



# THE NOVA SCOTIA POST

The Monthly Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

December 2025  
Volume 55, Issue 545

## UP AND COMING

**Valley Stamp Club** - December 6  
Port Williams Community Centre.  
Guset Speaker: Jane Sodero

**NS Stamp Club** - December 9  
Seasonal Social and Charity Auction  
open to non-philatelic items—all  
proceeds to charity.

**Moncton Stamp Fair** - December 13  
10 - 3pm, 100 War Veterans Ave,  
Moncton, NB

The Fundy Stamp Club will hold a Silent  
Auction which will run from 10 a.m. to 1  
p.m. and a Live Auction at 1:30 p.m.

**South Shore Stamp Club** - December 20  
New Life Christian Church, Elm St.  
Bridgewater, NS

### NSSC Stamp Fairs for 2026

March 15  
July 26  
Sept 13  
Nov 15

Check out the status of other events at  
[www.rpsc.org/shows.php](http://www.rpsc.org/shows.php) or  
[www.csdaonline.com/shows](http://www.csdaonline.com/shows)

### Member Dues

It is incumbent on each member to  
pay their dues in a timely manner.

Please pay at the next meeting  
or by e-transfer to

[Treasurer@nsstampclub.ca](mailto:Treasurer@nsstampclub.ca).

Member dues can be forwarded by  
mail as per the bottom of page 2.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STAMP COLLECTING - PART 1

by Jeff Parks

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the computing world is advancing fast and most of us cannot keep up. ChatGPT was one of the first platforms put out there and in recent ads for AI courses I have seen, the pitch is that most people who try it use it like a web browser. "ChatGPT is an AI language model that generates text and provides information, while a web browser is a software application that retrieves and displays web pages." I quote this because it is the *AI overview* provided in Google (a web browser) on the difference between the two.

Despite the many applications that now use AI to develop almost anything, including actors, there are two that are readily available on your computer if you use Google - "Gemini" or Microsoft - "Copilot" that can help with some philatelic research. **Note:** An AI derived report is only subject matter that requires proper corroboration; it is not the "gospel truth".

Last summer, Jack Forbes asked me if I knew anything about the Eureka Stamp Co. and he provided to me the front and back images of the cover (Figure 1 and 2). Although I was not aware of this company, I said I would see what I could find out. I did a web search, as had Jack, and came up with nothing. I then posed this question to *Gemini*: "Looking for Info on Eureka Stamp Co, Sherbrooke NS, around 1899". *Gemini* found no direct record of the company in Sherbrooke in 1899.

But it did provide in it's response as to why there was no records found—something a web browser doesn't do. It also provided info on Sherbrooke Village in context to the date I suggested, a review of [McApline's Nova Scotia Directory](#) for the period, and other parallel information based on the search words. Of note to me since I am a geoscientist is this response: "It is worth noting that the term "stamp" in a mining town could potentially refer to a stamp mill, a machine used for crushing ore to extract gold. However, research into the mining operations in and around Sherbrooke and the associated "Goldenville" mining district does not reveal a company named the "Eureka Stamp Co." More on this later!

It is also worth noting that the Eureka gold lead (1868) is found in the Wine Harbour Gold District 20 km south of Sherbrooke...an



Figure 1

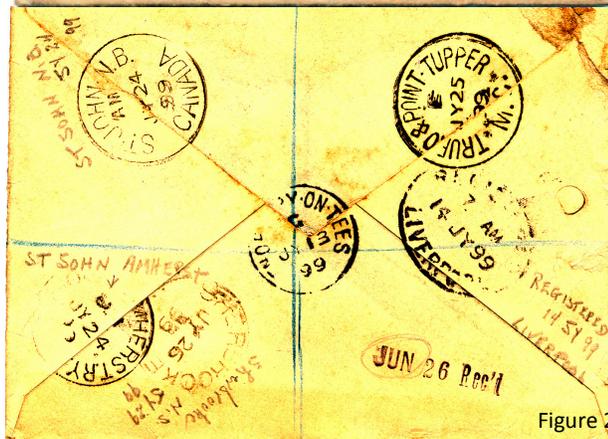


Figure 2

## AI AND STAMPS CONTINUED

interesting parallel to the story.

