



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
POSTAL HISTORY  
RESEARCH GROUP

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Whole number 44

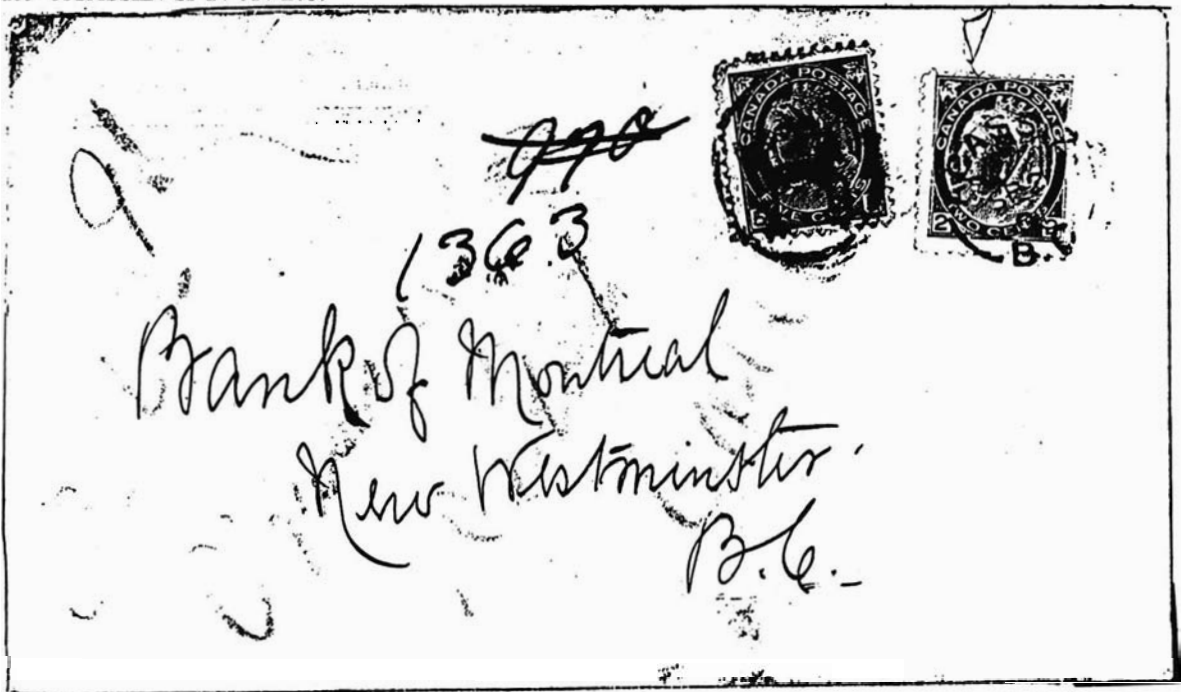
January 2003

### FERNEY COOMBE TO AGASSIZ

Tracy Cooper reports the discovery of the first known copy of a strike from the Ferney Coombe Post Office dated November 11, 1886 together with the enclosed letter from postmaster L.A. Agassiz. (see next page)

Registered letter to Bank of Montreal at New Westminster from H.L. Calvert, Agassiz.

Face - AGASSIZ / SP 2 / 01 / B.C.



Back - AGASSIZ / SP 2 / 01 / B.C.  
X.C.&V. R.P.O. X / W / SP 4 / 01 / B.C.  
NEW WESTMINSTER / PM / SP 5 / 01 / B.C.

Canadian Pacific Railway check for \$10.12 -->  
Dated May 18, 1891 made out to L.A. Agassiz

Pay Vancouver Branch  
Bank of British Columbia  
to the credit of my life  
L.A. Agassiz

Ferney Coombe  
Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 1884

FERNEY COOMBE  
- November 11, 1884

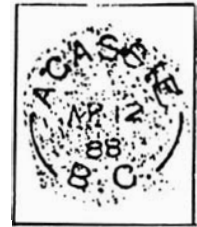
Ferney Coombe

Established  
September 1, 1884.  
P.M.L.A. Agassiz  
no proof reported

Changed to Agassiz  
May 1, 1888  
P.M. L.A. Agassiz

Proof AP 12 88

Dear Sir  
I herewith return to you  
the copy of the Dominion Annual  
Register, which I decline to receive  
I notified you to that effect last  
year immediately on receipt of the  
first copy. And the receipt which  
you gave me for the payment, for  
that copy had permanent subscriber  
scratched out by me, before I  
returned it to you to be signed,  
The same as the enclosed copy  
H.P. Morgan, Esq. Yours very truly  
Ottawa L. Agassiz



H.P. Morgan Esq  
Box 285  
Ottawa  
Canada

Face - FERNEY COMBE  
NO 11 / 86 / B.C.

