



BRITISH COLUMBIA
POSTAL HISTORY
RESEARCH GROUP

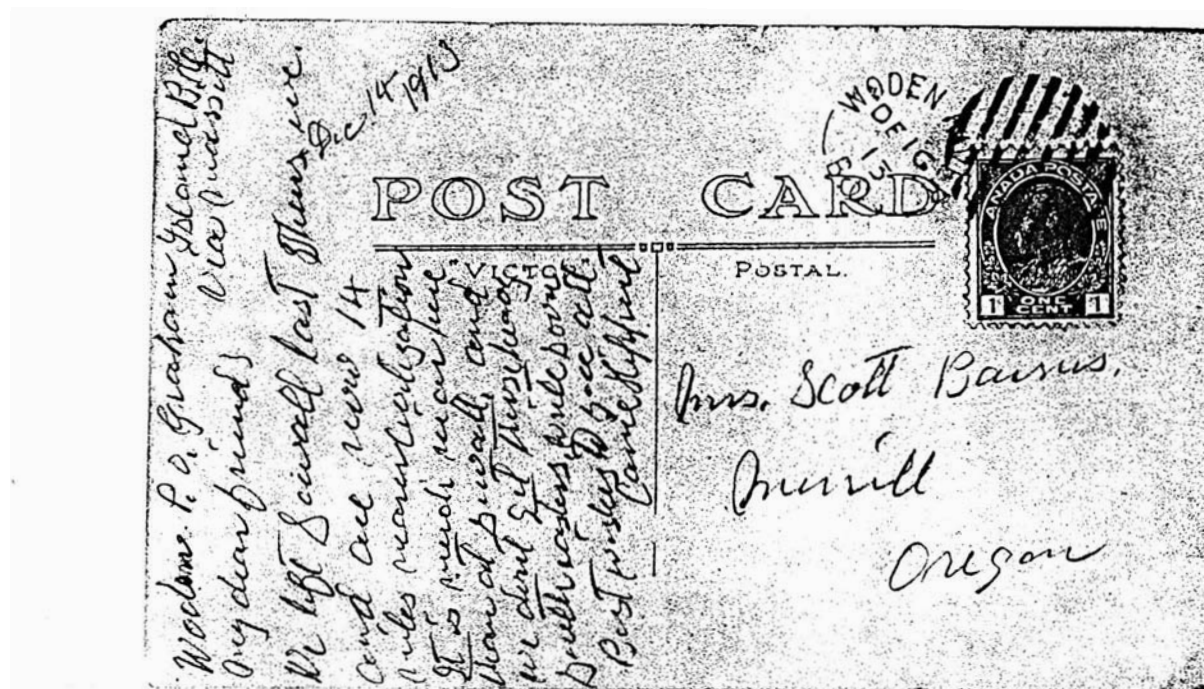
Volume 13 – Number 4

Whole number 52

January 2005

WODEN RIVER

Tracy Cooper



This postcard shows the first report of a strike from WODEN RIVER/B.C., dated DE 16/13, a very small shortlived community on the east side of Massett Sound on the Queen Charlotte Island. "Woden P.O. Graham Island B.C. via Massett My dear friends – We left Sewall last Thurs. and all 14 miles nearer civilization. Its much nicer here than at Sewall"

WODEN RIVER

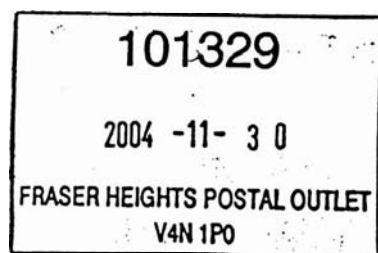
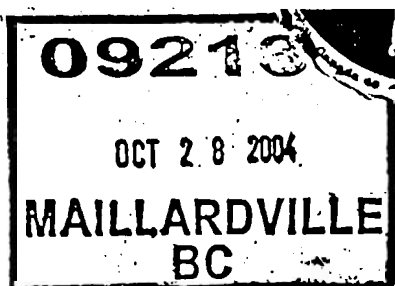
Settlement on the east side of Masset Sound at the mouth of the Watun River, on Graham Island of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

For the Period	Revenue	Postmaster Salary:
Ending:		
1913-11-01		P.O. Established
	\$36.50	\$20.83
1914-03-31		
	\$41.50	\$50.00
1915-03-31		
	\$32.95	\$50.00
1916-03-31		
	no report	N/A
1917-10-31		P.O. Closed

Notes:

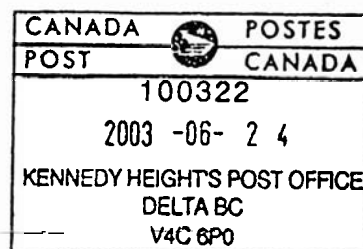
- 1) P.O. was non accounting throughout this period.

