



The Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe

POSTAL HISTORY STUDY GROUP

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SEPTEMBER 2000

BRUCE COUNTY'S SAUBLE BEACH and its Post Offices

PART III

James Kraemer

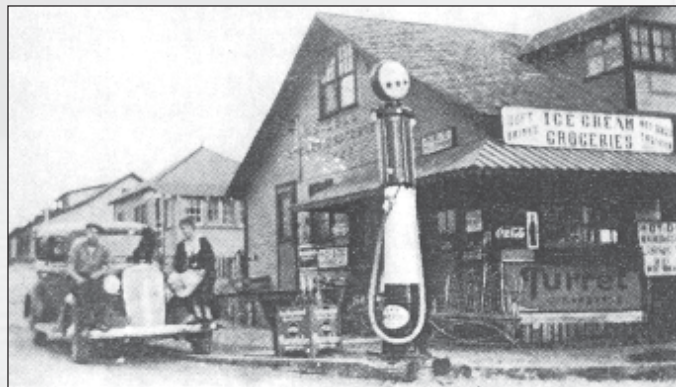
[REF. 106]

SAUBLE BEACH SOUTH (SAUBLE BEACH)

Rector Diebel bought his first lot at Sauble Beach in 1927 and built a cottage on it that same year. It was located at the entrance to the beach on what was to become the Hepworth Road. He was certain that this was where the main business section of Sauble would develop. In 1933 he turned the cottage into a general store and installed two gasoline tanks. Albert H. Knechtel of Hanover, Ontario rented the store from Diebel in 1934. The lot was described as Lot 25, Concession "D".

On July 7, 1937 W. L. Tomlinson of Port Elgin, the Liberal M.P., wrote to the Postmaster General requesting that a post office be established in Albert Knechtel's store. The District Postal Director, London, Ontario, reported that by this time there were about 75 cottages in the area. He also estimated that the summer population was about 300. Although he recommended that the establishment of a post office be withheld, the Department decided to proceed. Dr. W. A. Hall of Walkerton, a former Liberal M.P. for South Bruce was advised by letter dated July 23, 1937, that a post office would be established. Dr. Hall

Knechtel's Store, 1935.



Hector Diebel's store (1944), Sauble Beach South, later Sauble Beach. Diebel operated the post office at this location from 1944 until 1950. Note that building is same as the 1935 Knechtel store with some alterations.

had also written a letter to the Postmaster General recommending that a post office be opened in Mr. Knechtel's store.

On August 11, 1937 Sauble Beach South post office opened with Mr. Knechtel being appointed Postmaster. A non-accounting post office, number 82037, the post office was described as being 2¼ miles south of Sauble Beach post office. The new post office was served by RR#2 Hepworth. Initially, Kent Knechtel, a son, was sworn in as the postmaster's assistant. In 1939 Miss Carol Knechtel became an assistant and in 1942 Hal J. Brown, husband of a niece, Amy Knechtel, became an assistant. Mr. Knechtel developed a heart condition and on February 17, 1944 resigned as postmaster. W. R. Tomlinson, now Captain Tomlinson recommended that the post office reopen on premises owned by George Croshaw. However Hector Diebel who owned the store rented by Albert Knechtel for the past 10 years made an application for the post office advising that he would again operate the store, as a grocery store, which he had operated during the early 1930s. Lucille Tomlinson acting for her husband who was now on active service in

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Italy evaluated the applications and recommended Diebel's store since the post office was already located there.

The post office reopened on June 15, 1944 with Mr. Diebel as postmaster and his wife Mary E. Diebel as assistant. Some of the other assistants who served at the post office at various times during Mr. Diebel's postmastership were Mrs. Muriel Driffel, Mrs. Annie Walker, Louise Aiken, Jacqueline Miller, Mr. Watson Davis and Miss Shirley Woods. To better reflect its geographical position the Sauble Beach Board of Trade asked the Post Office department to change the name of the post office to Sauble Beach. Sauble Beach South post office became Sauble Beach on June 16, 1950. With the change of name to Sauble Beach, a non-accounting post office, its organizational number became 82045. After the season closed in 1951 Mr. Diebel moved the post office two stores up the street to his gift shop known as, "Aunt Mary's Gift Shop", where it opened the next season on June 16, 1952. At the same time Diebel sold his grocery store and hardware store to Messrs. Adair and Hilbert. Adair thought that the store he purchased included the post office and complained to the P.O. Department through W. F. Brown, the postmaster at Hepworth. Mr. G. E. R. Butchart the postmaster at Wiarton and Supervisory Postmaster for Sauble Beach was asked to report on the situation. He advised the Department that, "starting at the Beach there were three buildings on the south side of the Hepworth Road. The first was a grocery store, the next building was a hardware store, and the third building was a gift shop." He further advised that the post office had been moved from Diebel's hardware store to Aunt Mary's Gift Shop, a distance of about 15 feet, after the summer season closed in 1951 and



The Rainbow Gift Shop & Dept. Store and Post Office was first opened at this location in June 1955. The business was sold in the fall of 1974 and with it came the change in name as seen in this photo.

