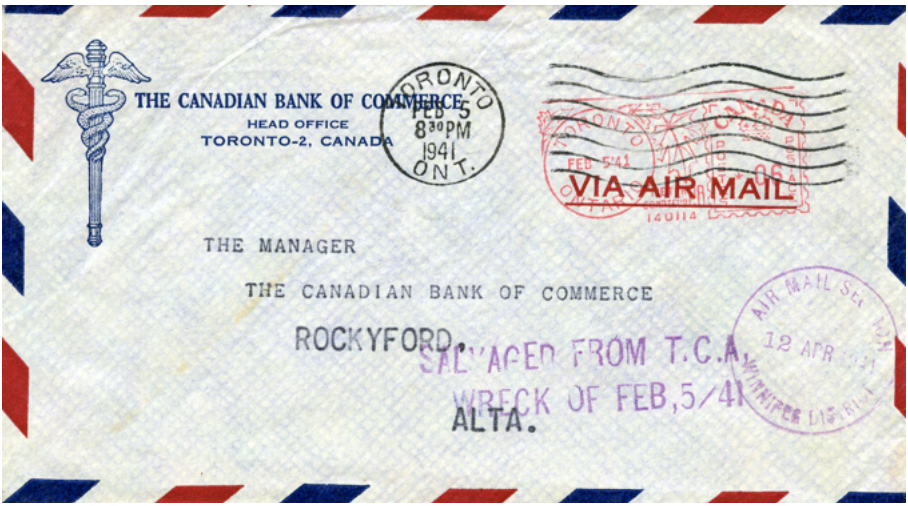
EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

Volume 115, Number 8, October 2026
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Website: http://www.edmontonstampclub.ca



See the story by Judy Madden starting on p. 11

Regular meetings
St. Joseph High School Cafeteria
10830 - 109 Street, 6:00 pm

Check Page 16 for meeting dates

The Edmonton Stamp Club dates back to 1912. The Club is Life Chapter #6 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and Chapter #680 of the American Philatelic Society. **The editor welcomes communications of all kinds – letters, comments, and articles.** These may be forwarded to John-Paul Himka, Edmonton Stamp Club, Box 399, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2J6, or click "contact" on our website (edmontonstampclub.ca) or email to jhimka@ualberta.ca.

The Edmonton Stamp Club respectfully acknowledges that we are located on the traditional territory of the First Nations, the Inuit, and the Métis peoples. We recognize the land as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on or are visiting.

2026 - 27 Board of Directors

Area code 780 (unless otherwise noted)

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Advertising rate schedule: Full page $30, half page $18. Nonmembers, $1.00 per line up to 5 lines. Ten issue discount 20%. Five issue discount 10%. Members, free, up to 5 lines. Contact Fred Tauber at fxtauber(at)shaw.ca or Edmonton Stamp Club by mail.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The amazing part of the club meetings is the discussions. St. Joseph High School cafeteria hums at a loud din. Always helpful, members welcome new members and those renewing their stamp collection interests. Mr. Cava rejoined last meeting.

New directors took their positions in September, and an active board meeting was held at Dave Hetke's place to set the direction for the upcoming year. Plus we had a successful annual general meeting.

Lots of education sessions are planned, led by Keith Spencer. Mark Boyce talked on 5 October about the Boston International Stamp Show he participated in this past May. Next up on 26 October is Joe Strigl, on our club website and social media. You'll want to hear about our new social media platforms for juniors.

30 new members under 30 years of age by 2030. I've had an article published on our initiative in the recent issue of *Canadian Philatelist*. Watch for further updates in each *Bulletin*. 46 juniors to date.

Speaking of the *Bulletin*, watch the club website. John-Paul is our editor and each issue is always worth a read. If you have an article, please send it to the club e-mail or directly to the editor, jhimka(at)ualberta.ca.

Membership fees are due. Existing life members and full time students enjoy free memberships.

Auctions have been lively, with lots of competing bids. Sellers, please bring your lots to the meetings. The next meeting is on 26 October. Roman, Joe, Ian , Ken, and others lead our professional auction team.

Some members travel distances: from Calgary, Trochu, and Whitecourt to name a few.

Speaking of Calgary, please plan to attend their stamp show on 18-19 October.

