for asking price of \$116,000 CAD! What makes this stamp so rare is the fact that only 1,450 copies were issued back in 1851.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- SAUGEEN STAMP CLUB, Tuesday July 4
- KINCARDINE STAMP CLUB Wednesday July 5
- HAMILTON STAMP CLUB Monday July 10
- OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB Wednesday July 19
- GUELPH STAMP CLUB Tuesday July 18
- BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB Tuesday July 18

One Page Exhibits—

upcoming topics:

July: Heads of State (ie PMs, Czars, etc)

August: TBA

September: Stamp show souvenirs

October: TBA

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMNWALT BERRY

I have just returned from my trip to the Rotary International convention in Atlanta Georgia. There were just 31 in our tour group – but there were more than 40,000 registered to be in attendance. One word I would use to describe the 11 days on the road – EXPERIENCE. It was the first time that I have ever been on a bus tour and it was an experience.

On the road to and from the conference, we stopped at some of the many tourist traps – had our picture taken (one could buy their pictures for just \$25.00 US dollars) – at each location they made sure to funnel everyone through the gift shop.

At the actual conference, peoples from all around the world were trying to peddle their goods to visitors – over 400 information booths looking to share/sell just about anything (too much non-Rotary).

The conference is held every year in a different part of the world – and many people do attend every year. The conference is in Toronto next year and in Hawaii a few years down the road.

While there I did have an opportunity to visit the booth for the Rotary Fellowship of Rotary on Stamps and chat with several of the members – I had a one page displayed featuring POLIO. Polio is one of the key areas of focus for Rotary and have committed to ensure eradication in the coming years. Canada committed to a donation of 75 million dollars toward eradication.

While it was an experience I have been looking forward to – **I am very happy to be back in Canada and home.**

What's coming up...

See the Grand News for complete information on the following shows:

July 20-23—Postal History Symposium & Show , Hamilton

August 12—Kinex 2017—Kincardine Stamp Club show

October 7—Owen Sound Annual Stamp Show



A WHALE OF A TALE OR TWO.....Lloyd Pfeffer

This story develops off the west coast of Newfoundland, in the winter of 2014, when nine blue whales were trapped in the ice and died. Two of these blue whales washed ashore in may of 2014 in Trout River and Rocky Harbour. The Royal Ontario Museum was very interested in these two blue whales—their scientists took the wall at Trout River , while the other is going to Memorial University.

The ROM crew had to tow the beached whale away from Trout river to Woody Point to remove the rotting and putrefying flesh. The term for this I flensing—one stinky smelly job! The crew had to develop a new landfill site, lined with crushed limestone as a neutralizer, to dispose of the 60 to 70 tonnes of waste. The bones were disassembled, labelled using wire and poker ships, and loaded on three tractor trailers. The jawbone alone was 5.5 metres long (18 feet) and weighed 365 kg (805 lbs).

The bones were transported to Trenton, a 31 hour trip. Six dump truck loads of manure and sawdust were used to de-flesh any remaining material off the bones. Weeping tiles were place throughout the compost mix so that bacteria could get air to do their work on the remaining flesh. The bones were there for one and a half years.

They were then moved to a ware house and place in a pool of water and soap to de-grease the remaining oil on them. The next step was to assemble the bones and decide on a pose, and to make up a metal support to hold them in place. The last stage was to disassemble again and move the bones to the viewing area at the ROM and remount them for a show called “Out of the Depths: The Blue Whale Story”. This opened on March 11 2017—the female whale, called Blue, is one of the largest and most complete blue whale skeletons in the world.

Blue whales in the North Atlantic are an endangered species, so to lose nine at once (three of them were female) was a great loss. Estimates put the population at 200-400 animals. The blue whale is the largest and heaviest creature on the planet, at up to 32 metres (105 feet) long and 150 tonnes (137 tons). They can travel at speeds up to 36 km (22 miles) per hour.

Canada Post released a high-value wildlife definitive series, starting in 1997 and finishing in October 4 2010 with the \$10 blue



whale (Scott#2405). This series of stamps is one of this author’s favourites and the blue whale is the icing on the cake. “Thar she blows!”

Saugeen Stamp Club

Chapter 220, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
Chapter 1538, American Philatelic Society
Chapter 21, Grand River Valley Philatelic Association

Meeting at St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
356—9th Street
Hanover, Ontario
Use 11th Avenue entrance

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We are on the web!
[http://
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GRVPA NEWS...

Check out the latest *GRAND NEWS* for information about our fellow clubs, and their meetings and shows.

GRVPA Awards

The GRVPA has two annual awards: one for long term contributions to the hobby (the Howard Bryce Trophy), and one for contributions of a member within the past year (the GRVPA Memorial Award). Both awards are open to all members in good standing of the GRVPA or members who have passed in the last year. The criteria is the same for both awards, and both are given at the recommendation of the Directors. They are based on contributions by a member to their local club, the GRVPA, or to philately in general. When nominating please provide as much detail as possible on the member, as your nomination letter may be the sole source of information for the Directors decision. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the Directors before September 30 2017, and the awards will be presented at the November Club Fair.



ROYAL OAK STAMPS

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Let us know your wants and needs!!