



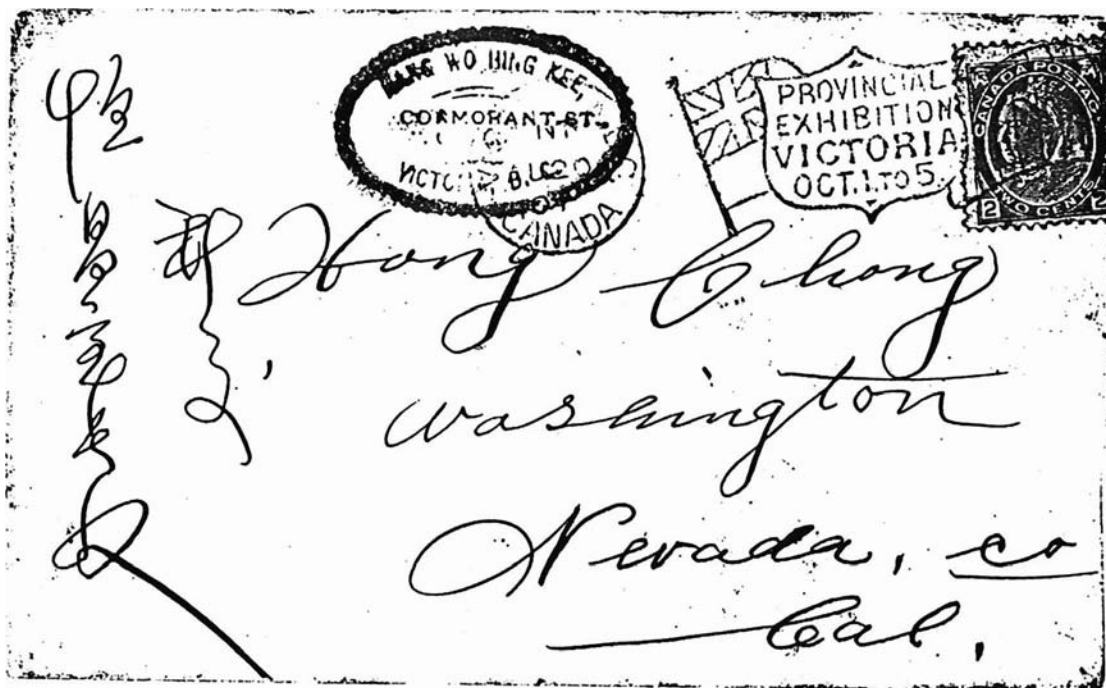
BRITISH COLUMBIA
POSTAL HISTORY
RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 3 - Number 3

WHOLE NUMBER 11

SEPTEMBER 1994

VICTORIA, B.C. FLAG - AUGUST 1901



Face - VICTORIA. B.C. / NT / AU 20 / 01 / CANADA

The Victoria, British Columbia, Povincial Exhibition flag cancellation of 1901 is one of the most elusive and controversial cancels from British Columbia. The short life of the cancellation and the lack of information has lead to much speculation. There are those who contend it was produced by a roller, a rocker, a rubber stamp or a rapid cancelling machine.

The British Columbia Postal History News Letter is published quarterly for the Pacific Northwest Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society. The annual membership fee is \$5.00 in Canadian or US funds. Bill Topping, Editor, 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2, Canada.

