



THE NOVA SCOTIA POST

The Monthly Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

January 2026
Volume 55, Issue 546

UP AND COMING

Valley Stamp Club - January 3
Port Williams Community Centre.

Moncton Stamp Fair - January 10
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.

NS Stamp Club - January 13
Round Table. Constitutional review.
Show and Tell. Auction.

South Shore Stamp Club - January 24
New Life Christian Church, Elm St.
Bridgewater, NS

NSSC Stamp Fair dates for 2026
March 15
July 26
Sept 13
Nov 15

Check out the status of other events at
www.rpsc.org/shows.php or
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.

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

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STAMP COLLECTING - PART 2

by Jeff Parks

In Part 1 of this story we were using the cover (Figures 1 and 2) in Google's artificial intelligence tool *Gemini* to help tell the story of the cover and its attributes. We found that *Gemini* was able to read the image and provide insight into the company name but more importantly to provide a commentary of the dates and places of all the postmarks and postal marks on both sides of the cover. Almost...there were errors. Let's have a closer look.

The AI did correctly state that the cover was mailed to The Eureka Stamp Co., Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia from **THORNABY-ON-TEES**, Yorkshire, England on July 13, 1899 (**JY 13 99**); however the commentary for the transit postmarks on the back of the cover were all stated as June and not July. This in part could have arisen from the handstamp **JUN 26 Rec'd** which is out of character from all the **JY** (July) post marks. Two thoughts: either the Sherbrooke PO or the Eureka Stamp Co. forgot to change the month on the handstamp. The letter arrived in Saint John NB (upper left PM), the first port of call, on **JY 24 99** Next travelling the **St. John & Amherst RY** the same day **JY 24 99** (Lr left - left PM) arriving in Amherst. There is a gap in the story between Amherst and Truro where the PM for the **Truro & Point Tupper** (upper right PM) line was applied **JY 25 99**. From this line we have another gap, but likely the letter was changed to some other cartage at Antigonish and arrived in Sherbrooke **JY 26 99** (lower left - right PM).



Figure 1

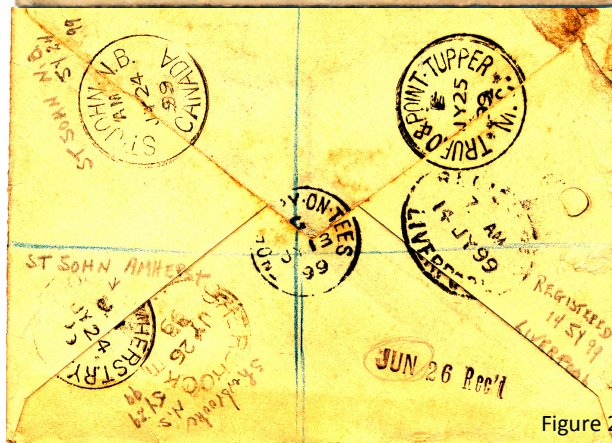


Figure 2

The AI told a fantastic story with many errors, including the St. Peter's & Amherst RPO assumption which can be attributed to the lack of a clear postmark for St John & Amherst RY. This strengthens the argument that you cannot rely completely on the AI to tell fact and those facts must be corroborated just like any othersource. The gap in my story is that I am not an expert on the movement of mail in Nova Scotia during this time - 1899 and there are gaps in the transit story of this cover, namely between Amherst and Truro and the Truro & Point Tupper RPO and Sherbrooke. I am sure there are other readers who can fill those gaps for us. But I had to ask Gemini.

Yes. The cover was sorted on the train and the clerks "tossed the Sherbrooke bag off at the nearest

AI AND STAMPS 2 continued Pg. 2

AI AND STAMPS 2 CONTINUED

major railhead" at Antigonish. It was "carried by a mail stage-coach distance of about 40 miles (64 km), which was a full day's travel over the rough roads of 1899. Historical records from Sherbrooke indicate that in 1892, a local businessman named Thomas Sears acquired the contract for the Sherbrooke/Antigonish mail service. He operated a livery stable and a stagecoach line specifically for this purpose. The stagecoach carried the Royal Mail, freight, and passengers who needed to get from the train station to the gold fields." Was Sears still moving mail in 1899, we don't know, but this does give a source for further research.