What's your stamp collecting interest? Send your name and interest to the club email.

Sharon Jackson is our new archivist. Watch for forthcoming details. Lots of history to record and save.

David V. Pattison
President

Happy Hundredth!



Canadian Stamps Celebrating Education
Part IV (Conclusion):
Stamps Issued after 2008

Wayne Madden
wmadden(at)shaw.ca

The ongoing Canadian Universities Series ended in 2008. After that series was completed, fewer stamps celebrating education were issued and not every year. Most of these stamps were actually part of other series, such as the series honoring Indigenous persons of note. Nevertheless, all these stamps (and probably a few others which I have missed) honor the cause of education, teaching, and learning in Canada and beyond our borders.

The year 2011 was declared the International Year of Chemistry by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in cooperation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Chemistry education is a part of every high school program and a focus for teaching, study, and research. To observe the year, Canada Post issued a stamp on 3 October that also honored Canadian Nobel Prize Chemist John C. Polanyi. The stamp was designed by Tejashri Kapure and printed by Lowe-Martin.



Born in Germany and educated in England, John Polanyi was appointed a lecturer at the University of Toronto in 1956, rising to full professor by 1962. Among his many awards, he and two others won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1986 for contributions

concerning the dynamics of chemical elementary processes. Being a student in one of his classes or pursuing a graduate degree under his supervision must have been a very exciting adventure in scientific study. John Polanyi was also active for peace, arms control, and nuclear disarmament.[1]

Ask any elementary school teacher what the most important thing a child can do to encourage good learning and you are likely to get one answer– "**Read!**" This makes issues on 11 May 2012, featuring the book series about Franklin the Turtle, and on 8 July 2013, featuring the Stella series, very significant. Canada Post issued four stamps and a souvenir sheet, designed collaboratively by Kids Can Press, Brenda Clark, Karen Henricks, and art director Peter Scott on Franklin the Turtle. Two stamps and a souvenir sheet designed by author and illustrator Marie-Louise Gay were printed by Lowe-Martin for the Stella book series.[2]





In 2022, Canada Post began a new annual series of stamps to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day, which takes place in June. Each year, three stamps have been issued to celebrate leaders from the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis communities. The first three, issued on 21 June 2022, celebrated three persons who, in addition to their

[1] Nobelprize.org
[2] Canada Post press releases.

leadership in politics and their communities, also played important roles in education for and about Indigenous communities in Canada.







After studying education at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (now the First Nations University of Canada), Marie-Anne Day Walker-Pelletier worked in adult education at the Saskatchewan Indian Community College (now the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies).[1] After achieving degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and Carleton University, Stan Daniels returned to the University of Saskatchewan to teach Metis history for the Department of Native Studies.[2] Jose Kusugak taught at what was called the Eskimo Language School at the University of Saskatchewan and later taught Inuktitut and Inuit history at the Churchill Vocational Institute. Later on, he worked to develop a standardized system for writing Inuktitut.[3] Lara Minja of Lime Design designed the Walker-Pelletier and Daniels stamps, while the Kusugak stamp was designed by Andrew Perro. The printer was Lowe-Martin.

The next stamp in this series that celebrated a person who contributed to education and learning was the 21 June 2023 stamp honoring Thelma Chalifoux. The first Metis woman appointed to the Senate of Canada, she had already overcome great adversity, including having her children taken from her during the sixties scoop. (She regained custody of her children after a considerable struggle.) She became an entrepreneur and activist for Metis and Cree culture and language preservation, including teaching it and having it taught

[1] *Canadian Encyclopedia*: article by Taylor C. Noakes.
[2] *Canadian Encyclopedia*: article by Stephanie Cram.
[3] *Canadian Encyclopedia*: article by Taylor C. Noakes.

in schools.[1] The designer of the stamp was Andrew Perro and Lime Design, and the printer was Lowe-Martin.