Lorne Widmeyer who owned a jewellery and gift store in Hanover purchased Aunt Mary's Gift Shop. Mr. Diebel resigned as postmaster. He advised the Department that he sold the business because of the failing health of his wife Mary. Widmeyer made application for the post office. Although Mr. James D. Juffs who purchased a meat store about 100 yards further south on Lot 4, Walker's Survey also applied for the post office, Mr. Widmeyer received the appointment. Donald B. Blue of Ripley, Ontario, the M.P. had recommended Mr. Widmeyer. Widmeyer changed the name of the shop to "The Rainbow Gift Shop". When the post office opened for the season on June 15, 1955, Lorne Widmeyer's wife, the former Ruth Weppeler was his assistant. During the following 19 years the number of cottages increased at a fast rate. Post office revenue which was \$738.88 in 1946 increased to over \$2,000.00 in 1955. In 1970 revenue passed the \$3,000.00 mark and by 1980 it was over \$4,000.00. In 1948 the postmaster's remuneration was \$480.00 plus \$50.00 rental allowance. In 1957 when the rental allowance was discontinued the postmaster received \$864.55. This increased to \$1,400.00 for the 1963 season. The post office which was classified as a Grade 3 office, was reclassified as a Grade 4 office in 1970.

In a letter dated March 22, 1972 the local business men petitioned the Post Office Department to be allowed to use the designation, Sauble Beach rather than RR#2 or RR#1 Hepworth in their business address. Since the three Sauble post offices were summer offices the Department explained it could not agree to a change but suggested that the second line of the address could read, Sauble Beach. Unofficially, thousands of letters sent each summer to cottage owners and vacationers on the beach rarely included RR#1 or RR#2 in their address.



South side of Main Street, Sauble Beach. The Mercury pick-up truck is parked in front of Aunt Mary's Gift Shop. [Post card view B1 from a Sauble Beach post card fold-out produced by the Photogelatine Engraving Co. Ltd., Toronto]

reopened in June 1952. Therefore it could not be considered as associated with Diebel's grocery store or his hardware store when they were sold. Mr. Diebel continued to operate the post office until April 1955. At this time



Sauble Lodge post card mailed from **SAUBLE BEACH** post office June 27, 1950 just eleven days after the name change.

The 23-mm CDS was in use throughout the life of the Sauble Beach post office.

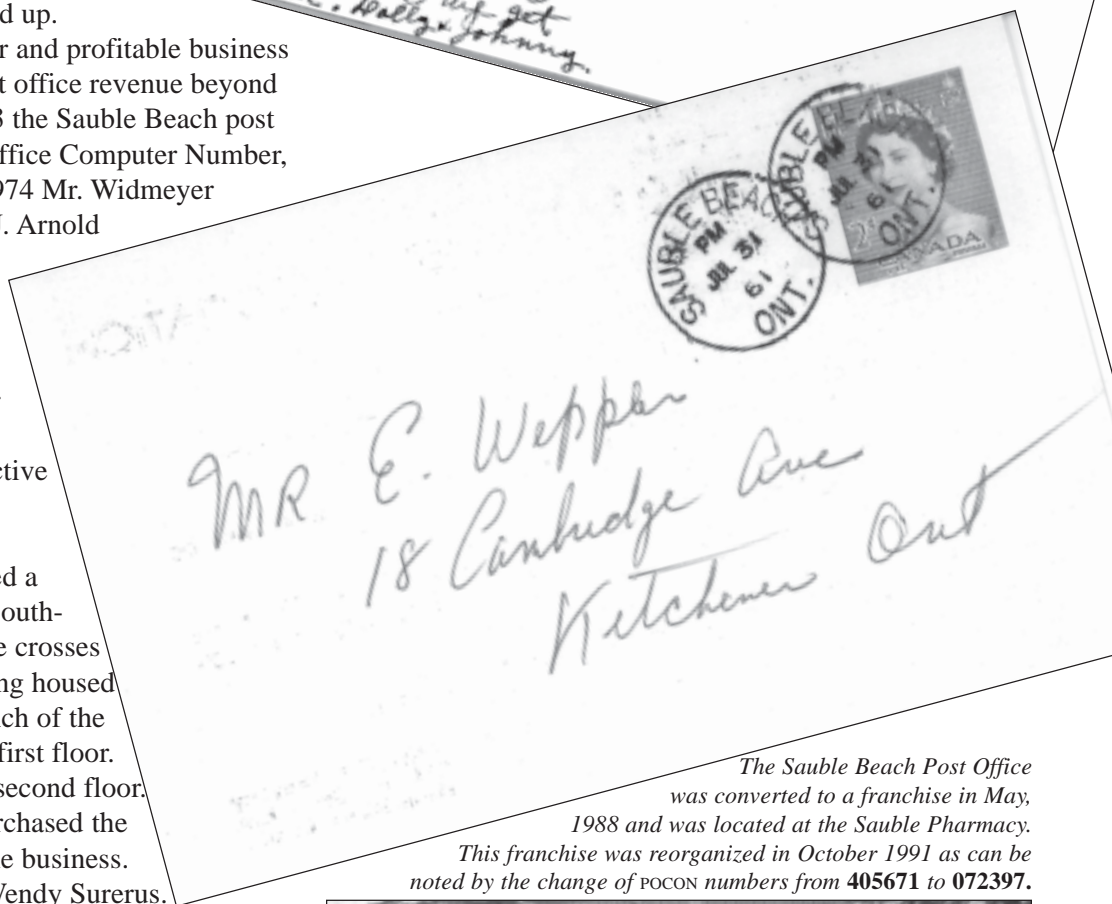


They arrived at the respective post office where they were usually picked up.

