



BRITISH COLUMBIA
POSTAL HISTORY
RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 12 – Number 1

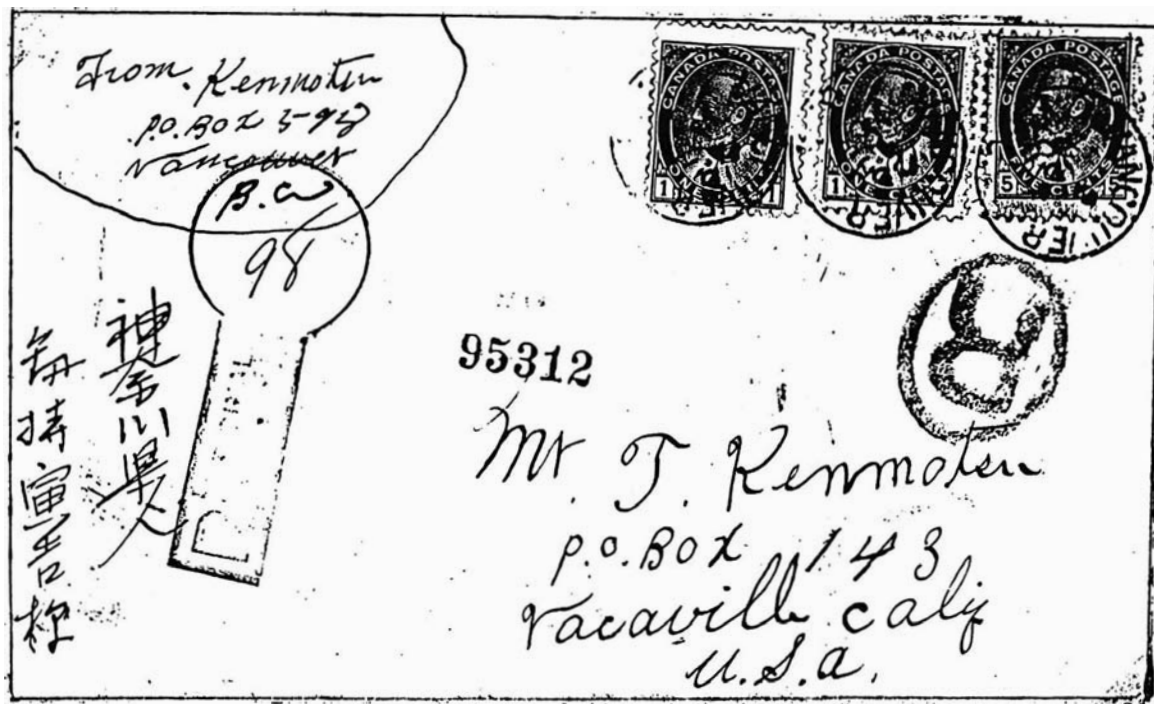
Whole number 45

April 2003

VANCOUVER “KEY” REGISTRATION

In the forthcoming Robert A. Lee auction lot 1706 shows a very good example of Smythies Number 48 “key” type registration marking on a cover mailed to Germany and dated at Vancouver on 3 JUL / 08. Andrew Scott questioned whether the marking was of Canadian origin or whether it was applied in transit. Smythies suggests that the “ORIGINAL NUMBER” “key” type marking did not come into general use until 1915 but this is obviously incorrect as both the cover in the Lee sale and the one below are dated 1908. The cover probably went by steamer to San Francisco where the supplemental registration “95312” was applied and then stage or train to Vacaville.

Face – VANCOUVER / 2 / MY 4 / 08 / B.C.
R / ORIGINAL NUMBER / 98 (Vancouver)
Oval “R” (Vancouver – Smythies No. 15)
95312 (San Francisco)



Back - VANCOUVER / 2 / MY 4 / 08 / B.C.
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL / MAY / 8 / 1908 / REG. DIV.
VACAVILLE, CAL. / MAY 9 / 11 AM / 1908 / RICIL.

