



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

November 2008
Volume 38, Issue 3
Number 386



Lest We Forget



Up and Coming

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

November 1 South Shore
Stamp Club Exhibition & Bourse
Days Inn, Bridgewater

Nov. 11 Club Meeting
Sambro Lighthouse – Kathy
Brown, Circuit Books

Nov. 20 Friends of Philately,
Bloomfield School, Halifax, NS

December 9 Club Meeting
Christmas Seals, Anything Goes
Auction, Christmas Social

Caribou in Europe

by Sean Weatherup

The postcard shown, which I recently found in a local dealers stock, depicts a photo of what is obviously a caribou and I was intrigued by the inscriptions: *Courtrai – Kortrijk; Monument des Canadiens 1914-18; Canadeesch Denkmaal 1914-18*. Now what was a caribou doing on a monument to Canadians? You think they would have used a moose – just ask those folks down in Cow Bay! The caribou is more closely connected to Newfoundland and the far north. Indeed the statue bears a striking resemblance to the caribou engraving on the Newfoundland 5 cent definitive of 1932 (Scott 190). I purchased this card in the belief it held some Newfoundland significance.

With the aid of Google and a little bit of sleuthing I was happily proved correct. The back of the postcard is inscribed with the manufacturers logo (Nels) and the line “Eru. Thill, Bruxelles, serie 19, no. 167”. Searching on this information produced nothing – so back to the front inscriptions. “Courtrai” produced a large number of sites once I dropped the foreign spelling “Kortrijk”. Advancing the search to include “Canadian Monument” came up blank but when I substituted “Canadian” with “Newfoundland” I hit pay dirt. A large number of sites were listed but at the top of the list was Veteran Affairs Canada

website.

The postcard errs in the description. The site is properly known as The Courtrai Newfoundland Memorial. It is located in Belgium near Courtrai on the road to Ghent and commemorates The Royal Newfoundland Regiment and their final offensive of the First World War in September and October of 1918.

In the spring of 1918, during the German offensive, the Regiment fought heroically defending positions at the Battle of Lys and added the name “Bailleul” to its battle honours. That fall the regiment was integrated with 28th Infantry Brigade, 9th Scottish Division, British 2nd Army. On their final offensive, in mid-September, the Newfoundlanders pushed 14.5 km in 2 days, recapturing Passchendale and creating a hole in the German front lines. The battle field was such a mess it took almost four weeks to bring the artillery up from the rear to help push the advance further.

River Lys was the next objective and on October 14th the Battle of Courtrai began. The 2nd Army was to push to the river and establish bridgeheads. The Royal Newfoundlanders task was to secure the railroad some 8 km distant. It was a glorious day for the Newfoundlanders. In the course of the battle the leading companies found themselves held up by

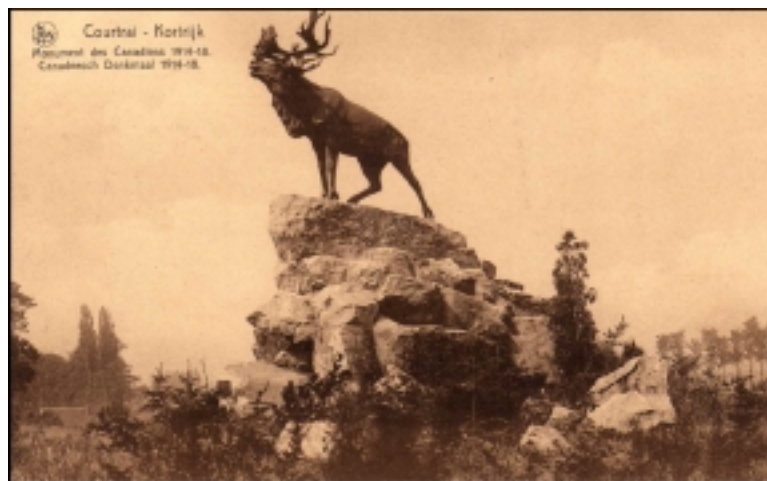
German field guns. Here, Private Thomas Ricketts of White Bay, Newfoundland, at 17 years of age, became the youngest recipient of the Victoria Cross. Ricketts platoon found themselves held up by heavy German fire. They suffered heavy casualties at

