



BRITISH COLUMBIA

POSTAL HISTORY

RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 1 - Number 1

March 1992

B.C. POSTAL HISTORY REGIONAL GROUP

A MODEST PROPOSAL

Ever since the publication of the first edition of George Melvin's "Post Offices of British Columbia" in 1965 suggestions have been made to form a British Columbia Postal History study group. To date no such study group has been formed although many postal historians have carried on individual research projects. The results of this research have in some cases resulted in publication, while in others the information collected has been distributed to a few interested collectors and in a few cases it has been lost to all but the researcher. The resulting product has varied greatly in quality depending on the number of collectors polled and the use made by the researcher of existing material and previous research.

The major problem faced by the budding researcher is to get access to enough postal history material to study adequately the topic at hand. In the past this has been a very hit or miss proposition with some collectors responding quickly while other major holders of material have ignored the request for information.

To help to overcome this uncoordinated approach to postal history research it is proposed that a British Columbia Postal History Research Group be formed in conjunction with the BNA Regional Group. The following suggestions are presented for consideration.

1. Membership will be limited to those collectors who are actively involved in the collecting and studying of British Columbia postal history.
2. That a roster of active collectors of B.C. postal history be prepared including a listing of areas of active research. This roster would include names of members and non members and would be updated regularly and circulated to all members.
3. That a B.C. Postal History News Letter be instituted to coordinate the research presently in progress and to encourage additional research projects.
4. Members would be expected to reply to surveys and other requests for information on a regular basis, including a nil report if the request is outside their collecting area.

BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY
- RESEARCH NEWS LETTER

The objective of the British Columbia Postal History News-letter would be to encourage and coordinate research into the postal history of British Columbia. It would be produced two or three times a year and would be distributed only to active members.

The following format is proposed;

1. An illustrated feature article of two to three pages.
2. One or two shorter articles limited to one page and dealing with a specific topic.
3. "Postal Watch" an occasional feature to alert collectors to special cancellations, postal errors, or other items that might be missed by collectors.
4. Requests for information and queries from members and subsequent replies.
5. Special research investigation including a request for information a specific topic. A separate returnable page would be provided for members reply.
6. Reporting of results from research investigations where possible in the issue following the request.
7. Membership roster - published as required listing members names, addresses, and areas of present postal research.

This sample edition of the British Columbia Postal History Research News Letter was written and prepared by Bill Topping for discussion and distribution at the 1992 Spring Meeting of the BNAPS Pacific Northwest Regional Group.

POSTAL WATCH

The Postal Watch column is designed to alert collectors to postal changes or postal errors that might be of interest and are worthy of collecting. These varieties usually last for a short period of time and can be found on some type of postal marking. Human errors such as inverted dies or misdated cancels are ignored.

NEW WESTMINSTER

- Post Office Closing

On November 8, 1991 the Post Office in New Westminster was converted to a CSC (Commercial Service Centre) and no longer provided counter service to the public. Some time prior to that date the rapid cancelling equipment ceased to be used and mail was sent to Vancouver Mail Processing Plant (V6B 3A0) for processing. In November 1989 the number 2 machine from New Westminster appears to have been sent to Prince George to help process the Christmas mail but the new Prince George hub had not arrived. Thus, for a short period mail at Prince George was postmarked New Westminster 2.

