

# WEST COAST



British North American Philatelic Society - Pacific Northwest Regional Group

Philately • Fellowship • Fun

September 2019

Number 35

## Chair Message

Summer is waning, kids back in school and the mornings are cooler. Fall produce is readily available at roadside stands and farmers markets. For those that can, I'm sure the stove will be put into hard service. Ask Carol for her pickled beet recipe – just fantastic.

Our annual convention is just around the corner. Your organizing committee has worked diligently to prepare an event for your enjoyment. Thank you to Gary and Wanda Fisher for their hard work.

Our annual event is our singular opportunity to meet with other philatelists and hear firsthand the research of other members. The presenters list is shown elsewhere in the newsletter. Thanks to you all for offering up your material and research to our members.

This year we have four sponsors for our event. All Nations, Deveney, Ocean Park and Weeda. Thank you for your support as your contributions enhance our event significantly. If you see these folks on the dealer floor or if you are bidding in their auctions, take a moment to thank them for their support of our organization.



If you want to attend our annual event – its never too late. We realize that not everyone's schedule is completely flexible. If you suddenly find that you have a free day – please consider attending. Just register at the door with Wanda or Carol.

Don't forget that we will be having an auction at our evening wrap-up session. The auction is limited to 20 lots with a 10% commission on the hammer to the club. So bring something along – I already have one lot of 4 binders of BC Town cancels and covers!

As you will see in the Editors remarks, this is Peter's last newsletter and he and Paula are retiring from this activity. Peter has been doing the newsletter for as long as I have been in this organization and have always enjoyed the read. Peter and Paula, your contribution will be sorely missed and on behalf of the organization please accept our thanks for your years of service. Big shoes to fill and a hard act to follow!

Immediately after our event (next day) VanPex will be in full swing. This is a national show with an outstanding group of exhibits and speakers. Visit their website at <https://www.vanpex2019.com/> for all the details. Not only 100+ exhibit frames but also several dealers to provide some new and exciting material for your collecting interest. Save the date and attend – you won't find a better way to spend your weekend.

VanPex celebrates the 100 th anniversary of the BC Philatelic Society. CONGRATULATIONS to the officers, directors and members – a significant achievement in promoting our hobby for 100 years.

Look forward to seeing you later this month. So many great things happening in our hobby, a good time to be had by all.

cheers

Mark

# WELCOME TO LANGHEY 2019

## LOCATION:

Coast Cascades Casino

Langley 20393 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC

## Directions

### From Hope

Follow Trans-Canada Hwy/BC-1 W to Langley Township. Take exit 66 from Trans-Canada Hwy/BC-1 W

1 h (105 km)

Take BC-10 W to your destination in Langley City

### Directions from Vancouver:

Follow Trans-Canada Hwy/BC-1 E to 200

St in Langley Township. Take exit 58 from Trans-Canada Hwy/BC-1 E

21 min (33.5 km)

Continue on 200 St. and left on Logan to the hotel. GPS would be very handy to find your way around downtown Langley.

## YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Planning for 2020 is already in process.

We will be sending a survey to assist with planning our next event in 2020.

We will be looking for suggestions to make our event more appealing, best time of year, location, content and potential barriers to attendance.

The goal is to simply deliver what you, the members want in their annual event.

Thank you now, in advance for your feedback and participation.



## 2019 BNAPS PNW Presentations

THANK YOU to our presenters, we look forward to hearing/seeing your topic

### Topic

Michel Anderson

NWFSC - united we stand

Harold Krische

World War II Canadian POW camp mail

Tim Woodland

Stories From The BC Coast

Dave Bartlett

Alcock and Brown 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary flight

Bill Pekonen

unusual post office forms

Peter Newroth

Charles Connell: His New Brunswick Stamps, 1860



## Are you coming to our 2019 Annual Meeting?



Consider bringing a friend. They don't need to be a BNAPS member. Register at the door with Wanda or Carol

## EDITORIAL

Hello again.

This is the last newsletter which will appear under my byline. Age takes its toll, both on the abilities to do things and the machinery which one uses to do so. As many of you are aware I have had a lot of assistance from “the boss” for the past newsletters. When her machinery decided it would no longer edit and publish and we had decided not to replace it. This means that even if I could do the rest, which I cannot, we couldn’t get it out in a suitable form in a timely manner. However, I am sure there is some younger, energetic person waiting in the wings for a chance to take over the job of newsletter editor.