**AGASSIZ**

In 1862 Captain Lewis N. Agassiz pre-empted land on the Fraser River near the mouth of the Harrison River where he built a house that he called Ferney Coombe. In 1884 his son established the Ferney Coombe Post Office that served the farmers in the Harrison area. Shortly afterwards the Canadian Pacific Railway was built through the farm and in 1888 a station was built and named Agassiz. At the same time the name of the Ferney Coombe Post Office was changed to Agassiz.

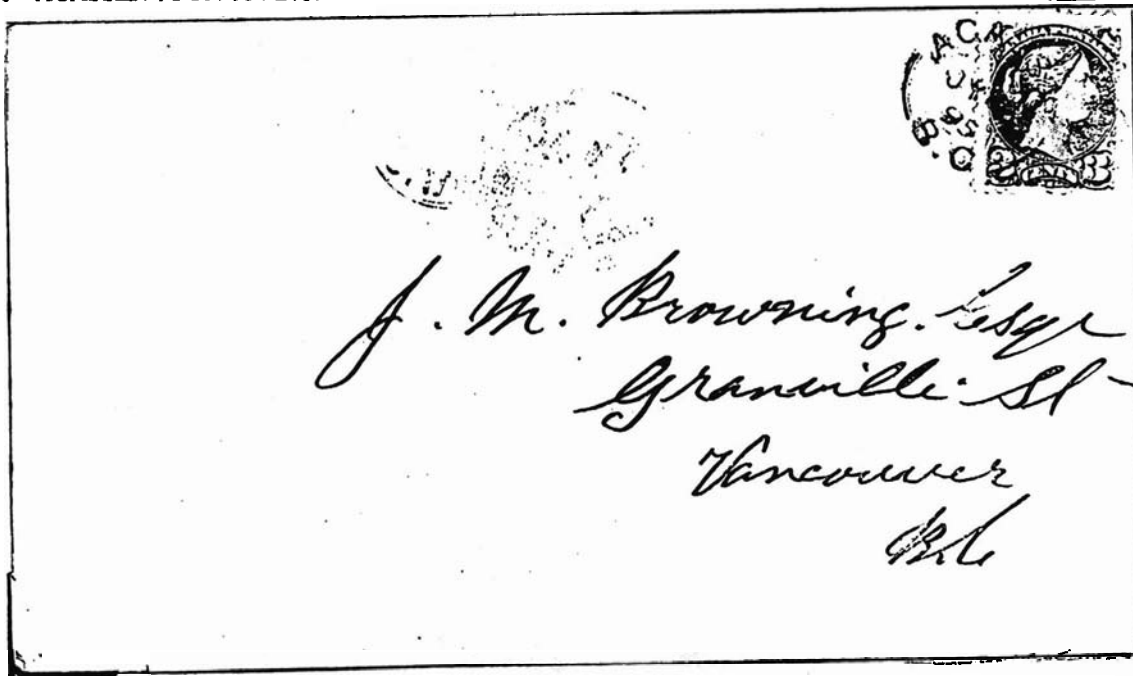
*The Canada Gazette* – Sept. 1884

553

**THE FOLLOWING NEW POST OFFICES WERE ESTABLISHED IN CANADA ON THE 1st SEPTEMBER, 1884.**

NAME OF POST OFFICE.	TOWNSHIP OR PARISH.	LEGISLATIVE COUNTY AND TERRITORY.	POSTMASTER.
Ferney Coombe.....	.....	Yale & Kootenay.....B.C.	L. A. Agassiz.
Florentia.....	Sec. 12, Tp. 18, Range 13, W. of 1st Meridian.....	Marquette.....M.	Alex. McKenna.
Germania.....	Draper.....	Ontario, N.E.....O.	John Weismiller.
Gleichen.....	Sec. 18, Tp. 22, Range 23, W. of 4th Meridian.....	Alberta.....Terr.	W. D. Creighton.

Face – AGASSIZ / JY 16 / 95 / B.C.



Back – VANCOUVER / JY 16 / 95 / B.C.