New Westminster

Machine 1 (9C)	late	1988	06
Machine 2 (9C)	late	1986	12 09

New Westminster at Prince George

Machine 2 (9C)	early	1989	11 15
	late	1989	11 20

Prince George

Machine 2 (9C)	early	1990	01 16
	still	in use	



LULU ISLAND

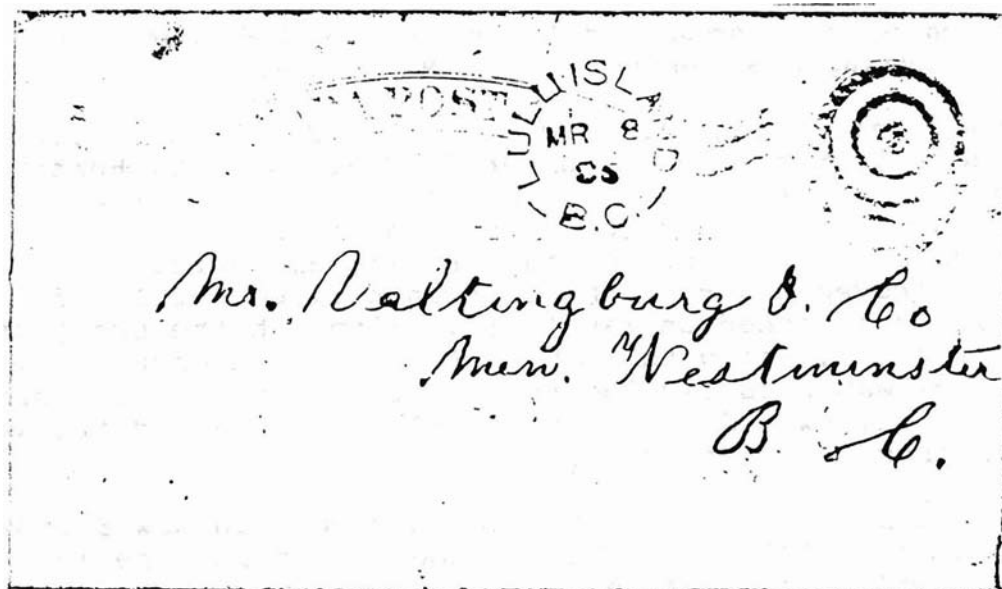
Established September 1, 1884
Moved 1886
Closed July 31, 1924



Proof Book
Strike Hammer 2

LULU ISLAND Post Office takes its name from Lulu Island which was named in 1862 by Colonel Moody of the Royal Engineers after a young actress, Lulu Sweet, who had visited New Westminster in the late 1850's. The LULU ISLAND Post Office was established, in September 1884, at the Phoenix Cannery, to the East of the south end of Number One Road. It was the second post office established on Lulu Island and the first on the North side of the South Arm of the Fraser River. Prior to the opening of the post office residents had to row to Ladner's Landing on the south side of the river where mail was delivered tri-weekly from New Westminster.

William T. London was the first postmaster at LULU ISLAND and although some sources claim the name was changed to London's in 1894 there is no evidence that the name of the Post Office was ever changed. In 1886, Mr. London built a small general store on land he had purchased from Thomas McNeely near the new public dock constructed at the south end of Number 2 Road. He then moved the post office from the Phoenix Cannery to his store and remained postmaster until the store was taken over in 1901 by J.P. Bowditch when Mr. London left for California because of poor health. Mr. Bowditch remained as postmaster until the office closed July 31, 1924 as it was "no longer required".



Post Card mailed from LULU ISLAND MR 8 86 to New Westminster shortly before the Post Office moved from Phoenix Cannery to London's store.