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Caribou continued...

near point blank range. Ricketts volunteered to go with his section commander and a Lewis gun in an attempt to outflank the German battery. 300 yards from their objective their ammunition gave out. The Germans seized this opportunity to begin removing the field guns. Ricketts immediately crisscrossed the ground just gained to retrieve more ammunition and under heavy machine gun fire succeeded. After putting the German gun teams to run with his sharp-shooting, his platoon was able to advance and, without further casualties, captured 4 field pieces, four machine guns and eight prisoners. The rest of the regiment wasn't so lucky. Through the day they captured four more field guns, nearly a hundred machine guns and 500 prisoners. The following morning only 300 Newfoundlanders made roll call.

Attempts by the 2nd Army on October 16th

and 17th to cross the River Lys were both repelled, but on the night of the 19th three divisions worked together and in the early hours of the 20th the Newfoundlanders were across.

I am quite sure that Newfoundlanders are as familiar with the Battle of Courtrai and the memorial as Canadians are with Vimy Ridge and that memorial, but for non-Newfoundlanders such as myself (and of a younger vintage) this memorial is somewhat of a revelation. That the people of Belgium chose to immortalize the Newfoundland Regiment is truly an honour that all Canadians should be aware of.

But for my familiarity with the postage stamp Newfoundland Scott #190, I may well have passed by this card as just another critter. Now, thanks to my hobby, I've learned something new and have kindled a desire to dig much deeper into the Trail of the Caribou issue of 1919.

You can find out more on this monument and other related stories at Veteran Affairs Canada's website: www.vac-acc.gc.ca; The story of Thomas Ricketts can be found at www.mysteriesofcanada.com.

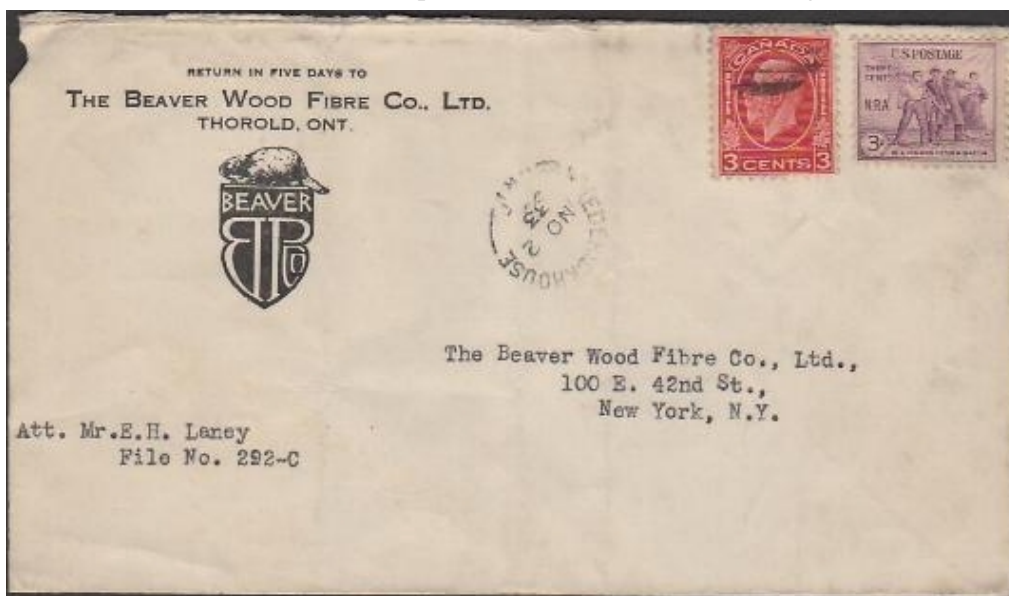


Cover Story

The cover shown was recently the topic of discussion on Frajola's Board For Philatelists. The mixed franking (Canada Sc# 192, USA Sc# 732) corporate envelop has a Frederick House postmark dated NO 2 33. Frederick House, in Northern Ontario, is a former Hudson's Bay Post (1785-1821) that never flourished due to its rivalry with the North West Company that ended with a corporate merger in 1821. The double franking has been speculated to have been created as a business return envelope that may not have been used in the states and rather than use another envelope the correct Canadian postage was added.