EDITORIAL

I am now starting my 12 year as editor of the of the B.C. Postal History Research News Letter and I still find it fun to produce it quarterly. At the suggestion of Andrew Scott a number of members of the study group met briefly at the BNA Regional Meeting in Kamloops and they seemed more satisfied with the product than I am. As might be expected those who collect pre-1900 material suggested that more of this type of material be included and those specializing in modern material felt the same way about their area of interest. Over the years I have attempted to provide a balance between each of the four major divisions, namely: Small Queens/ Edward; George V and VII, early Queen Elizabeth, and current changes. This seems to be acceptable to most members, although I must admit there are topics such as perfins and pre-cancels that I do not collect and as a result these areas have not been covered. Contributions to the news letter are always welcome, especially in the area I tend to short change, and all items ranging from a few lines to three or four pages are greatly welcomed.

The modern postal history is a bit of a problem as changes in the postal system are taking place very rapidly, often initiated at the local level with little or no recording of the changes. Thanks to the assistance of a number of postal employees in Vancouver I have been able to gain access to information on many of these changes and where possible have report these in the newsletter. One of the problems in philatelic research is that it always seems to be at least 50 years behind. For example, the Bickerdykes and the International Rapid Cancelling Machines have been well studied but the Universal and their successor, Pitney Bowes, machines have been almost totally ignored even though the two companies dominated the Canadian field from 1920 until recent times. For this reason I have chosen to keep readers informed of the introduction of the new I.P.S. model 4900 rapid cancelling machine and the new "wings" style daters so that researchers in the future can use this first hand information rather than having to speculate on when and why changes were made. I hope this slight tendency to over emphasize recent changes is acceptable.

In closing I would like to apologize for a brief delay in this issue of the newsletter as I had intended to redo the mailing list to simplify the collection of dues. Unfortunately I stroked the cat the wrong way and ended up with a pinched nerve in my hip and spent a month and a half on painkillers not knowing which side was up. I am now almost back to normal and hope over the next month to catch up on my mail and other duties.

DUES

If there is a pink Dues Notice in your News Letter then your subscription has expired. Dues may be paid for one year \$8.00 or two year \$15.00. Please enclose the dues notice with your check.

TOBY CREEK

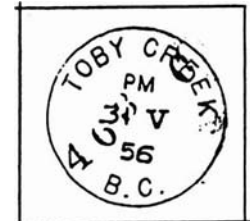
The Toby Creek post office was shown as opening 1st September 1956, although the official opening was not listed until the August 1957 Postal Guide Supplement. Mr. Hedley B. Reeson was listed as Postmaster, although his wife ran the post office. A type "C" hammer was proofed "PM / 31 V / 56". The Toby Creek post office was closed January 12, 1968.