Mark and crew seem to be doing their usual dandy job of running the Group and hopefully will continue to do so for quite some time.

Thanks for all the support over the years in the various positions I have held.

## VANPEX 2019

September 27-29, 2019

VANPEX 2019 sponsored by the British Columbia Philatelic Society will be held at the Nikkei Cultural Centre 6688 Southoakes Crescent, Burnaby, BC on Fri. Sept. 27 from 10 am to 6 pm, Sat. Sept. 28 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sun. Sept. 29 from 10 am to 4 pm commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the British Columbia Philatelic Society. Dealer tables, coffee and tea, exhibit frames with accredited exhibit judging, show souvenirs, awards banquet, free stamps for kids and 50/50 draws are all a part VANPEX. Admission is by donation.



<https://www.vanpex2019.com/>

# Office of District Superintendent of Postal Services

By Bill Pekonen

The handling of requests for First Flight Covers was a profit centre for the Canada Post Office. A fee ranging from \$10 to \$15 plus the cost of the air mail stamp was charged for the special service. In 1930 dollars, the fee was quite substantial. A chocolate bar cost only five cents as just one comparison. (I like chocolate!!) The wage rate for a skilled worker was 25 cents per hour.

The District Superintendent acknowledged the receipt of an order. Often, the collector would send in self addressed envelopes. The appropriate air mail stamp was then affixed to each cover and placed upon the flight. Often a special cachet was also affixed. If it is unfortunate that the post card and actual FFC have been separated. If both were shown together, then an interesting exhibit could be assembled.

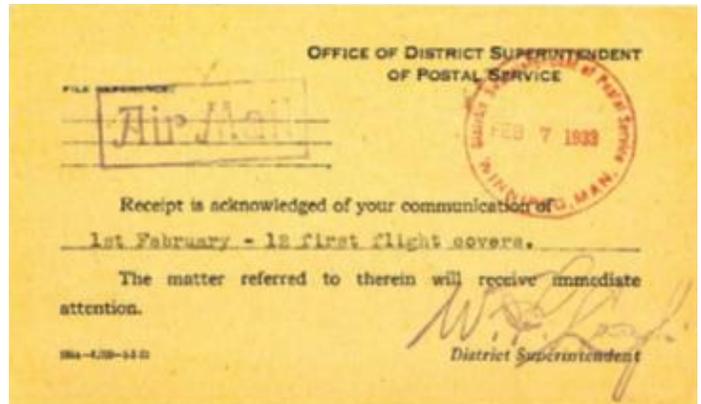
Four acknowledgement postcards are illustrated to demonstrate how the process worked.

Fig. 1 FEB 7 1933 Winnipeg, MB. This postcard appears to be connected with AMC3305 describing



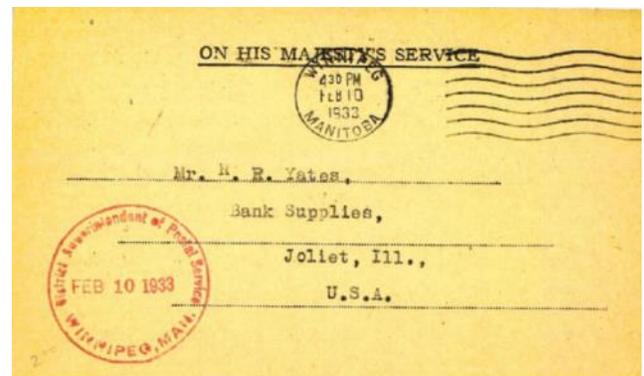
the FFC from Charlottetown to Gridstone Island. This FCC was flown by Canadian Airways which was piloted by Walter F. Fowler. The postcard is addressed to H.S. Turner, Clinton, Ontario.

Fig. 2, Form # 109A-000-1-3-30. This illustration shows the reverse side of Fig. 1.



It is also postmarked by the Winnipeg District Superintendent. The postcard acknowledges receipt of 12 covers. Note the rubber stamp "Air Mail" instruction enclosed in a rectangular box.