The Beaver Wood Fibre Co. Ltd., located east of the Welland Canal south of Thorold, Ontario, manufactured a product called 'Beaver Board', a type of brown pressed fiber product in 4x8 sheets. It was said that it couldn't be nailed without first having drilled a hole! It was one of the earliest, mass-produced laminated fibreboards, alternatives to traditional building materials, and was a model for boards that followed. Now owned by Georgia Pacific, the company makes gypsum liner board and other wood fibre products.

Interestingly, "beaver wood fibre" received a long discussion recently on Frajola's, as they tried to figure out what "beaver wood" was. Of course it was not "beaver wood" but Beaver "wood fibre"....nevertheless postal historians do have a lot to figure out.



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Nova Scotia Stamp Club Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada <http://www.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) which is released on the first week of the month.

Dues are C\$15 per person (US\$20 US, US\$25 International) or C\$22.50 per couple payable to :

Nova Scotia Stamp Club
102 Birch Bear Run
Lewis Lake, NS B3Z 4B8
webnews@nsstampclub.ca

Advertising rate for the newsletter or website is \$50 (CDN) per year.

RPSC Strategic Planning and Management Exercise

NSSC member David Jones has been asked by the management team of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada to help them work through a strategic planning and management exercise. The analysis is looking at the purposes, functions and goals and the ways that Society goals can be realized.

David hopes to finish this work in time for its consideration at the RPSC annual general meeting in June 2009. He is working with NSSC President Michael Peach and several RPSC board members in what promises to be a complete re-think of the way the Society is constituted and how it operates.

As well as being active in RPSC and NSSC, David is a member of the Ottawa Philatelic Society and BNAPS, CFPS, the Virtual Stamp Club (APS) and the American Society for Philatelic Pages and Panels (ASPPP), where he is a member of the board.

Malak Karsh Remembered

by William Philips

Michael Peach's piece on Malak Karsh (Vol 38 Issue 1/2) brought back some memories for me. In September 1965 I was an electrical engineer with Nova Scotia Light & Power and we had just commissioned our Tufts Cove #1 unit. I was advised by my 'Boss' that the British firm which had manufactured our steam turbine and generator had requested our permission to have a photographer come to the plant and take in-service photos of all the equipment they had provided. We agreed and I was assigned to accompany the photographer. I was amazed and indeed honoured when introduced to find the individual was none other than "Malak" of whom I knew by reputation. I have always had some interest in taking pictures myself and I was quite anxious to see how a "pro" went about his work. I very quickly learned that one thing you did was shoot a LOT of film. As I watched Malak photographing a particular piece of equipment he would take an amazing number of shots, whereas I taking the same photo, would limit myself to two or possibly three. I therefore concluded that the quantity of the photos taken, and in consideration of the Law of Averages would definitely provide them with a first-class picture.

Another thing I learned was an interesting photo procedure. He wanted to take an exterior picture of the plant and he wanted it to incorporate both day and early evening conditions. He set his tripod/camera at a location where he could include the entire plant and also the distant north-end Halifax skyline. He took a

mid-afternoon shot, left the camera in-situ, and then in the early evening he took the second as a double exposure. The result... a beautiful photo which he subsequently presented to us and which was given a prime location in our Engineering Office Reception Centre. It was a memorable time for me to spend with a photographer of such note.



Stamp Oddities

Brought to you by the letter.... This month I thought that I would have a little fun with letters as overprints. I'll do a few and from time to time come back to the "alpha-philately".

A inscribed on 19th century Columbian stamps indicated registration - refers to *anotacion*. Two different designs were released in 1865 and 1870.

B inscriptions in black or red in an oval with *Chemins de fer / Spoorwahn* are Belgian Railway Parcel Post stamps from 1940-41.

C overprinted on stamps of Paraguay were for use in country areas. The "C" stands for *Campana* (rural).

D (white) in a black circle overprinted on 19th century stamps of the Netherlands Indies identified it as an Official stamp.

E overprinted on 1908 stamps of Bavaria indicates Official stamps for use on railroad correspondence.