1st AUGUST 1957

CHANGES IN POST OFFICES

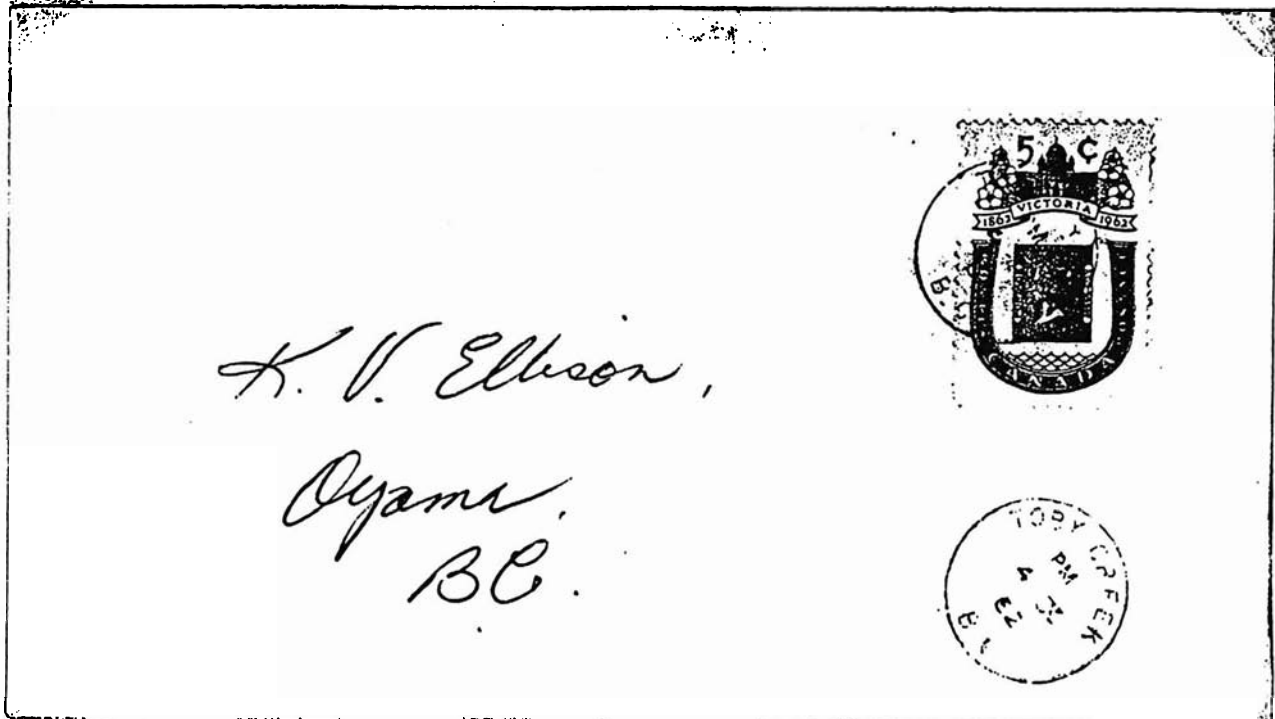
LIST OF OFFICES OPENED

OFFICE NUMBER	POST OFFICE	POSTAL DISTRICT	PARISH, TOWNSHIP OR STREET ADDRESS	ELECTORAL DISTRICT	PROVINCE	POSTMASTER
99064	Toby Creek..... (1st September 1956).....	C.	Kootenay East	B.C.....	Hedley B. Reeson



The post office was located on Jackpine Flats near Toby Creek, approximately 29 miles west of Athalmer in the East Kootenays. Lead-zinc deposits had been discovered in the region in 1898 but were not until 1942 when Sheep Creek Gold Mines bought the "Paradise" mine. In 1949, they developed a 50 ton per day mill at the Toby Creek site. In 1954 a 500 ton per day mill was built and the Toby Creek town site was developed, including a bunk-houses, residences, mine offices and a curling rink were constructed. At the same time the Toby Creek School and Post Office building were constructed.

Face - TOBY CREEK / PM / 4 X / 62 / B.C.