Mr. Widmeyer ran a popular and profitable business for 19 years. He increased post office revenue beyond expectations. On April 1, 1973 the Sauble Beach post office was given a new Post Office Computer Number, POCN 396192. In the fall of 1974 Mr. Widmeyer sold the business to Harold F. J. Arnold of Kitchener, Ontario. The name of the business was changed slightly to, "Rainbow Gift Shop and Department Store". Mr. Arnold applied for the postmaster's position and received his appointment effective June 16, 1975. His wife Reta acted as his assistant.

Lorne Widmeyer constructed a large modern building on the south-east corner where First Avenue crosses the Hepworth Road. The building housed a Real Estate office and a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada on the first floor. A large apartment was on the second floor. Ten years after Mr. Arnold purchased the Gift Shop he decided to sell the business. The purchaser was Jack and Wendy Surerus. When the seasonal post office opened on April 15, 1986, Jack Surerus was the Postmaster. The building's address was 104 Main Street. At the end of the summer season the post office closed for the winter for the last time on September 9, 1987.

The Sauble Beach post office was relocated to Sauble Pharmacy, 319 Main Street, on May 9, 1988 at which time it was converted to a private sector operation as a Retail Postal Outlet. The new Sauble Beach R.P.O. became a year-round operation. At the present time, (2000), the post office is still located in the Sauble



The Sauble Beach Post Office was converted to a franchise in May, 1988 and was located at the Sauble Pharmacy. This franchise was reorganized in October 1991 as can be noted by the change of POCN numbers from **405671** to **072397**.



Pharmacy. Since October 28, 1991, the Post Office has been serviced by the Warton Post Office.

The postmasters of Sauble Beach South and Sauble Beach, as well as their periods of service are as follows:

SAUBLE BEACH SOUTH

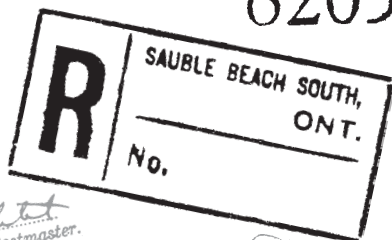
Post Office established: Aug. 11, 1937

Non-Acct. Post Office N° 82037 Aug. 11, 1937 until June 15, 1950

Albert Huunstein Knechtel Aug. 11, 1937 until Feb. 17, 1944 [RESIGNED]

Hector Diebel June 15, 1944 until June 16, 1950

[Post Office name changed to **Sauble Beach** June 16, 1950]



82037

Albert Huunstein Knechtel
Postmaster.

Hector Diebel
Postmaster.

Canada Post Corporation		Société canadienne des postes	
Office Date Stamp		Timbre à date du bureau	
405671 SAUBLE BEACH/HEPWORTH R.P.O. / R.P.O. No. 1 14 SEP 1988 SAUBLE BEACH, ONT. N0H 2G0		Receipt Reçu Received in payment for Postage Supplies	
		Reçu en paiement d'articles d'affranchissement	
		\$ 3.50	
		Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	
		41-016-020(5-85)	

A receipt issued at the SAUBLE BEACH/HEPWORTH RPO 1.

SAUBLE BEACH

Non-Acct Post Office N° 82045 June 16, 1950 until Sep. 16, 1972

P.O. Computer Office N° 396192 effective April 1, 1973

Post Office Postal Code N0H 2G0

Hector Diebel

June 16, 1950 until Apr. 23, 1955 [RESIGNED]

Lorne Fred. Widmeyer

June 15, 1955 until Sep. 14, 1974 [RESIGNED]

Harold F. J. Arnold

June 16, 1975 until Sep. 14, 1985 [RESIGNED]

Jack Surerus

June 15, 1986 until Sep. 9, 1987

Post Office closed

Sept. 9, 1987

The SAUBLE BEACH Franchises

SAUBLE BEACH/HEPWORTH RPO 1, N° 405671

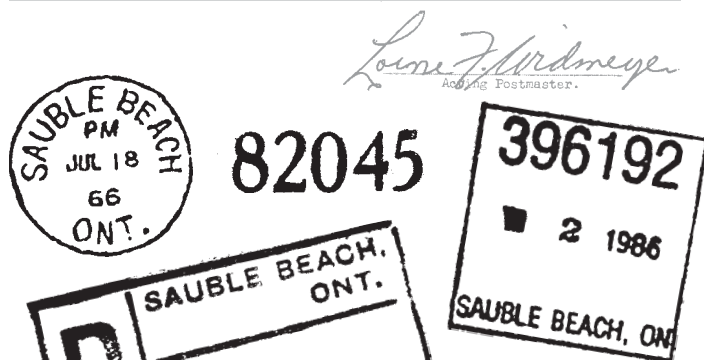
(Sauble Pharmacy), May 8, 1988 until Oct. 27, 1991