MORE DATERS WITHOUT TOWN NAME –
Try Coquitlam and Surrey

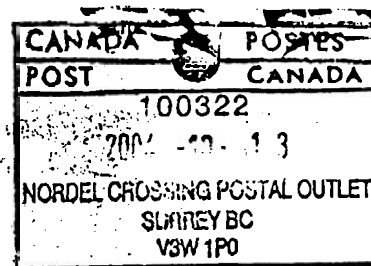


RC 100322 –

Kennedy Heights P.O. – RC 100322
Est. Oct. 1, 2002
Shoppers Drug Mart #220
11970 – 88th Avenue, Delta



Kennedy Heights – RC 100322
Ch. Aug. 12, 2004
To Nordel Crossing P.O.
Shoppers Drug Mart #2238
101 – 12080 Nordel Way, Surrey

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

I regret that this News Letter is over two months late but over The Christmas Holidays my wife, Marion, was diagnosed with intestinal cancer and underwent a major operation to isolate the cancer. She is now undergoing a six months chemotherapy treatment and appears to be making good progress. As a result of her illness I have had little time to devote to the B.C. Research News Letter and as a result the next few News Letters may not be published on time. In the mean time I could use items of general interest, preferably in print ready form. The April News Letter is in progress and hopefully will appear soon.

Special thanks to Tracy Cooper, Bill Pekonen, and Andrew Scott

The British Columbia Postal History News Letter is published quarterly on behalf of the British North America Philatelic Society. Dues for the News Letter are \$8.00 for one year or \$15.00 for two years (\$ CAN or \$ US). Checks should be payable to the Editor, Bill Topping, 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2, Canada.

Early B. C. Placenames and Colonial Government Mail **Bill Pekonen**

Some place names are shown in different locations from where they are located today, according to an 1859 map drawn by Lt. R. C. Mayne, R.N. Some names no longer exist. The map is a "Sketch of Part of British Columbia". The map shows the Fraser River from Pavillion to the junction of the Fraser and Harrison Rivers with sections to the east and west. The 1859 map is also important for postal history purposes because it provides details about an alternate mail route about which very little has been written.

- Port Douglas is located at the north end of Harrison Lake, later known as Fort Douglas and then Douglas
- Lillooet is located at the south end of Lillooet Lake, not at the present location
- Port Pemberton is located at the north end of Lillooet Lake
- Port Anderson (now D'Arcy) is located at the south end of Lake Anderson
- Fort Seton is shown at the east end of Lake Seton
- Cayoush is shown where Lillooet is now located
- French Bar is located on the east side of Fraser River opposite Cayoush
- Fort Bebins is located a short distance south of French Bar on the east side of Fraser River and south of the Cayoush Creek junction.
- Lytton and Pavillion are shown at the present locations
- Spuzzum and Fort Yale are also shown at the present locations
- The river running down from what is now D'Arcy to what is now Mount Currie (not shown on the map) is named River Scaalox on the map -- connecting Port Anderson to Port Pemberton.

It is common knowledge that the Harrison Lake to Pavillion route was an early path taken to reach the gold fields. A map sent 15th April 1862 by James Douglas to London England shows that carriage roads were built from Douglas to Lillooet on the land portions. The carriage roads are also shown on another 1861 map which also shows Lillooet. Ferries were located on Harrison, Anderson and Seton Lakes, thus the "port" names. (Little is known about the steamers on the lakes.) These carriage roads were built before construction began on the Fraser Canyon route. Douglas' intention was to extend the road from Cayoush to Pavillion, and then to Williams Lake.