*The Canada Gazette* – May 1888

2454

**THE FOLLOWING NEW POST OFFICES WERE ESTABLISHED IN CANADA ON THE 1st MAY, 1888.**

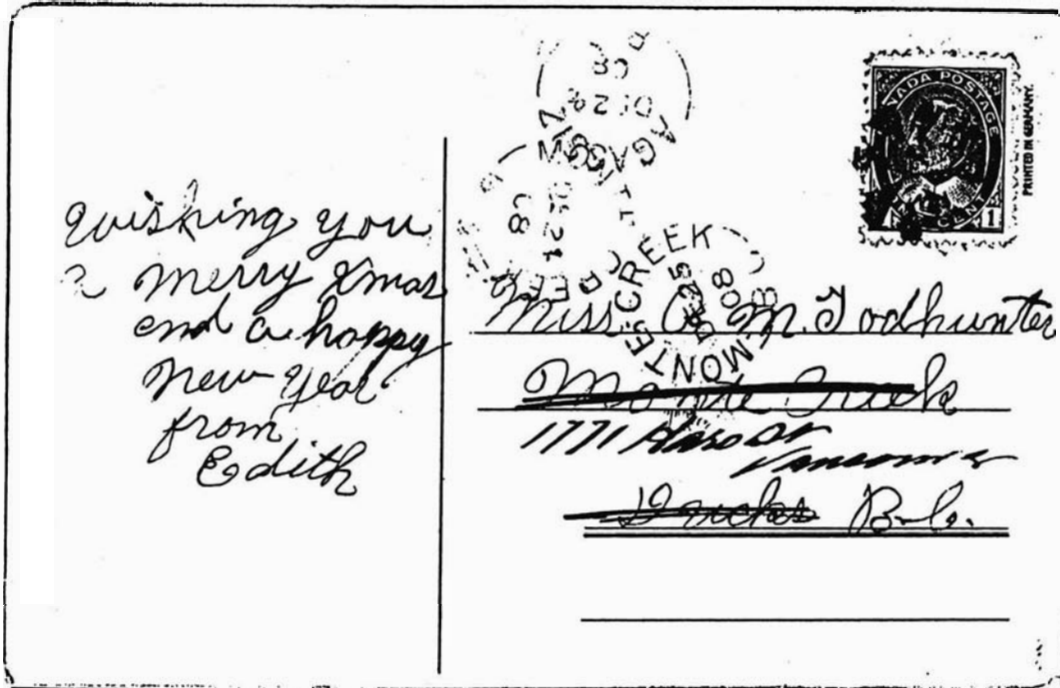
**NAMES CHANGED.**

Cole's Corners..... County of Lambton, W.B., O..... to Lucas.  
 Ferney Coombe .... District of Yale-Kootenay, B.C..... to Agassiz.  
 Holme's Mills ..... County of Queen's, P.E.I..... to Breadalbane.

AGASSIZ

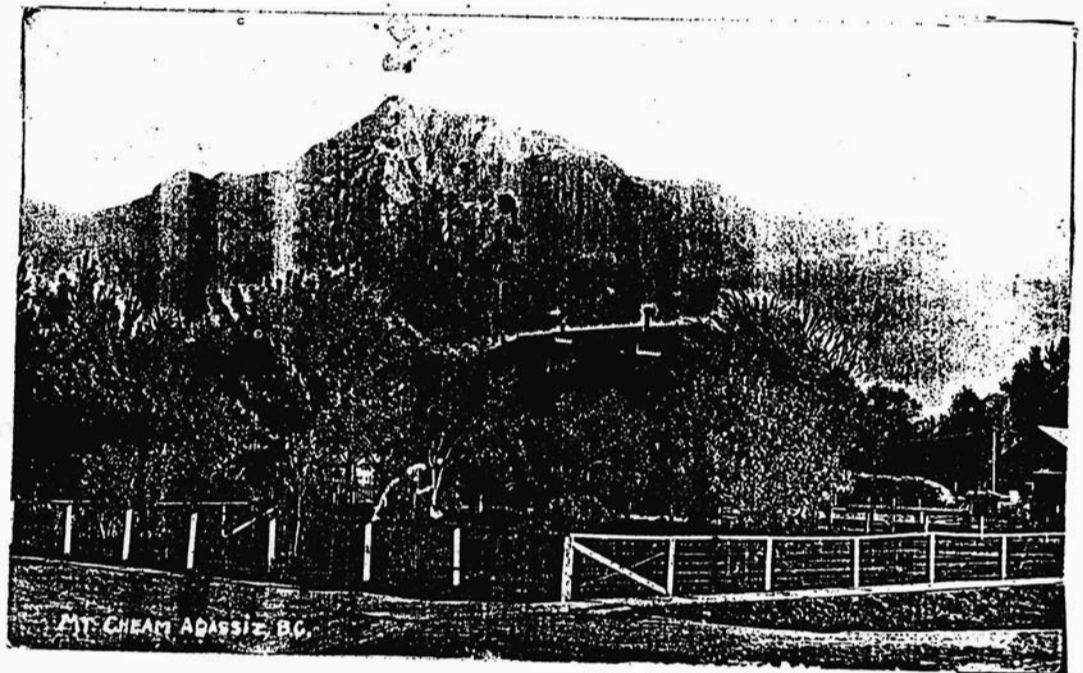
Postcard mailed at Agassiz to Miss A.M. Todhunter at Ducks (Monte Creek) and forwarded to Vancouver  
Note: Christmas Day cancellation