Fig. 3, FEB. 10 1933 Winnipeg Man. This postcard appears to be connected with AMC3305a describing the FFC from Gridstone Island to Charlottetown. This FCC was flown by Canadian Airways which



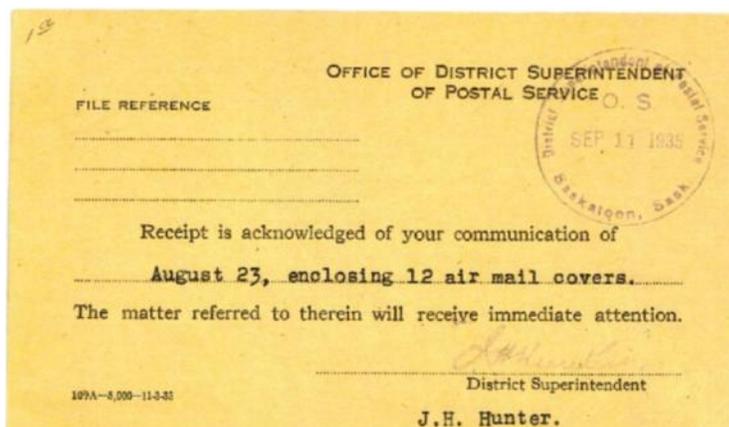
was piloted by Walter F. Fowler. This postcard is addressed to R.R. Yates, Joliet,

Fig. 4, Form # 109A-6,000-1-3-30. This illustration shows the reverse side of Fig. 3. It is also postmarked by the Winnipeg



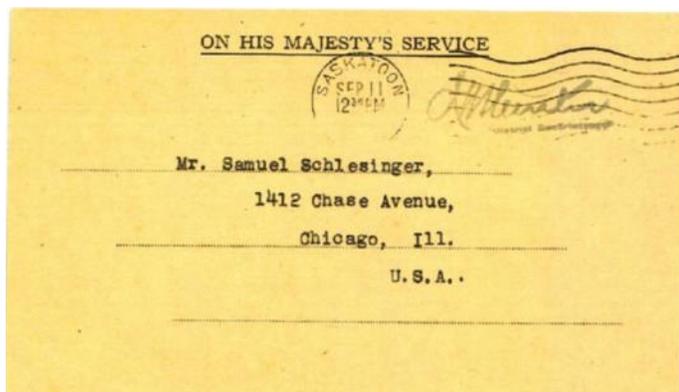
District Superintendent. The postcard acknowledges receipt of 6 covers. It appears that the covers were cancelled as Grindstone Island-Charlottetown. Note the rubber stamp "Air Mail" instruction

Fig. 6, This illustrates the reverse of Fig. 5. Form # 109A-5,000-11-3-33. This postcard



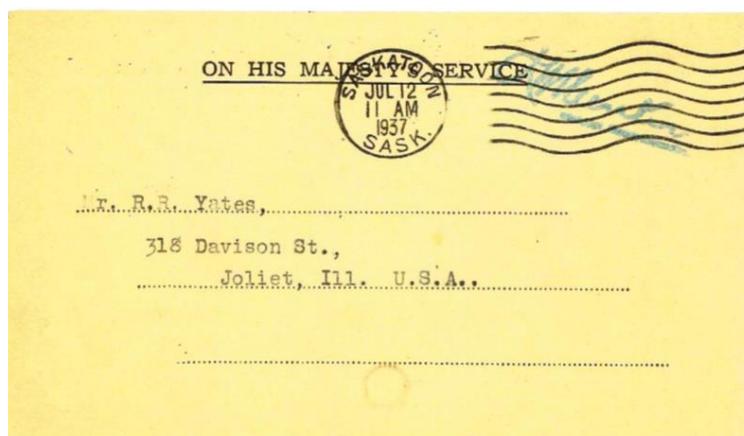
refers to receiving 12 covers on August 23. September 2, 1925 was the first scheduled First Flight subsequent to August 23.

Fig. 5, SEP 11 1935 Saskatoon Sask. This postcard probably refers to AMMC 3525 Flown September 2 1935 between Fort



Chipewyan -Goldfield and returned the same day. (See reverse). This postcard is addressed to Samuel Schlesinger, Chicago, Ill. USA. Curiously, the OHMS categorization would have implied "Free of Postage" and yet, the postcard also Shows what may be considered as an invalid franking impression. The printing is indistinct, but appears to read District Superintendent. This may be contrary to the rule which stated that only the Cabinet Minister or Deputy Minister could use this method when mailed from Ottawa.