SAUBLE BEACH RO, N° 072397 (Sauble Pharmacy)

effective Oct. 28, 1991

Postmistress: X. Snyder

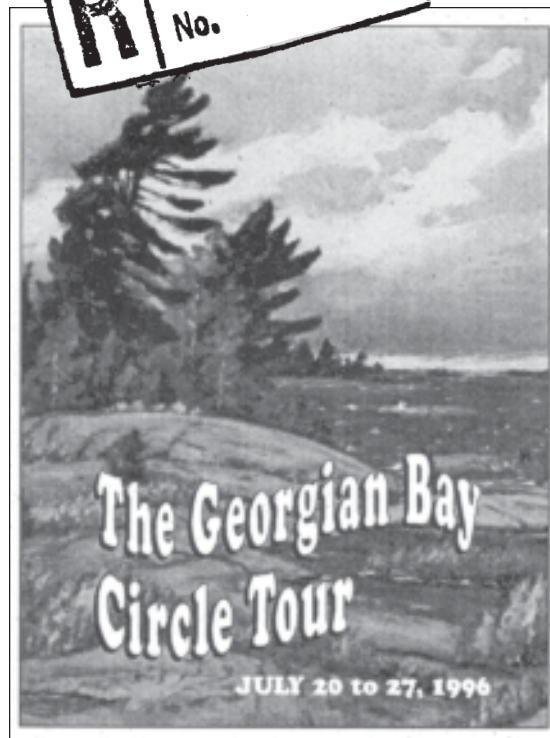
(1999)



82045



Lorne F. Widmeyer
Acting Postmaster.



This post card was mailed from the **Sauble Beach RO** post office located at Sauble Pharmacy.

Note the last day use of the large handstamp and first day use of the new small handstamp.

Eugenia

Artemesia Township
GREY COUNTY

PART 2

Contributed by members of
the GBD&S Study Group

The Purdy era ended in April, 1893. Until sometime in the early 1880s the only known hammer was the 20-mm A2x with its many creative variations of dates. However, on February 2, 1880 a new 21-mm hammer with 9-mm arcs was



Eugenia Falls Lodge, Eugenia, Ontario, Canada – EF1



Eugenia Falls in Winter, Ontario, Canada – EF3

Two post cards, printed by the Photogelatine Engraving Co. Ltd., Toronto, were published by the owner of the Eugenia Falls Lodge in the 1940s.

EUGENIA ONT. / JUL 4 / 1935

This 20-mm hammer, **round O**, and 9-mm arcs does not correspond to Bruce Graham's listing.



proofed. Earliest recorded date was FE 1 1892. A much earlier use of this hammer with an ornate year slug of 1883 is shown on page 140 of this Newsletter. This hammer comes in two variations: [a] typeset date; and [b] the ornate year slug.

The single-line cork **EUGENIA** was used as early as March 1876 (see page 140). Unfortunately the few known covers using this cancel are not dated, and most examples of this cancel are found on loose stamps.

The last of the four recorded split circle hammers is listed in Bruce Graham's work as A1, 20.5-mm, 9.0-mm arcs, different "G" and a "U" with a rounded base.

The "O" in ONT. is shown as condensed. If this hammer is correctly described, then the accompanying OC 21 1931 strike and the *Campana* cover show a different hammer. The OC

21

1931 strike is A1,

20.5 mm, 9 and 8.5-mm arcs

respectively, and the "O" in ONT. is *round*.

The clue is in the shape of the "O". We would appreciate seeing the condensed "O".

Our discussion of Eugenia in the 20th century will conclude with the next issue.

*Campana Corporation Limited
4 Caledonia Road
Toronto*



Oh! **HECTOR** **Wasaga Beach** Sunnidale Twp. Simcoe County

by Bob McCabe

[REF. 108]

Our story begins on June 1, 1912 when the Post Office of **HECTOR** was opened for business, as a summer office. The first postmaster was Mr. Harry Wilcox.

Situated at the mouth of the Nottawasaga River, Hector had the best of both worlds, bathing in the warm, shallow waters of Georgian Bay, as well as boating and fishing in the River. Among its distinctions it now boasts the longest fresh water beach in the world – 14 kms long. The present town of Wasaga Beach has a population of 12,500 persons, and many more vacationers and visitors during the summer months.

We have no record as to the subsequent opening and closing dates for this office, but if others are any indication, it opened around June 1, each year and closed in early to mid-September.

Only one cancelling device is known for **HECTOR**, it is a split, or broken circle that was proofed on JUN 16 / 1912, a type A1 hammer, 19.5 mm in diameter, with arcs of 9.5 mm on either side.

Following the death of Harry Wilcox, in December 1914, a Mr. George Wilcox became postmaster, assuming his position on July 1, 1915. He resigned the post on May 26, 1916, when Mr. D. A. McLean was then appointed postmaster on June 15 of that year.

