

# The Postmarks of Port Hood

Updated 26 July 2024

Synopsis of the Exhibit

**PURPOSE** This is a postal history / marcophily exhibit, illustrating the various postmarks used by the community of Port Hood in Nova Scotia from the first mark in 1841 to present.

**BACKGROUND** Port Hood is located on the western side of Cape Breton Island (see Figure 1). It is the shire town for the County of Inverness. I am interested in the postal history of the community since my family has lived in the area since 1780. I am also fascinated by the large number and wide variety of postmarks that this relatively small community has used over the history of postal services in the area.

**POSTAL HISTORY** A way office was opened in Port Hood in 1829, but no hammer was provided until a post office was established in 1841. Various postmarks were used in the colony of Nova Scotia with the first recorded hammer being sent from London England on 12 November 1841.

The first broken circle mark was provided before confederation although research has not provided a proof date. The first post-Confederation mark was a broken circle proofed on 23 November 1876. Various other marks including Numeral Rate Marks, MOONs (Money Order Office Numbers) and POCONs (Post Office Computer Organization Number) have used up to the current round commemorative mark and rectangular “winged” markings.

**TREATMENT & IMPORTANCE** While Port Hood in itself may not seem like an important topic, the type and variety of the marks show how attention to detail can assist with new discoveries. The large variety of modern markings and the difficulty in the acquisition of high quality copies show that it is important to collect this material and record it for the use of future postal historians.

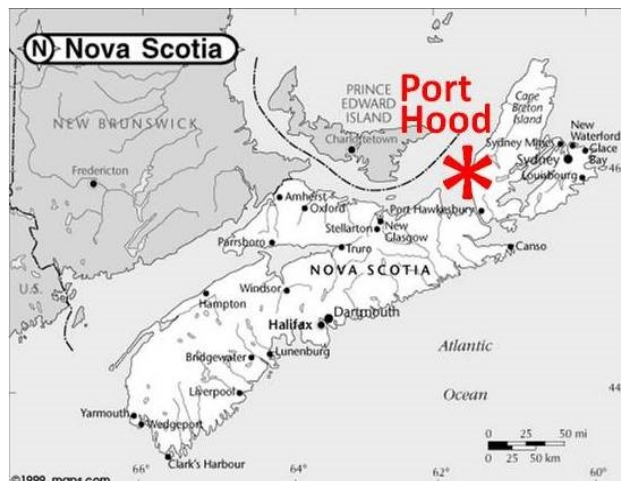


Figure 1: Location of Port Hood

**PERSONAL STUDY AND RESEARCH** The exhibitor has been collecting these postmarks for 25 years and has collated information from 18 different references to create a comprehensive list of these postmarks.

The exhibit contains a number of unique and rare items such as the marks below which represent a sampling of the six new marks discovered by the exhibitor. The exhibitor has also identified new earliest and latest known dates for over 20 of the marks.



Novapex, August 16 and 17, 2024



**RARITY** Most of the pre-confederation markings are extremely rare, and the rapidity with which modern marks are changed make monitoring and assembling a complete collection a challenge. The rarity of some of the later items illustrates the difficulty in obtaining modern material. The exhibit contains a number of marks that are not recoded in any of the references and this material represents new finds. Unique items have been marked with a red dot. Rarer material has been denoted with a blue dot.

Give the rarity of material, high quality strikes of the earlier marks are challenging to find. Clean strikes of current markings are also difficult to obtain as most receive an additional spray-on cancellations when moving through the automated mail stream.

**PRESENTATION** Generally, full covers are shown in order to show the full postal marking. However, where necessary, a stamp showing a fairly complete example of the mark has been provided. The various markings are shown in related groupings to illustrate the evolution of the postmarks and make the identification of differences easier to understand.

“Recorded dates” indicate the earliest of latest dates of covers or stamps carrying the post mark as determined in related reference material. “Known dates” are those that have been determined through the author’s research and material in his collection.

**REFERENCES** There is no one reference that provides a complete listing of the postmarks of Port Hood. The exhibitor has assembled information from 18 sources into a single document that can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/PHPostmarks>. All the references that have been reviewed to gather information on these postmarks can be found at the end of that document.

## **MOON 1970's**      **Discovery of exhibitor**



Postmarked 11 Jan. 1973. Used singly, this stamp would pay postage to the United States for a letter up to one oz.