Construction of the Caribou Wagon Road along the Fraser Canyon mule team path to Lytton began in 1862. The intention was to extend the road along the Thompson River to Williams Lake to connect with the road from Douglas. The Fraser Canyon route, when completed, became the preferred way to reach the gold fields -- both for travellers and for mail. The village of Douglas became the victim of highway relocation, and virtually deserted -- like other modern towns faced with the same kind of highway bypass problem.

Unfortunately, reliable records about the Colonial post office activities were not maintained. It is known that Douglas had been instructed to use whatever means necessary to implement a postal service. Most of the conclusions about the mail delivery and routes are based on sparse records, recollections repeated by Deaville, and surviving mail examples. Common sense reasoning needs to be applied to fill in the missing details. Old maps help to explain gaps in knowledge.

According to the government communication quoted by Deaville, Post Offices hammers were issued to ten locations including (Port) Douglas and Cayoush (July 8th, 1859). The Lillooet name is not mentioned in that list. Curiously, Robson Lowe does not mention Cayoush, but lists Lillooet instead. Frank Campbell and George Melvin also lists Lillooet beginning 1859, but with no details. Campell illustrates one 1864 straight line cancel. Fred Jarrett makes no mention of the Harrison-Cayoush mail route. The end result is confusion.

According to Deaville, during 1859, the chief route followed in transmitting letters and papers to Cayoush and points beyond was via Harrison, Anderson and Seton Lakes from Port Douglas, and the intervening portages. The other route was a mule train service operated between Yale and Lytton, and later, by the various stagecoach express companies under contract.

Deaville also mentions the following conclusion:

"But the express companies continued to carry by far the greater proportion of the letters; the regular mails consisted chiefly of Government correspondence and letters to and from foreign counties. Comparatively few private letters between inhabitants of the Colonies were entrusted to the regular mails."

The post offices of the Colonial period were mostly staffed by local people with good reputations, usually with no pay. Mail delivery was left mostly in private hands by Douglas (see Deaville, pages 46-47). Because most gold camps moved frequently, it was difficult to establish permanent post office locations. There were many complaints from miners about prolonged delays experienced with both routes used during the gold rush period, but many preferred the other carriers with or without paying the Colonial postage rate -- sometimes even paying more.

Contemporary postal history research about British Columbia is confined to the Confederation and Constitutional period. Hence, there are still unanswered questions about the Colonial period. Because few letters have survived, the greatest interest level is mainly by those fortunate to own material from that period. This summary was prompted by a general historical interest about the province and by a study of government mail. (See PHSC Journal 120, pgs.34-47). The realization arose that there is more to the early B.C. mail story than can be found in available philatelic literature. When was Lillooet relocated? Who is correct about the dates?

Obviously, other people wrote letters. What route did those letters take? At first glance, it appears that any covers bearing Cayoush and Fort Douglas cancels would prove the route described by Deaville. Do such covers exist? Can't recall seeing any, but haven't looked for them either. It is clear that the story about mail delivery in Colonial times is greater than just about the express services. Perhaps it has been easier to ignore the Harrison-Cayoush land-water route because stage coach documentary evidence overshadows the alternative mail system. The challenge is open for anyone with access to the appropriate material and wanting to pursue the matter further.

References:

Historical Maps of Canada, Michael Swift, ^RPC Publishing, London England
Governor Douglas' Dispatches to London, October 25, 1859 - September 14, 1863
The Colonial Postal Systems and Postage Stamps 1849-1871 A. S. Deaville

PHILATELIC PICTORIAL CANCELLATIONS

The proliferation of pictorial philatelic cancellations continues although the new markings appear to be no longer listed in the Canada Post publication *Collections*. Since 1996 close to 100 special cancellations have been produced. This does not include special, 'one day use' markings for events such as stamp exhibitions and 'Day of Issue' covers. Mostly the special daters have been produced by Canada Post and are circular in shape reading "CANADA POST – POSTES CANADA" (CPPC) or occasionally "POSTES CANADA - CANADA POST" (PCCP) around the outer rim, with the post office name at the bottom and occasionally the postal code. A few have been locally manufactured and come in various shapes and sizes. In the list below an attempt has been made to indicate these odd shapes by such terms as "box" for rectangular, "cbs" for circular and so on. Almost all marking have been illustrated in the News Letter and the number at right indicates the page on which the marking is first shown.

