

# Montreal's the place to be for stamp collectors

Montreal will be the site of a national Canadian philatelic exhibition in 1984, sponsored by Canada Post Corporation.

If it's successful, a similar show will be held in other cities in following years.

I guess that means if it's philatelically successful. It need only be moderately successful financially.

Discussion has been going on about the exhibition ever since the 1982 internationally-sanctioned youth exhibit held at Toronto in 1982.

That's the show that brought about the popular stamps-on-stamps series: Scott No. 1 reproduced on Scott No. 909; Scott No. 102 on 910; No. 223 on 911; No. 155 on 912; No. 158, the ever-popular Bluenose, on 913. All five then appeared on a souvenir sheet.

Michael Strecko, a member of the Canadian citizen's stamp advisory committee and a Montreal dealer, made a suggestion to Canada Post, following the 1982 youth exhibit, that an annual exhibition of international calibre be held in Canada.

Canada Post, it seems, liked the idea.

A conceptual meeting was held at Montreal in late September. I was invited, but unfortunately was out of town. However, I got the details later. The plan then went to Canada

## New members named to bodies

Midland town council has picked new members to fill vacancies on the town's boards, commissions, and committees.

Ted Symons joins the property standards committee. Doug Gadsby joins the parks board. Alderman Patrick Kearns replaces Alderman Ian Ross on the parks board.

Robert MacMillan joins the harbour commission. Alderman Dan Herbert joins Alderman Miles Blackhurst on the harbour commission.

Wayne Morrison joins the parking authority. Reeve Bev Day replaces Alderman Ross on the Huronia Airport Commission. George Varney is the town's representative on the board of Huronia District Hospital.

The emergency social services committee has been restored. Alderman Nancy Keefe chairs the committee consisting of herself, vice-chairman Reeve Bev Day, and Lieut. Ray Braddock of the Salvation Army and Irene Quesnelle of Contact.

The council will be forming a committee of councillors to hear planning matters. Aldermen Patrick Kearns and Nancy Keefe will be the chairman and vice-chairman.

## Canadian Philatelic Exhibition in 1984

Post's board of directors where it was given approval on Oct. 25.

The aims of the exhibit are to publicize the annual October Stamp Collecting Month, to get local clubs involved and to encourage Canadian philatelists to participate more efficiently in exhibitions of international stature.

Good aims, indeed. Canada has some excellent club shows in various communities, but international-type shows are the exception, not the rule.

We don't have an American Philatelic Society approach in this country whereas, in the U.S., most shows are connected in some way with APS or affiliated organizations and compete in a "World Series" each year for the exhibitor to beat all

exhibitors.

In fact, that is a problem with Canada Post's national show: in some cities there is one group that can be approached to take on the organization and conduct of the exhibition, while in others an individual must coordinate because all philatelic groups work independently of each other. Strecko is Montreal's co-ordinator.

If the plan works in Montreal, a tough philatelic market for exhibits, others will be held at Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver — but not necessarily in that order.

The proposal is that every region of Canada should host the exhibition once before the chain begins again. Budget is in the area

of \$400,000, which was the amount Canada Post committed to support the youth exhibit — properly called the Canada '82 International Philatelic Youth Exhibition, held May 20-24.

Frankly, Canada Post seeks some benefit: "It (the exhibit) would provide a unique opportunity for Canada Post to work with local philatelic organizations in a high-profile venture of mutual benefit," a CPC document summarizing the show proposal states.

For the Montreal show, a working committee will be set up with a representative from each of the city's philatelic clubs, with Strecko as co-ordinator.

In other cities, wherever possible, a single group, such as the Royal Philatelic Society

of Canada, will be asked to take on the organization, bringing in members from its affiliated clubs.

Montreal was chosen for the first show because, as CPC put it "The last three major international shows have taken place outside Quebec and this point has not gone without notice by the Quebec philatelic community."

I have an inkling (it's only fair to state, however, that it takes 27 inkings to make a clue) that much of the cost of each exhibit will be offset by the sale of a souvenir sheet, similar to the Capex 78 sheet and or the 1982 youth exhibit sheet.

### FIRST DAY CHANGED

The British Post Office has discovered that its post offices are less busy on Tuesdays than on Wednesdays "because of shifting patterns of business."

Hence, all British stamp issues during 1984 will "first day" on Tuesdays, rather than Wednesdays.

Fascinating, eh?

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