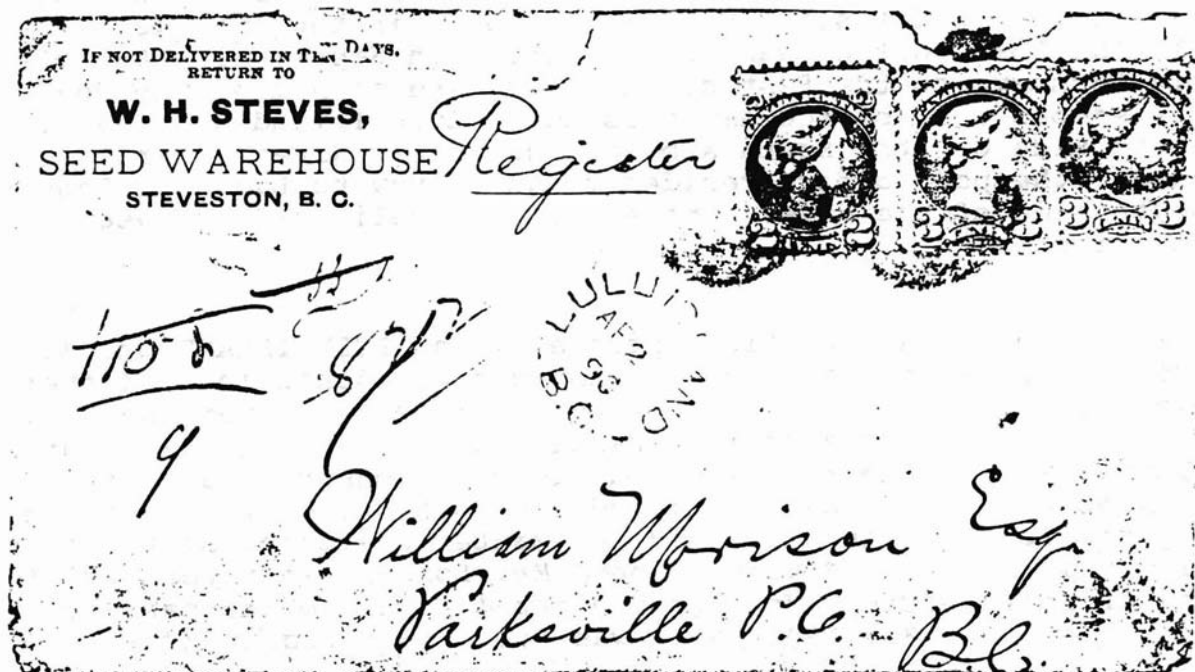
STEVESTON Early Postal History

Established May 1, 1890
Closed May 13, 1972
Became - Vancouver Sub. 142



Proof Book
strike

Registered letter to PARKSVILLE mailed AP 2 90 from the LULU ISLAND
Post Office after office was moved to the London Store, No. 2 Road.

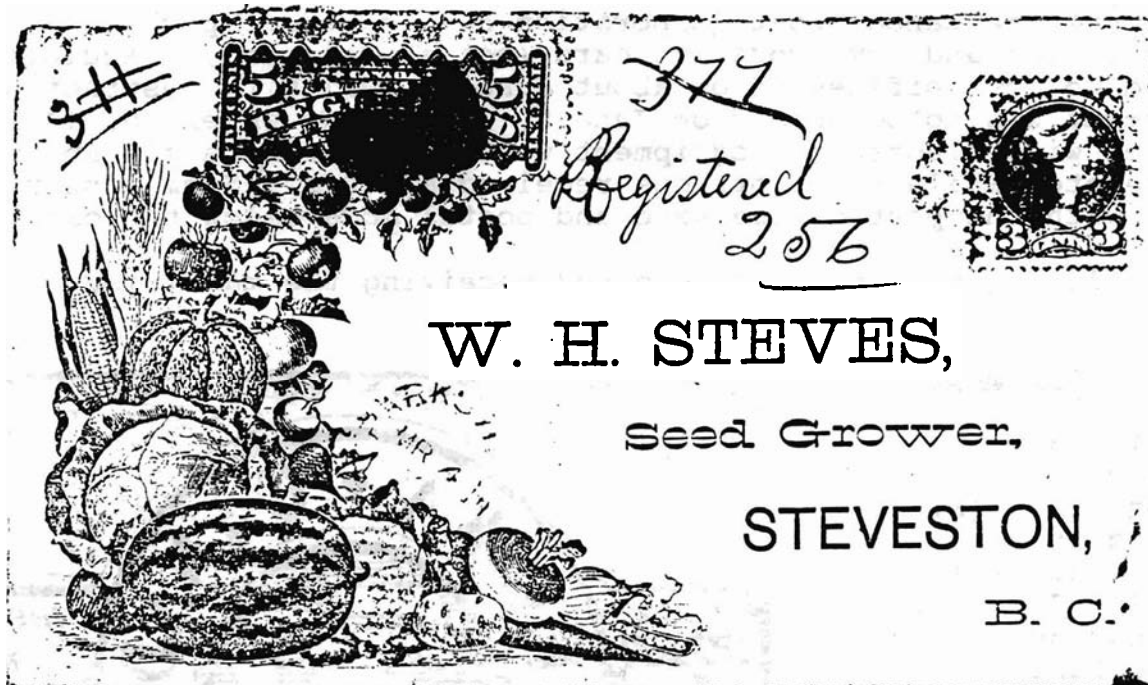


Note - Steveston return address used after March authorization in
anticipation of opening of Steveston office on May 1, 1890

Following the relocation of the LULU ISLAND Post Office on the Government dock at the end of Number 2 Road, William Herbert Steves saw the need for a new Post Office to serve the rapidly growing Steveston area. The new office, to be named STEVESTON after Manoah Steves, father of the first Postmaster William Herbert Steves. The office was approved under authorization notice 162-13, dated March 1890, and was established on May 1, 1890 although the proof strike is dated "MY 2 90" indicating that the office did not open until mid may. The post office was probably located in the Steves seed store on 2nd Avenue between Baview and Moncton. Mail was received tri-weekly by mail steamer from New Westminster.