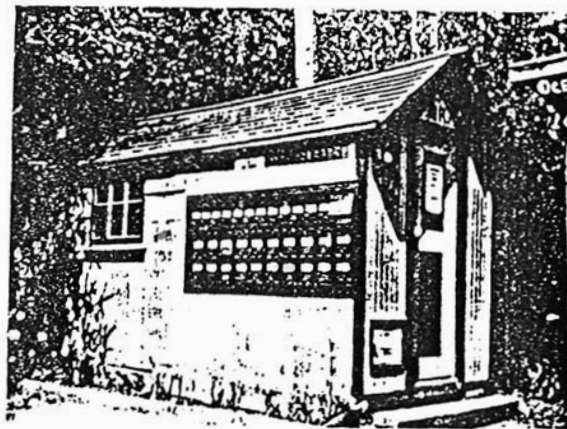
VICTORIA, B.C. FLAG - continued

Little has been written on this elusive cancel. The first listing appears to have been in A.L. McCready's 1945 edition of the "Canadian Flag Cancellations" (p.7). In 1953, Roger Nairen, a well known Victoria Stamp dealer, in a report on "Popular Stamps", describes his discovery of a copy of the Flag cancel which he describes as "a roller type" and then refers to it being produced by a machine (p.5). Nairen then goes on to state "that the cancellation was made by the same firm that turned out the Toronto Flag about the same time" (p.6) which was the Bickerdike Company. He adds "To bear this out, Mr. Goodale has lately made the remarkable discovery that the brass roller is still in existence in the P.O. Archives at Ottawa!" (p.6). Unfortunately searches carried out in the 1950's by Gerry Wellburn and other leading collectors of British Columbia material have failed to produce "the brass roller" or any reference to the existence in the Archives. In the view of Mr. Wellburn the reported roller did not exist. Ed Richardson's "The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook" describes the instrument as "a hand roller of awkward size and shape and difficult to use." (p.32) and suggests it was only used for "favor" items. Fred Stulberg in the "Canadian Philatelist" Volume XXI (1970) mentioned the cancellation but added no new information.

A detailed study of xerox copies of 13 of the 15 to 20 known copies has lead the author to the conclusion that the cancellations were produced by a Bickerdike or similar rapid cancelling machine acquired from the United States by the postmaster at Victoria without the authority of the Canadian Post Office Department in Ottawa and as a result it was quickly withdrawn when discovered by Ottawa.

A full report on the study of the Victoria Flag cancellation of 1901 is being published in MAPLE LEAVES the journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. The editor, David Sessions, is planning a number of items on British Columbia over the next year. Details for joining CPS of GB are included on the response form.

OCEAN PARK by Mike Painter



Ocean Park — world's smallest post office

On July 1, 1917, a post office was set up to serve the Methodist youth camp at Ocean Park - in a shed used to keep straw for camp cots. At first it was only open in summer and residents got mail at Crescent, a couple of miles to the north, the rest of the year. Later on it was open all year. In 1923 the third postmaster, farmer F.D. Pratt, bought a six foot prefab building and set it up at the present corner of North Bluff Road and Ocean Park Drive. It was publicized by R. Ripley in "Believe it or Not" as the smallest post office in the world, generating many requests for its post mark. In 1928 it was extended by six feet, and later by another four feet. (The photo above is after at least one addition).

It was a "catch post", mail being picked up by and from the moving train at the foot of the Semiahmoo bluff and carried the 500 yards over the steep trail to the post office. The fifth postmaster, Rev. Robert Hughes, remembered slipping on the icy trail in winter and riding the mail bag like a toboggan to the bottom. Other stories tell of mail bags missing connections with the train and sailing off into the bush, or else under the wheels. In 1950, when a new office was built the old office was loaded on a truck to go to the Surrey Museum. It never arrived, and to this day no one knows what happened to the world's smallest post office.

Source; "Along the Way" by Margaret Lang Hastings, 1981



Fred and Williamina Philp ran White Rock post office from 1910

THE WHITE ROCK POST OFFICE TO 1978 by Mike Painter

Mail service to the area that was incorporated, in 1957, as White Rock was very informal prior to 1910. After the New Westminster post office opened in 1859, anyone going from there to outlying areas usually took mail to anyone along the way. Some locals also got mail from Blaine. The opening of Clover Valley (near Cloverdale) in 1883 provided another source of mail for the people on the Semiahmoo peninsula. Similarly, post offices at Elgin (1885), Surrey Centre (1887), Cloverdale and Nicomekl (1892), Alluvia on the GNR (south of Cloverdale, 1904) and Crescent Lodge (1907) were used by White Rock residents.

In 1909 the Great Northern Railway rerouted its track to run along the White Rock shoreline (past the large boulder that gave the town its name). A station was built and storekeeper Fred C. Philp became unofficial postmaster by collecting mail from the depot and distributing it from his house opposite. No mail bag was needed as mail for the 200 people in the area could be carried in one hand. On August 16, 1910, White Rock became an official post office with Philp (not Philip as it is spelled in Melvin) as the first postmaster. Melvin gives the date of establishment as September 1, 1910, and Philp's daughter, Marion, recalled it as March 25, 1910 - "It was Good Friday". However, the Vancouver post office files indicate the August 16 date. The post office was in the Philps' store and home between where the present Oxford and Anderson streets intersect with Marine Drive.