The Post Office was renamed **WASAGA BEACH** and opened as a summer office on July 2, 1923. The office retained this status until October 1, 1959 when it became a full-time Post Office. Mr. McLean remained as postmaster until his death in July of 1935.

The first hand cancelling device used by the new office was a split circle hammer which was proofed on JUN 29 / 1923, also a type A1



PROOF STRIKE

Postcard view of the Wasaga Beach Municipal Building and Post Office.

[pub. by Royal Specialty Sales, 118 Queen St. E., Toronto, Ont.]

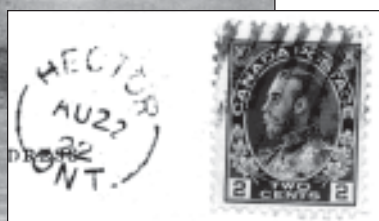
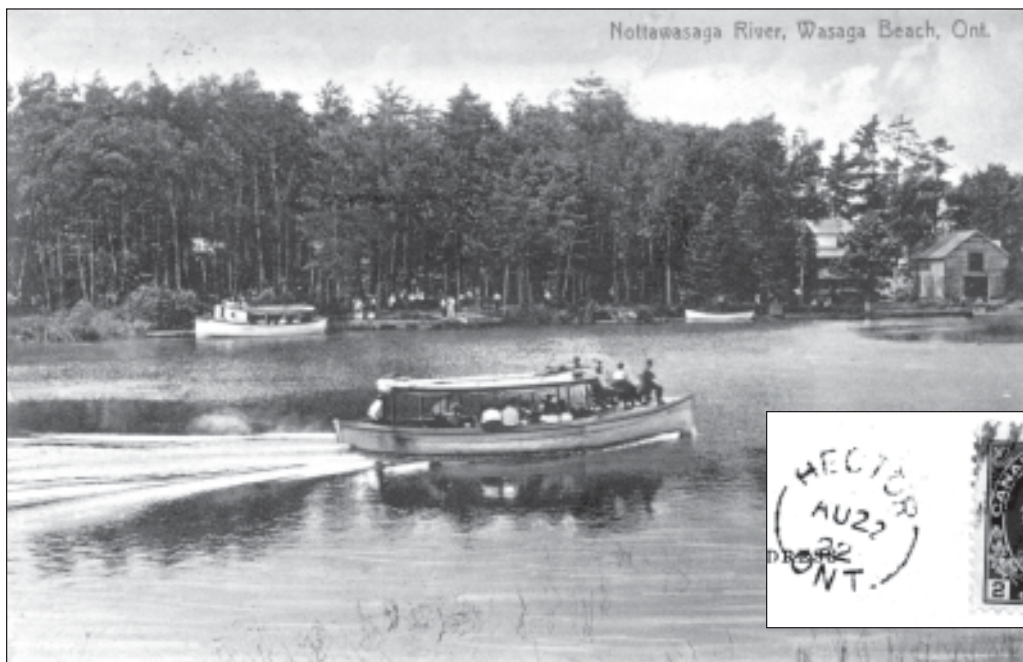


hammer. It was 21.0 mm in diameter, with arcs of 5.5, and 6.0 mm per side respectively.

The earliest reported date of the split circle is JU 11 / 23, which preceeded the proof date by 18 days, it is more likely to be JY 11 / 1923, which is 9 days after the office opened. Perhaps the JU slug comes from the **HECTOR/ONT** hammer? The proof strike for **WASAGA BEACH/ONT** contains a slug of JUN not JU, so perhaps this date may be JY not JU. Perhaps the postmaster of

the time got confused and inserted the JU slug instead of the JY slug. The latest date is reported as JY 17 / 1946.

A duplex hammer was proofed on AM / JUL 3 / 1931, (designated DON-1918), this hammer is a type II duplex, that measured 24.0 mm in diameter, a



Nottawasaga River at Wasaga Beach. Card is cancelled with only known hammer for **HECTOR**. This is a new late usage date for this A1 hammer.
(courtesy DAN McINNIS)



PROOF STRIKE
24-mm Type II duplex
Killer "O"
[DON-1918]

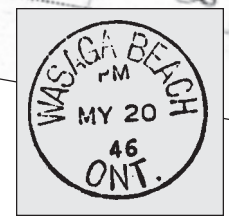
WASAGA BEACH ONT. / AU 7 / 1923
Early use of the 21-mm A1 hammer.

WASAGA BEACH ONT. / AM / JUL 30 / 1931
The new duplex hammer
seen used in the
first month

killer grid type O, having 7 wavy lines with an earliest reported date of JY 10 / 1931, and a late date of AU 5 / 1942.

Both the split circle, and duplex cancellers where in use during this period.