PHILATELIC PICTORIAL CANCELLATIONS

Post Office	early date	shape	illustration	NL page
Atlin	1998 02 03	CDS	1898-1998 (gold pan)	212
Barkerville	1996 07 20	CPPC	celebrate 125 British Columbia (in banner)	423
Barkerville	2003 07 16	pic	V0K 1B0 (Billy Barker RC number at right)	394
Barkerville	2004 01 25	pic	(Billy Barker RC number above)	426
Black Creek	1996 06 01	CPPC	Anniversary 60 anniversie [HA-60]	139
Brackendale	2002 03 15	CPPC	winter home of the bald eagle (eagle in oval)	336+
Campbell River	1997 12 15	CPPC	(large salmon) [HF83]	198
Campbell River	2002 05 24	CPPC	(salmon in circle)	341
Charlie Lake	2004 06 30	CPPC	(salmon)	416
Chemainus.	no date	CPPC	V0R 1K0	336
Chemainus	2002 03 15	CPPC	(world famous murals)	336+
Comox	2004 08 03	CPPC	V9N 3Z0 (jet fighter monument)	415
Crofton	2002 05 01	CPPC	Crofton Centennial 1902-2002 V0R 1R0 (around mill)	336
Crofton	2002 03 15	CPPC	Crofton Centennial 1902-2002 (at bottom)	336+
Cumberland	1998 04 01	CPPC	100th anniversary (Post Office)	222
Cumberland	2003 08 09	CPPC	V0R 1Z0 (miners cap + pick and shovel)	415
Duncan	1997 12 15	CPPC	V9L 1P0 (large totem pole)	198
Duncan	2002 04 15	CPPC	(small totem pole)	336+
Falkland	1998 05 08	3 line	100 th birthday of postal service [HF-02A]	203
Fernie	2004 01 08	box	1904-2004 (mountains)	416
Fort Langley	2004 04 23	CPPC	Birthplace of BC 1851 (fort)	415
Fort Nelson	2002 10 24	CPPC	Northern Rockies Regional District (bear)	350
Fort St. John	2005 02 16	CPPC	The brigade city ??	423
Fulford Harbour	2004 06 15	CPPC	(sailboat and mountains)	423
Gabriola	2002 05 13	CPPC	(map of island)	423
Garden Bay	2003 04 16	CPPC	Pender Harbour Jazz Festival V0N 1S0 (seal with sax on rock)	415
Gibsons	2003 07 07	CPPC	Howe Sound outrigger race V0N 1V0	423
Gibsons	2003 03 12	CPPC	Molly's Reach V0N 1V0 (Molly's Reach store large)	360+
Gibsons	2003 07 24	CPPC	Molly's Reach Molly's Reach store small)	371
Hagensborg	2003 08 08	CDS	Freedom Road 50 1953 2003 (truck)	494