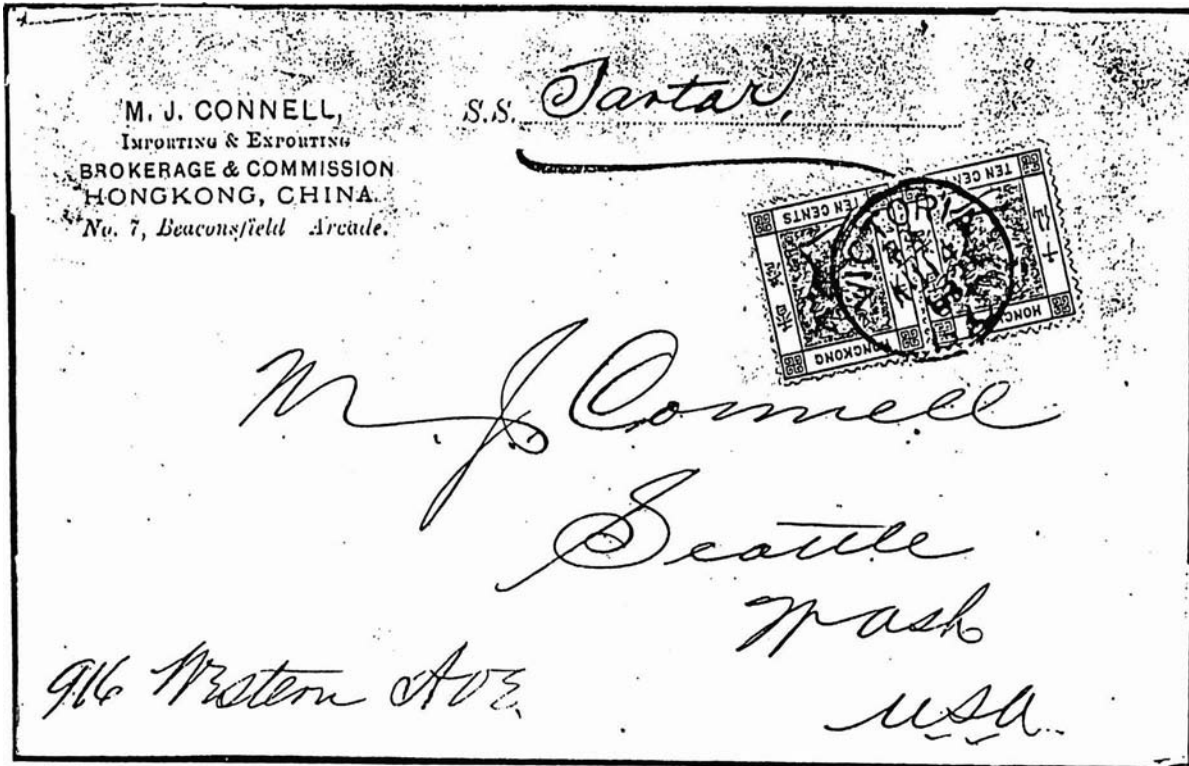


By 1967 the ore body was becoming depleted and the company, now known as Aetna Investment Corporation, Limited, was in financial difficulty. The mine shut down on December 13, 1967 and the Toby Creek post office closed a month later on January 12, 1968. The plant and town site were liquidated shortly afterwards and by 1970 the Aetna Investment was no longer engaged in mining.

Today, like many other instant British Columbia towns, little if anything remains at the mill site and except for a few postal historians, nobody cares. The above cover, addressed to well known postal historian, Ken Ellison, serves as a reminder of the 12 year history of Toby Creek

Trans- Pacific Mail via Vancouver and Victoria
from the Francis Au collection

PACKET MAIL TO U.S.A VIA VICTORIA



July 1903 Hong Kong to Seattle.

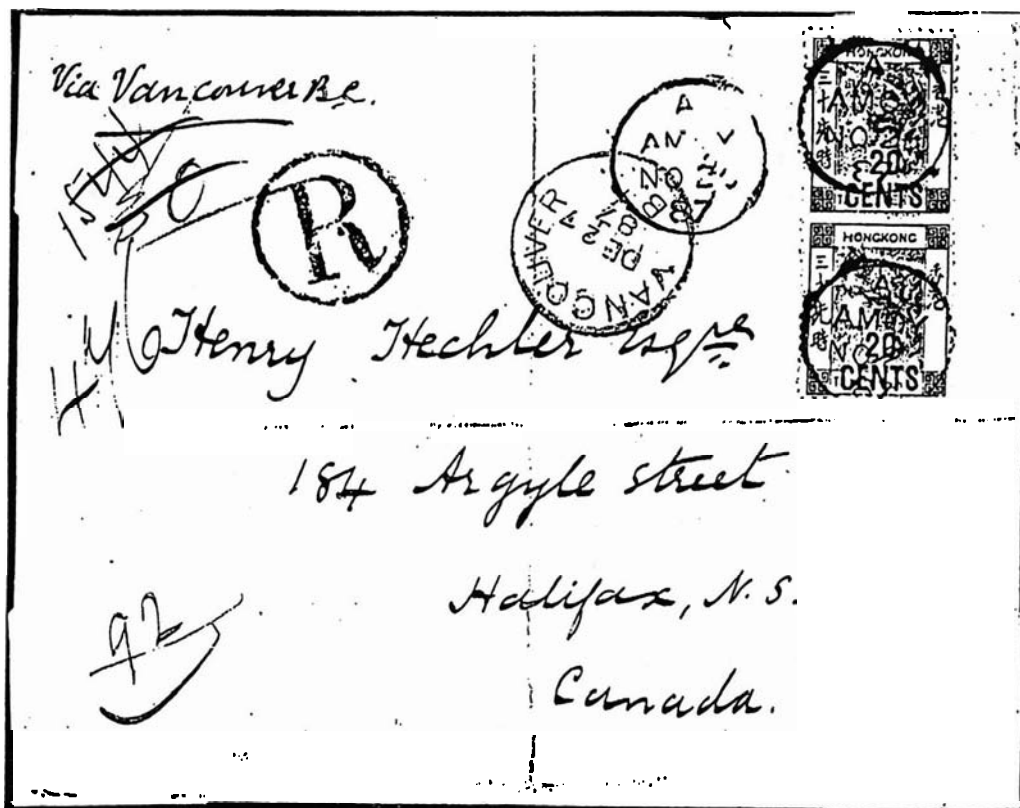
ROUTE: Originated from M.J. Connell, an import and export company in Hong Kong. From Hong Kong by SS *Tartar* to Victoria arrived 14 AU 1903. By *costal steamer* to Seattle arrived 16 AU.