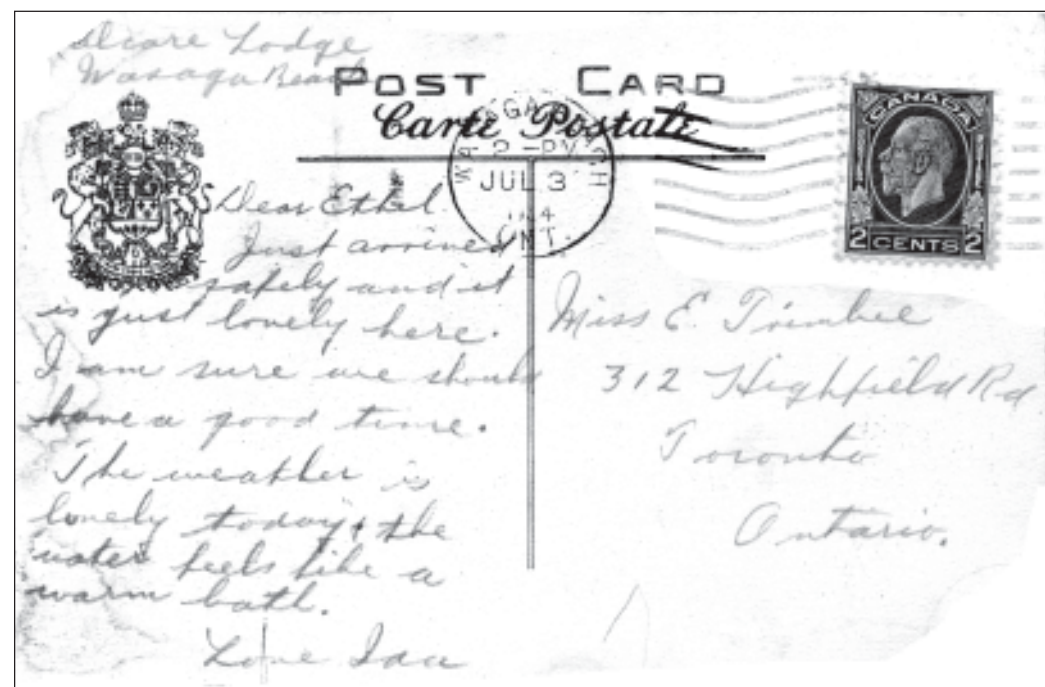
At this time the Post Office also used a machine canceller. I don't know when or where this came from, but I have a postcard franked with this cancel, WASAGA BEACH/ONT., dated 2-PM / JUL 3 / 1934, in a 22.0 mm dater hub.



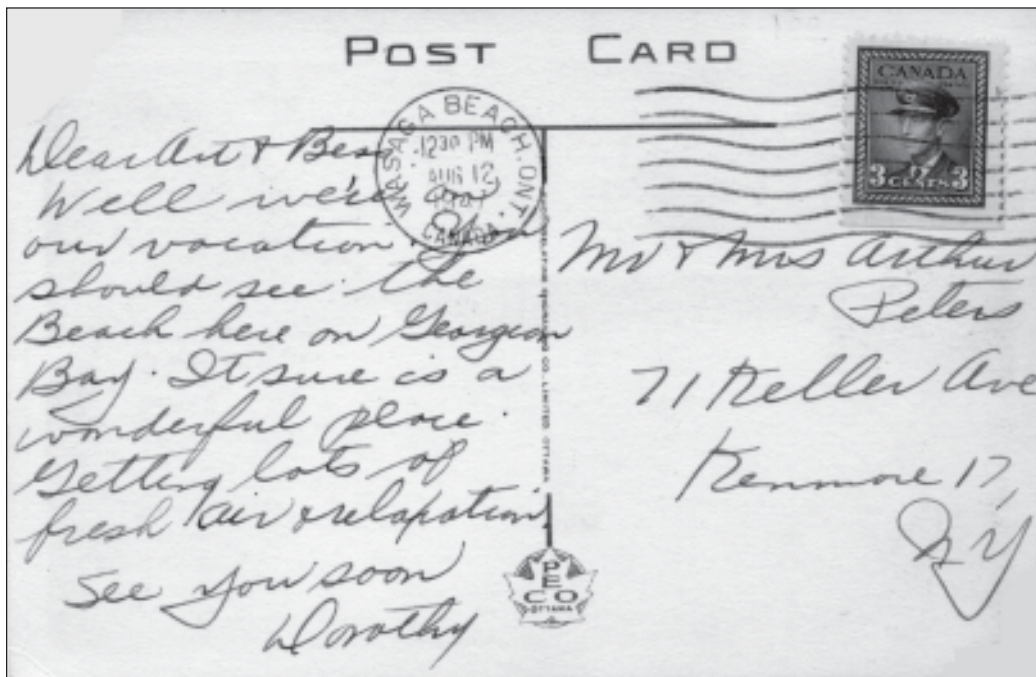
PROOF STRIKE
23.5-mm cds hammer

WASAGA BEACH ONT. / 2-PM / JUL 3 / 1934

Wasaga Beach's first known machine cancel.



On July 11, 1935, Mrs. Lora M. McLean was appointed acting postmaster for Wasaga Beach, and on July 25 assumed the position full time, where she remained until March 26, 1945 when she re-



WASAGA BEACH ONT. CANADA /
12³⁰ PM / AUG 12 / 1947

*Wasaga Beach's second known
Thompson machine cancel.*

Machine followed WASAGA
BEACH / ONTARIO dated 11
AM / 1 III / 1970. It had a
21.0 mm dater hub.

