

The Bulletin

VOLUME 23, No. 1

JANUARY 2020

Upcoming Meetings

Saugeen Stamp Club
Tuesday January 7

Kincardine Stamp Club
Wed No Meeting

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Wed January 15

Guelph Stamp Club
Wed No Meeting
Wed January 15

KW Philatelic Society
Thursday January 9

ONE PAGE EXHIBITS

UPCOMING TOPICS

- January -
Favourite Cover
- February -
Winter Sports
- March -
?????

The True First Christmas Stamps of Canada

From the National Post by David Akin



The first modern-era Christmas stamps from Canada were issued on Oct. 14, 1964. The ‘Star of Bethlehem’ stamps were designed by Harvey Prosser. Canada has issued Christmas stamps every year since

In looking back at the history of this first Christmas stamp — or the history of all stamps, coins and other items by which any state asserts its jurisdiction — we can trace the narrative of Canada: how the state thought about itself; how it wanted to be seen by its peers; and what themes it thought important for its population to ponder.

So it was with that first Christmas stamp and all others issued since. Consider: although Canada was born a bilingual country, and its first French-speaking prime minister, Wilfrid Laurier, had just been elected, there was no hint of its two founding nations in Mulock’s 1898 stamp. Up to that point Canada’s stamps, like all official government cultural policy, was about one founding nation — the English one — and its connection to the empire.

“It happened all the time,” Harvey Prosser told me in a recent telephone interview from his home in Arnprior, Ont.

Prosser, who just turned 87, should know. Between 1959 and 1971, he designed 64 Canadian postage stamps, including the first Christmas stamps of our modern era: the 1964 3-cent and 5-cent “Star of Bethlehem” stamps.

As an employee of the Canadian Bank Note Company, Prosser was not in on the decision by the just-elected Pearson government to issue a Christmas stamp, but he remembers getting the assignment with only a few weeks to deliver a design.

Prosser, an Anglican, who then and now describes himself as “not terribly religious,” started doodling. “I was looking for imagery that wasn’t going to cause any controversy,” Prosser said. “I wanted to keep it simple, clean,” Prosser said.

Mission accomplished: The stamp features a family of four in silhouette standing in a snowy meadow. In the top left corner, one star is brighter than the other, a symbol that any Christian would immediately understand, but does not overpower the non-Christian. The image’s focus is clearly on the everyman family, a secular theme, and a theme of then-Governor General Georges Vanier.

Message From the President

As the end of 2019 approaches, it is important that volunteers / members are thanked for their ongoing support and contributions to the monthly meetings of the Saugeen Stamp Club. This support and contribution consist of the many little things which make our meetings fun, interesting and the place to be on the first Tuesday evening each month – year-round. The December meeting was our annual Christmas party with members sharing their favourite sweet treat and spending your hoard of the President's funny money. Thank you!!


Doing the little things is important – but your attendance at the meeting is also a contribution to the success of the club – we like to see you there.

One issue we have living in Canada – is the winter months and the unpredictable winter weather. One idea being considered for this year (and perhaps future years) is to hold our January & February meetings on a Saturday – say from 10:00 to 1:00 or 1:30 at an offsite location. This idea will address the issue of driving at night & the hazard of inclement weather. The immediate plan is to hold our February meeting on February 1 2020 t the Masonic Hall on Drive In road on the east end of Hanover. We could have a pot luck lunch where those attending could bring a dish to share with others – Or food could be ordered in from a local business. This is in the discussion stage and will be further discussed at our January meeting. WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE IDEA.

The March meeting will be the second opportunity for members to bring in material they wish to sell / trade to others. We must share our collecting interests with others so that suitable material may be made available for the meeting – suggestion is to create a tent card indicating what you have to sell / trade OR what material you are seeking to add to your collection.

Wishing all friends and family a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & good health in 2020.

Please drive safe – no drinking & driving EH!



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Let us know your wants and needs!!

What's Coming Up

See the Grand News for complete details of the following:

- January 11 - Brantford Stamp Show and Bourse (see pg 4 of this Bulletin for info)
- January 25 - Cathex, St. Catharines
- February 1 - Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse
- February 15 - BURLPEX 2020

Another Measured Moment.....

Silent Night

Most people know that the Christmas Carol, "Silent Night" was written, to be accompanied by a guitar, as a result of the organ in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria being broken down on Christmas eve in 1818. However not all know that this most loved Christmas Hymn would have been lost if not for Carl Mauracher, an organ repairman who found a handwritten copy of the carol while repairing St. Nicholas' organ in 1825.

Mauracher took the copy home, to Innsbruck, and shared it with several choral groups. It became a favourite of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia, who had the origins of Silent Night traced back to Oberndorf.

Since that time, many stamps honouring this great Christmas Hymn has been featured, on stamps of a variety of Countries. My personal favourite was issued by Australia in 2000.

In 2000 Australia issued 2 Christmas stamps and showed them on a Souvenir Sheet with potentially 5 stamps, however they only made 2 of them into stamps, unlike some countries that would not have missed an opportunity to issue all 5 in order to charge collectors even more for the Sheetlet. The stamps were issued in both gummed and self-adhesive formats and the Australian Philatelic Centre used them on their annual Christmas card sent to customers.



Saturday May 2 2020

Saugeen Stamp Club Annual Show

Knights of Columbus Hall

963 Bruce Road 4 – between Hanover & Walkerton

Hours 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Door Prizes / Exhibits / Silent Auction/Dealers / Circuit Books / Lunch counter

Free admission / Free parking

Further information contact: President Walt Berry wsberry@sympatico.ca

Saugeen Stamp Club

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

Meeting: St. Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church
356 9th Street,
Hanover, Ontario
Use 11th Avenue Entrance

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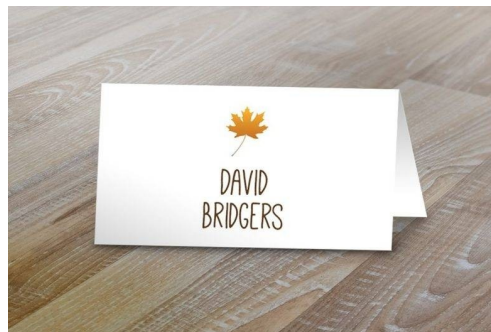
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SPECIAL

Note from the Brantford Stamp Club. Info was inadvertently left out of the Grand News.

Our Annual show will be held on Saturday January 11, 2020
from 9:30 to 3 pm at the Branlyn Community Centre
located at 238 Brantwood Park Rd., Brantford.

Don't Forget for January



Don't forget to bring a tent card or list of your collecting wants to the January meeting. These will serve to prompt those with extra stamps in those areas to bring them for the February and/or March meetings.

Also bring your thoughts on Saturday meetings in the winter months as described by Walt in his message. We need the membership thoughts and a vote if we are to implement it.

We' on the Web!

<http://saugeenstampclub.webplus.net/index.html>