Face - AGASSIZ / DE 25 / 08 / B.C.  
MONTE CREEK / DE 24 / 08 / B.C.  
MONTE CREEK / DE 25 / 08 / B.C.



Looking across the Fraser River at Mount Cheam from the Agassiz farm

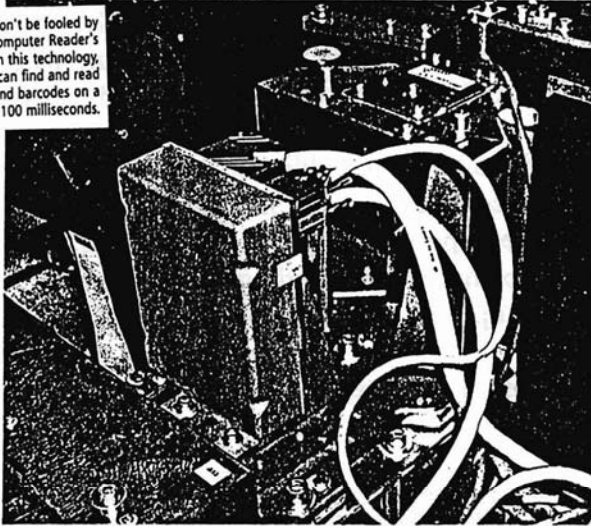
Face - AGASSIZ / MR 3 / 09 / B.C.



## NEW REMOTE COMPUTER READER (RCR)

The Vancouver MPP is again at the forefront of post office development with the addition of the newly developed Remote Computer Reader (RCR) equipment on the existing MLOCR equipment. The effectiveness of the equipment was demonstrated the other day when a letter with the incorrect postal code was delivered without the usual delay for recoding. Although the code on the envelope read "V6B 5K2" the RCR equipment had read the address and then printed the correct bar code for "V6P" on the envelope. The new RCR equipment was developed by an employee at the Vancouver MPP and has been in experimental use for the past couple of years. The item below is from the January issue of *Performance*.

Miracle box: Don't be fooled by the Remote Computer Reader's looks. Equipped with this technology, sorting machines can find and read both the address and barcodes on a mailpiece every 100 milliseconds.



That's beginning to change, thanks to the Remote Computer Reader (RCR). Last year, each Multi-Line OCR was equipped with an RCR, a second computer that can read hand-written addresses and many types of bar codes, including those printed by new digital meters, by customers, and by the United States Postal Service. On each machine the two computers work in parallel, reading addresses with much greater success. "The RCRs have reduced by two-thirds the mail sent to video-encoding for manual processing," says Critchley.

But the RCR can do even more. It can derive a "point-of-call identifier" that allows for sorting finer than the postal code, for addresses without a unique postal code—to ranges of postal boxes, for example, or even individual boxes. This is of particular benefit in rural Canada, where large areas often share a single postal code.

Earlier this year, the RCR's point-of-call sorting capabilities were tested for urban addresses in Vancouver and for rural addresses in Winnipeg, with impressive results. Preparations are now being made to implement it at sites staffed by the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants across the country, starting this month with Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

"With this technology," says Critchley, "we can reduce manual sortation, and customers can get their mail earlier." ■

Performance 23

## Ogopogo Cancel Stamp Unveiled In Peachland

### Customer Focus

Peachland Postal Outlet celebrated another successful Customer Appreciation Day. Coffee and cake were enjoyed by the many local residents who nixed out for the October 1<sup>st</sup> unveiling of their new Cancel Stamp – a line drawing of Ogopogo swimming in Lake Okanagan. The stamp was designed by local artist and Council member, Michael Henderson.

