

# Stamper

May 2024

Newsletter from the Lethbridge Philatelic Society

## Canada has gone to the Frogs

Take home this booklet of 10 Permanent™ domestic rate stamps that features two endangered frog species found in Canada – the Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) and Fowler's toad (*Anaxyrus fowleri*). The two stamps feature illustrations of the Oregon spotted frog and Fowler's toad

.Canada Post has a longstanding tradition of showcasing Canadian wildlife and using stamps to raise awareness of the impacts of human activity on animal populations. Examples include Endangered Turtles (2019), Bears (2019), Endangered Whales (2022) and Animal Mothers and Babies (2023).

### Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*)

Oregon spotted frogs are brown or reddish-brown with light-centred black spots on their heads, backs, sides and legs. They also have two dorsolateral folds, which are ridges of glandular skin that run down each side of the back. Adult Oregon spotted frogs look like they have been

painted orange to brick red on their bellies, thighs and sides, whereas juveniles have white bellies that become increasingly red as they mature.

Adults can grow up to 10 centimetres in length, and females are larger than males.

In Canada, Oregon spotted frogs are found exclusively in



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# The Lethbridge Philatelic Society

The Lethbridge Philatelic Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 P.M. (except July and August). Meetings at **Insight**



## Insight

#1, 1718-3 Avenue south,  
Lethbridge, Alberta

Next Meeting: **April 11, 2024**, in the downstairs conference room.

**Website:**

<https://www.lps57.ca>

**Contacts:**

- President **Darcy Lutz** 403-625-1571
- Past President **Kel Hansen** 403-345-6405
- Secretary **Tony Pargeter** 403-315-2247
- Treasurer **Robert Budd** 403-381-8640
- Raffle Secretary **Bob Hlatky** 587-821-5665
- Edmonton Books **Walter Kerber** 403-388-9174
- Club Books **Andre Vandebek** 403-308-2692

Mailing Address: 196 Heritage Circle West, Lethbridge, AB, T1K 7H8

[SAVE WITH CANADA POST:](#) We have a discount # for mailing items at CANADA POST. When mailing tell the clerk it is # 0006050075 the Lethbridge Philatelic Society, Or use my phone # Walter: 403 388 9174

An Oregon spotted frog devours a northern bluet, one of many insects in its diet.  
Une grenouille maculée de l'Oregon mange un agriion porte-casque, un des nombreux insectes composant son alimentation.



## IN MY OPINION

BY WALTER KERBER

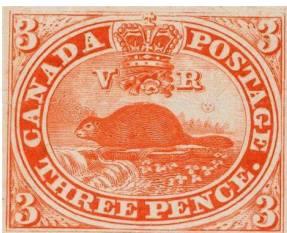
The reaction to last month's opinion was interesting with comments from different collectors including some in Germany that get to read the Stamper. Like the eclipse of the sun a few weeks ago, the Stamp issued by Canada Post might be a sign of the whole hobby fading from the light.



One of the excitements of the past was to get the First Day Cover of a stamp issued. You lined up at the local post office with an envelope addressed to yourself to buy that stamp and get it cancelled that morning. I remember on an occasion when Canada Post was forced to open a Post Office location on a Sunday, so that a special issue could be cancelled as a FDC. To me that is a true First Day Cover. Today you order any FDC's you want from almost any year, cancelled in a plant somewhere.

Do you remember when Canada Post brought out the High Value stamps? There have been many series, but the \$8 Grizzly Bear was an exciting stamp. Although everybody bought a mint stamp, used issues became fairly common, because they were in frequent use on packages making it easy to find a used copy. More recently a \$4 Big Horn Sheep stamp came out. Unfortunately, this one cost you \$16 since it was issued in mini sheets of four. Many collectors missed this one because it was only out for a short time. Used copies of this one are few and far. That was part of the excitement of the past.

Anyone that has the high value Jubilee issues of Queen Victoria may not know that anything from a dollar up was not useable by the post office, since nothing you mailed cost that much. How did the cancelled stamps come about? Apparently, at the time, newspapers paid for mailings in stamps, making it possible to use these values.



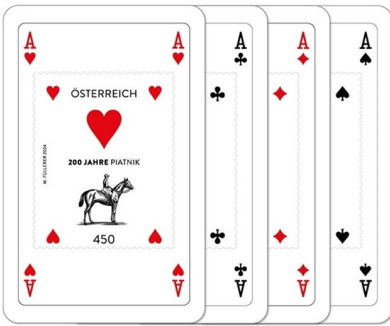
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## 200-Year Anniversary of Piatnik

The commemorative miniature sheets in the format and design of playing cards are a particularly innovative release for the round anniversary of the Piatnik company.

In 1843, the trained card painter Ferdinand Piatnik took over a Viennese card painting business founded in 1824.