Undeterred, and not knowing if anything would come of it, I copied the cover front image (Fig.1) into Gemini with the following query "Review this cover and provide an update to your previous answer". The response...

*"Based on the provided image of the envelope, I can now offer a significant update to the previous answer. The image is a piece of postal history that provides concrete evidence of the existence of the "Eureka Stamp Co." in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia, in 1899.*

*The submitted image of an envelope, or "cover," unequivocally confirms that a business named The Eureka Stamp Co. was operating in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia, in July 1899. This new evidence contradicts the previous findings, which were based on searches of digitized business directories and general historical records that did not contain a listing for the company. The cover itself is a historical artifact and a primary source document."*

What happened here is that I taught it something—Eureka Stamp Co exists! This info is now part of the AI intelligence with hard proof. Note also that I said cover in my query and it came back with envelope or "cover". But more amazingly it read the cover providing the:

*"Addressee: The envelope is clearly addressed in cursive handwriting to...*

***Postmarks and Date:** The cover features several postmarks. The most legible one is a circular date stamp from **THORNABY-ON-TEES**, a town in the North Riding of Yorkshire, England. The date on this postmark is **JY 13 99**, indicating it was mailed on July 13, 1899. This shows that the Eureka Stamp Co. was receiving international mail. There are also less clear receiving postmarks, which would be typical for mail arriving from overseas.*

***Stamps:** The envelope bears two Queen Victoria "Jubilee" issue stamps from Great Britain, which were in use during that period.*

***"R" Marking:** The large "R" in a circle with "Fee Paid" signifies that this was a piece of "Registered Mail." This means the sender paid an additional fee for special handling and a degree of security, suggesting the contents were considered valuable."*

Gemini went on to provide a conclusion from the evidence of what was asked and presented so far, that included confirmation of the company's existence; possible nature of its business; and reasons for the lack of records available to it to not have found more info. All interesting but not really of any substance.

Step 2... Give it the back cover (Fig. 2). I stated: "This is the back side of the cover with receiving stamps. Does this help the story?" Not a typical web browser inquiry! And the response...

*The collection of postmarks, known as "backstamps," on the reverse of the envelope allows us to trace the final leg of its journey from Great Britain to the small village of Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia, in June 1899. Here is a breakdown of what these markings tell us:*

### **1. Transatlantic Crossing and Arrival:**

*Liverpool (JUN 14 99): After being sent from Thornaby-on-Tees on July 13th (a correction from the previous analysis which misread JUN as JY), the letter was processed for overseas dispatch from Liverpool, a major port for transatlantic mail. The "Registered" handstamp also indicates its processing at the Liverpool office on June 14, 1899. From here, it would have boarded a steamship bound for Canada.*

### **2. North American Landfall and Canadian Journey:**

*The letter likely landed at a major port such as Halifax or possibly Montreal and was then placed into the Canadian railway mail system. The backstamps trace its path eastward through the Maritimes.*

- ***St. John, N.B. (JUN 24 99):** Ten days after leaving Liverpool, the letter received its first clear Canadian backstamp in St.*

*John, New Brunswick. This was a major railway hub and distribution centre for the Maritimes.*

- ***Truro & Point Tupper R.P.O. (JUN 25 99):** The next day, it was on a train. This marking stands for "Railway Post Office." Mail was sorted directly on the train cars to speed up delivery. This specific R.P.O. route ran through central Nova Scotia, connecting Truro to Point Tupper at the Strait of Canso.*
- ***St. Peter's & Amherst R.P.O. (JUN 26 99):** This marking is slightly confusing as St. Peter's and Amherst are not on a direct line. However, this likely represents another leg of the railway journey. The key information is the date, June 26, as the letter gets closer to its destination.*
- ***Sherbrooke, N.S. (JUN 26 99):** The final, and most important, postmark is the receiving stamp from Sherbrooke itself, dated June 26, 1899. This confirms the letter successfully reached its destination.*
- ***"JUN 26 Rec'd" Handstamp:** A separate, simple handstamp stating "JUN 26 Rec'd" (Received) further verifies the date of arrival at the Sherbrooke post office.*

But this is obviously not correct. The cover was sent in July not June and the St. Peter's & Amherst RPO is wrong. So, what actually happened...