Mayor George Waldo was on hand to cut the cake, which, like the new stamp, was decorated with a smiling Ogopogo. Others present were Local Area Manager Rick Moore, Paulette Chadwick (ODC Supervisor acting for Norm Ouellet) and President of the Peachland Chamber Of Commerce, Ms. Shirley Geiger.

Retail sales amounted to just over \$600, which is "approximately five times the daily average for this office!" said Postmaster Debbie Powell. Counter Clerk Gail Ness recently signed up all the local businesses as Venture One customers and received an Award of Recognition and a gift certificate.



Celebrating annual Customer Appreciation Day with a cake cutting ceremony. (left to right) are L.A.M. Rick Moore; Peachland Mayor George Waldo; Peachland Chamber Of Commerce President Shirley Geiger; Postmaster Debbie Powell. (Partially hidden behind the Mayor is customer Genevieve Miller.)

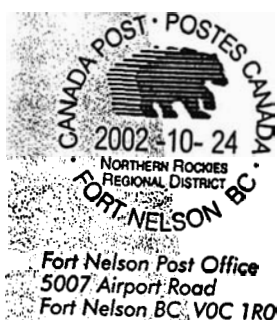
## THE CANADIAN KLUSSENDORF CANCELLATIONS – 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION

Author Greig Hutton

The second edition is an update of the earlier work published by Greig Hutton in 1988 and as might be expected contains much new information that has come to light in the last 13 years. The biggest change in the revised edition is the inclusion of an excellent 40 page introduction that examines the equipment in detail, including close up photographs of the date wheels, examples of errors and deals with the IPS replacement hubs. The introduction is well written with many illustrations of unusual or rare examples of the cancellations. He alludes to the “servicing problems” of the Klussendorf equipment in the early 1990’s. In actual fact the Klussendorf Company went bankrupt and in attempt to keep the equipment operating Canada Post, in 1994, asked IPS to manufacture replacement parts. It may have been coincidental but the publication date coincides with the announcement that Canada Post will replace, over the next six years, all existing Klussendorf equipment with IPS 4900 RCM equipment. Hopefully, collectors of Klussendorf cancellations can look forward to another outstanding third edition in 2007, at which time Greig will be able to tell the complete story of the Klussendorf cancellations.

The book is obtainable, in loose leaf format or on diskette from Greig Hutton, 100 Chesham Court, London, ON, N6G 3T4

WET



### MORE PICTORIAL CANCELLATIONS

Canada Post continues to produce four to five new pictorial cancellations each month and many, but not all, of the new hand stamps are listed in the quarterly publication *details*.

“To obtain any of these cancels, send your stamped envelope and/or covers with the proper postage (\$0.48) inside a stamped envelope addressed to the ‘POSTMASER’ followed by the name and full address of the Post Office.”

It is also possible to obtain the cancels by visiting the appropriate post offices and requesting a cancel, but collectors are advised to take a photo copy of the cancellation with you as in many cases the hand stamp is not at the main counter and may be hidden somewhere out back. Also some post offices are willing to cancel an envelope without postage while others may insist that the envelope be sealed and sent through the regular mail. In the latter case it is well to request the clerk to apply a second marking well below or to the left of the postage stamps.

**RUBBER CDS HAND STAMPS**

See Vol. 11 No. 3 p. LXXXI

Last months Response Form on Unusual Cancellations produced considerable feedback on the relatively new circular date stamps. The lack of standardization in size, and wording would indicate that many of the the date stamps are produced locally, probably without post office approval. The diameter of the marking appears to vary from 28 mm to 51 mm with 48 mm being the most common. There is also a complete lack of consistency in wording with the only common feature being the name of the outlet and the letters BC.

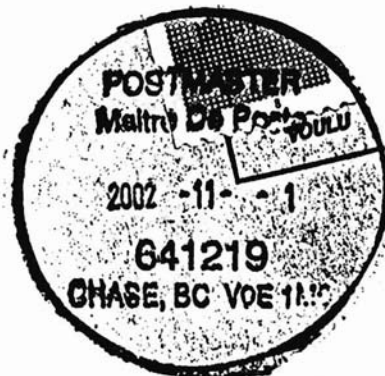
The following list of offices using rubber circular date stamps was provided with the assistance of Andrew Scott who would appreciate examples of other office markings including the RC Number.