Over the next several
years there were several
acting postmasters, in 1955,

signed. The position of postmaster then was given to Mr. Frederick James Inch on June 1, 1945, a position he held until June 25, 1955, when he resigned.

There is no record as to what happened to the duplex hammer after 1942, but the split circle hammer was used after that date until JY 17 / 1946. A full circle obliterating device was proofed PM / MY 20 / 46, this hammer being 23.5 mm in diameter. Perhaps the postmaster started to use the full circle hammer. Having no records of this hammer, and no copies of my own. I don't know if it ever was put into use. If anyone in the Study Group knows anything about this hammer please let me know.

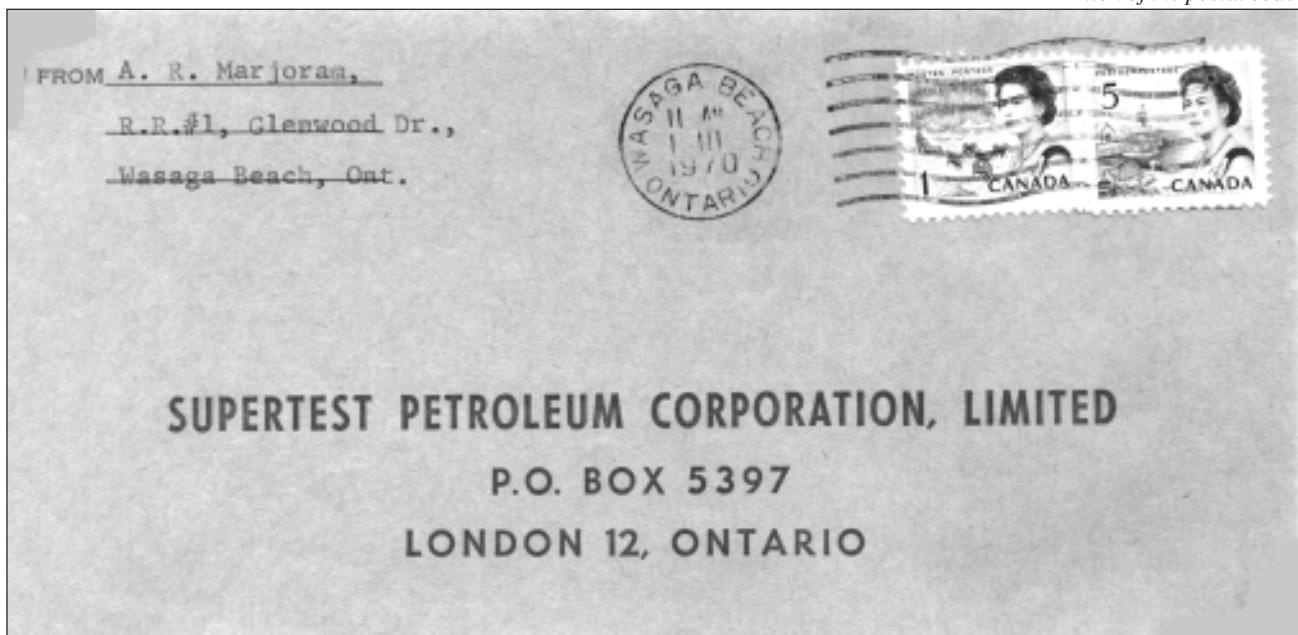
The next cancelling device was another machine canceller, with a 22.0 mm dater hub, WASAGA BEACH ONT./ CANADA dated 12.30 PM / AUG 12 / 1947. Another

John K. Richard, in 1956, James Angus Forbes, and in 1958, Frank John Reeves. Mr. Reeves was appointed postmaster on December 1, 1958 and held the post until April 2, 1972.

Hewitt M. Quick was temporary postmaster for a two-week period April 2 until April 14, 1972 when William R. A. Preston was made permanent postmaster until he was transferred to Moosonee, Ontario on January 1, 1975.

A very simple, ordinary cover, in itself can be a piece of history.

*This cover postmarked with the third machine cancel at
WASAGA BEACH ONTARIO / 11 AM / 1 III / 1970 was mailed to
Supertest Petroleum Corporation, an oil company of Canadian
heritage with an address containing a two-digit postal zone in
an urban area, a system that was in effect prior to the introduc-
tion of the postal code.*



The Wasaga Beach PO,
(May, 2000).



POCON 336203 of the
Wasaga Beach PO.



Wasaga Beach
Klussendorf cancel.

In 1974 Wasaga Beach took on a new character, the whole area surrounding the main town became known as the Town of Wasaga Beach. Brocks Beach, New Wasaga Beach, Oakview Beach, Oxbow Park, Springhurst Beach, all became part of Wasaga Beach. These constituent post offices will be reported on in the future.

On March 17, 1975 Wasaga Beach appointed a new postmaster, John M Simmons.

At the present time there are two postal outlets in Wasaga Beach, the Main Post Office at 818 Mosley St., where a Klussendorf Machine is presently in use. It also uses a POCON 336203.

