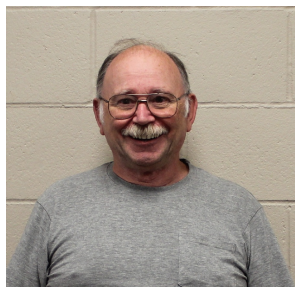


Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 17th, 2019 @ 7 PM  
 St Mary's High School, Hillyer Hall, 555 15<sup>th</sup> Street East, Owen Sound

**Volume 6 Edition 4**

**From the President**



Hello Everyone, I guess Mother Nature is doing her best to scare us by coming in like a Lion. Hopefully she will change her mind and let the warm rains fall, to help bring on the May flowers.

I am trying to arrange a guest speaker for our meeting, I just have to wait and see if he calls or not.

Other than that we will just have a simple meeting, maybe go over a few items for our Circuit Book Club Fair on May 25th. Then we can have the rest of the evening to look over our Circuit Books. See you all on the 17th at the regular place.

**John C. Lemon**  
 President  
 OSSC.

**From the Editor**  
**Phil Visser**

Spring has arrived, with many signs pointing to warmer days. In my area, the snow is almost completely gone, I hear the birds chirping away early in the morning, and I have a very pregnant robin flying about my place. But the surest sign of spring is the return of club members who have wintered in warmer climates! I wonder how many "new" faces will come out to this upcoming meeting.

A philatelic surprise has led to the article included in this months newsletter. Perhaps it will stoke the fires of creativity in the members minds and lead to a further enjoyment of our hobby.

Following the article comes a report from the last meeting and some more from the circuit books. I extend a call for members to share something of interest with others through this newsletter. Being an expert is not necessary to share something through

this newsletter.

Near the end of this months edition is the usual listing of shows. I would like to draw your attention to the show in Hanover put on by the Saugeen Club on May 5<sup>th</sup>. A few weeks later comes the Circuit book fair which will be held right here in Owen Sound. Hopefully the weather allows easy travel and many new faces will come before your eyes. When looking in circuit books, an essential thing is a "want list" which gives the catalogue number of the stamps you need to fill those pesky holes in your collection.

Don't forget the upcoming Royal which will be held in Mississauga on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Space did not allow me to add the Postal History Society of Canada Symposium from July 18th-21st in Hamilton. While visiting the Canadian Stamp News website for the show listings included, the main article claimed that 1,100 stamp collectors visited the National Show in March. There is another National show coming up in September if you are planning some travels for the fall.

And now for a teaser scan!

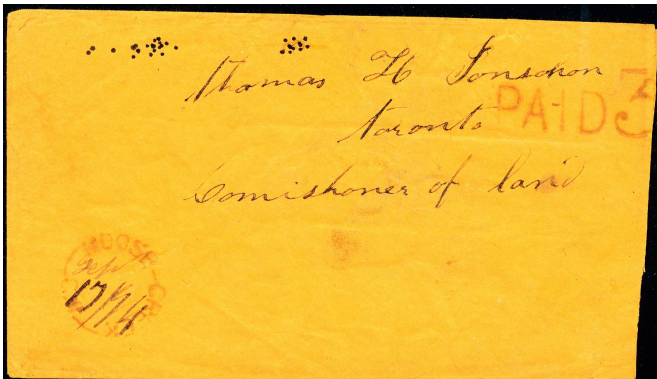


## So where is Moose Creek?

By Phil Visser

Does anyone receive unsolicited stamp auction catalogues? One arrived in my mailbox early in January. Generally, I don't pay much attention to them, but for some reason, I starting to look at this particular one. While leafing through the pages and illustrations, I was intrigued by many of the quality items listed for sale.

One auction listing did really pick my interest. It was Lot #203 and was described as "1874 stampless cover Moose Creek C.W. split ring circle in red, manuscript Fe 17/74, Toronto Night Sp 8/74 Ont. (Tape stains on back) Scarce village Fine." Curious about where Moose Creek was and seeing a manuscript (hand written date), I thought this was probably an early letter from this post office. Throwing caution aside, I submitted a bid, and obviously, the bid was successful.