F overprints on a 90c French stamps in the 1932-29 Peace with olive Branch design indicates the use of the stamp by Spanish soldiers and refugees escaping the Spanish Civil War in France. The item is classified as a Franchise stamp. Claims are that the "F" stands for "Fugitives", to whom the stamps were distributed free of charge.

G overprinted on Cape of Good Hope stamps in 1877 were for use in Griqualand West before it was united with the Cape Colony in 1880. Several type fonts are known. Following the union, the overprinted stamps were made generally available for postal purposes in the colony.

H overprinted on South Australia stamps, prior to the 1874 use of "OS" for general Official use, indicated "Hospital".

I overprinted on Colombian air mail stamps indicates stamps sold in Italy for transport by the Colombian airline SCADTA to interior points in Colombia in the 1920s. It was also necessary for such mail to have Italian postage adhered. The mail was either handed to the Colombian consulate or to an agent of the airline. Similarly, letters overprinted on these stamps in other countries include: S - Switzerland; P - Panama; H - Netherlands; F - France; E - Spain; D - Denmark; C - Cuba; B - Belgium.

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DUES

DUES make the system work. Yes it is that time of year again, annual dues became payable at the *end of June*. The amount - \$15 per individual and \$22.50 per couple. The gentle approach didn't work so we are back to invoicing individuals. As of writing about 60 people are in arrears. Pay now and avoid the rush. And thank you for continued support of NSSC.

Library Overdues

If you have one of the long overdue library books listed below please return it post haste. If you have already returned our thanks.

On Track: The Railway Mail Service in Canada

Canada's Three Cents Small Queens 1870-1897

The Canadian Revenue Stamp Catalog

Territorial Assiniboia and Saskatchewan - The Westhaver-Thompson Collection

Stamp Collecting for Dummies

Newsletter Articles

Hopefully the garden tools are now or soon to be tucked away for another season. So...what to do with all that spare time? How about writing a short philatelic article or a couple of paragraphs on your favourite item. How about writing a serial or theme based column. It doesn't take much material to fill 4 pages - I do it every month - thanks to those who contribute - like you!!!

If you have an item (article, cover, show & tell) for the newsletter please contact Jeff for details at:

webnews@nsstampclub.ca

Unless of a timely nature, items will be printed on a first come basis. **The deadline for the December '08 issue is Nov/ 24, 2008 . Avoid the rush and submit today.**

Membership Report

Membership reports the receipt of one application for membership.

David Eveleigh,, Sydney, NS, collects Canad mint and used, UL plate blocks and worldwide used.

Approved Memberships

#1027 Earl Foster, Charlottetown, PE

#1028 Martin Farrell, Halifax, NS

#1030 Loic Detcheverry, SPM

#1031 Michel Savard, St. John's, NL

#1032 Leanna Johnson, Calgary, AB

#1033 Fred Fawn, Toronto, ON

#1034 Orville Osborne, Toronto, ON

The last five above were accepted through their Novapex exhibits.

Deceased

#550 Helen (Connie) Schwartz, St. John's NL

"Post Offices of Pre-Confederation Newfoundland"

Are available on CD only from Carl Munden. Price CDN \$35.00. This project was completed using MS Word and may not be compatible with a Mac.

Korean War Stamp Campaign

Canada Post, since 1955, have issued approximately 62 different stamps with post 1913 military themes, 29 stamps alone covered the Second World War but only one Korean War stamp has ever been produced. This stamp was issued in 2003 to mark the 50th anniversary of the cease fire. In order to pay tribute to Korea War Veterans, but in comparison to all the other stamps issued, one is not really enough to mark an event that took the lives of 3 million soldiers and countless civilians including 516 Canadians.

Guy Black, Port Moody BC, is a Korean Veteran who has been campaigning CP for another commemorative Korean War stamp. A bid for a stamp depicting the 55th anniversary of the cease fire for 2008 was not successful. Mr. Black continues his struggle and is now setting his sights on the 60th anniversary of the commencement of hostilities for 2010.

If you would like to provide Mr. Black with a letter to support this endeavour please write him at:

Guy Black
944 Dundonald Drive
Port Moody, BC V3H1B7
Canada

Or via email...
gblack@telus.net



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