Recent articles by BNAPS and RPSC have discussed the issue of using AI in stamp collecting and have warned against using AI as the be all and end all. In fact, BNAPS said they would not accept AI generated articles. That sounds a little heavy handed to me. But, to be fair, it is a little like saying *do not copy someone else's article and submit it as your own*.

I am only scratching the surface of what AI could do for me as a collector. When a Google search doesn't find the document, one can turn to AI to "discuss" what you are looking for and while the answer might not be what you want, it may provide clues or topics for further "discussion" or research hints that can help in another direction. AI learns by doing. The more accurate information that it has the better the outcome.

As a final step in preparation of this article, I asked Gemini what the pros and cons are of using AI in stamp collecting. Two points stand out.

Pro..."The primary benefit of AI is efficiency and democratization. It removes the "barrier to entry" for new collectors who may find traditional paper catalogs (e.g. Scott or Stanley Gibbons) intimidating."

Con..."Despite its power, philatelic experts warn that AI is not a perfect substitute for a seasoned "eye." "

The Nova Scotia Post

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Nova Scotia Stamp Club
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Jane Sodero - Editor
Jeff Parks - Graphic Design

<http://www.nsstampclub.ca/>
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 #27 by Gary Steele



Double Circle, 19 + 30 mm
Sans-serif, all caps.
No proof known.



Note the manuscript:

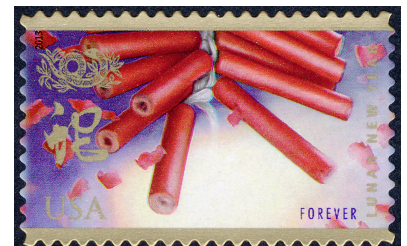
Draft in a Box- previously used / Stamp back

Fraudulent re-use of a postage stamp required it to be marked with a zero/dot as zero value then sent to the Dead Letter Branch Superintendent for inspection. A big NO NO.

There is an AP 9th 1895 DLO receiver on the back. It was then examined by the Superintendent per the large Dead Letter Branch double oval that was in use up until the July 1898 decentralization. A full two months later it appeared at the Inspector's Office at Stratford, Ont. on Jun 19th to possibly be brought to the attention of the sender.

Most of the very early official Departmental handstamps pre 1900 were of these types with a double border with words in-between. Many are ONLY PROOF KNOWN or very few copies reported such as this Stratford handstamp.

My advice: Ask questions. Provide detail. Confirm answers!!!



LUNAR NEW YEAR
* FOREVER USA *



NOVA SCOTIA COVER WITH FAKE MARKING MEANT TO DECEIVE

by Jack Forbes

This cover features the work of a scammer who attempted to have the purchaser believe that the "S.S." in the address stood for "Steam Ship" rather than for the correct interpretation - "South Side". To reinforce the scam, he/she added an oval "paquebot" rubber stamp impression.



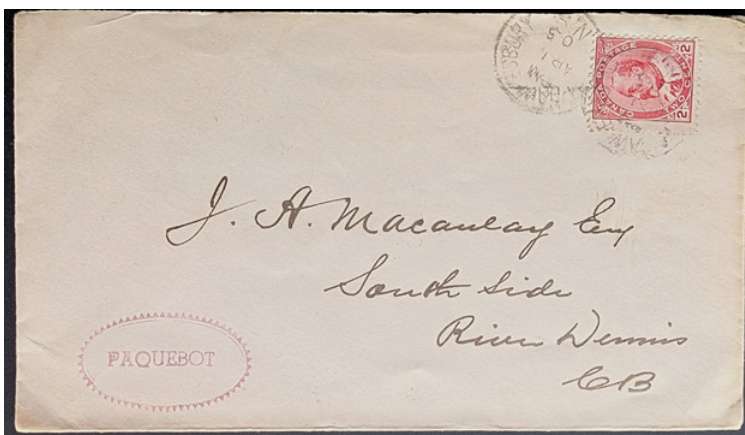
Posted at Springhill NS

Duplex cancel dated Jan 27 05

To S.S. River Dennis, Inverness Co., NS

The reverse has a River Dennis Station ja 30 05 (split ring) transit cancel.