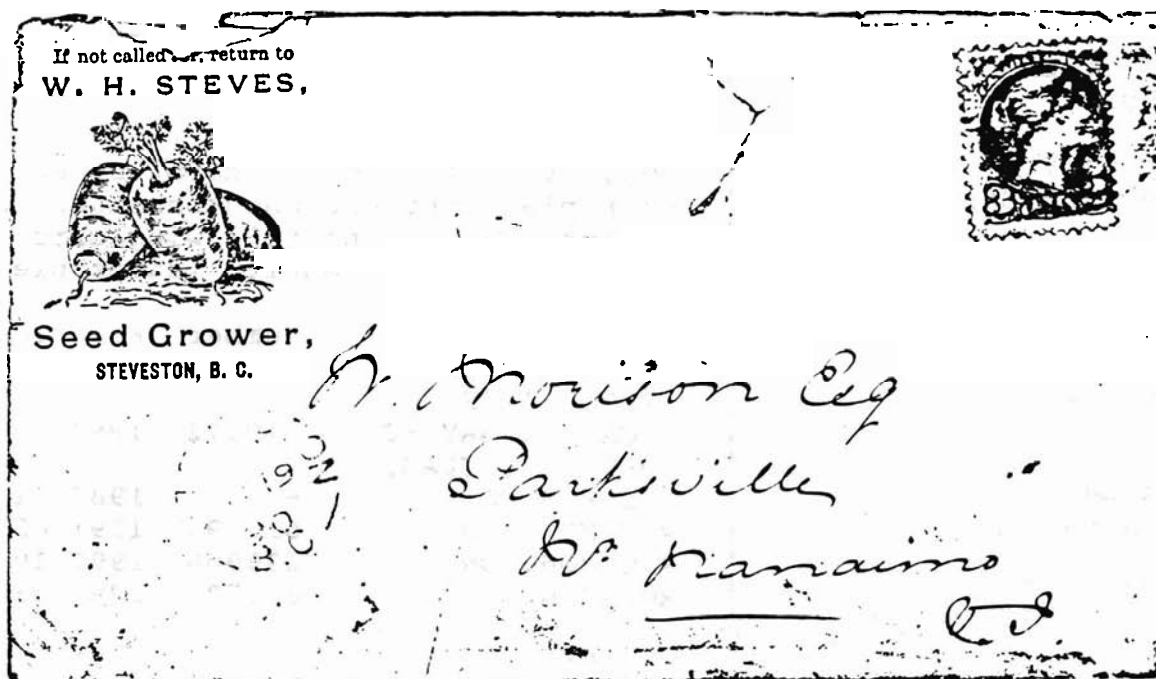
Mr. Steves's father, Manoah Steves had been born in New Brunswick and came to Richmond in 1877 after having spent a short time in Maryland. He purchased land on the west end of Lulu Island where he established a seed business and he was joined the next year by his family. The Steveston townsite was named after Manoah Steves.

Illustrated return envelope prepared prior to establishment of
 Steveston Post Office by first Postmaster William Herbert Steves
 Dated PARKSVILLE - MR 4 90 (Steveston opened about May 1, 1990)



W.H. Steves remained postmaster for four years and then G. Blake took over for one year. It then moved to Hunt's store on Moncton Street and later to the Hepworth Building on the SE corner of Moncton Street at 2nd Avenue. Following the completion of the tram service to Vancouver mail service improved and by 1947 mail was received twice daily on the B.C. Electric Railway 8 am and 4 pm trams.

Letter from Postmaster W.H. Steves to Parksville, dated STEVESTON MY 19 90, a few days after the office opened.



The STEVESTON Post Office closed May 13, 1972 at which time it was located at 346 Moncton Street but the postal service continued as VANCOUVER SUB. 142 which is still open.

ALASKA HIGHWAY - Special cancellation.