Almost immediately, in September 1910, fires from logging on the ridge above swept down the slope and the building was burned down. Apparently the split ring hammer was salvaged, as its use continued. Philp had faith in the area and started to rebuild right away, opening a new two story home, store and post office in 1911. In 1912 fires again threatened the area and only seven hours of firefighting by local residents saved the community.

By 1913, the railway depot had moved east to the site of the present White Rock Museum, and Philp moved with it, establishing his store and post office in the ground floor of the Central Hotel. The following year, 1914, Mrs. Philp took over as postmaster. In 1924, the post office was moved again to what is now Martin Street and Marine Drive. In 1935 there was yet another short move into an adjacent building.

George Woodward succeeded Mrs. Philp in 1938 and the post office went into the North Building at the foot of the pier (still the same vicinity of Martin and Marine Drive). George Melvin gives the next postmaster as Mrs. D.M. Hancock, who took over in 1944. Local historian Margaret Hastings says Margaret Higgins succeeded Woodward (possibly a maiden name for Mrs. Hancock?). Then Mrs. H.C. (Kay) Mayers took over in 1945 and was in turn replaced by Don Munro in 1946.

In 1959, a new Federal Building was built at Martin and Marine Drive and the post office moved into it. Sub offices had started to spring up in 1956, eventually numbering the eleven listed by Topping. The White Rock post office was changed to Postal Station "A" on March 31, 1977, and was relocated to Johnston Road (Margaret Hastings gives the date as May, 1978). Don Munro continued as postmaster for another two years, retiring in 1980.

In the first 68 years, the volume of mail had gone from the handful that Fred Philp carried across the road from the railway depot to - in 1978 - a total of 5,042,884 pieces of outgoing mail and 13,845,023 pieces of incoming mail (one is tempted to conclude that residents of White Rock are not very good at answering letters).

(Sources: "Along the Way" by Margaret Lang Hastings 1981, and "The Post Offices of British Columbia" by George Melvin 1972).

Typos plague Canada Post

By Scott David Harrison

Staff Reporter

Canada Post wants to welcome you to Whiterock, nestled on the shores of beautiful Semiahmoo Bay.

Welcome where?

Nestled next to what?

An Ottawa-based ad campaign turned into a major embarrassment for one local Canada Post official. Two typos have turned into nothing but grief for the Crown corporation's Audra Kitiuk, who insists "I know White Rock is two words and the Semiahmoo Bay has an 'm' in it."

Ottawa-based ad bound hurt 'Whiterock'

The Vancouver official was left holding the bag Wednesday, apologizing for the transgressions of her eastern counterparts.

In fact, Kitiuk expects to be apologizing for some time, offering a 1-800 number in preparation for incoming calls from angry White Rock residents.

"It's a regrettable mistake and it shouldn't

have happened," Kitiuk said, referring to the errors which appear in the Crown corporation's door-to-door ad campaign promoting postal outlets on the Semiahmoo Peninsula. "Obviously something went wrong and we're looking into that."

In addition to the typos, the Canada Post flyer inadvertently lists two South Surrey postal outlets in White Rock.

The flyer also fails to recognize South Surrey, listing only White Rock on its territory map.