Editor's Note – There was a similar cover posted recently on the Postal History Society of Canada Facebook page (see below). Covers with a Paquebot marking usually addressed to a MacAulay in SS River Dennis are not uncommon. Several different versions of the fake marking exist. More information can be found at: <https://paquebot.info/>.



CONSTITUTION 2026

The Nova Scotia Stamp Club is currently in the process of registering as a non-profit society with the Registry of Joint Stocks Companies of Nova Scotia. Part of this process requires filing a Constitution and By-laws. The current constitution was put before the Registry and subsequently they requested we make minor changes and additions.

Members are asked to please review the attached three documents (pages 5,6,7) carefully. The first is the current constitution, last revised in June 2022. The second is the proposed new constitution, which has met with the approval of the executive. The third is a quick guide to enable you to readily see what has been changed or added.

The new constitution will be openly discussed at the January Club Meeting. If you have any questions or concerns this is the time to express them. Providing questions are addressed to the satisfaction of those raising concerns, there will be a call for a motion to adopt this new constitution. The motion will only be carried with a three-quarter majority vote. If concerns cannot be addressed and another re-write is required, then the vote will be put off until February.

CONTINUED on Pages 5 to 7



A well attended December meeting was held at the Museum of Natural History. A very impressive auction was held with over 120 items, both philatelic and non philatelic, offered with all proceeds to charity.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS - JAN 2026

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:

Jan. 13, 8 pm. Tony Curiale, "How I Developed My *Supernatural* Exhibit".

Jan. 27, 8 pm, Alan and Diane Bauer, "Taking up the gauntlet – exploring castles and palaces of Eastern Europe".

MS Publisher is ending – now what?

A two evening course by Martin Miller gives an overview of software that can replace MS Publisher. Tues. Jan. 20, and Thurs. Jan 22, 8 pm. Cost \$30 US non ATA members.

Auxiliary Markings Club:

Jan. 13, 7:45 pm. Jere Dutt, "The Registration labels of Togo".

British Empire Study Group:

Jan. 15, 7 pm. Tom Droege, "ESG Hosts – The Latest Trends in AI for Philately and more...(AI = Artificial "Intelligence")".

Collectors Club of New York:

Jan. 7, 6:30 pm, Mark Banchik and Kirk Gillis, "New APS leadership".

Jan. 21, 6:30 pm, Diane Dubois, "Ephemera Society of America".

Learning About Stamps Online:

Jan. 20, 9 pm. Charles DiComo "Primer — US revenue Act of 1862, the use of Private Die Proprietary Revenue Stamp".

North Toronto Stamp Club:

Jan. 15, 8 pm. Paul Sarjeant, "The adventurous and philatelic life of Count Pehr Ambjörn Sparre"

Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada:

Jan. 21, 8:30 pm. Tom Gosse: "The King George VI Large Key Type Revenue and Postage High Value Stamps 1937-1953 used for Postage. "

Postal History Society of Canada:

Jan. 20, 7 pm. John Reynolds, "The Upper Canada rates conundrum to 1821".

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada:

Jan. 12, 8 pm, Stamp Talk, Peter MacDonald, "Back of the Book".

Jan. 19, 8 pm, Stamp Panel, Gregg Redner and John Wilson, "Through the eyes of a philatelic judge (part 2)". How a judge views an exhibit and the judge training and qualification process. (Part one was presented in Jan. / 25, and can be viewed on YouTube through the RPSC website).

Royal Philatelic Society of London:

Jan. 6, 11 am, Simon Martin-Redman, "Postal history: What is more interesting, the postal aspect or the history aspect?"

Society of Australasian Specialists / Oceania:

Contact Steve Zirinsky szirinsky@cs.com for a link.

West Toronto Stamp Club:

Jan. 6, 8 pm, Learning Workshop, "Anything and everything related to the letter 'K' ".

Jan. 20, 8 pm, Discussion Group, Alex Globe, "From Mudhole to Metropolis". Part 1 on the development of Toronto.

Dr. Leonard ("Leo") Gordon Feinstein, 1938-2025

We note the passing of club member Leo Feinstein who passed away on October 3, 2025.