With RC number

Kamloops 643491  
 Lake Cowichan 643785  
 Likely 100226  
 Merritt 644582  
 Merritt 100207  
 North Vancouver 655422  
 Salmon Arm 646393  
 Surrey 165492  
 Surrey 433896  
 South Surrey 422754  
 Tsawwassen 654515  
 Williams Lake 051209  
 Williams Lake 433888  
 Vernon 422762

No RC number

Atlin (pictorial)  
 Blind Bay  
 Cache Creek  
 Coombs  
 Delta/Tsawwassen Sub 16 (2)  
 Gibsons (5)  
 Gray Creek  
 Kildonan  
 Lac La Hache  
 Lake Cowichan  
 Midway  
 North Vancouver PS  
 Parksville sub 1  
 Port McNeill  
 Richmond PS (2)  
 Roberts Creek  
 Vancouver Main (5)  
 Vancouver Canada Post  
 Victoria Stn. B  
 West Vancouver PS (2)



## FROM CANADA POST -

Again thanks to John Gannon and the other members of the staff at Pacific Division of the Canada Post Corporation, we are able to provide a listing of the openings and closing dates for post offices in the Pacific Division.

Date	Name	Address	Town	Code	F-RC	N-RC	Rems
02-06-??	Scafair PO	#11 8671 No. 1 Road	Richmond	V7C 1V0	1735/6		upgra
02-06-??	Vernon Shipping Centre	3202 32nd Street	Vernon	V1T 5M8	new	422762	test P
02-06-??	White Rock Shipping Centre - Staples	3037 152nd Street	South Surrey	V4P 3K1	new	422754	test P
02-06-??	Williams Lake Shipping Centre	#105 850 Oliver Street	Williams Lake	V2G 3W1	new	433888	test P
02-06-??	Surrey North Shipping Centre	10136 King George Highway	Surrey	V5T 2W4	new	433896	test P
02-08-28	South Slope PO	7600 Royal Oak Avenue	Burnaby	V5J 4K0	654884		upgra
02-09-11	Mallardville PO	1031 Burnette Street	Coquitlam	V3K 1E0	092134		upgra
02-08-19	Haney PO	21243 Loughees Highway	Maple Ridge	V2X 1B0	072028		upgra
02-09-17	Clayburn Plaza PO	#150 3033 Immel Street	Abbotsford	V2S 4L0	000058		reloca
02-09-23	Chilliwack Mall PO	#104 45610 Luckakuck Way	Chilliwack	V2R 1A0	418609		ROSS
02-09-20	Langley Mall PO	#5501 204th Street	Langley	V3A 5N0	179396		upgra
02-10-01	Kennedy Heights PO	11970 88th Avenue	Delta	V4C 3C0	269623	100322	reloca
02-10-01	Barkerville SO	General delivery	Barkerville	V0K 1B0	645885		SO cl
02-10-25	Prince George CFSS (ex RPO 1)	1669 Victoria Street	Prince George	V2L 2L5	645885	na	stamp
02-10-28	Gibsons CFSS	#115 1100 Gibsons Way	Gibsons	V0N 1V0	436089	closed	closed
02-10-29	Sunneycrest PO	Unit 47 - 900 Gibson Way	Gibsons	V0N 1V0	new	100361	new
02-10-28	Canim Lake PO	PO Box 9	Canim Lake	V0K 1J0	631604	closed	closed
02-10-30	Brookwood PO	4058 200th Street	Langley	V3A 1K0	058467		upgra
02-11-04	Meadowvale PO	#110 19150 Lougheed Hwy	Pitt Meadows	V3Y 2B0	011916	100320	new o
02-11-12	Westside PO (ex RPO 38)	3456 Dunbar Street	Vancouver	V6S 2C0	647993	100337	chang
02-11-21	Grandview PO	1755 East Broadway	Vancouver	V5N 1W0	079162		upgra
02-11-19	Southgate Mall PO	#115 50 Tenth Street	Nanaimo	V9R 6L0	388254		chang
02-11-21	Vancouver Sub. 15	1901 East Hastings	Vancouver	V5L 1T5	647780	closed	closed
02-11-13	Hillcrest RO	453 Johnston Street	Victoria	V4B 3Z0	059846		upgra
02-12-02	Tsawwassen PO	#1215C 56th Street	Delta	V4L 2B0	630071	100448	chang
02-12-02	Valleycliffe CFSS	38209 Westway Avenue	Squamish	V0N 3G0	new	100458	new
02-12-04	Gastown PO	#104 12 Water Street	Vancouver	V6B 1A0	new	100362	new
02-11-02	Golden RO	823 South 10th Avenue	Golden	V0A 1H0	138819	closed	closed
02-12-16	South Tsawwassen PO	#1153 56th Avenue	Delta	V4L 2C0	425370	100462	new o
02-12-29	Metrotown PO	Unit 134 - 4800 Kingsway	Burnaby	V5H 2C0	419737		reloca
02-12-31	Inter Urban Delivery Service	2680 Progressive Way	Clearbrook	V2T 1T0	097276	closed	closed