I digress for a moment, because most of you know what my collecting interests are, and this letter wasn't part of it. Alas, one of the by products of the Larry Crane Auction, was winning the topical collection that Larry had started on the moose. Larry didn't know about this village and out a moment of weakness I bit hook, line and sinker. Now that topical area has drawn me like a magnet into its' vortex. Surely another black hole of frustration where nothing can escape its pull.

A look at this cover is interesting. The letter is addressed to "Thomas H Tonschon" living in Toronto who was acting as the Comishoner (Commissioner) of (Crown) Land. You can see that reading the script writing of the time is a challenge in and of itself, never mind spelling variations. But the cancel of "Moose Creek" is clear and then the scripted mailing date which is also open to interpretation. One last

point of the cancel is the size, which is a diameter of about 20 millimeters.

Lets begin by dealing with the date of mailing. The auction house identified the date as Fe 17/74. On careful examination, however, I thought it looked more like Sep, which will make much more sense then the seven month delivery time from February to September. Once the date was established, then I agreed with the auction house that the cancel was C.W. (Canada West). Again another intriguing bit of history here. When confederation occurred in 1867, the former province of Canada (present day Ontario and Quebec) was divided into the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Canada West was a fairly short lived term for our present day province of Ontario. Following the 1837 rebellion against the "Family Compact" Upper Canada and Lower Canada were amalgamated into the Province of Canada with two parts, Canada West and Canada East which became official in February of 1841. So it is clear that the original Canada West cancel was still in use many years after confederation had taken place. Reading some other philatelic books, the mixing of cancels were quite common, and W. Boggs dismisses the interchangeability of cancel usage as simply being convenience, the nearest cancelling hammer available.

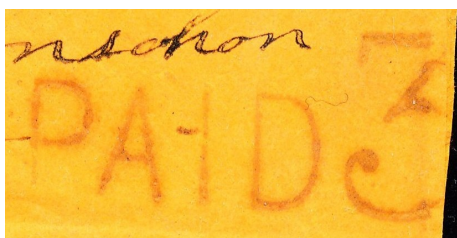


The attracting part of this old letter was the scripted date. Another part of the mission is finding out when a post office started in Moose Creek. My favourite librarian (Kathy Hartley at the H. Sutherland Philatelic Library) quickly shared her research that R.C. Smith in his book "Ontario Post Offices" showed the Moose Creek post office was opened on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1865. That date explains the "C.W." split ring cancel, because it was before confederation. And so the attraction of having the earliest cancel from a small town post office was shattered.

Yet, perhaps there was a mistake in Mr Smith's book. Again Kathy came to the rescue when I queried her on this apparent unusual cancellation. Kathy suggested that I visit the *Canadian Postal Archives* website. A new challenge! Using the key

words above, Google brought me to [https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/postal-archives/080608\\_e.html](https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/postal-archives/080608_e.html) which contains the archived material. On the home page are found eight (8) hot keys and not sure where to go, I followed the "Research" hotkey and it brought an answer.

Scrolling down this page brought me to "Post Offices and Postmasters." Typing in Moose Creek showed the town, and a number. Clicking on the number and here to behold is the date of opening the post office, August 1, 1865, and the name of the first post master, Mr. William McKillican. He remained the post master until 1876. Being much smaller in size than today, Mr McKillican was likely the person who cancelled this letter upon mailing.



Another part of this letter is the cancel "Paid 3." Although stamps were available in

1874, smaller post offices with limited volumes of mail, likely didn't receive postage stamps for postal use and so some notation was necessary to indicate postal fees. Looking in the Unitrade Specialized Canada Catalogue, shows that the postal rates from 1868 to 1876 were 3 cents per half ounce. It is to be noticed that the rate "Paid 3" is actually a carved stamp, not script as is the case with many other earlier letters.