Fig 7 July 12, 1937 Saskatoon Sask. This postcard probably refers to AAMC 3717 plus a-e First Flight between Prince Albert-Fond du Lac-Stony Rapids-North bay and



return to Prince Albert. Official cachets were probably also applied. See notes in Fig. 5 in respect to the use of what appears to be an invalid franking cancel.

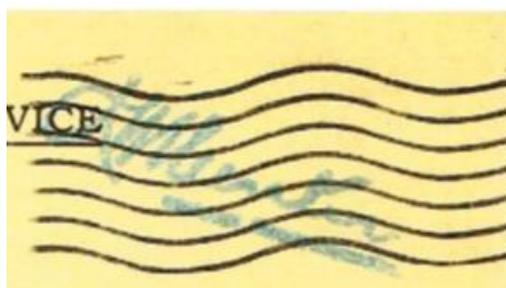
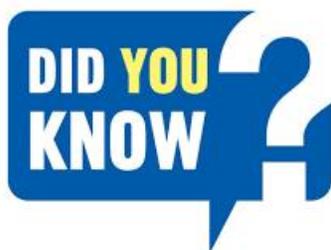
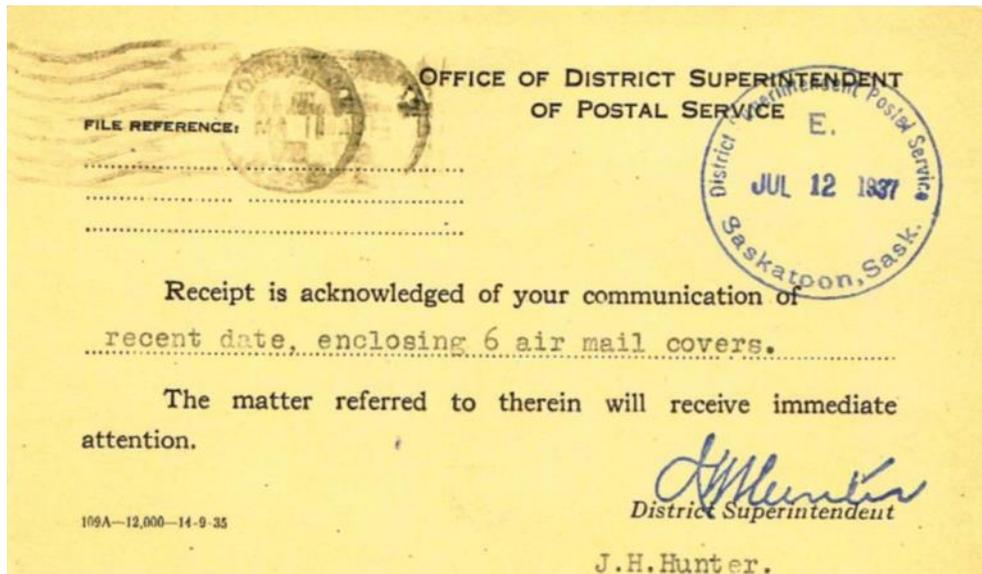


Fig. 8 This illustrates the reverse side of Fig. 7. Form # 109A-12.000-14-9-35..The District Superintendent rubber stamp cancel is in blue ink instead of the usual red ink. 6 covers had been enclosed with accounts for the description offered in Fig. 7.



We are always looking for new research to publish. Short, medium, long - doesn't matter - just consider sharing your expertise. Send to:  
**BNAPS-PNW@shaw.ca**

# Sponsors 2019 THANK YOU

Four firms stepped forward to sponsor our meet and greet refreshments, morning and afternoon session refreshments and our wrap up event dessert. So instead of bread and water, we will have a nice assortment of items.

These four firms are all active supporters of our hobby. Over the years, as I have done business with them, you come to realize that it's not just the firm you are dealing with, but the people.