## Upgrading of Rapid Cancelling Machines (RCM) underway

The Pacific Region of Canada Post has recently started on a six year plan of replacing all existing Rapid Cancelling machines with the new I.P.S. 4900 equipment. The following equipment has been or is currently being replaced.

Office location	Current model	Serial Number	replacement	serial number
Keremeos	IPS HD2	5238	IPS 4900	49001307
Chase	IPS HD2	3662	IPS 4900	49001308
Sparwood	IPS HD2	5356	IPS 4900	49001319
Peachland	Pitney Bowes K	3653	IPS 4900	49001310
Grand Forks	Klussendorf 280/5	02377	IPS 4900	49001311
Fernie	Klussendorf 280/5	02510	IPS 4900	49001312
Burns Lake	Klussendorf K280/5	02514	IPS 4900	49001313
Ashcroft	Pitney Bowes K	3571	IPS 4900	49001314
Sicamous	Pitney Bowes K	3422	IPS 4900	49001315
Port Hardy	Klussendorf 280/5	02513	IPS 4900	49001316
Sechelt	IPS HDM	5370	IPS 4900	49001368



**INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SUPPLY COMPANY - I.P.S. 4900**

To date 28 I.P.S. 4900 Rapid Cancelling Machines have been introduced in British Columbia Post Offices and another 12 are slated for introduction in 2003. In order to establish the early dates for the model 4900 equipment members are requested to keep an eye out for this new equipment and supply early dates to the editor.

Post Office	Serial 4900-	Late	Early
Ashcroft	1314	2001-09-21	
Burns Lake	1313	2002-11-04	2003-01-15
Castlegar	1278	2002-01-04	2002-09-18
Chemainus	1383	<del>1989-01-21</del>	2002-05-09
Chase	1308	2002-07-24	
Chetwynd		2002-01-12	2002-03-15
Cranbrook	0129	2001-01-15	2001-01-30
Creston	1274	2002-02-11	2002-02-28
Cumberland	1286	2002-02-28	2002-03-14
Fernie	1312	2002-08-20	2002-11-22
Fort Nelson	1277	2002-02-01	2002-03-15
Fort St. John		2002-10-01	2002-10-04
Grand Forks	1310	2001-02-27	
Invermere	1284	2002-04-02	2002-04-14
Keremeos	1307	2002-11-25	2003-01-09
Lantzville	1288	2002-01-28	2002-03-06
Lazo	1385	2002-02-27	2002-02-28
Madeira Park	1282	2002-01-21	2002-03-22
100 Mile House	1279	2002-01-28	2002-02-22
Peachland	1310	2002-07-10	2002-12-03
Port Hardy	1316	2002-11-04	2002-11-25
Qualicum Beach	1287	2002-02-19	2002-02-26
Quesnel	1275	2001-04-29	2002-09-27
Revelstoke	1280	2002-01-16	2002-03-11
Sechelt	1368	2003-01-06	2003-01-20
Sicamous	1315	2002-10-02	
Sparwood	1209	2002-09-12	2002-10-29
Trail	1276	2001-04-17	2002-03-27

Forms should be mailed to

Bill Topping, 7430 Angus Drive  
Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2

| Name .....  
| Address.....  
| .....  
| Code .....