**STAY TUNED FOR PART 2 IN JANUARY 2026**

### **The Nova Scotia Post**

is a publication of the  
Nova Scotia Stamp Club  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Jane Sodero - Editor  
Jeff Parks - Graphic Design

<http://www.nsstampclub.ca/>  
[webnews@nsstampclub.ca](mailto:webnews@nsstampclub.ca)

Nova Scotia Stamp Club meets at 7:30 p.m. on every second Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. The club publishes a monthly newsletter (except summer) released in the first week of the month.

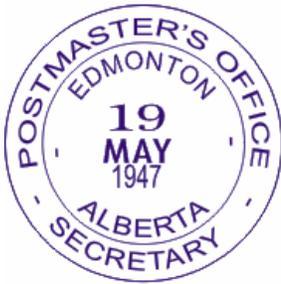
E-Membership is C\$10 per person or C\$15.00 per couple.

Print Membership is C\$15 and C\$22.50.  
Foreign mailings available at a premium.

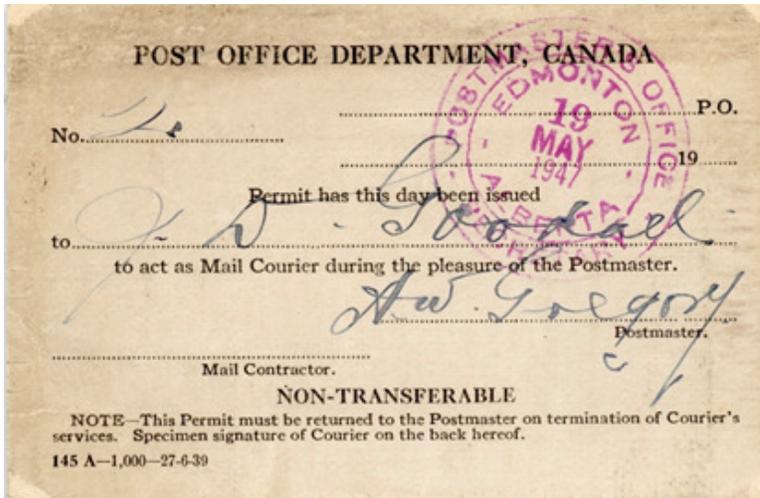
Send **membership applications** to...  
NS Stamp Club c/o Jeff Parks  
102 Birch Bear Run,  
Lewis Lake, NS B3Z 4B8

## CANADA POST DEPARTMENTAL HANDSTAMPS #26

by Gary Steele



Double Circle 27+37mm  
 Sans-serif, all caps.  
 No proof known



What cannot be seen with this Canada Post Office Department form/card is that it is made of cloth with a paper surface on top.

The form number is **145 A-1,000—27-6-39** indicating only 1000 printed. The key being the Postmaster's Office double circle handstamp from Edmonton subset Secretary. This is the only Departmental Handstamp I have yet to record of this type under both the **Postmaster's Office** and **Secretary** sections.

Upon examination on May 19, 1947 a permit was issued to a J. D. Goodall to act as Mail Courier at the pleasure of the Postmaster, A. W. Gregory (Postmaster).

As can be seen this is a **NON-TRANSFERABLE** contract and the permit must be returned to the Postmaster on termination of Courier's services. The backside is clean indicating it was not signed by the Courier nor on the front where it says **Mail Contractor**.

One of the key issues with the various departments in the Canadian Post Office is determining the scope of duties and actions taken by each department. Very little can be ascertained on the internet on a historical basis so it is important to carefully inspect forms like this to glean snippets of information which might be able to fill out the story.

## FIRST CHRISTMAS CARD

by Michael Peach

In early 19th century Britain, it was common among the upper middle class to exchange Christmas greetings, either with calling cards or letters. The etiquette in Victorian Britain required that all the greetings received be answered. Henry Cole (1808 – 1882), a senior bureaucrat and principal assistant to Roland Hill, was inundated with Christmas greetings. What to do? He decided to produce a standard card with Christmas greetings that could be sent to friends through the mail.

In 1843 Cole approached one of his friends John Callcott Horsley, a London graphic artist asking him to produce a suitable design. The card a triptych depicted in the centre a prosperous looking family celebrating the festive season around a table with a Christmas feast and raising their glasses in a toast. The family is almost certainly three generations of the Cole family. The side panels illustrate feeding and clothing the poor. The ancient Christmas symbols, the holy and the ivy, are seen around the image. At the top the sender could write the name of the recipient and his/her name at the bottom. The seasonal greeting A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You is on a sash. The card was criticized by various temperance groups as it pictured a family, particularly a young girl, sipping wine.