Finally, on 30 June 2025 three stamps in this series were issued that honored Indigenous activists and educators instrumental in preserving and passing on traditional cultures. Julia Haogak Ogina is an accomplished Inuit drum and dance teacher who recognized the lessons once taught through singing, dancing, and storytelling were being lost by her people. She worked to retrieve the old drum dance songs and helped have them published, and has contributed to programs promoting oral learning and transfer of traditional knowledge. Bruce Starlight, also known as Spotted Eagle, is a Tsuut'ina elder and former chief who worked to preserve and teach the Tsuut'ina language. He developed extensive materials for teaching the language, including dictionaries and recordings. What he did for the Tsuut'ina language, Sophie McDougall did for Michif, the Metis language. In spite of facing discrimination at teachers' college, she graduated and went on to spend many years as a teacher and advocate for the Metis people, language, and culture. Stamps in this issue all feature important symbols in the lives of the

[1] *Canadian Encyclopedia*: article by Julia Skelly.

honorees. Once again design was by Andrew Perro and printing by Lowe-Martin.[1]

I conclude with a word about the Canada Post Community Foundation, a registered charity which makes grants to Canadian schools and service organizations providing programming to children and youth.[2] Each year, the post office issues a semipostal stamp or pair of stamps with the surcharge on each stamp going to support the foundation. I include here pictures of the stamps issued on 1 May 2023 and 29 April 2024 (the latter being my favorite in the series).





If someone were interested in a limited collection of stamps on a single topic, celebrating education, literacy, and educators on stamps may well prove an interesting topic to explore and develop.

Fun Fact: Both an Edmonton Public School Board grade seven to nine school and a residence at the University of Alberta have been named in honor of Thelma Chalifoux.

Chirophilately: A Letter

Bill Warwaryick
bwarwaryick(at)gmail.com

[For an introduction to chirophilately, see the previous issue of this *Bulletin*.]

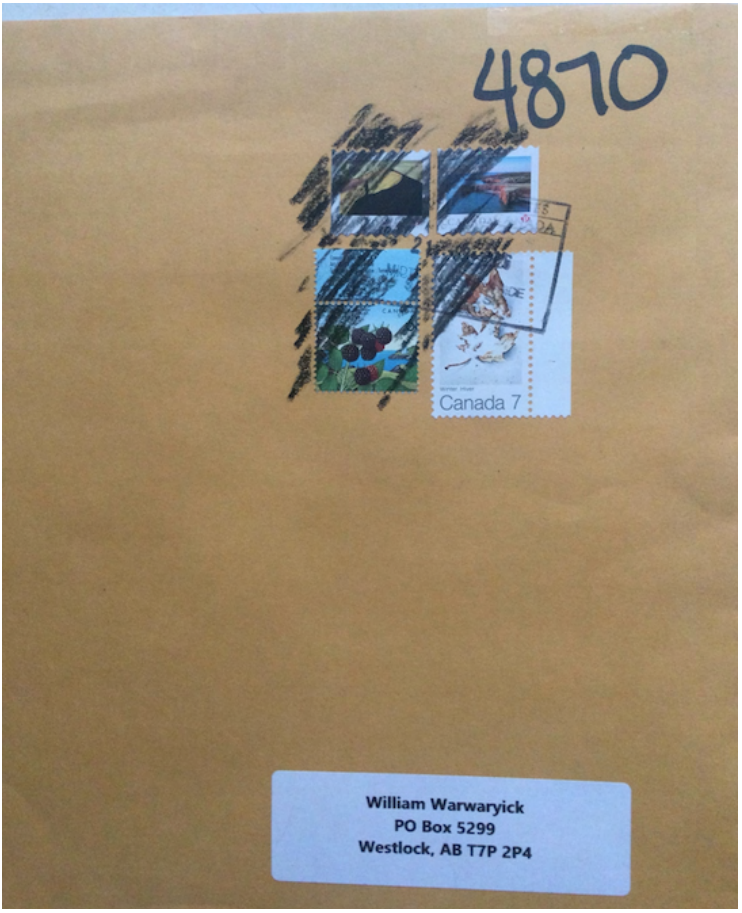
Hi John-Paul,

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[1] Information releases from Canada Post.
[2] Canada Post Community Foundation website.

Read your stamp club *Bulletin* article yesterday. Pens and crayons cancelling stamps is a big problem. It seems that there are a few postal employees purposely destroying stamps where it's obvious that they are for collectors. It's especially annoying that they are often doing it on already cancelled mail. Where do they find the time to perform extra cancelling, and especially since a lot of mail is machine processed?