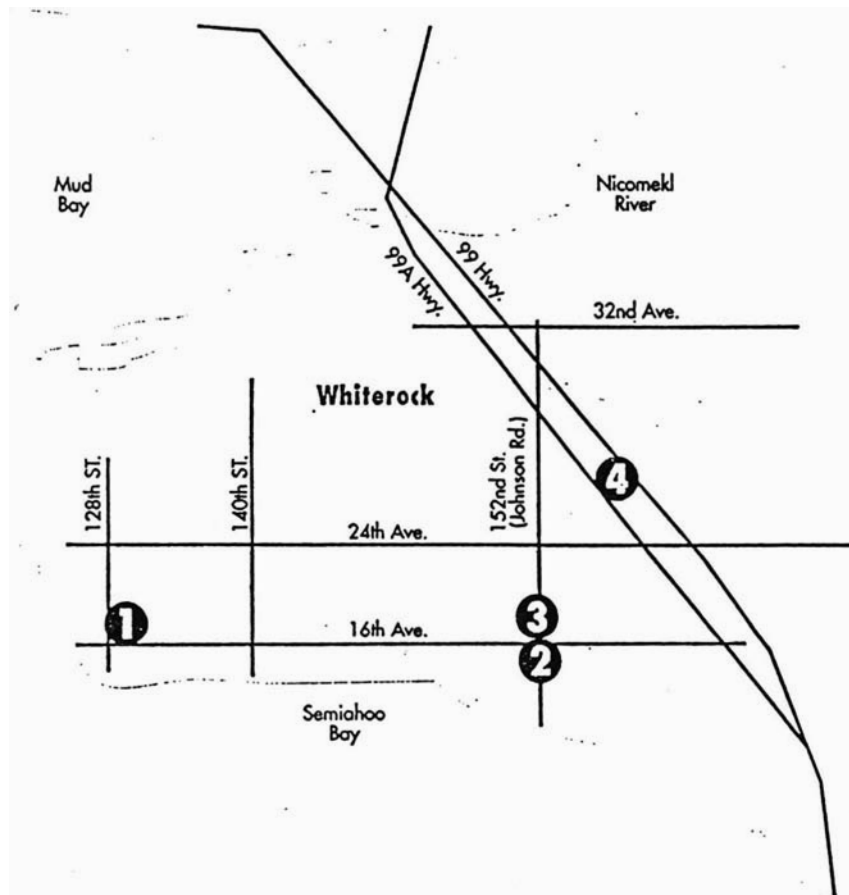
Canada Post will be taking phone calls at 1-800-267-1177.



Look for the Full Postal Service outlet in Your Neighbourhood!
Cherchez le comptoir offrant les services postaux complets dans votre quartier!



- 1 COUNTRY M.B. STATIONERY
12905 - 16TH AVE
WHITEROCK
- 2 PEOPLES DRUG MART
1453 JOHNSTON RD
WHITEROCK
- 3 WHITE ROCK POSTAL OUTLET
116 - 1711 JOHNSTON RD
WHITEROCK
- 4 PEOPLES DRUG MART
2397 KING GEORGE HWY
SURREY



RN-44/94-19 WHITEROCK

MAIL POSTE

Canada Post Corporation / Société canadienne des postes

Pacific Division

10688 King George Highway
Surrey, B.C.
V3T 2Y0

May 16, 1990

Dear Customer:

The lease for the building currently housing White Rock Postal Station 'A', 1549 Johnston Street, is expiring at the end of September, 1990. Concurrent with the expiry of the lease, Canada Post Corporation will be vacating the building housing the Postal Station. The Corporation is committed to ensuring that our customers served in this area will have convenient local access to all postal products and services.

There will be an increase between now and September 1990 in the number of locations where full postal products and services are available. These convenient locations will provide extended hours of service during the evening and weekends. The outlets will offer full counter products and services such as meter filling and Priority Courier products and services as well as having postal box rentals in convenient locations should you choose to receive your mail by this method.

Canada Post also intends to expand counter services for commercial customers at the present White Rock/South Surrey Letter Carrier Depot located at 15415/24th Avenue. These services will include meter settings, Priority Courier products as well as acceptance of large and/or incentive rate mailings. Meter customers will receive further information as the changeover date approaches so your file and meter setting location can be changed to the location of your choice.

If you currently receive delivery at Station 'A', your delivery options will be by your present free method of delivery or through a rented postal box at the outlet of your choice. In either case, you may be required to change your mailing address to ensure prompt and efficient service. The change would reflect your street address and postal code or your new postal box number and postal code. You will, of course, receive a refund for the unused portion of your current annual rental fee. Free change of address and redirection services will also be provided.

Canada Post will keep you fully informed over the coming weeks of the precise locations where expanded services will be available to you. A list of current postal outlets is attached for your information. If you have any questions with regard to any of these changes, please call (604) 685-2692.