1992 marks the 50th anniversary of the construction of the Alaska Highway from Dawson Creek, B.C. to Fairbanks, Alaska. To commemorate the event the Canada Post Corporation has issued a special postal cancellation and commemorative card (not a post card). Equipment was issued to most offices on or about June 1, 1991 with instructions the equipment was to be used from June 5, 1991 to November 30, 1992. Offices with Klussendorf equipment were issued with a slogan obliterator while other offices received a 8.0 x 5.5 mm rubber hand stamp with the post office name and postal code below the cachet.

The following offices have reported receiving the markings;

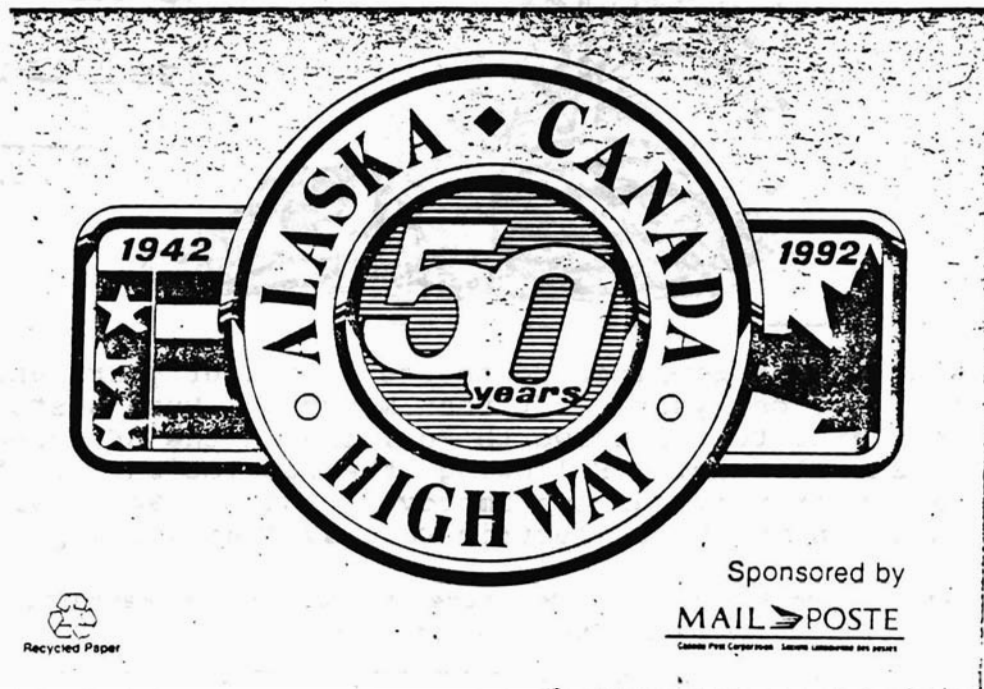
British Columbia

Baldonnel
Charlie Lake
Chetwynd
Dawson Creek (K)
Farmington
Fort Nelson (K)
Fort St. John (K)
Hudson's Hope
Muncho Lake
Pink Mountain
Pouce Coupe
Prophet River *
Taylor
Toad River
Tumbler Ridge
Wonowon

* Rec'd Nov 30, 1991

Yukon

Beaver Creek
Carcross
Carmacks
Dawson City
Destruction Bay
Faro
Haines Junction
Mayo
Old Crow
Pelly Crossing
Ross River
Tagish
Teslin
Watson Lake
White Horse (K)
(K) Klussendorf



SPELLING ERRORS

Quality control on hammers issued as new or replacement equipment has declined in recent years. The following errors have been reported recently. (dates please)

Error	Number	Reported
VICTORIA RPO		
CADORO BAY BC	640972	1989 07 12
PORT COUQITLAM,		
SUB POCO	-	1987 11 28
RICHMOND MB	656593	1991 02 08
RICHMOND ON	639966	1991 10 16
RUNSKIN BC	656720	1990 03 12

