

Stamper

June 2024

Newsletter from the Lethbridge Philatelic Society

Canada Post Honours Graphic Novelists

The Graphic Novelists issue celebrates the work of some of Canada's most talented and influential graphic novelists:

- Chester Brown: *Louis Riel: A Comic-Strip Biography*
- Michel Rabagliati: *Paul à Québec*
- Seth: *Clyde Fans*
- Mariko Tamaki, Jillian Tamaki: *This One Summer*

The four stamps highlight acclaimed novels by each author, who created original illustrations for their stamp designs that show the main characters engrossed in their own stories.

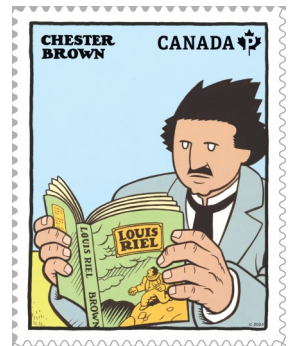
These stamps show the main characters engrossed in their own stories through original illustrations created by the novelists themselves.



Jim, Mr. Canada Post, to most philatelists, retires after 43 years, (see P.4)

Chester Brown

Fascinated by cartooning as a child, Chester Brown (b. 1960 in Montréal, Quebec) set his sights on a career as a comic book artist when he was in his teens. The pioneering and influential cartoonist began self-publishing in 1983 and soon attracted a cult following for his deeply personal comic strips. Brown received the first Canada Council for the



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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: **June 13, 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
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IN MY OPINION

BY WALTER KERBER

Old Questions that never leave us.

I get asked the same Questions over and over. There are the same old debates. Philatelists are involved in a hobby. We spend money. We have fun. We waste a lot of time sitting over a pine of old bits of paper that smells bad and have images that are barely visible. That is a strange hobby called stamp collecting or philately.

The big concern for everybody is the value of a collection. What is my collection worth? I collect all aspects of Germany, Greece, Switzerland, Austria, Trains, Zeppelin, Aircraft, Space, and other topical as well as Revenue stamps from around the world, and private or city post and ad mail stationery. Is that enough variety to keep me happy? Then there are also the Austrian novelty Postage Stamps. Now, what is the value? Do I care? No.

The big picture about Stamp Collecting is the enjoyment of doing it. Ask yourself; Am I having fun sorting through this pile of bits of paper? That to me is my entertainment value. To place the stamps on a sheet of paper in the album or to have them in a row in a stock book is not locking them into a vault because they are worth their weight in gold, but to enjoy them.

Another big factor in our hobby is the USED stamps. Getting letters is one thing, but we look at the stamps and wonder how to remove them. The common way to use is that of our grandfathers, steam or soaking in water. Most of the stamps do not have water soluble ink, except Spanish Vending Box Stamps. Canadian stamps come off easily with that, but they take longer unless you use warmer water. The adhesive tends to stick to areas of the stamp that have a lot of ink or a coating. This also applies to older and German stamps.

Then there are to ones that don't come off. If you have these you will need an adhesive lifter such as "Un-Do" or other brand and Talc or baby powder that will cover the adhesive after removal. Most other European and US stamps come off easily with that

The other big question is "Where are these stamps from?" That I'm afraid is found in a good catalogue, or on the internet. If you can type it into the internet you will find it.



43 Years with the post office, Jim Retires

Jim, as we know him, retires from Canada Post. To most of us Philatelists, stamp collectors, he is Canada Post. His smiling face is a welcome sight after waiting in a long line with a heavy parcel under the arm. Over the years he has always offered the customer choices solved problems, but most of all, knew how to enter things in the sales system after everything went to computers.

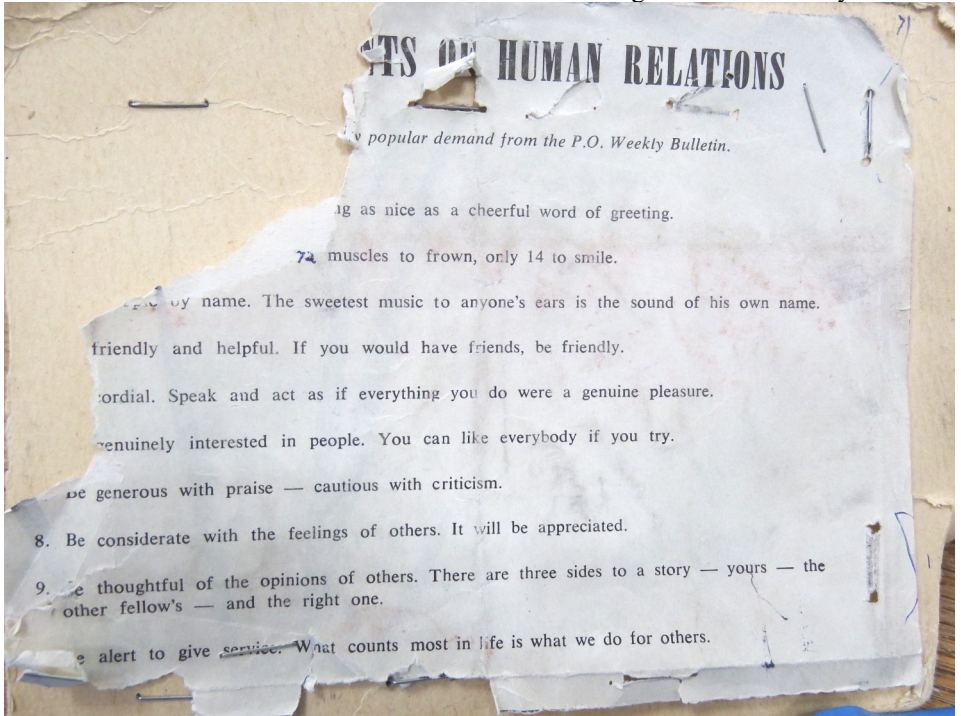
Jim Matkin, his REAL name, will officially retire on June 10, 2024. Ironically and intentionally that is exactly 43 years after Starting at the Post Office. On June 22, 2024 there will be a retirement event from 1 to 4 Pm at the Galt Museum.