Harrison Mills	2004 11 15	CPPC	1954-2004 Sasquatch Inn	423
Hornby Island	2001 12 20	CPPC	V0R 1Z0 (frowning face)	336
Kitimat	2003 03 28	CPPC	Celebrating 50 years 1953 2003 (wheels)	361
Ladysmith	2004 08 30	CPPC	Ladysmith 1904-2004 V9G 1A0 (main street and anchor)	415
Lake Cowichan	2003 09 20	CPPC	Great lake walk V0R 2G0 (pair of legs)	415
Langley	2004 04 23	CPPC	Birth Place of BC 1858 (HBC fort and river)	
Lazo	1999 09 04	CPPC	75 (plane) [HS-72]	423
Madeira Park	2003 04 16	CPPC	Pender Harbour Jazz Festival V0N 2H0 (seal with sax on rock)	415
Manson Creek	1999 06 14	CPPC	1899 1999 (packhorse)	242
Merritt	2003 07 15	CPPC	Country music capital (fiddle)	371
Merville	2002 11 12	CPPC	V0R 2M0 gumboot capital (gumboot)	350
Milner	2002 11 28	CPPC	(church)	
Mount Lehman	2004 06 23	CPPC	120 Years Ans (mail man with mail sack)	415
Mount Washington	02 06 17	CPPC	V8J 1L0 (mountains in semi-oval)	415
Nanaimo	1997 12 15	CPPC	(bastion large no postal code)	198
Nanaimo	2002 05 22	CPPC	Home of the World Championship V9R 5H0 (two men in bathtub)	336
Nanaimo	2002 05 22	CPPC	Home of the World Championship V9R 5L0 (two men in bathtub)	336
Nanaimo	2002 05 21	CPPC	(bastion small inside rim)	350
Nelson	2004 09 21	CPPC	Heritage City (main street)	415
Peachland	2002 10 01	box	V0H 1X0(ogopogo)	349
Peachland	2002 11 21	CDS	V0H 1X0 (ogopogo) – no RC number	416
Port Alberni	2002 04 29	CPPC	McLean Mill historic site V9Y 1V0 (mill worker)	336
Prince George	2003 10 31	CPPC	Station “A” 50 th anniversary (moose)	394
Quathiaski Cove	1999 05 01	CPPC	1899-1999 (fish boat)	242
Quesnel	2000 01 22	pic	(dog sled)	426
Quesnel	2004 01 23	CPPC	(gold pan and trees)	416
Richmond	2003 08 01	CPPC	Streveston Historical Society (Fish cannery)	361
Richmond	2003 08 23	CPPC	Island City by Nature (bird)	371
Roberts Creek	2003 07 07	CPPC	B.C.. Yukon Jamboree’2003 V0N 2W0 (Scout symbol + trees)	415
Roberts Creek	2004 08 01	CPPC	1904-2004 V0N 2W0 (tree and sunset)	415
Saanichton	1997 12 15	CPPC	(large trector) [HT-78]	198
Saanichton	2002 05 25	CPPC	(tractor redesigned)	341
Salt Spring Island	2002 05 26	CPPC	(sailboat and waves) [3 words]	341
Saltspring Island	2004 11 01	CPPC	(sailboat and waves) [2 words]	423
Sechelt	2003 08 07	CPPC	Festival of the Winter arts V0N 3A0 (tree and forest)	371
Sidney	2002 05 23	CPPC	Sidney by the sea (sail boat)	423
Sointula	2001 04 09	box	Celebrating 100 years (map Malcolm Island)	423
Sooke	2001 04 04	CPPC	(large fir tree extending through rim)	303
Sooke	2002 05 22	CPPC	(small fir tree inside rim)	415
Southbank	2003 07 15	CPPC	Francois Lake Ferry Omineca Princess (ferry)	394
Summerland	2002 11 01	apple	100 th Anniversary KVR (engine)	336+
Tahsis	2000 06 08	3 lines	Home of the Great Walk (map of VI)	272+
Tofino	2002 01 20	CPPC	V0N 2Z0 (whales tail)	336
Ucluelet	2002 01 20	CPPC	V0R 3A0 (whales tail)	336
Union Bay	2004 07 27	ship	(three masted sailing ship)	404
Vancouver	2001 04 02	PCCP	(postal logo)	303
Vernon	2004 06 19	CPPC	85 Years 899 RCAF Wing airmail flight into history (biplane)	415
Victoria	1997 12 15	CPPC	(large light house) [HL-66]	198
Victoria	2002 05 20	CPPC	(small lighthouse inside rim)	341
Wells	2000 01 22	circle	V0K 2R0 (gold pan)	426
Whonnock	2003 09 26	CPPC	(humpback salmon)	371
Winlaw	2004 09 08	CPPC	1903-2003 (tree & landscape)	

MACHINE SLOGANS

Williams Lake	2004 07 01	mach	1929-2004 75 years	383
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MORE PICTORIAL CANCELS - Thanks to Andrew Scott and others