QUERIES

92-01 HUNTINGDON straight line

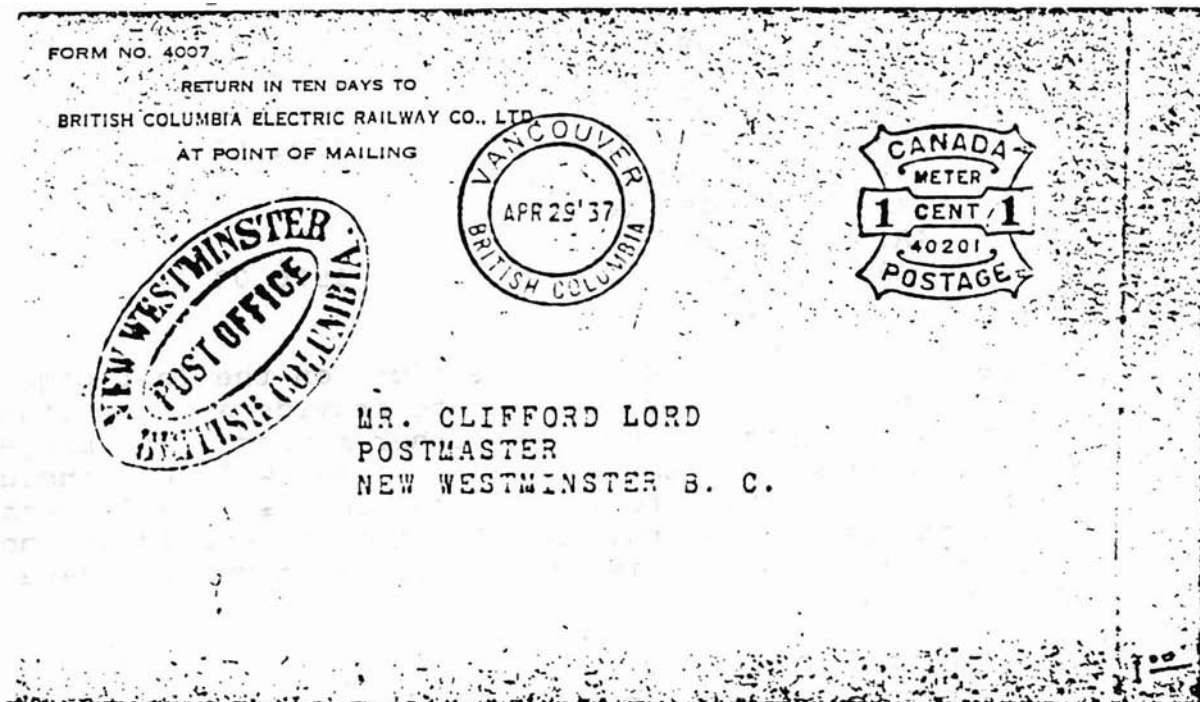
In Bob Lee's sale of January 1992 there was a "HUNTINGDON" straight line purple cancel on a card to DUNCAN'S STATION with receiving mark dated OC/24/05. Bill Topping reports a similar cancel with receiving mark FITCHBURG, MASS. dated SEP/25/05. Both cards appear to have been mailed at Huntingdon, B.C. not Quebec. Can anyone provide further information on this marking? (Cec Coutts)

92-02 MPO / NPO numbers

Military (MPO) and Naval (NPO) Post Offices were established in British Columbia during the Second World War. Each office was issued with an accounting number. For example Terrace M.P.O. 1109 was assigned Accounting Number 9735. These offices were not listed in the "Monthly Supplements" nor are the number recorded in the Post Office or Military records in Ottawa. To date numbers have been reported for eight of the 24 offices located in BC. Can anyone assist by providing information or documentation on these numbers? (Bill Bailey)

PROPOSED LOGO

The proposed logo for the B.C. Research News-letter is based on the hand stamp used at the New Westminster Colonial Post Office. According to A.S. Deaville it was obtained from England in 1859 by Captain Gosset at about the time the New Westminster was established. The frank was used until British Columbia entered Confederation in 1871 at which time it was withdrawn. The frank reappeared in the 1920's as a receiving mark used on mail addressed to the postmaster at New Westminster. The cover below, dated April 29, 1937, is addressed to Mr. Clifford Lord, Postmaster at New Westminster from September 1928 until December 1945. The late date and the present location of the device are both unknown.



POSTAL RESEARCH SECTION

VANCOUVER ISLAND POSTAL REORGANIZATION

In October 1990 a consolidation of mail processing on Vancouver Island took place. The Mail Processing Plant at Victoria (V8Z 4B0) now processes all mail collected in major centers on the central and southern Island. As a result the following rapid cancelling equipment appears to be no longer be in use. Late dates for this change are requested.