The cards were lithographically printed on stiff cardboard, 5½ x 3¼ inches, about the size of a lady's visiting card, and were hand coloured. Cole, using the pseudonym Felix Summerly from 12 Old Bond Street, had 1000 cards printed more than sufficient for the Cole family needs. The remaining cards were offered for sale at one shilling each, now maybe at least £10.



**NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE - NOV. 25 /25**

Members of the executive noted the passing of long-time member **Kerry Delorey** on November 20, 2025. His obituary can be found [here](#) at Atlantic Funeral Home, Dartmouth.

The **December meeting** will be our Christmas Social. Members are reminded to bring along items for the annual anything goes charity auction where non-philatelic items welcomed and encouraged. Members are asked to bring snacks for the social – sandwiches, sweets, etc. Guests as always are welcome as a spouses and partners – we would love to meet you.

The executive set the upcoming **meeting programs**:

January – Round Table format; Show and Tell; Auction.

February – Dave Ferns will give a presentation on Dorothy Wilding; Auction.

March – Presentation by Marla Hillier (more information in the new year); Auction

April – Round Table format; Show and Tell; Auction.

Finally, the executive discussed the **registration of the Club as a Society**. Since the November meeting, the paperwork has been filed and fees paid for registering the Club as a Society under the name Nova Scotia Stamp Club. This protects the name of the Club.

The next step is to obtain the final approval of the Registry of Joint Stock Companies. The only item holding back final approval is our Constitution and By-laws. The Club submitted our current Constitution and By-laws as it now appears on the [club website](#).

The Registry noted five elements which must be incorporated into the document but was otherwise in agreement with the constitution as it stands. These elements include specifics regarding the Annual General Meeting; an indication that members of the Executive serve without remuneration; stating the dates of the fiscal year; details about the requirements for changes to the Constitution and By-laws and stating where and when financial records of the club may be inspected by the membership.

The executive will prepare an updated constitution with the required elements. Both the current Constitution and the proposed document will be published in the January edition of The Nova Scotia Post for review at January's regular club meeting. Discussions with the membership will commence at that time and hopefully the process will be completed before spring.

**VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS - DEC. 2025**

compiled by Ann Miller

You can register for the event via the host's website. Most of the groups listed have past presentations available to view through their websites, or YouTube. Times listed are for the ATLANTIC time zone.

**American Topical Association (ATA):**

Dec. 2, 8 pm. Vera Felts, "Gingerbread on stamps".

**Auxiliary Markings Club:**

Dec. 9, 2 pm. Blair Ashford, "Postage Paid markings of Newfoundland".

**British Empire Study Group (BESG):**

Dec. 11, 7 pm. Vernon Morris, "The Colonial Mails".

**Collectors Club of New York:**

Dec. 17, 6:30 pm. Michael Laurence, "The US 10 cent 1869 issue - A 50 year study of postal uses".

**Learning About Stamps Online:**

Dec. 16, 9 pm. "Holiday social hour".

**North Toronto Stamp Club:**

Dec. 18, 8 pm. Zoom presentation

**Postal History Society of Canada:**

Dec. 16, 7 pm. "Show and Tell"

**Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC):**

Dec. 8, 8 pm, [Stamp Talk](#), David Oberholtzer, "ChristKindl, the Christmas stamps of Austria"

Dec. 15, 8 pm, [Stamp Panel](#), "Christmas show and share".

**Royal Philatelic Society of London (RPSL):**

Dec. 2, 11 am. Sandeep Jaiswal, "Some of my favourite items from Jammu and Kashmir".

**Society of Australasian Specialists / Oceania:**

Nov. 20, 7 pm. no Zoom presentation.

Contact Steve Zirinsky [szirinsky@cs.com](mailto:szirinsky@cs.com) for a link.

**West Toronto Stamp Club:**

Dec. 2, 8 p.m., [Learning Workshop](#), "What do you value in your collection – collections, and why?"

Dec. 16 no Discussion Group, annual Holiday dinner.