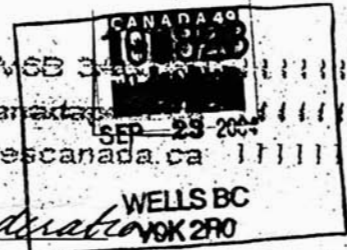


GOLD RUSH TRAIL – DOG SLED RUN

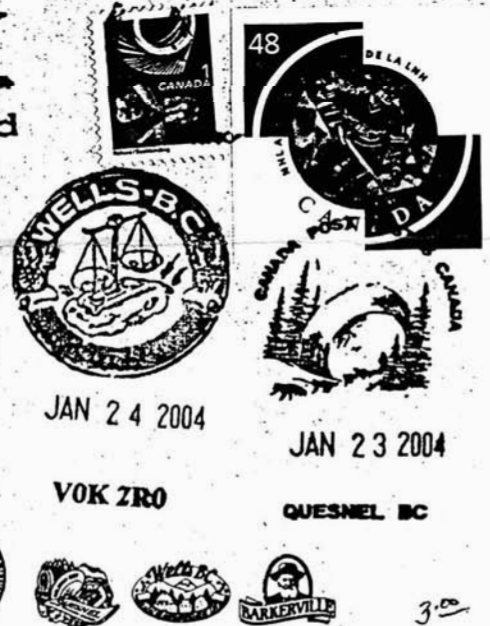
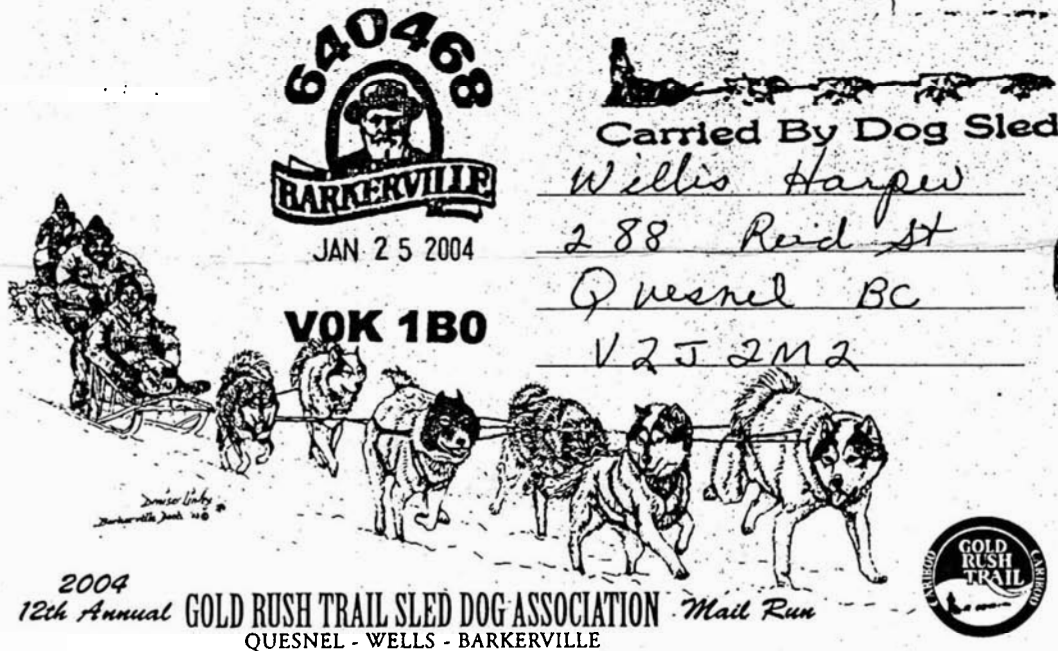
Quesnel, Wells, Barkerville – 2002 and 2004

Note Barkerville Post Office is not open in January
(covers reduced to 80%)