These are the four great people behind the names:

**All Nations - Brian Grant Duff**

**Deveney Stamps - Kayle Deveney**

**Ocean Park - David Marasco**

**Weeda Stamps - Beverly Fox**



## NOTE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE

The following article appeared in the June 26, 2019 Issue of the Williams Lake Tribune, and I thought some of you might be interested - all credit should go to the publisher of the paper and Sage Birchwater, the author of the article. Peter

### CASUAL COUNTRY 2019: Tatlayoko Valley post office remains community cornerstone

Down in Tatlayoko Valley, about 35 km south of Tatla Lake, a tiny shake-covered building sits inauspiciously at the side of the road. Next to it are five green, old-style cluster mail boxes that require external padlocks for each personal mailbox. Mounted on the front of the building is the official red, white and blue insignia of Canada Post, letting you know you have arrived at the quaint but official Tatlayoko Lake, VOL 1W0 post office.

Postmaster Joanna Knight laughs. Her ten-by-twelve-



foot building is the second smallest freestanding post office in British Columbia.

When she got permission to relocate the post office here from the home of Harry and Fran Haynes nearly 20 years ago, most rural post offices of that nature were inside private residences.

“Our driveway is quite steep leading down to our house,” Joanna explains. “We were worried this could be dangerous in winter.”

At the top of her driveway the public road has been widened slightly to provide parking next to the little building, and the set of external mailboxes was brought in so post office customers could help themselves to their mail after hours. Previously at the Haynes residence customers would knock on their door at all hours of the day and night to get their mail.

“People often head to town (Williams Lake or beyond) early in the morning, so they would often wake Harry and Fran at ungodly hours to get their mail before they left,” Joanna reflects. “My husband Leonard and I weren’t too eager to have this constant interruption.”

Community members donated building materials to help make the new little post office a reality, Joanna says, and Len Knight did the carpentry work. Then they installed a phone and a little electric heater to keep it warm on cold days, and they were off to the races.

“We thought we were the smallest post office in the province, until our Pacific Zone supervisor started a contest inviting the postmasters in her region to send in their pictures and descriptions of their post offices. She found out there was one post office a foot smaller than ours.”

The Tatlayoko post office has a history of transience and a fight for survival.

Since it was first established in the home of KB (Kennon Beverly) Moore on the north end of Tatlayoko Lake in the 1920s, it has bounced around the valley from household to household. In the early days mail was brought into the valley once every two weeks by Tommy Hodgson who had a mail contract for the Chilcotin.

As you can imagine, mail day was a big occasion. Some people rode horseback for more than 30 km, crossing treacherous rivers to post letters and pick up their mail.

Canada Post quickly became the lifeblood of the community. The Timothy Eaton mail order catalogue allowed people to purchase items not readily available in the backwoods of the nation. So mail day every two weeks became a significant social gathering that often spanned several days.

Along with mail deliveries, Tommy Hodgson and his sons, brought other supplies to the remote Chilcotin in their freight trucks from Williams Lake.

In 1929 Del Naomi Haynes arrived in the valley with her four youngest sons to take over the postmaster duties at KB Moore’s Circle X Ranch. She was hired by KB who had more than enough to do maintaining his ranch and livestock.



A year or two later Del Naomi got her own place further up the valley and the post office followed her there. She was postmaster for a decade or more as her children grew up and left home, then Del Naomi passed the torch to the Bellamy family on Crazy Creek.

When the Bellamys left the country, the post office moved five km down the valley to Ed and Muriel Kennedy's place. When they sold their ranch to George Rettberg in 1951, he inherited the post office as well.

Rettberg went back to Florida for a while, so his neighbours Ken and Mary Haynes took over postmaster duties and moved the post office to their place a few kilometres further down the valley. When Ken and Mary sold their ranch to Walt Murray in the early 1970s, he got the post office as well.

When Murray's house burned down in 1977, Tim Pettit became postmaster and the post office moved back up the valley to Crazy Creek where Pettit and Len Knight were living in the old Combs Place.

They converted an old chicken house into the post office and that's where Tim and Len sorted the mail.

By that time the frequency of mail service to Tatlayoko had increased to once a week and Tim and Len would drive to Tatla Lake every Wednesday to pick it up.

When Tim Pettit decided to resign as postmaster in 1984, Tatlayoko Valley almost lost its post office for good. Canada Post was in the process of downsizing and eliminating a number of the smaller country post offices in favour of larger, more centralized locations.