The company is still run by the Piatnik family today as the "Viennese Playing Card Factory Ferd. Piatnik & Sons." After World War II, in addition




to playing cards, the production of board games and puzzles began, and the company also developed new games such as "Activity." Piat-

nik is currently Austria's largest game publisher, easily identified by its company logo featuring a jockey on a horse.

For the 200th anniversary, Austrian Post is issuing very special commemorative miniature sheets. The four different stamp variants each show the Ace value in the four suits of Hearts, Diamonds, Spades, and Clubs, with the actual gummed stamp, having a nominal value of 450 cents, being die-cut and removable from the playing card. The miniature sheets, with their classic Piatnik design, not only look like playing cards but can also be used as such, since each sheet is part of a set with the four additional playing cards of the respective suit, namely King, Queen, Jack, and 10. A removable vignette, designed like the commemorative stamp but not valid for postage, is integrated into these supplementary playing cards. The sets in all four suits make up a complete deck of twenty playing cards for the "Schnapsen" game, in which, as mentioned, each Ace is a commemorative stamp.

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# Great May Stamp Auction

**May 9, 2024**

**7 PM**

**Insight**

**#1, 1718-3 Avenue south,  
Lethbridge, Alberta**

Everybody invited, Bring a Friend

Bring your stamps to be auctioned

( Limits to 15 lots ) Minimum Bid

**\$2.50/per lot**

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British Columbia's Fraser Valley. They are also found in the United States – in a small number of sites in Washington and Oregon. It is extirpated from California.

These frogs spend most of their time in the water. The webbing on their hind feet extends to the tip of their toes, making them efficient swimmers.

Unlike most other frogs, their eyes are angled upward, which helps them to remain almost entirely submerged while still able to see above water. Inhabiting warm, shallow wetlands with emergent and floating vegetation, Oregon spotted frogs eat a variety of insects such as beetles and flies, as well as spiders and other invertebrates. The tadpoles eat algae, decaying plant matter and detritus.

### **Fowler's toad (*Anaxyrus fowleri*)**

Fowler's toads are grey to buff coloured above, with small dark spots and warts on the back, and a white or cream-coloured belly. Males have a dark-coloured throat, while females' throats are white.

Adults range in size from about 5 cm to over 8 cm in length.

In Canada, Fowler's toads are found only on the north shore of Lake Erie (in Ontario), on sandy beaches and dunes. They breed in shallow ponds, pools and marshes. They are also found in much of the eastern United States.

Primarily nocturnal, adult

Fowler's toads mainly eat insects and other small terrestrial invertebrates, while tadpoles consume mainly algae and aquatic plants.

The male's call has been likened to a shrill scream or agonized wail.



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Try buying a commemorative stamp at a post office today. Those special stamps are issued in booklets or mini sheets, or souvenir sheets, not to be sold separately. Your letter will go out with that definitive. Canada post has three sizes of



letters that can go domestically, to the U. S. or internationally, with three different rates for the destinations and with three different weight rates. At present, you are still allowed to place stamps on these letters. Anything else is considered a package or parcel, which is to contain a label with "Portage Paid". You will love collecting them in the future. The other day a card came that was neatly cancelled in a Retail Postal Outlet; unfortunately the person forgot both the stamp or the label.

So now you collect the mint issues and are happy with these perfect works of art. To me unless they are actually from mail, they are nothing but a label, a depiction on a book page or like the stamps in the Canada Post Millennium Book.

To me a stamp is worth the slip of paper it is printed on, but in my album it is worth a fortune when it has a clear readable cancel, showing it has travelled through the mail to its destination.



## Announcements

### • Next meetings :

• May 9, 2024

Last Meeting before the summer break **June 13, 2024**

This is a Trading Meeting

## Classifieds:

**Classifieds are free, one per month per member E-mail yours**

**to : kerber1227@gmail.com by month end.**

**Want your Add Here? Call Me**

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Each commemorative miniature sheet is available only as a set with the other playing cards of the respective suit for 4.99 euros. Subscribers receive all four commemorative stamps without the set, namely the Ace of Hearts, Diamonds, Spades, and Clubs.

Value: 4.50 euros (available only in sets for 4.99 euros each)

First day of issue: 23.05.2024

First day: 1140 Vienna

Stamp size: 43.00 x 53.50 mm

Quantity: 110,000 stamps on sheets of 1 unit each

### Nations Stamp Websites

**Canada:** Latest stamps | New in store | Canada Post

**England:** <http://www.collectgbstamps.co.uk/default.asp>

**Germany:** Neuerscheinungen | Shop Deutsche Post

**Austrian:** Philately news 2021 - PostAG

**Denmark:** Frimærker

**STAMP Pages :** <http://tim.mond.free.fr/>

**Poland:** Poczta Polska Philatelic Shop - Welcome

**USA:** <https://store.usps.com/store> - go to "postal store"

**Edmonton:** <http://www.edmontonstampclub.ca/Newsletter.html>

**Calgary Philatelic Society – The Calgary Philatelic Society**

**Stamp Collecting World:** <https://www.stamp-collecting-world.com/>