RATE: 20¢ UPU rate for 1 oz. letter.

MARKINGS: On reverse, Victoria B.C. AU 14 03 and Seattle arrival mark AU 16 1903.



PACKET MAIL TO CANADA VIA VANCOUVER



26 Nov 1887 Amoy to Halifax.

Near to Hong Kong, Amoy was a Chinese treaty port providing British postal services. The *Canadian Pacific Steamships* stopped over Amoy on the way to Japan.

ROUTE: The maiden voyage of CPSS *Batavia* leaving Hong Kong 25 NO and proceed by the way of Amoy, Foochow, Kobe and Yokohama. Leaving Japan 10 DE and arrived Vancouver 27 DE 1887. Her maiden voyage to Vancouver was described in the press as "one of the worst ever experienced in the Pacific."*

RATE: UPU triple rate at 30¢ plus 10¢ for registration.

MARKINGS: On reverse: Vancouver transit DE 27 87, C.P.RY.M.C. DE 27 (Ludlow RR-24), Montreal transit JA 3 88 and Halifax arrival mark JA 5 88.

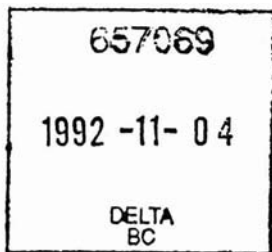
* "The Pacific Empress", by R. Turner.



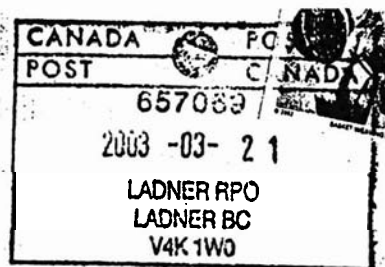
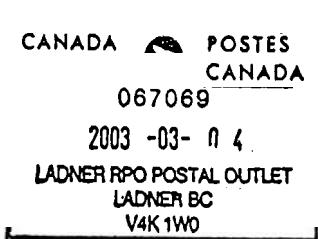
Ladner Postal Outlet
From Andrew Scott

The Ladner Postal Outlet replaced Delta RPO 4 on August 27, 1992 and was assigned RC# 657069 and a dater with that number was issued.

A new date stamp with adjustable years was issued in 1996 and contained year dates up to 2002. Since the year slug was a single unit on a rotating wheel no years after 2002 could be produced and a new dater had to be ordered.

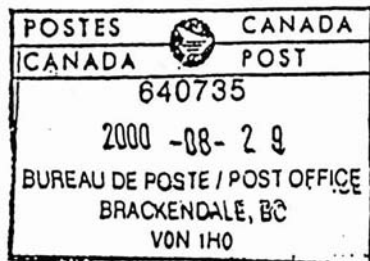
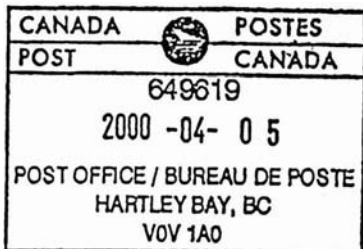


A new "Wing" type dater was received early in 2003 but the RC# was incorrect and read 067069. It was replaced between March 14 and 17 by a dater with the correct RC# 657069. Both the "Wing" type dates include the RPO name.



"Wings" cancellations French or English

Although much has been written on the new "Wings" daters little or no mention has been made that there are two distinctive wordings used on the stamps. The French version with "POSTES CANADA" at the top and the English version with "POST CANADA" at the top. In theory the French version was designed for use in Quebec and other French speaking regions while the English version was for use in the rest of the country. Much to the annoyance of some postal clerks a number of the French date stamps were issued in British Columbia and in a few cases the clerks have requested an English replacement.