Some years back Canada Post sent a letter to their employees telling them to use hand stamps to cancel uncancelled mail or not to cancel the stamps at all. They were instructed not to use pens. A postal worker showed me the letter that they received. So, this is happening against Canada Post's directive.



Salvaged from T.C.A. Wreck of Feb, 5/1941

Judy Madden
headachesolvers(at)gmail.com

At least that is what the stamp on the envelope says. The date is a day early, and the comma is in the wrong spot, but this envelope tells an interesting story. Trans-Canada Airlines (TCA), the child of Canadian National Railways, was still in its infancy. In fact, air travel was still in its infancy.

According to the Canadian Disaster Database: ”In the early hours of February 6th, a Trans-Canada Air Lines flight from Montreal, QC, to Winnipeg, MB, reported an engine issue after taking off from North Bay, ON, and was diverted to Armstrong airport for an emergency landing in northern Ontario. When the aircraft failed to land, rescue plans were initiated. Later in the morning, the wreckage was found roughly 1.5 kilometres from the airport. None of the 12 individuals on board survived.”

The Bureau of Aircraft Accidents Archives notes: “On final approach to Armstrong at night, the twin engine aircraft hit tree tops and crashed in a wooded area located one mile short of runway, bursting into flames.“ The cause could not be determined.

An article in the *Reading Eagle* stated that “the bodies of the passengers were still strapped in their seats, indicating that they had died without a struggle. The wreckage did not burn and the mail cargo was retrieved in good condition.” (The subtitle of the item was “Big Canadian Transport Crashes in Wilds of Ontario.”) News of this accident was also carried by the *Winnipeg Free Press* and the *New York Times*. At that point, it was the most disastrous airplane accident in the history of Canadian commercial aviation and the first fatal accident for TCA.

The nine passengers on the Lockheed 14-H2 Super Electra included L/CDR H. H. Harlowe, a Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve member on his way from Ottawa to Vancouver, and Professor Robert

“Pete” McQueen, a World War I RAF veteran and head of the department of political science at the University of Manitoba. The flight crew was Captain W.E. Twiss, First Officer C.E. Lloyd, and Stewardess M.G. Mayne.



Image Source: https://www.baaa-acro.com/crash/crash-lockheed-14-h2-super-electra-armstrong-12-killed

Back to the mail… It did survive, but most of us could have walked the distance from Toronto to its destination before it arrived. The letter from the Canadian Bank of Commerce reached Rockyford, Alberta on 12 April 1941. Of note is that the Canadian Bank of Commerce did not merge with the Canadian Imperial Bank until 1961. Its symbol, the caduceus, was the staff carried by Hermes in Greek mythology (or Mercury in Roman mythology). Hermes was widely known as the god of merchants, commerce, and trade. While the symbol is often seen in healthcare, the medical use is a misunderstanding originating with the US Army Medical Corps. The Rod of Asclepius is the historical symbol of medicine. It features a single rod entwined by only one snake. It honors Asclepius, the ancient Greek god of healing and medicine. The snake, capable of shedding its skin, symbolizes rebirth and the renewal of health. Hmmmm -- perhaps, given the privatization of health care, the caduceus fits modern medicine better than the Rod of Asclepius.

Divorced, Beheaded, Died…

Wayne Madden
wmadden(at)shaw.ca

Surgeon General's Warning: *The Surgeon General of England warns that becoming the wife of King Henry VIII may cause severe physical and mental stress with a 33 percent chance of a severe neck injury resulting in death.*

All right! All right! All right! It is certainly true that Tudor England did not have a surgeon general, but if it had, anyone becoming the wife of England's most storied king would certainly have benefitted by such a warning. To be the wife of King Henry VIII was not easy. He was a man prone to wild temper swings, changing his mind on a whim, certainly somewhat of a misogynist, and fairly described as narcissistic. While rightly demanding that his wives be faithful to him, he was well known for being less than faithful to his wives, having had several mistresses (one of which was "the other Boleyn girl" – Anne's sister, Mary).

On 21 January 1997, the Royal Mail issued a set of seven commemorative stamps for the 450th anniversary of the death of King Henry VIII. The larger of the stamps portrayed the king looking very strong and virile. It is a splendid portrait. The problem is that by the end of his life at the age of 56, he was extremely obese, infertile, and generally in very bad health, partly as a result of a ulcers on his leg that would not heal (a result of a jousting accident).