<u>Post Office</u>	Type	Late Date	PO or MPP closed
Courtenay	9C	1990 10 22	
Duncan	9C	1990 10 10	
Nanaimo M1	9C	1990 10 22	
M2	9C	1990 04 30	
Parksville	4A1	1990 10 29	
Port Alberni	9B	1990 10 24	
Sooke	4A1	1990 08 09	

VANCOUVER REORGANIZATION

Delta	9C	1987 09 29	1987 10 ??
Gibsons to VON 1V0	4A1	1990 03 27	
Langley to VA3 4N0	9C	1989 12 21	
V3A 4N0	10A	1990 07 12	1990 09 10
New Westminster	9C M1	1988 12 06	1991 11 08
	9C M2	1986 12 09	1991 11 08
Port Coquitlam	9C	1989 10 25	1991 03 25
White Rock	9C	1989 12 22	1990 01 20

OTHER RECENTLY UNREPORTED MACHINE CANCELS

Agassiz	4J	1986 03 10	
Aldergrove	9B	1988 11 02	
Elko	4J	1985 05 02	1991 10 12
Enderby	4A	1991 09 24	1991 09 16
Fruitvale	4J	1990 12 21	
Kaslo	4J	1988 10 11	
Logan Lake	4A1	1989 10 06	
Oyama	4J	1985 12 12	1990 03 17

Plans call for having a Postal Research section on the last page of each Research News Letter. It is designed to provide an opportunity for members to request information from other members on projects currently being researched. A separate reply sheet will be included with each Research News Letter to facilitate replies. All members will be expected to respond to this section and it should be noted that in many cases a "nil" reply is as usefull as an updated date or reported postal marking.

--- See enclosed response form ---

RESPONSE FORM

Volume 1 Number 1, March 1992

Forms should be mailed to Bill Topping, Editor
B.C. Postal History News Letter
7430 Angus Drive
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 5K2

Please check your collection for late dates for the following

<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Late Date</u>	<u>New late date</u>
Courtenay	9C	1990 10 22	
Duncan	9C	1990 10 10	
Nanaimo M1	9C	1990 10 22	
M2	9C	1990 04 30	
Parksville	4A1	1990 10 29	
Port Alberni	9B	1990 10 24	
Sooke	4A1	1990 08 09	

VANCOUVER REORGANIZATION

Delta	9C	1987 09 29
Gibsons to VON 1V0	4A1	1990 03 27
Langley to VA3 4N0	9C	1989 12 21
V3A 4N0	10A	1990 07 12
New Westminster	9C M1	1988 12 06
	9C M2	1986 12 09
Port Coquitlam	9C	1989 10 25
White Rock	9C	1989 12 22

OTHER RECENTLY UNREPORTED

Agassiz	4J	1986 03 10
Aldergrove	9B	1988 11 02
Elko	4J	1985 05 02
Enderby	4A	1991 09 24
Fruitvale	4J	1990 12 21
Kaslo	4J	1988 10 11
Logan Lake	4A1	1989 10 06
Oyama	4J	1985 12 12

I can add no new dates ☐

I do not collect machines ☐

Name

Address

.....

BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP
BNAPS Pacific Northwest Regional Group -

The British Columbia Postal History Research Group is a sub-chapter of the Pacific Northwest Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society. The prime objective is to encourage and coordinate research into the postal history of British Columbia.

Membership is open to all active collectors of British Columbia Postal History and members are expected to respond to questionnaires sent out two or three times a year with the News Letter.

Members will be expected to contribute to the News-letter on a regular basis and the News-letter Editor will act a clearing house for research information.

A roster of collecting specialties will be prepared listing the collecting interests and areas of special study for all members and it is hoped this will facilitate correspondence between members with similar collecting interests.

Fees will be collected as required to cover operating costs.

.....
I would like to apply for membership in the B.C. Postal History Research Group.

Name Phone

Address
.....

Postal Code

I am a member of the British North America Philatelic Society |☐|

I would like to Join BNAPS |☐|----> stamp society reference
.....

Signed Date.....

Roster information

If you are presently involved in a research project or would like to become involved in an existing or new project, please list the topic(s) on the lines below.

.....

.....