Once the postal supervisor in Williams Lake got wind that Tim was leaving, he immediately sent out a notice that Tatlayoko Post Office would shut down permanently the following Wednesday.

The citizens of Tatlayoko got together immediately and wrote letters of protest and signed a petition which Alf and Gerry Bracewell delivered personally to the post office supervisor in Williams Lake.

"I have my orders," the supervisor told them. "The post office will close next Wednesday."

Undaunted, the Bracewells took the letters and petition to Member of Parliament Lorne Greenaway, and miraculously the order to close the post office was revoked.

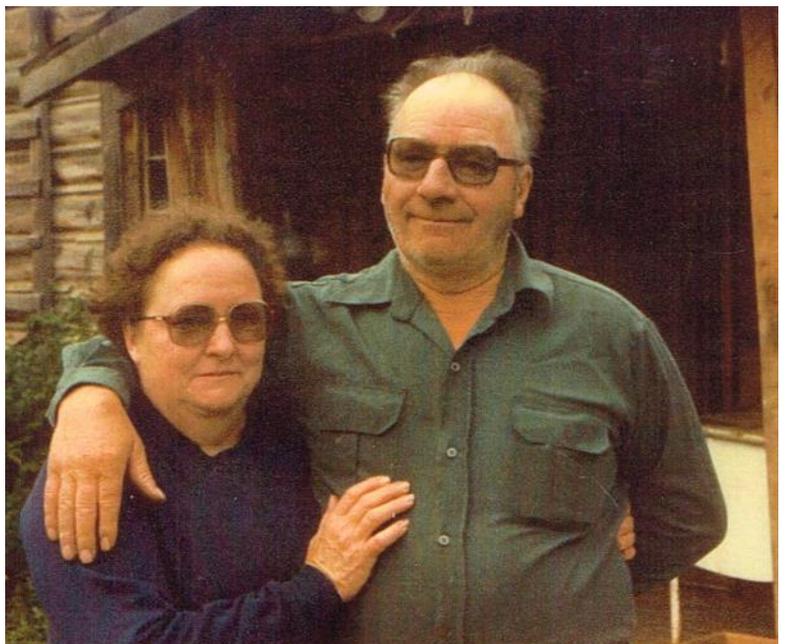
That's when Harry and Fran Haynes became the new postmasters and built an addition on the back of their house to accommodate the post office, 10 km down the valley from the Combs Place.

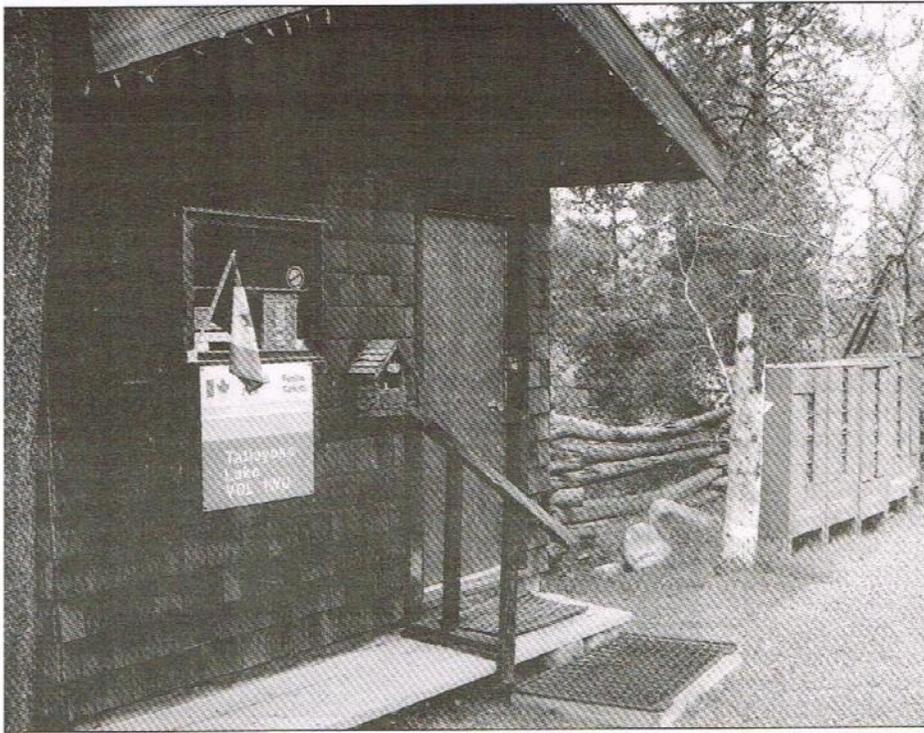
Harry and Fran's household quickly became the social centre of Tatlayoko Valley.