However, the other six stamps, portraying his six wivess are of greater interest. Henry's first wife, Catherine of Aragon, was first briefly married to his older brother, Prince Arthur, who died shortly after the marriage. Whether the marriage between Arthur and Catherine was consummated has been debated, although Catherine said it was not. As Henry's queen, she proved a worthy partner, showing great skill at statecraft and good military judgment in England's conflict with Scotland, while Henry was on the continent for reasons of war and diplomacy. What she was unable to do was to produce a male heir for the king, who at the same time started to take an interest in a certain lady of the court from a very ambitious family – Anne Boleyn. Anne, unlike Mary her sister, was not willing to be the king's mistress and then be shuffled aside like last night's chamber pot. After a long series of political and religious upheavals, Catherine was divorced and Henry married Anne.

However, Anne was also unable to produce a male heir and had at least two miscarriages. She also had a sharp tongue and a great talent for making enemies very quickly. Completely intolerant of Henry's dalliances, she was not afraid to say so. In the end, as the king took an interest in yet another lady of the court, Jane Seymour, Anne was shuffled off to the Tower of London – and an appointment with a swordsman skilled at beheadings. (Ouch!)

Jane Seymour was able to produce the king's desired male heir, but she died from puerperal fever within days of childbirth. Realizing the desirability of a diplomatic marriage supporting a strong Protestant alliance, Thomas Cromwell did the diplomatic to and fro leading to the king's marriage to Anne of Cleves. Anne of Cleves pleased him not, and that marriage was quickly annulled – a better fate than that of Cromwell, whose matchmaking was one cause of his trip to the block. (Ouch again!)

Catherine Howard, another lady in the court, was next to catch the king's fancy. She was his "rose without a thorn" – he thought. The problem was a previous relationship with one very abusive and manipulative Francis Dereham. Anyway, Catherine was a rather

foolish girl in her late teens and definitely interested now in one Thomas Culpepper, with whom she exchanged rather flirtatious notes while Henry was already in his fifties and certainly not the man of any girl's dreams. Off to the block she went. (Yes – ouch again!)

Henry's last queen was Katherine Parr, who distinguished herself first as a caregiver to the king and for reconciling him with his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, restoring them to the line of succession. She showed some skill in statecraft in spite of controversies concerning her strong Protestant religious beliefs. (Remember that while Henry declared himself head of the church in England, he also strongly rejected Protestantism and considered himself a Catholic.) She survived the king, remarried, but tragically died within two years of puerperal fever after childbirth.

All portraits of Henry's wives but one are considered authentic. The exception is that of Catherine Howard, the ill-fated fifth wife. The portrait was painted by Hans Holbein the younger, who had also painted the miniature of Anne of Cleves (and several other portraits during Henry's later reign). But if it is not Catherine, then who is it?



I looked at a number of sources and found at least three possible names, one of which is Anne of Cleves, as experts have noted similarity in some facial features. Others suggest Elizabeth Seymour, the sister of Henry's third (and favorite) wife. However, as no confirmed portrait of Catherine exists (and Henry may have ordered any portraits of her to be destroyed), one cannot be sure. It may just be an unknown woman of the court.





For anyone interested, here are some other portraits that *some* have thought to be portraits of Catherine Howard. I leave it to the reader to consider which is closest to the portrait on the stamp.

The 1997 stamp issue, "The Great Tudor," was designed by Kate Stevens and printed by Waddington Security Print Ltd. using the photogravure process. Perforations are 15 by 14 for the six queen stamps and 15 by 15 for the stamp of King Henry VIII. The value of each stamp is 26 pence. (Information source: *Collect GB Stamps*, www.collectgbstamps.co.uk.)

Fun fact: The only other queen consorts who have been portrayed on British stamps are Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother) and Queen Camilla. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has also been portrayed on British stamps.

(Note on sources: For this article, a wide range of sources were used from the Internet, including the Royal Mail News*,* Tudor Treasures *by Jessica Carey Bunning, and* Collect GB Stamps*.)*



Something old and something new, something fraudulent and something blue.
(Thanks, Jeff.)