Trans-Pacific Mail via Vancouver and Victoria

The two Trans-Pacific covers on the preceding pages are from the Francis Au collection and although not directly related to British Columbia postal history they show excellent examples of Trans-Pacific receiving marks. Traditionally mail originating in South-East Asia was required to show the routing otherwise it was sent by the slow route via Suez. In this case one letter shows the ship name, the *S.S. Tartar*, and in the other the route, "Via Vancouver". In most cases mail of this type was back stamped upon arrival at Victoria or Vancouver but the markings are usually on the back of the cover. These two covers are of particular interest since the Canadian marking appear on the face of the cover.

Recent reports of Unreported postal markings

Beaverton on stamp dated AU 15 / 02
East Bella Bella cover dated JU 8 / 18
Stovely 25 + covers - "E" to "D"

On-going research

One of the prime functions of this News Letter has been to encourage research into British Columbia Postal History. To this end it seems to have been highly successful, in part, due to the many changes in postal operations during the past ten years. Fortunately for future postal historians many of these changes are being recorded on a day-to-day basis and are being published on a regular basis. For those who do not collect modern postal history this may seem a waste of space but on the other hand the same collectors will make great use of Frank Campbell's *Canada Post Offices 1755 - 1895* when writing up a small queen cover for display.

The following areas of modern research are being reported regularly in the news letter. Other areas of study will be gladly reported.

- Opening and Closing dates of BC post offices
Bill Topping
- "Wing" Cancellations
Andrew Scott and others
- Jet Spray Printer slogans
Joel Weiner and others
- I.P.S. model HD2 cancellations
Daniel Hunka
- Klussendorf cancellations
Greig Hutton
- Rapid Cancelling Machine replacements
Bill Topping

BC "WING" CANCEL LIST	RC#	Code	Ink	ERD	LRD
Abbotsford, People's Drug RO	651648	V2S 5G0	B+	21/SP/00	31/DE/02
Abbotsford	100475	V2S 5G0	B+	03/MR/03	14/MR/03
Armstrong	640328	V0E 1B0		18/JA/00	03/OC/02
Baldonnel	640409	V9C 1B0		19/JA/00	
Baldonnel	640409	V9C 1C0		09/MR/00	17/MY/02
Brackendale	640735	V0N 1H0	B+	30/MY/00	25/JA/03
Burnaby, Cascade RO	100231	no code		22/OC/02	19/NO/02
Campbell River	653640	no code		11/JA/03	08/FE/03
Campbell River	129615	V9W 1E0		29/MY/02	04/JA/03
Castlegar	051136	V1N 2B0		20/NO/01	19/MY/02
Chilliwack, Southgate RO	388254	V2P 2M0		30/MY/00	31/MY/02
Clayhurst	641316	V0C 1K0		10/FE/00	18/NO/02
Coal Harbour	100235	V0N 1K0		24/OC/02	12/NO/02
Courtenay	641596	V9N 1G0	P+	04/DE/02	17/FE/03
Delta, South Tsawwassen RO	100462	V4L 2C0		17/DE/02	22/FE/03
Delta, Tsawwassen RO	100448	V4L 2B0		08/JA/03	25/FE/03
Fort Nelson (FT. NELSON, B.C.)	644560	V0C 1R0		07/MY/02	24/MY/02
Fort Nelson (FT NELSON)	644560	V0C 1B0		26/SP/02	11/OC/02
Gitwinsihi kw	100268	V0J 3T0		27/NO/02	
Grand Forks	642797	V0H1H0		23/OC/01	02/JA/03
Grindrod	642851	V0E 1Y0		15/NO/01	28/DE/02
Hartley Bay	649619	V0V 1A0	B+	24/JA/00	01/FE/03
Kamloops, MPP Wickets	651656	V2C 5P0		29/AP/02	10/MR/03
Kamloops	000085	V2B 3L0	B	11/AP/02	30/DE/02
Kitimat	683447	V8C 1T0		30/JU/01	30/JA/03
Ladner RO	657069	V4K 1W0		17/MR/03	
Ladner RO	067069	V4K 1W0		05/FE/03	21/FE/03
Ladysmith	643750	V9G 1A0		03/AU/00	11/FE/03
Langley, Walnut Grove RO	413992	V1M 2C0		14/JU/01	06/FE/03
Lillooet	643912	V0K 1V0		07/JU/01	16/AP/02
Mackenzie	642983	V0J 2C0		11/JA/00	27/JA/03
Maple Ridge	129755	no code		11/MY/02	27/JA/03
Nanaimo, Operations	631183	V9S 5L0	R	20/DE/01	30/JY/02
Nanoose Bay	644684	V9P 9A0	P+	01/FE/01	05/FE/03
Nelson	637807	V1L 4E0	P+	16/AU/01	19/FE/03
Nelson	644749	V1L 4E0		18/AP/01	19/FE/03
New Westminster RO	016810	no code		07/JA/03	08/MR/03