In the mid-1980s the only telephone service in the valley was a public payphone on the side of the road outside the Haynes residence.

Harry arranged for the telephone company to put an extension of the phone into their house. When the phone rang they would answer it and take messages.

Households in the valley were connected by CB (Citizen Band) radios. It soon became the practice that Harry and Fran would take messages received from the payphone and relay them to their neighbours over the CB radio. People would then drive to the phone booth to make their calls.





The Tatlayoko Post Office as it looks most days.

Sage Birchwater photo

**Tatlayoko Lake** is a lake on the Homathko River in the western Chilcotin District of the Central Interior of British Columbia, Canada, located on a north-south axis just upstream of the entrance of the series of canyons of the Homathko, including the Great Canyon of the Homathko, on its route to the sea at the head of Bute Inlet. The community of Tatlayoko Lake, British Columbia is



To sweeten the pot, Fran was constantly baking cookies, and they quickly established the reputation that their door was always open, the coffee pot always on, and the cookie jar always full.

Quite appropriately Harry and Fran's CB handle or call sign, was "Coffee House".

Over the decade and a half that Harry and Fran ran the post office, they also fell into another role as surrogate grandparents for a number of children growing up in the valley. That was the case for Len and Joanna Knight and their daughter Alisha.

"We became very close," Joanna says.

If things needed fixing or jobs needed doing around the Haynes household, Len was always there. So was Joanna if Fran needed help in the post office.

When Fran's health deteriorated and she was forced to retire in 2000, Joanna took over as postmaster and ran the post office from the Haynes household until her tiny building was completed just up the road.

"It's got some of the original mail boxes from the chicken coop at the Combs Place," Joanna chuckles. "Along with the newer ones built at Harry and Fran's place."

## And there's more.

When Harry and Fran left the valley for the last time in 2002 to go into a care facility in the Fraser Valley, their property had been sold to the Nature Conservancy.

In an effort to preserve the Haynes legacy, their old log home was jacked up and moved down the valley to the Millsite Recreation Park created by the community years earlier.

Plans were to convert the house into a community centre, but that never happened.

Eventually Len and Joanna Knight got the brilliant idea to move the Haynes house to their property and renovate it into a guest cottage.

And that's where it sits today, a work in progress, within eyeshot of the second smallest freestanding post office in Western Canada.

Len added a second story and got the roof on last year, but the log-work and dovetail joints still carry the legacy and memory of two very special people: Harry and Fran Haynes.

2019 BNAPS Pacific North West Regional Group  
Annual Conference September 25 and 26 2019

**LANGLEY, BC**  
REGISTRATION



Primary  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest - Non  
BNAPS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel:** Coast Cascades Casino Langley  
20393 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC  
Reservations: 1-604-530-1500 or book online at their website  
All rooms are non smoking. Check with hotel on pet policy  
(sorry, special room pricing has expired)

**I would like  
to register  
for:**

	# people	@	total	
<b>Wednesday Social (Sept 25)</b>	_____	\$ 10	_____	held in hotel at Hospitality Suite
<b>Thursday Sessions (Sept 26)</b>				
BNAPS Members	_____	\$ 20	_____	
Spouse	_____	\$ 5	_____	
Guests-Non BNAPS	_____	\$ 25	_____	
			_____	Enclose your payment

Send your registration form and cheque payable to BNAPS-PNWRG to:  
101, 3606 25 th Avenue, Vernon, BC  
V1T 1P3

You may also email your registration to [gwfish@shaw.ca](mailto:gwfish@shaw.ca) or pay by e-transfer  
?Questions? call Gary (250) 545 - 6375 OR Mark (250) 878 - 2700

Net proceeds of this event go to:  
**Gerald E. Wellburn Philatelic Foundation**