Jeff Pacey sent this to the *Bulletin*.
The Ochopee post office is a 60-square-foot shack along a bend in the road in the heart of the Florida Everglades, a box of corrugated aluminum with a shingled roof and a hurricane shutter for an awning. The postmaster, pictured here, is Don Walters. This nice little hut was built in 1953 after a fire destroyed the original office.

Around the Club

- It was slippery going in the club on 5 October. The floors were covered with drool after Jim Watt announced that he had purchased a US black Washington canceled in red on 4 July. He showed a photo on his phone.
- We are all very pleased that we now have a members' email address list. Joe Strigl circulated the last issue of this *Bulletin* by email. This was a first, and I (the editor) had to reduce the size of the PDF of the *Bulletin* so it could fit in members' mail boxes. (The full-size *Bulletin* is on the website. I can't imagine there's much of a difference.)
- Speaking of websites, Joe Strigl has been renovating ours. He now writes a column there. You can actually donate to the club on the website too. At present, one can only donate money. I tried hard to send some stamps to the site, but that didn't work. We still have to bring extra stamps to the meeting in order to donate to the kiloware box. Where's AI when we need it?
- Joe has also beefed up the club's Facebook page. And, holy smokes, he's even got us an Instagram account!

- Are you a life member? Have you informed the club board? You should, because the directors are trying to establish who exactly is a life member.

A Weird Thing

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

John-Paul Himka <jhimka@ualberta.ca>

FW: Ed journal
2 messages

Mark Oakley <maoak@shaw.ca> Mon, Apr 20, 2026 at 1:58 PM
To: jhimka@ualberta.ca

Hi John

Last week, Wednesday or Thursday, April 15,16, I received the ESC Bulletin in the mail. As I thumbed through it, I noticed that the dates seemed a little off when I saw the advertising for the spring show. I thought that was odd as the show was over.

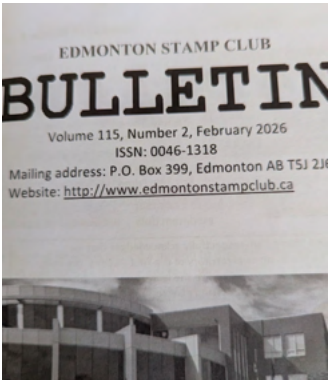
So I looked at the front cover and noted that this was the February issue. Indeed, very odd.

I dug the envelope out of the trash as I was curious to see the mailing date. How odd – no cancellation on the envelope. How did this piece of mail travel from Edmonton to Vancouver to Vernon without any markings along its journey. Was this a piece of mail discovered by the PO and then intentionally uncancelled so there was no evidence of late delivery – who can prove – just all very odd.

Perhaps publish this in the bulletin to see if any other members have had similar issues.

Cheers

Mark Oakley





Could this suspicious-looking fellow be responsible?



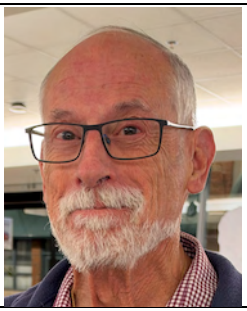
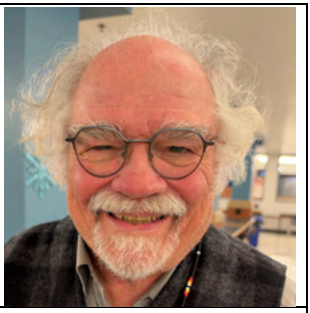
Meeting Dates

The Edmonton Stamp Club meets Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Joseph High School, 10830-109 Street. Park to the north of the school and use the main entrance at the southeast corner of the school. For information about the club call 780-467-4825 or 780-437-1787.

2026-27

26 October
7 December
8 and 22 February
12 and 26 April
9 and 23 November
11 and 25 January
8 and 22 March
3 and 17 May
7 and 21 June

Winners

		
Gary Geddes won one of two door prizes on 5 October	Steven Friedenthal won the other door prize on 5 October	Mark Boyce won $31 in the 50/50 on 5 October

Mark Boyce deserved to win some bucks. He spent quite a bit on attending the international stamp show in Boston this past May. The show was the topic of his presentation at the meeting on 5 October. (See also Ed Dykstra's article on the same show in the June *Bulletin*).