	RC#	Code	Ink	ERD	LRD
Osoyoos	645397	V0H 1V0		23/NO/01	28/MY/02
Port Edward	645672	VOV 1G0		21/FE/03	12/MR/03
Port McNeill	645710	V0N 2R0		11/FE/03	11/MR/03
Prince George	645885	V2L 2L0		03/OC/01	17/DE/02
Prince George, College Heights RO	412856	V2N 4A0		01/OC/00	18/FE/03
Prince George, Downtown RO	412864	V2L 3J0		01/OC/00	13/AP/02
Prince George, Hart RO	412848	V2K 3A0		14/NO/00	12/FE/03
Prince Rupert (3 lines at base)	105090	V8J 3T6	P+	08/AP/02	03/JA/03
Prince Rupert (2 lines at base)	105090	V8J 3T6		22/AU/02	17/FE/03
Qualicum Beach	645974	V9K 1A0	P	13/MR/03	
Quatsino	646008	V0N 2V0		07/JA/03	
Robson	019542	V0G 1X0		15/AU/01	19/FE/03
Saltspring Island	100358	V8K 2V0		28/FE/03	
Smithers	646725	V0J 2N0		06/DE/01	12/FE/03
Surrey (circular, forerunner)	649333	V3T 2Y0		02/JA/97	30/MR/98
Surrey, Sunnyside Mall RO	013722	V4A 5A0		10/MR/03	17/MR/03
Tahsis	647047	V0P 1X0		05/FE/03	14/FE/03
Telkwa	647128	V0J 2X0		06/SP/00	21/FE/03
Trail	647209	V1R 3W0		21/NO/02	21/FE/03
Vancouver, Downtown RO	062855	V6E 1B0		27/OC/00	31/MY/01
Vedder Crossing	000100	no code		03/JU/02	21/FE/03
Vernon	051187	V1T 2M0	B+	12/OC/02	11/FE/03
Vernon, Finnlay's RO	100123	V1T 6L0		14/JA/03	24/JA/03
Victoria	100182	V8X 1J0		10/JU/02	28/FE/03
Victoria	171905	V8T 3A0		22/MR/02	22/FE/03
Victoria	388505	V8N 4G0		06/MR/03	10/MR/03
Victoria	418595	V9B 4E0		14/JU/02	22/FE/03
Wasa	649058	V0B 2K0		04/MR/03	
Williams Lake	649244	V2G 1H0		28/SP/01	24/JA/03
Windermere	100197	V0B 2L0		14/MR/03	
Winlaw	649279	V0G 2J0		18/DE/01	04/FE/03
Winter Harbour	644153	V0N 3L0		08/JA/03	03/FE/03
Youbou	269034	V0R 3E0		10/JA/01	17/FE/03

Inks: B/blue; R/red; P/purple; +/black noted also. ERD/LRD: early/late recorded dates
List date: 04/AP/03 Please email new reports and ERDs to andrewscott@dccnet.com