A final look at the letter showed that it arrived in Toronto on Sept 18, 1874. The cancel is also about 20 millimeters in diameter, but you can notice that it shows "Ont" as the province instead of C.W. at Moose



Creek. Another interesting feature is that directly above the date, is the cancel of "Night." I haven't seen this type of cancel before. Other than arriving at the Toronto Post Office at night, how long was this qualifier used? When did the postal clerk start working a night shift? More research!

Getting to the heart of this article is the question "where is Moose Creek?" Thankfully, Google was another able assistant and within seconds it showed

that Moose Creek On is located about 30 kilometers North west of Cornwall. Also, the Canadian Postal Archives showed that Moose Creek is in the township of Roxborough, but this has been amalgamated in the 1990's with other townships into the new township of North Stormont. The newer township is part of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. This then puts Moose Creek in eastern Ontario, close to the border with the province of Quebec.

Continuing the quest about this letter, a look at the distance between Moose Creek and Toronto, Google suggests several distances depending on the road travelled. These various distances are between 475 to 530 kilometers. To the modern mind, that is only a few hours travel in a car, but in the 1800's the road system was not developed, and so travel was much slower. Indeed, further searches lead to an article that mentioned the first train in the area passed by in 1881. Therefore the only means of travel was by foot and or horse.

Have you ever wondered why travelling along highways that the towns and villages are separated by 20 to 25 kilometers? Well, that was the distance a person could travel in one day. Going back to the mailing date of this letter and the distance the letter travelled, the mailing date is again open to interpretation. Consider the weather in February, not a prime time to travel at all. Also, the post master would have had to find a person heading westward towards Toronto, and maybe this person only travelled part way and would say stop at Cornwall and then Kingston. Then another mail carrier would travel further to Toronto.

Based on the distance and average daily travel rate, it is expected that almost three weeks would be needed to deliver the letter to Toronto directly, without any delays along the way. It does stretch the imagination to say that this letter took seven months to travel to Toronto, but my original hypothesize for the mailing date of Sept 17 is definitely incorrect.

It is now time to look at the community itself. The



village of Moose Creek is along a river with a water fall nearby. There are some suggestions that the moose would travel along the river in winter time to drink from the open water at the water falls. The water falls was the main attraction for forming a settlement here. The water falls allowed a mill to be set up, and so the forests in the area could be cut down and milled from which building could be constructed. As the land was cleared, the land was then able to be used for farming and a community developed.

The community still exists today, and the post office has survived! The only thing left to do is to make a road trip to Moose Creek and see if I can get a modern hammer cancelled letter from this quiet place off the beaten track.



### March Meeting Highlights

There were some 18 members present and three guests. This was also the first meeting where a silent auction occurred. Since these are individual transactions, I am not sure to what success was generated by this new means of redistributing stamps.

A report was presented as an audit for the club books as well as those of the circuit books. All was found to be well, and the main thing that stood out was the bank fees for the circuit book account. More will come with a review of the circuit books by Randy.

John Lemon had an opportunity to speak to the Grey County Historical Society. There were a couple of stamp collectors present but the presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by the society. They presented a cheque for speaking which John donated to the St Mary's High School for the use of their facilities. Apparently this donation is one of very few they received. John suggested to the school to donate it to the art program

We had Mr Brien Parkin appear as a guest. He wanted to dispose of his collection to people who would appreciate it and build on it. Most of the items were sold to individuals and I believe he was

happy with the outcome.

### Circuit Book Update

Randy reported that the club website has been visited some 32,000 times. That is quite an achievement, and I suspect that the Circuit Book Explorer is a key attraction. Following the February meeting, Randy has checked out some different institutions to find one which will best suit the needs of the Circuit Books. He found one bank offering free checking and banking, if done electronically though the bank deposit machines. He will continue on that plan.

Chris shared that he was stepping back from the Circuit books due to work pressures. Thank you Chris for setting up and getting this method of sharing our duplicates throughout the club. Without your vision and willingness to do the up-front work, none of this would have happened. I have received a number of payouts which helped me add to other areas of collecting interest. Randy is asking for a volunteer to assist with the circuit books.

