

K-W Stamp News

Letter from the President

Hi everyone involved with the K-W Stamp Club!

We are pleased to be resuming our newsletter, with a plan of about 3 timely issues per club year. It only works if we all help by contributing articles & other information for publication.

Our editor Kerstin Kramer is a wizard with computers - so very creative. You can help her by submitting short articles (200-400 words will suffice). Since we are in the Waterloo Region we would especially welcome articles about Berlin and other related materials. Get in touch with Kerstin by sending an email to the following address: Publicity@KWStampClub.org. Articles are welcome for any topic. We are especially looking to introduce our club members to one another, so please consider sending us a small article outlining your collecting interests for our "Member Profile" on page 2.

We would hope that this sharing will have a local flavor. In all cases your insertions, specialties and concerns should help advance philately.

Our Christmas reception/meeting is only a few days away on Thursday December 10th. All goody donations for the food table are welcome. Contact Rose Shaman (519 745-2973) if you have questions. This year we are asking members to share their memories of Christmas past. Bring props if you like.

Also bring your auction items to the December for the big January 2010 auction. Leigh would like all items by December 29 at the latest.

HAPPY STAMP COLLECTING!!

- Jim Oliver, President



**Kitchener-
Waterloo
Philatelic
Society**

Issue 2

Winter 2009

Wanted: Volunteers

Annual Stampfest

Volunteers required for set-up and take down. If you can spare some time, please get in touch with Tony Shaman at (519) 745-2973

Writers

Volunteers wanted for newsletter content. If you'd like to contribute, get in touch with any of our board members!

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KWPS Publicity - We can do better!

Have you ever wondered why we do not see more new faces at Stampfest? Or why we do not have more new members joining our club? Why is it that some stamp clubs are growing while others are stagnating even though they provide the same services and friendly ambience?

Answers to these questions are probably multi-factorial but the apparent success in attracting an encouraging number of visitors to our October "Open House" provides some clues. Several of the visitors actually joined the club and are now members.

However, to achieve such a rewarding result took a bit of effort on the part of your executive. You might like to learn how it was accomplished.

First, your directors spent a considerable chunk of time discussing how they could go about attracting the public's attention and once they had it, how to convince these people to attend our Open House.

The next step was finding economical and affordable means

of getting out our message. That was accomplished by enlisting the help of the print and electronic media. President Jim taped a short interview with Rogers TV, which was shown on three occasions during the course of a day, morning, afternoon and evening. As a public service, Rogers did not charge the club for this great publicity. Kerstin posted the information on a couple of Websites.

Your directors also prepared and placed flyers in several postal outlets. Other than the cost of the paper, this was also free.

A nominal sum was spent on an ad in the *Penny Saver*. However, with a "hook" as part of the ad offering a free Queen Victoria stamp and an Elvis stamp to all

"And to the individuals that became members of our club, we extend a heartfelt welcome."

visitors identifying themselves at the meeting, it was money well spent. Nine persons claimed these freebies. We also had extra good



draws, just for visitors.

Admittedly, it was considerable work to attract the people that visited our Open House but the exercise proved that with honest effort we can do better.

We hope that our guests had an enjoyable time and perhaps even learned something about our hobby: that stamp collecting can be fun. And to the individuals that became members of our club, we extend a heartfelt welcome. We hope that every one of you will find your newfound association with The K-W Philatelic Society rewarding, educational and a worthwhile experience for many years to come.

**- Tony Shaman,
Stampfest Director**

Member Profile: Oscar Cormier

Oscar Cormier grew up in New Brunswick and started collecting postage stamps at the age of 7. At first he collected Canadian postage stamps that he found on letters that came in the mail.

Oscar moved to Ontario when he was 15 years old and actually never put any of his stamps into



Oscar Cormier

books until his retirement. His collection holds mint & used stamps from Canada & USA and he particularly enjoys reading up about the history of each stamp.

These days you will also find Oscar looking for Canadian and US covers, which he has been collecting since 2006.

Stairway to Heaven

My friend Jay was very distressed when rodents at his cottage damaged some of his stamp materials. He had tried to use traditional traps but found one trap would only catch one rodent, if any, but the critters always took the bait.

This became the challenge, to create a better trap that could capture multiple rodents.