Yours truly,

Steve Clarke
Zone Manager, Surrey

WHITE ROCK RETAIL NETWORKHours of Operation

Country Mail Box Stationery 12905 - 16th Avenue Surrey, B.C. V4A 1N8	Monday-Thursday	0900 - 1800
	Friday	0900 - 1900
	Saturday	0900 - 1700
	Sunday	Closed
Oceanic Gift/Semiamoo Office Supplies #116 - 1711 Johnston Road Surrey, B.C.	Monday-Saturday	0930 - 1720
	Sunday	Closed
R.P.O. #6-People's Drug Mart 2397 King George Highway Surrey, B.C. V4A 5A4	Monday-Saturday	0930 - 1800
	Sunday	Closed
R.P.O. #4 - Reids Pharmasave 15134 North Bluff Road White Rock, B.C. V4B 3E5	Monday-Saturday	0900 - 1730
	Sunday	Closed

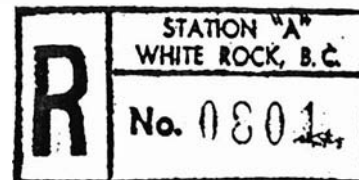
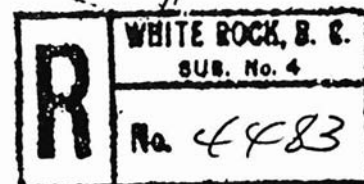
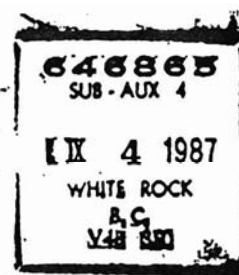
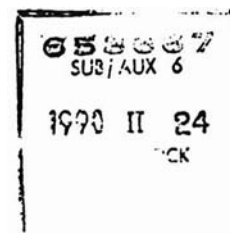


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IX

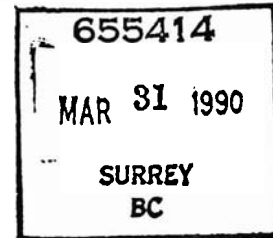
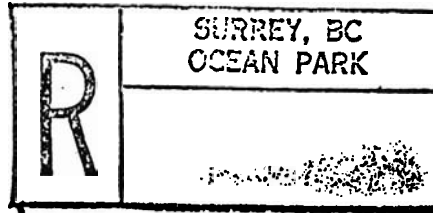
98

WHITE ROCK, B.C.

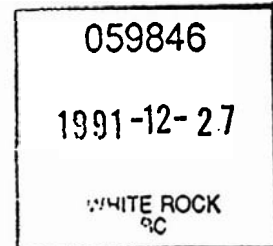
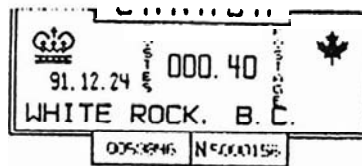
Office
Date StampTimbre à date
du bureau

Officially White Rock is a part of Surrey Municipality and as a result there is much confusion when it comes to postal matters. Of the five open post offices in "White Rock" two are listed as SURREY and three as WHITE ROCK.

OCEAN PARK PO - SURREY
RC-655414
12905 16th Avenue
F-White Rock Sub 5
Est. 1990 02 07

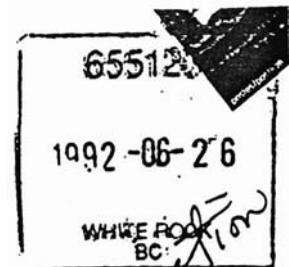
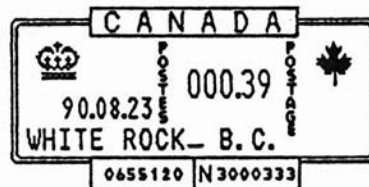
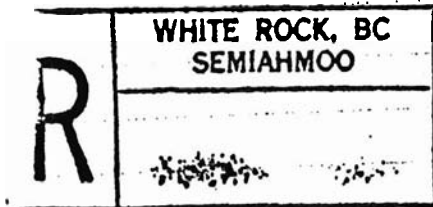