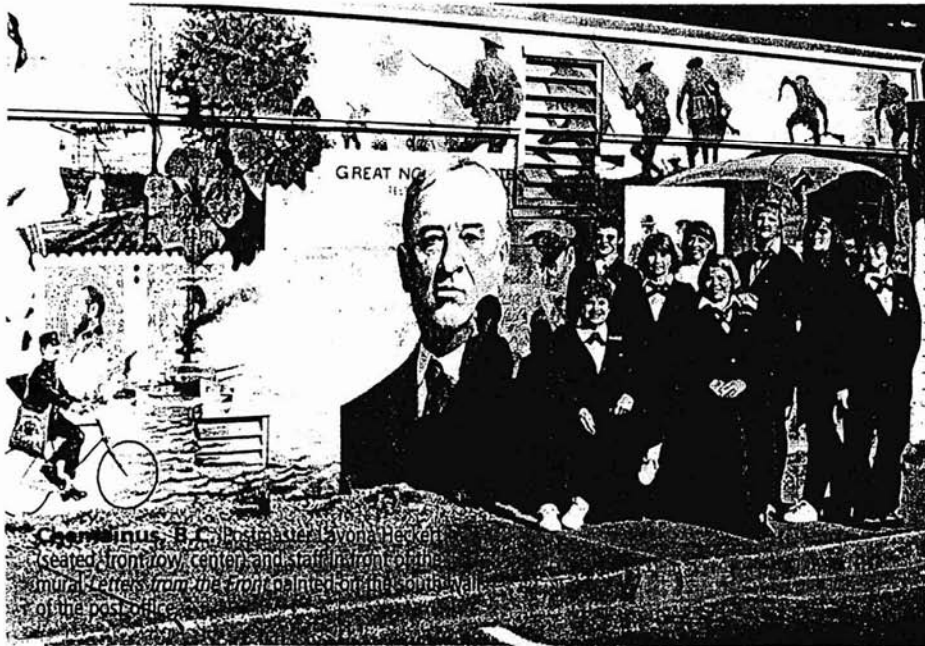
## Letters from the front

**CHEMAINUS, B.C.** Postmaster Lavona Heckert and staff celebrated the completion of a 28-square-metre mural by local artist David Goatley on an exterior post office wall this fall. *Letters from the Front*, the 34th mural in town, possibly Canada's largest outdoor art gallery, illustrates how the post office kept families in touch with loved ones during the war. The mural was unveiled in late September.

Heckert, also director of the Festival of Murals Society, which looks after the

maintenance of the existing murals and determines subject matter for additions to the collection, said several elements from the mural are taken from the book *Special Delivery*, published by the Canadian Postal Museum. She noted this is just the first of several changes for the office, including a new flower bed in front of the mural, plus new retail counters, and community mailboxes planned for the spring of 2003.

*Peter Wyphema, Communications Pacific*



**CHEMAINUS, B.C.** Postmaster Lavona Heckert (seated front row, center) and staff in front of the mural *Letters from the Front* painted on the south wall of the post office.



**A stroll by the lake** COWICHAN VALLEY B.C. Some 800 participants, including the Vancouver Island Posties, Victoria supervisor Scott Lockner and MSC Dave Nash, took part this fall in the successful, first annual Great Lake Walk, a 56-km walk for charities around this beautiful lake. The Lake Cowichan post office rest stop, shown here, was staffed by Star Elliott, Bonnie Wiley, and postmaster Gale Pepin of Lake Cowichan, and Pat Bramfield and Thelma MacMillan from the Whistler and Uclulet B.C. post offices. In addition, Nanaimo supervisor Bruce Smith drove a support vehicle supplied by the plant. Delivery Services officer Richard Sabourin from the post office in Duncan B.C., Sue Lidgate and Chemainus Postmaster Lavona Heckert also provided support for this excellent cause. *TE*



### A D-lightful new retail outlet:

John Woods (left) was one of many happy customers to participate in the grand opening of Station D (Kitsilano) in Vancouver B.C. on September 23. He's pictured here with Kim Johnson, Business Outreach clerk.

## Canada Post Spearheads Community Effort In Sointula

### Customer Focus



Customer Mary Hogue (left) receives her prize of the 2002 Stamp Collection Canada from Linda Sjoberg, Sointula Postmaster

By encouraging customers to contribute to a much-needed charity, Sointula Postal Outlet staff collected more than 80 kilos of non-perishable items for the North Vancouver Island Christmas Food Hamper program this year. Reports Postmaster Linda Sjoberg, "It took a bit of effort, as not too many folks normally remember to bring food to the Post Office. But the community's response was awesome!"

Donors participated in a raffle, the prize being the 2002 Stamp Collection Canada. The winner, Mary Hogue, was delighted to receive her prize as she previously had been a stamp collector.