He devised a container with a ramp (stairway) that has a loose rolling dowel. Over the dowel he fitted a pop can that was also loose &

would spin when a rodent appeared to take the peanut butter bait. With the spin our bandit would fall into the container. He has found that windshield washer fluid or similar antifreeze insures death to the perpetrator, preserves the body, acts endlessly over the 2 – 4 week periods, and eliminates any odor.

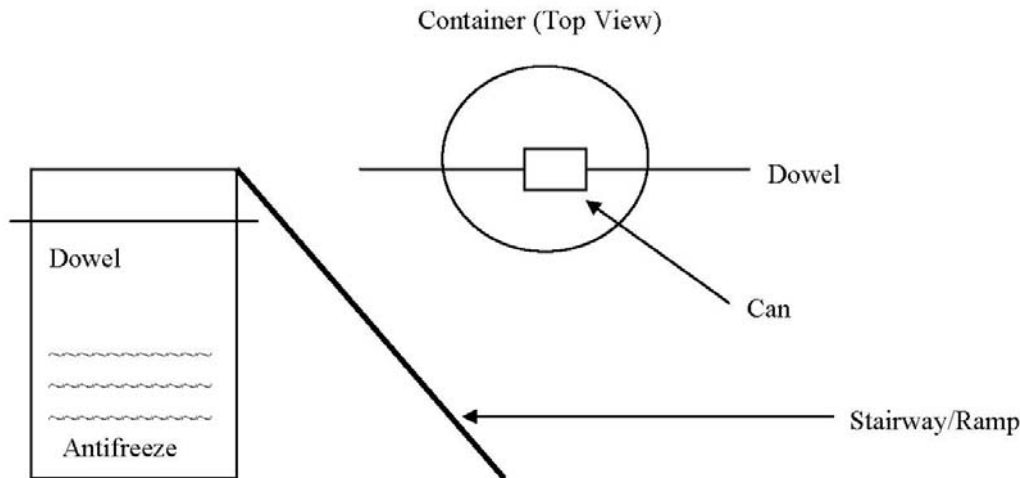
So far his record is 17 rodents in any one period. A regular trap does not compare.

- Jim Oliver, President



Beware of rodents that like to chew on postage stamps!

*Left:
Sketch of rodent trap*



“A regular trap does not compare.”

Interesting Internet Sites for Collectors

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

Your stamp club is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada - Canada's national society for philatelists! The RPSC website holds numerous interesting pages for you to review:

News: features new publications,

various announcements and other philatelic news items.

Shows: features annual exhibition and convention dates for RPSC shows.

Library: features re-



Please email your favourite links to Publicity@KWStampClub.org

search articles with philatelic related information.

And there are many more pages for you to browse through. Stop by one day and have a look!

**- Kerstin Kramer,
Publicity Director**

Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society

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Visit us on the web at
www.KWStampClub.org

Let us help you complete
your collection!



Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
Chapter 13

Tagging on Canadian Stamps

To help in the automation of mail sorting, the Post Office Department of Canada introduced stamps that were coated or tagged with a phosphor substance with the specially tagged issue of the current Canadian definitives on January 13, 1962.

A UV light is a very helpful tool in identifying these stamps. The UV light allows the phosphor coating of the stamps to glow.

Nowadays all low-value Canadian postage stamps are coated in such fashion. Aspects, such as these, make the collecting of modern issues so interesting.

Most of the larger countries where postal automation has taken

place will have in place similar techniques.

We may wish to look at British stamps where similar experiments took place.

Well-known author and researcher Robin Harris has an excellent website on the use of Canadian tagging, going into great detail in this interesting philatelic field. His website may be found at

http://www.adminware.ca/tagging/tag_term.htm



UV Light

Our meetings are open to everyone.
Come on by!

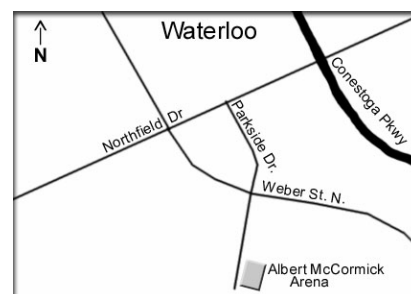
Next meetings: December 10th, January 14th,
February 11th, March 11th, April 15th

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place:

Albert McCormick
Arena
(Community Room)

500 Parkside Drive,
Waterloo



Annual membership*:

Adults: \$ 15

Family: \$ 20

Children are free!!!

- Gus Knieriem, Member