HILLCREST PO - WHITE ROCK
RC-059846
1453 Johnston Road
F-White Rock RPO 8
Est. 1991 06 12

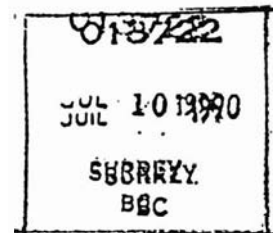
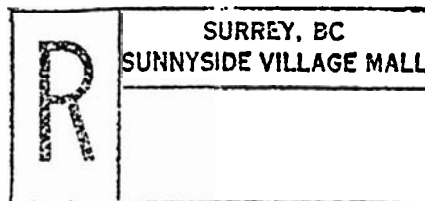


SEMAHMOO PO - WHITE ROCK
RC-655120
116-1711 Johnston Road
F- White Rock Sub 7
Est. 1990 08 21
C-WHITE ROCK PO

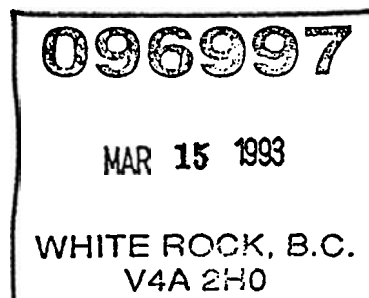
WHITE ROCK PO - WHITE ROCK
RC-655120
116-1711 Johnston Road
F- Semiahmoo PO
Est. 1990 09 21 (official)



SUNNYSIDE PO - SURREY
RC-013722
2397 King George Hwy.
F-Surrey Sub 6
Est. 1990 07 10



WHITE ROCK CSC - WHITE ROCK
RC-096997
15415 24TH Avenue
F-White Rock MPP & LCD
Est. 1993 01 01



XV COMMONWEALTH GAMES - VICTORIA, B.C.

AUGUST 18 - 28, 1994

MAIL POST DATE STAMPS

15 special date stamps showing the games symbol and a representation of the 14 sports recognized at the games have been produced for use at the Commonwealth Games. A date stamp for the main village is also included. Copies of the proposed date stamps are courtesy of Bill Bartlett. (see next page)

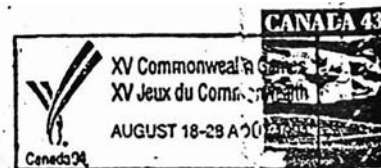
TOSHIBA CULLER FACER CANCELLER

Introduced - 21 VII 94

Late - 24 VIII 94

For use on all mail processed at
the Victoria MPP

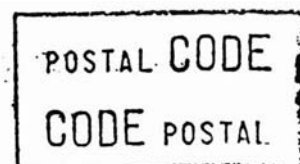
On both upper and lower heads

**I. P. S. - INTRA PERIPHERAL SYSTEM**

First reported date - 19 VII 94

Replace hub on machine "2"

To be used on mail from Commonwealth
Village and other sites during games.

**A.B. DICK JET SPRAY PRINTER ?**

First reported - 94 08 30 17:34

In regular use

118 V8Z 480 940830 00:41 1111111111
POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL 1111111111

VANCOUVER - OCR 082

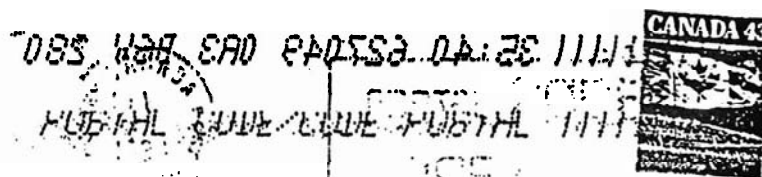
Late on the evening of July 19, 1994 the long expected Jet Spray Printer came into use on OCR 082. Like the A.B. Dick printer on OCR 081 it has four heads located 74, 83, 93, and 103 mm above the base. Each head consists of two lines, see below.

Early - 94 07 19 23:14

082 V6B 3A0 940721 04:13 1111111111
POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL 1111111111

Head 4 (bottom) printed
each letter or number in
the top line in mirror image.