Jim came to the postal service on June 10, 1981 as a casual part time employee, as the way most postal workers get into the system. In 1982, that changed to permanent part time for the next four years to 1986. In 1991, people became aware of the smile, as Jim was moved to the counter service. Jim always liked dealing with the public. One of his superiors had handed him a copy of the post office motto from a 1950 postal bulletin. Jim pointed out that those points are still important today.

Point #2 on the list mentions that it takes more effort to frown than to smile. It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile. That might be why we always see Jim smiling at customers. He is taking it easy.



Jim Matkin offering a customer a newly issued stamp Booklet of the Graphic Novelists of Canada



Part of the Post Office Motto from 50 year old bulletin given to jim when he started on the counter.

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In his early days on the counter Jim remembers an incident with a customer. Jim had little knowledge of stamp collectors and the Philatelic Hobby. A customer wanted Corner Blocks for his collection from a particular sheet of stamps. It was later that the post office sold separate sets of corner blocks for collectors. Jim took the sheet and tore off the corner block. Jim said he can still see the customer's face and expression of horror when the corner block tore. The person also issued an exclamation he didn't mention.

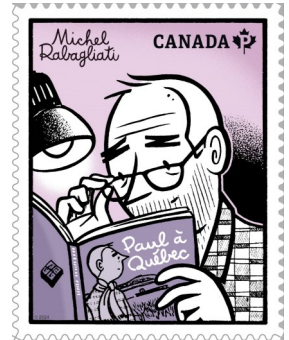
Many exciting times were when 911 happened, because of mail delays and restrictions. Then the anthrax scare, when a large parcel in the Calgary sorting center was leaking white powder. The plant was shut down. After an investigation it was determined the parcel contained puppets stuffed with white stuff.

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Arts grant awarded to his genre, for *Louis Riel: A Comic-Strip Biography* (2003). Critically and commercially acclaimed for its powerful, minimalist style, the story of the enigmatic Métis leader became the first graphic novel on a Canadian non-fiction best-seller list.

Michel Rabagliati

Michel Rabagliati (b. 1961 in Montréal, Quebec) was in his late 30s and working as a professional graphic designer when he switched gears to pursue his childhood love of comics. The result was an award-winning series of “altered autobiographies” about a middle-class graphic designer named Paul. Firmly rooted in Rabagliati’s home province and acclaimed for their honesty and authenticity, the 10 graphic novels follow the titular character through different stages of his life. *Paul à Québec* (2009) – later adapted into a movie – is a tender portrayal of Paul and his family as he struggles to cope with his father-in-law’s failing health.



Seth

An influential leader in the underground comic book movement, Seth (the pen name of Gregory Gallant, b. 1962 in Clinton, Ontario) spent much of his youth drawing comics and creating an inner fantasy world “where things were much more pleasant.” He attended the Ontario College of Art (now OCAD University) and worked as a commercial artist before launching his *Palookaville* comics in 1991. Over the last 20 years of its run, the series told the story of two brothers struggling with the gradual demise of their family’s electric-fan business. Introspective and tinged with yearning for an earlier time, it was published as the award-winning graphic novel *Clyde Fans* in 2019.



Jillian Tamaki, Mariko Tamaki

Critically acclaimed for their individual and collaborative creations, cousins Jillian Tamaki (b. 1980 in Ottawa, Ontario) and Mariko Tamaki (b. 1975 in Toronto, Ontario) share a talent for nuance. Jillian’s skillful



Austrian Hospitality

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illustrations have appeared in everything from books and webcomics to animated television, while Mariko’s witty and insightful words have lent themselves to dozens of novels, short essays and comic books. *This One Summer* (2014) is the second prize-winning graphic novel that they co-created. The poignant tale of cottage friends Rose and Windy stumbling from innocence into adolescence, it was the first graphic novel to receive a Caldecott Honor (U.S.), which is awarded to the most distinguished children’s picture books.



Jim's Retirement Event
June 22, 2024 1 to 4
Galt Museum

Announcements

- Next meetings :
- June 13, 2024
- After Summer - September 12, 2024

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I send a lot of packages and parcels through Canada Post. Most of these go overseas. To me mailing anything requires a postage stamp. Without a stamp, the package is nothing but freight. Over the past few years Jim has always been there to make sure I could get stamps to make up the postage and variety, since there are few higher value stamps being issued.

So join Jim at the Galt Museum on Saturday, June 22, 2024 and wish him well in his retirement from one to four.

June 22, 1-4 at Galt Museum

Classifieds:

Classifieds are free, one per month per member E-mail yours to :kerber1227@gmail.com by month end.

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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/>