Leo was born in Brooklyn, NY, on August 18, 1938. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering Case Western Reserve (now Case Institute of Technology) and graduated from MIT with an MS in Chemistry and a PhD in Physical Chemistry. He began his career as a scientist with NASA in Boston, then accepted a scientific post with the French government. After two years he returned to the US where Leo worked at the prestigious Bell Labs, Allentown, PA. In 1981, he went to Colorado Springs, CO, where Leo worked for a British semiconductor company. Again after 2 years he settled in Westboro, MA and took the position of Quality Control Manager for semiconductor manufacturer, Sprague Electric (later, Allegro Microsystems). Sprague had factories all over the Far East, giving Leo the opportunity for travel to China, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. Leo was a Lifetime Fellow of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers). He also served as the President of the IEEE's Components, Hybrids and Manufacturing Technology Society (now Electronic Packaging Society) from 1988-1990.

Other than stamp collecting, his interests lay in theatre, dance and storytelling.

Leo is survived by his second wife, Anne Guy, of Cole Harbour, NS, CA; his sons, Eric Feinstein of Allentown, PA, and Joseph (Josh) Feinstein of Lakewood Ranch, FL. Donations in Leo's name may be made to the **American Civil Liberties Union**, Greenpeace, or the Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum. The full obituary can be read [here](#).

Nova Scotia Stamp Club
Current Constitution and By-laws
(Last Revised June 14, 2022)

1. The name of the Club is The Nova Scotia Stamp Club.
2. The object of the Club will be to encourage the collecting of postage stamps, related items and the study of philately. To promote interest in the hobby, the club will meet once per month (except July and August) to exchange and acquire philatelic items and knowledge for the mutual benefit of all members.
3.
 - a. The executive of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club will consist of the President, Vice-President, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and three Directors. Two of the Directors are to be elected by the Club membership and the third will be appointed by the Executive. At executive meetings, five (5) executive members in attendance will constitute a quorum.
 - b. The authority and discretionary powers granted to the executive for the purpose of conducting the Club's regular business may be exercised and approved by a quorum of club executive members in a virtual meeting, or by e-mail or other electronic means and shall be as valid and effectual as if conducted at a duly constituted in-person meeting. Any business conducted in this manner shall be read into the minutes captured at the next scheduled executive meeting.
4.
 - a. An Auctioneer, Assistant Auctioneer, Librarian, and Auditor will be appointed by the Executive from Club members.
 - b. The Club's Exhibition Chairperson, appointed by the Executive, will sit as an ex-officio member of the executive.
5. Committees will be formed and designated as follows:
 - a. A membership committee that can be made up of members of the Club or the executive. The Terms of Reference will be read into the executive minutes.
 - b. A program committee composed of the President, or Vice-President and two other club members.
 - c. The Executive may, as deemed necessary, appoint individuals or sub-committees to the business of the Club. The individuals of sub-committees may include members of the Executive, members of the Club-at-large or a combination of both. The Executive will read into the minutes the name of the individual or the composition of the sub-committee(s) and the required Terms of Reference.
6.
 - a. The Club will hold regular monthly meetings (normally from September of any year to June of the following year) at a place, date and time to be determined by the executive. At such meetings, fifteen members, including the Club President or his/her appointed representative will constitute a quorum.
 - b. The Annual General Meeting will be held in the month of September each year.
 - c. In May, the Past President will chair a Committee of three members to prepare a slate of potential of nominees to form an executive for the next year that will be approved by the executive prior to being presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The consent of such members to act as Officers must be obtained before their names are submitted. The Club membership will receive notification of the nominees in the newsletter issued immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting.
 - d. The President and Treasurer will submit their Annual Reports at the Annual General Meeting.
 - e. The President is empowered to call a special executive or Club meeting at any time by giving due notice of the place, date and time and by providing an agenda of the topic(s) for discussion.
7. The annual membership dues for all classes of membership will be reviewed by the executive annually. A recommendation to change membership dues will be published in the earliest Newsletter possible and recorded for the reading of the minutes. Any change in the membership dues must then be approved by a majority vote of the attending quorum at the next regularly scheduled Club meeting.
8.
 - a. An application for membership does not imply acceptance.
 - b. If, in the opinion of the Executive, a member is deemed to have exercised dishonest or unfair practices (internal or external to the Club) and thus reflects discredit upon the Club, such member can be expelled by the executive. This action will be considered only after a hearing at a meeting of the Executive.
9. The Executive may approve petty cash funds to facilitate effective and efficient conduct of repetitive club business. The petty cash funds may be revoked by the Executive at any time.
10. Proposed changes to the Constitution of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club may be presented in writing by any member. The proposed change will be reviewed by the Executive. If accepted by Executive, the proposal will be published in the Club newsletter and presented to the membership for consideration at the earliest possible meeting. The change(s) must be approved by a majority vote of the attending quorum at the next meeting.