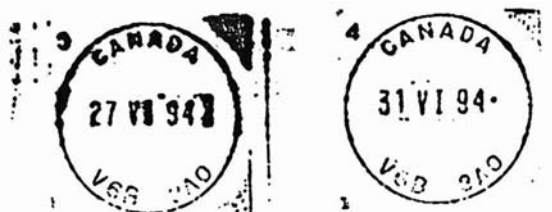
Corrected - 94 08 03

**VANCOUVER I.P.S. PARCEL MACHINE - V6B 3A0**

(Not - V6B 1Z1)

Head 3 - first reported 21 VI 94

Head 4 - first reported 15 VI 94

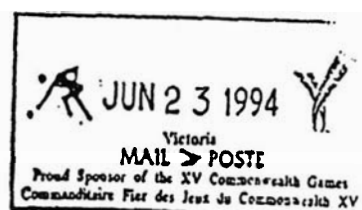
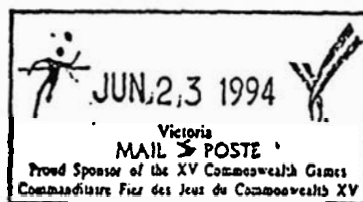
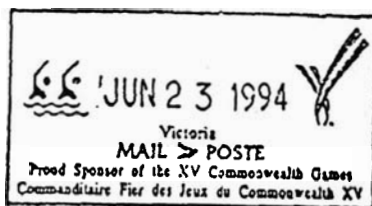
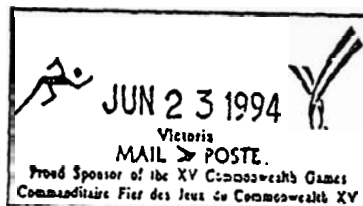
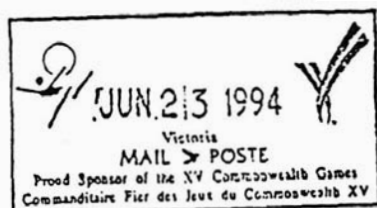
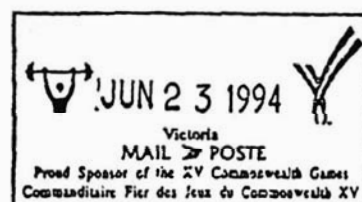
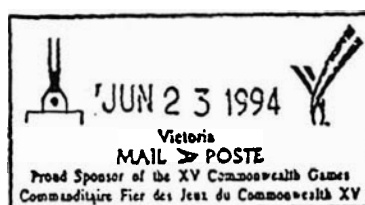
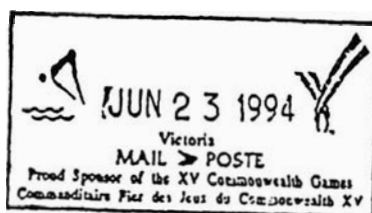
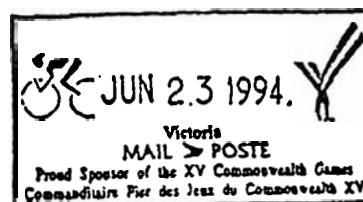
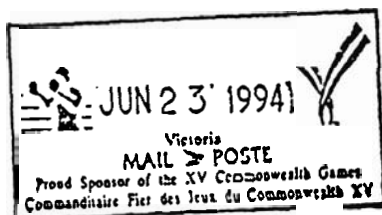
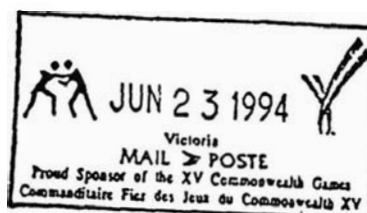
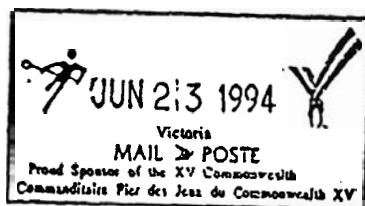
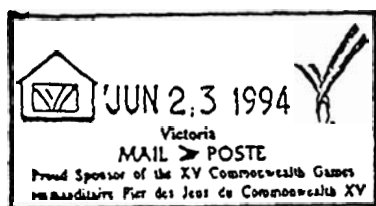


MAIL  POSTE

Canada Post Corporation / Société canadienne des postes

XV COMMONWEALTH GAMES VENUE CANCELS CANADA POST, VICTORIA, BC

The 15 cancellation
for use at the games
are from Bill Bartlett



POST OFFICES OF 1872

A.S. Deaville lists 36 post offices that opened 1872 (p. 153-4), and although there are some errors in the list, it will serve as the starting point for this research report. In the early 1960's, Mr. J. Hauser of Seattle carried out a study of the early dates for these post offices and he found that less than half were known before 1880. If you have copies dated in the 1870's, please list the date and the type of cancellation, ie. split ring or BRIT COL.