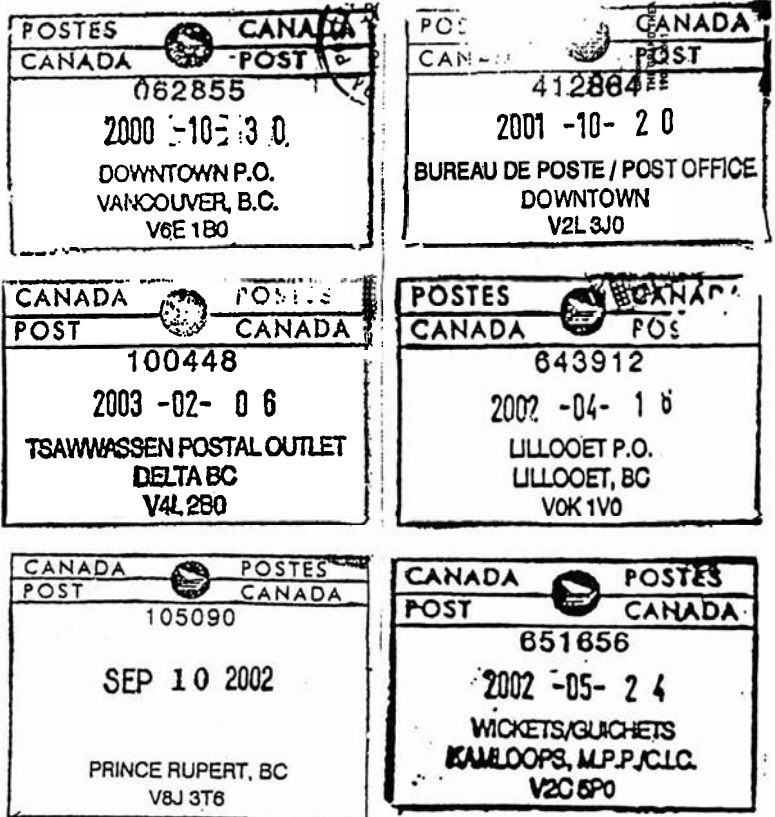
“WINGS” cancellations – early dates

On the two proceeding pages is the latest listing of British Columbia “WINGS” cancellations as provided by Andrew Scott. Andrew has been actively working on this new style of dater, first introduced in 2000, and he would greatly appreciate reports of any new dates or unlisted markings.

The format of the British Columbia markings appear to be fairly constant, but with either French or English being the dominant language. For staff or semi-staff offices and some Franchises the words “POST OFFICE / BUREAU DE POSTE” appears above the town name. The Postal Code appears at the bottom. In the case of other Franchise Offices the Franchise name appears above the town name with the postal code below. In a few cases the Franchise name may appear as the town name.

Please record changes here.

Examples of different wordings



Forms should be mailed to

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

| Name

| Address.....

|

| Code

FINANCIAL REPORT 2002-2003

Revenue

Surplus previous year	727.50
Membership dues	274.00
Advanced dues	288.00
Sale of back issues	-
Grant from BNA	140.00
	<hr/>
	1429.50

Expenses

Members News Letters	378.00
BNA officers	42.00
BNA free mailings	12.00
Complimentary	-
Back issues	-
Sample copies	-
	<hr/>
	432.00
Surplus	997.00
Less advanced dues	288.00
Net Surplus	709.50

MEMBERS 2003

- | | | |
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| Bailey, Bill | Kembel, Vern | Sagar, Mike |
| Barlow, Ken | Lee, Robert A. | Scott, Andrew |
| Bartlet, Russell | Leitch, Malcolm | Scrimgeour, Gray |
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| Jacobi, Peter | Piercey, David | |
| Jones, T. Malcolm | Plain, Brian C. | |
| Joyner, William | Price, Alex | |

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Bill Topping 604-261-1508
7430 Angus Drive
Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2

CANADA POST

New cancellation stamps unveiled

CHRISTINE WOOD
STAFF WRITER

Attention stamp collectors: there are three new cancellation stamps on the Coast being unveiled April 16.

Cancellation stamps are used at post offices throughout Canada whenever a letter is mailed. Usually they are just round ink stamps with the post office name, number and the date.

But, Gibsons, Madeira Park and Garden Bay now have cancellation stamps that reflect the character of each area.

In Gibsons the new stamp features a picture of Molly's Reach drawn by local artist Terry Barker. In Garden Bay and Madeira Park the popular Pender Harbour Jazz Festival logo of a seal playing a saxophone

graces the new stamp.

All three post offices are planning to present the stamp to the public on April 16 with varying festivities planned.

In Gibsons the stamp will be unveiled along with a Customer Appreciation Day running from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be cake and coffee served and free prize draws during the festivities. The post office also plans to unveil a new commemorative envelope with Barker's drawing of Molly's Reach on it. That envelope will be on sale starting April 16.

In Garden Bay and Madeira Park, post office staff plan to have coffee and cookies available for customers and may also have T-shirts and special envelopes on sale. The details were not finalized by *Coast Reporter* press deadline.



GRAPHIC SUBMITTED
An example of the new stamp set to be launched by the Post Office that will be used in Gibsons.