040824 13:44 VSB 344 111111
www.canada.ca
www.postescanada.ca 111111



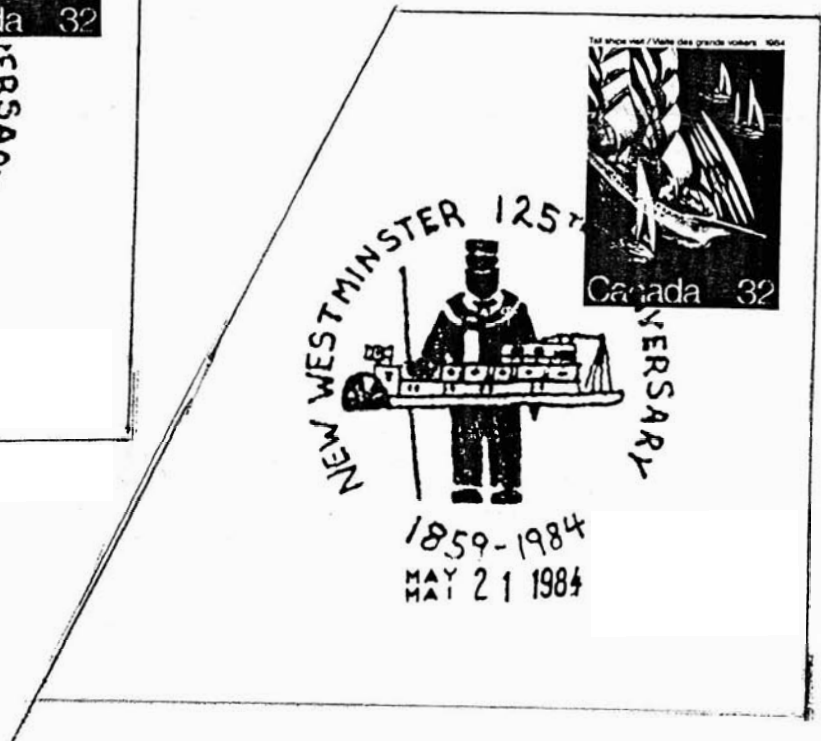
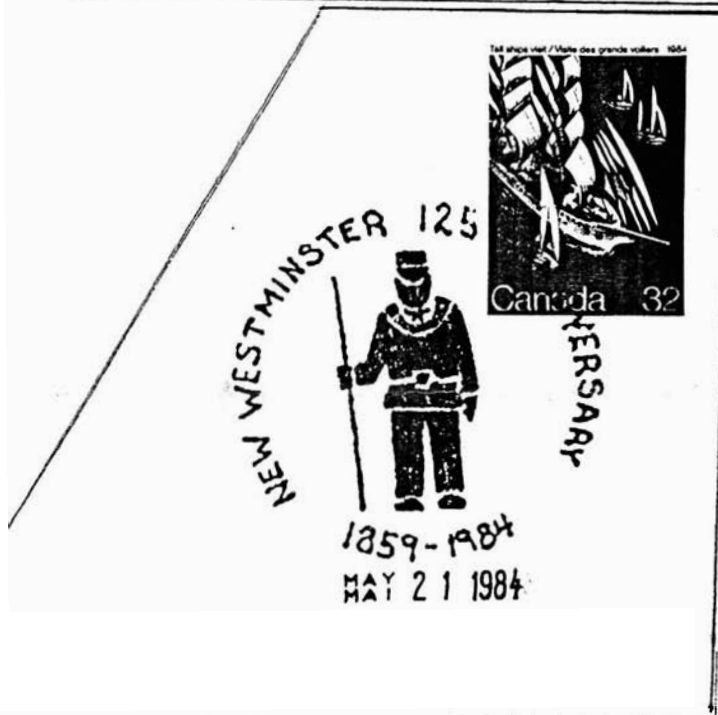
BC Traders Federation
100-550 West 6th Ave
Vancouver BC V5Z 4P2



3.00

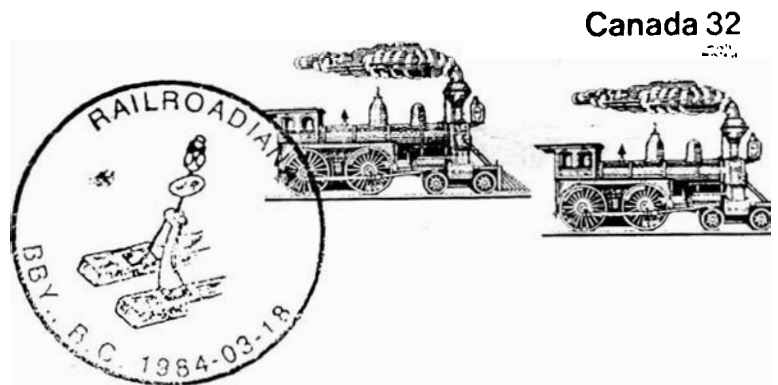
NEW WESTMINSTER – 125TH ANNIVERSARY COVERS

To mark its 125th Anniversary of postal service in New Westminster a series of three pictorial cancels were produced to mark the event. Covers are dated May 21st 1984.



WEST COAST RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

The West Coast Railway Association, in conjunction with the Philatelic Section of the New Westminster Post Office produced two special events covers, one in 1984 to commemorate the issuance of the Canadian Locomotives series and the second in 1985 to commemorate the West Coast Railway Association's excursion from New Westminster to Abbotsford.



Commemorating

40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE FRASER VALLEY

B.C. Electric