Note;

CARIBOO is not listed but covers are reported dated between April and September 7, 1872. In theory Cariboo became Barkerville Sep. 1, 1872. OKANAGAN spelled OKANAGON and QUESNEL spelled QUESNELLE.

Name of Office.	Date of Establishment.
Ashcroft.....	1st July, 1872
Barkerville.....	do.
Burrard Inlet.....	do.
Cache Creek.....	do.
Chemainus.....	do.
Chilliwack.....	1st Sept., 1872
Clinton.....	1st July, 1872
Comox.....	do.
Cowichan.....	do.
Duck & Pringle's.....	do.
Dunkeld.....	1st Aug., 1872
Esquimalt.....	1st July, 1872
Hope.....	do.
Kamloops.....	do.
Kootenay.....	do.
Lac la Hache.....	do.
Langley.....	do.
Lillooet.....	do.
Lytton.....	do.
Maple Bay.....	do.
Nanaimo.....	1st July, 1872
New Westminster.....	do.
Nicola Lake.....	1st Aug., 1872
Okanagan.....	14th Aug., 1872
Okanagan Mission.....	1st Oct., 1872
Omineca.....	1st July, 1872
150-Mile House.....	do.
Pavilion.....	1st Aug., 1872
Quesnel.....	1st July, 1872
Skeena.....	do.
Soda Creek.....	do.
Sooke.....	1st Aug., 1872
Spence's Bridge.....	1st July, 1872
Sumas.....	do.
Van Winkle.....	do.
Victoria.....	20th July, 1871*
Yale.....	1st July, 1872

Note - Respond only if you have pre 1880 postmarks.

Name Forms should be sent to -
 Bill Topping
 Address 7430 Angus Drive
 Vancouver, B.C.
 V6P 5K2 CANADA

CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Maple Leaves, the journal of CPS of GB, is planning to run a series of items related to the Postal History of British Columbia. For those members that are not members of the CPS of GB might I suggest that you consider membership. Please mention the B.C. Postal History Research Group when writing Tom Almond.

CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Membership Secretary:

TOM E. ALMOND

2 Filbert Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, U.K. RG3 5DZ

Annual Membership £10 or \$20 CAN. or \$17 U.S.

(Plus \$2 conversion charge for dollar cheques which have to be negotiated in the U.K.)

For all aspects of B.N.A. philately: *Maple Leaves*

Published five times per year - Write for specimen copy

... and now that the Quebec election is over.
Vancouver Province - July 3, 1994.

Slogan bore stamp of separatists

Canadian Press

MONTREAL — Stamps on at least 1,500 letters from Montreal were marked with a Quebec separatist slogan after a Canada Post employee pulled off a St-Jean-Baptiste Day prank.

"This is very embarrassing to Canada Post," said corporation official Lise Portelance. "It could spoil our image. We are very concerned."

Portelance said about 670 of the letters

were intercepted when somebody at the downtown letter-processing plant noticed the phrase — *Vive le Quebec libre!* — on envelopes and notified a supervisor.

But the machine that was printing the slogan processes about 30,000 letters an hour and had already been stamping out the message for about four minutes, Portelance said.

That means between 800 and 1,800 more letters had left the plant before the prank was detected.

Portelance said officials are convinced it

was a St-Jean-Baptiste Day stunt because the slogan was on letters intended for delivery on June 23 — one day before the nationalist holiday.

Post-office workers tried to cover over the slogan on intercepted letters. The people to whom they were addressed have been sent separate apologies from Canada Post president Georges Clermont.

Portelance said the corporation has two suspects, both of whom had access to the machine when the stunt was pulled.