- END -

Nova Scotia Stamp Club Proposed Constitution and By-laws

(December 3, 2025)

1. The name of the Society is Nova Scotia Stamp Club.
2. The object of the Society shall be to encourage the collecting of postage stamps, related items and the study of philately. To promote interest in the hobby, the club shall meet to exchange and acquire philatelic items and knowledge for the mutual benefit of all members.
3.
 - a. The executive of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club shall consist of the president, vice-president, past president, secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, and three directors. Two of the directors are to be elected by the club membership and the third shall be appointed by the executive. At executive meetings, five (5) executive members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.
 - b. The authority and discretionary powers granted to the executive for the purpose of conducting the club's regular business may be exercised and approved by a quorum of club executive members in a virtual meeting, or by e-mail or other electronic means and shall be as valid and effectual as if conducted at a duly constituted in-person meeting. Any business conducted in this manner shall be read into the minutes captured at the next scheduled executive meeting.
 - c. The club shall hold regular monthly meetings (normally from September of any year to June of the following year) at a place, date and time to be determined by the executive and posted in the club newsletter. At such meetings, fifteen members, including the club president or his/her appointed representative shall constitute a quorum.
4. Directors (executive) shall serve without remuneration and shall not receive any profit or be paid for being directors. However, directors and members may receive reasonable remuneration for other services they provide to the club as approved by directors/members. A member may be paid for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of his/her duties.
5. Committees: The executive may, as deemed necessary, appoint individuals or sub-committees to the business of the club. The individuals of sub-committees may include members of the executive, members of the club-at-large or a combination of both. The executive shall read into the minutes the name of the individual or the composition of the sub-committee(s) and the required Terms of Reference.
6.
 - a. The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday of September each year at a place, date and time to be determined by the executive. Members shall be notified of the meeting, along with the agenda, through the preceding newsletter and/or e-mail, at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
 - b. The president and treasurer shall submit their annual reports at the Annual General Meeting.
 - c. In May, the past president shall chair a committee of three members to prepare a slate of potential of nominees to form an executive for the next year that shall be approved by the executive prior to being presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The consent of such members to act as officers must be obtained before their names are submitted. The membership shall receive notification of the nominees in the newsletter issued immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting. Note: nominations for any executive position may be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.
7.
 - a. The president is empowered to call a special executive meeting at any time by giving due notice of the place, date and time and by providing an agenda of the topic(s) for discussion.
 - b. The president is empowered to call an extraordinary meeting of the club by giving at least two weeks' notice of the place, date and time and by providing an agenda of the topic(s) for discussion. Notice shall be made through the newsletter and/or by electronic means (email, telephone, etc.)
8.
 - a. The annual membership dues for all classes of membership shall be reviewed by the executive annually. A recommendation to change membership dues shall be published in the earliest newsletter possible and recorded for the reading of the minutes. Any change in the membership dues must then be approved by a majority vote of the attending quorum at the next regularly scheduled club meeting.
 - b. An application for membership does not imply acceptance.
 - c. If, in the opinion of the executive, a member is deemed to have exercised dishonest or unfair practices (internal or external to the club) and thus reflects discredit upon the club, such member can be expelled by the executive. This action shall be considered only after a hearing at a meeting of the executive.
9.
 - a. Financial records shall be maintained by the treasurer. The fiscal year shall run from August 1 to July 31 annually. Upon end of fiscal year, records shall be scrutinized by an auditor appointed by the executive.
 - b. Members have the right to view any and all records and books for the club. Reasonable time for the secretary or treasurer to produce these records must be given. The member and the secretary or treasurer shall agree to a time and place for viewing.
 - c. The treasurer's report along with a signed statement of approval from the auditor shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting. A vote of approval must be obtained from the membership. Upon approval the financial statement shall be forwarded to the Registrar at the Registry of Joint Stock Companies.
 - d. The Executive may approve petty cash funds to facilitate effective and efficient conduct of repetitive club business. The petty

cash funds may be revoked by the executive at any time.

10. Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club may be presented to the executive in writing by any member. The proposed amendment shall be reviewed by the executive. If accepted by the executive, details of the amendment shall be published in the club newsletter and presented to the membership for consideration at the earliest possible meeting. the proposal shall be published in the club newsletter and presented to the membership for consideration at the earliest possible meeting. Provided a quorum is present at the meeting, approval of the proposed amendments requires a three quarters (¾) majority vote in favour of the amendment(s). The amended Constitution and By-Laws do not go into effect until approved by the Registrar of Registered Joint Stock Companies.

QUICK GUIDE TO CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB

1. Club to Society; removal of “The” within registered name.
2. Rewritten to conform to objective stated on application to RJSC - i.e. removal of “once per month (except July and August)” ; this appears in Section 3.c. (formally Section 6.a).
- 3.a., 3b. No changes
- 3.c. Formerly Section 6.a.; Addition of “and posted in the club newsletter”; to conform with request from RJSC.
4. **NEW** addition as per request of RJSC.
- 4.a. & 4.b. 5.a. & 5.b.
These sections have been removed in the interest of keeping the constitution more simply stated. The executive will be working on a set of policies which will be part of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club. These policies will describe the function of standing committees and internal positions such as auctioneers, librarians, Novapex chairs, membership administrator(s) and others. Once described these positions will be handled as per Section 5 .
5. Formerly Section 5.c. (as written – no changes).
- 6.a. Formerly Section 6.b.; re-written as “The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday of September each year at a place, date and time to be determined by the executive. Members shall be notified of the meeting, along with the agenda, through the preceding newsletter and/or e-mail, at least two weeks prior to the meeting.” (to conform with request from RJSC).
- 6.b. Formerly Section 6.d. (as written – no changes)
- 6.c. Addition: Note: nominations for any executive position may be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.
- (7.) Expansion of former Section 6.e. **NEW** this has been re-written in two parts to conform to requests from RJSC.
- 7.a. The president is empowered to call a special executive meeting at any time by giving due notice of the place, date and time and by providing an agenda of the topic(s) for discussion.
- 7.b. The president is empowered to call an extraordinary meeting of the Society by giving at least two weeks’ notice of the place, date and time and by providing an agenda of the topic(s) for discussion. Notice shall be made through the newsletter and/or by electronic means (email, telephone, etc.)
- 8.a. Formerly Section 7 (as written – no changes)
- 8.b. Formerly Section 8.a. (as written – no changes)
- 8.c. Formerly Section 8.b. (as written – no changes) Formerly Section 7 (as written – no changes)
- 9.a. **NEW** addition to conform with RJSC request: “Financial records shall be maintained by the treasurer. The fiscal year shall run from August 1 to July 31 annually. Upon end of fiscal year, records shall be scrutinized by an auditor appointed by the executive.”
- 9.b. **NEW** addition to conform with RJSC request: “All members have the right to view any and all records and books for the club, as long as they give reasonable time for the secretary or treasurer to produce these records.”
- 9.c. **NEW** addition to conform with RJSC request: “The treasurer’s report along with a signed statement of approval from the auditor will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. A vote of approval must be obtained from the membership. Upon approval the financial statement will be forwarded to the Registrar at the Registry of Joint Stock Companies.”
- 9.d. Formerly Section 9. (as written – no changes)
10. Last sentence changed to conform to RJSC request: “Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club may be presented to the executive in writing by any member. The proposed amendment shall be reviewed by the executive. If accepted by the executive, details of the amendment shall be published in the club newsletter and presented to the membership for consideration at the earliest possible meeting. the proposal shall be published in the club newsletter and presented to the membership for consideration at the earliest possible meeting. Provided a quorum is present at the meeting, approval of the proposed amendments requires a three quarters (¾) majority vote in favour of the amendment(s). The amended Constitution and By-Laws do not go into effect until approved by the Registrar of Registered Joint Stock Companies.