There is a retail outlet located at *Gatherals Country Store*, 620 River Road West, which uses a POCON 011363. This franchise, **WASAGA BEACH RO** started up on March 14, 1990.



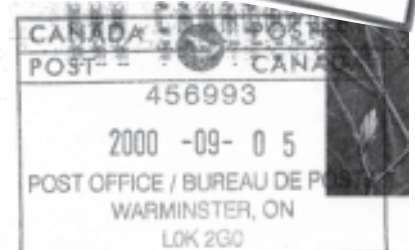
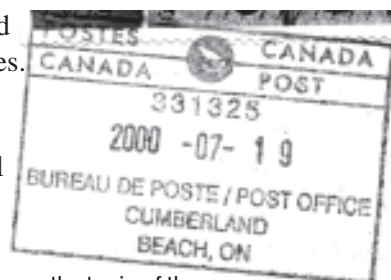
SIMCOE Notes

**A BRIEF DIGEST OF
CURRENT POSTAL
HAPPENINGS**
[REF. 109]

by Roving Reporter Dave Hanes

In recent months, Simcoe County communities have received some of the new WING cancels. Currently on record are **COLDWATER, CUMBERLAND BEACH, LONGFORD MILLS, ORILLIA RPO 1, and WARMINSTER**. In all likelihood by the time this gets in print there may well be others. Ontario has only recorded 11 of the 600 odd new cancels with the majority appearing in Quebec. All have the new WING logo of Canada Post and are also bilingual. Beyond that commonality there are a number of differences. For instance, Cumberland Beach is french/english with no postal code and Warminster is english/french with postal code. The other three all contain postal

code and have the english legend on the right and french on the left. Before its all over one WING has already been replaced.



For a much fuller discussion on the topic of the WING cancels and all the modern numbered POCONS we recommend the **Bull.Moose**, newsletter of the **Money Order Office Study Establishment**. This PHSC Study Group is chaired by Doug Murray. He may be reached at Box 693, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 7K3.

Editorial NOTES

[REF. 110]

Greetings to all of our members, readers, and most of all contributors to this Newsletter. This issue, N° 16, completes our third volume. The study group has grown from three members in February 1998 to 53 members today. Our membership is well balanced between the four counties. Our interests are equally well balanced especially with our recent good fortune of attracting three serious members from Dufferin County. As editor I feel that we have fulfilled our mandate as stated in our opening invitational letter. "Material comes from several sources, is not meant to be the definitive



This issue completes our Vol. 3, the third year of publication. It also means that most members will have to dig into their pockets and come up with another \$10 FOR DUES. If the number on

your address label ends with "-016" it means that your subscription expires with this issue. Thank you for renewing promptly.

The KINCARDINE STAMP CLUB'S Annual KINNEX 2000 STAMP SHOW & BOURSE

Saturday
October 14
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

AT THE

Royal Canadian Legion

219 Lambton Street, Kincardine, Ontario

Door Prizes • Free Admission • Lunch Booth
10 Dealers • Sales Circuit



This newsletter is the printed forum of the **Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe Postal History Study Group** affiliated with the Postal History Society of Canada. It is currently published 6 times a year: January, March, May, July, September and November. Copy deadline is 3 weeks before the 1st of the above-mentioned months.

Membership costs \$10 per year (6 issues) and is payable to the editor

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answer to any one topic but rather provide a basis for discussion." We continue to follow that dream and unless we hear otherwise it will be our continuing mandate.

I continue to encourage *all members* to contribute. Many small points may well add up to a story of importance. We strive to provide coverage for all four counties. This can only be achieved with your help.

Our membership fee of \$10 per year/six issues covers the cost of mailing. Donations of stamps, etc., help to diminish the cost of communicating with you as together we publish this newsletter. Membership lists always available for the cost of a stamp.

I encourage you to keep up your support and good work.

Gus Knierim, editor, chief cook and bottlerwasher.

PS Most of you will need to renew with this issue. Thank you for your prompt attention!



Polaris Stamps

- good stock of covers and cancels of counties
- active buyer of good philatelic material

DAN McINNIS

Box 2063, Stn A, Sudbury, ON P3A 4R8

TEL: (705) 566-0293

E-MAIL: dan.mcinnis@sympatico.ca



12-17

The Barrie District Stamp Club

39th Annual

EXHIBITION & DEALERS' BOURSE



Saturday
October 28, 2000

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

at

Sunnidale Community Centre

Sunnidale Road, Barrie, Ontario

[Take Exit 96A from Highway 400]

Free Admission • 12 Dealers

2:30 p.m. – Meeting of the GBD&S Study Group



HELP WANTED! TRADES!

ADS WILL APPEAR FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE ISSUES. • REPEATS MAY BE REQUESTED

The editor is always hungry and looking for varied and different types of material for this newsletter. No submission is too small nor too large. Share your information with other collectors for the love of the hobby. Send in a postmark, an anecdote, perhaps a letter or post card. Write up your favourite post office. Have you got an interesting advertising cover or a neat corner card that you can tell us about. Give it a try! You will be rewarded with great satisfaction.