It is also pleasing to hear that more members are putting pages into the circuit books. Although most of us with mature collecting areas need to fill in the higher valued stamps, there is nothing wrong by putting in XF, cleanly cancelled more common stamps. This allows those members returning to the hobby to fill in their collection with quality stamps. At a recent meeting, Randy suggested that if you have common stamps, just check the Circuit Book Explorer to see how many others are in the circuit books and thus save yourself time by mounting them on another page. As a final word, there are members present who have a general world collection and so foreign stamps are always welcome for those collectors.



## Upcoming Shows

**APR 26**

### Springpex

April 26, 2019 to April 27, 2019

St. John de Brebeuf Secondary School, 200 Acadia Dr., Hamilton, ON, L8W 1B8

Large silent and voice auctions Friday evening with viewing starting at 5 p.m. Saturday is a 20-dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies, plus youth booth and silent auction from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. GRVPA clubs circuit sales books Friday and Saturday. Light food and refreshments available with ample free parking. Sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club.

Email: southont@cogeco.ca

Web: <http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com>

**MAY 4**

### Annual Saugeen Stamp Club Show & Exhibition

Hanover Knights of Columbus Hall, 963 Bruce Rd. 4, Hanover, ON, N0G 2V0

Hours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free parking and admission. 12 dealers, judged exhibits, lunch counter. Free stamps for kids. If you would like to try the exhibit for the first time this is the spot. We use 16-page frames and encourage new exhibitors. Contact us if you wish to exhibit.

Phone: 519-574-6536

Email: pkritz@mortgagealliance.com

Web: <http://saugeenstampclub.webplus.net/>

**MAY 5**

### Stratford Mayday Stamp Show

Army Navy & Air Force Veterans, 151 Lorne Ave. E., Stratford, ON, N5A 6S4

NEW LOCATION! 36th Annual Show hosted by the Stratford Stamp Club. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free admission and parking. Bourse, exhibits, Mayday covers and door prizes. Sandwiches, desserts and beverages will be available for purchase.

Email: lhriedstra@rogers.com

Web: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/Stratford>

**MAY 25**

### Grey, Bruce, Simcoe & Area Stamp Clubs Circuit Book Club Fair

St. Mary's High School, 555 15th St. E., Owen Sound, ON, N4K 1X2

Welcome to the first annual circuit book fair hosted by various clubs in the Grey, Bruce and Simcoe area.

The show will be open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and feature circuit books from different stamp clubs. Door prizes, lunch counter, free admission and free parking.

Phone: 519-375-7161

Email: lembudd@yahoo.com

Web: <http://www.owensoundstampclub.org/>

**JUN 8**

### North Toronto Stamp Club Summer Bourse

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, M4T 1Z9

The North Toronto Stamp Club's Summer Bourse will be held at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Easy subway access at St. Clair subway station, free admission, 22 dealers, more than 100 sales circuit books including recent issues, over 100 ten cents books, members table, door prizes (first prize one kilo of stamps) snack bar, wheelchair access, parking at the Church and on nearby streets, families and children welcome.

Phone: 6479904073

Email: ntsc.programchair@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.northtorontostampclub.ca>

**JUN 21**

### Royal\*2019\*Royale

June 21, 2019 to June 23, 2019

Hilton Mississauga, 6750 Mississauga Rd., Mississauga, ON, L5N 2L3

Canadian Stamp News, the Bramalea Stamp Club and the West Toronto Stamp Club are hosting the 91st convention of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) on June 21-23. With a nominal admission fee on Friday and Saturday and free admission on Sunday, the show will boast more than 30 dealer tables, a national-level competitive exhibition, society meetings and several insightful seminars.

Email: jtrauzzi@yahoo.ca

Web: <http://www.rpsc.org/royal2019>

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There are many philatelic website's to visit, but don't forget to look at your own club web site at [www.owensoundstampclub.org](http://www.owensoundstampclub.org). On the website you will find a "Links" button which can lead you to other areas. If there is something you think would improve the site, contact Randy and share your idea with him.

**The Final Word**

There is nothing further to add in this newsletter, so I share another look at a Moose Creek cancellation.

