



The Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe POSTAL HISTORY STUDY GROUP

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MAY 2001

HEATHCOTE On The Old Mail Road

[REF. 129]

James E. Kraemer with assistance from
Friends alongside the Old Mail Road

Heathcote in Collingwood Township is the eastern terminal on what remains of the old post road. The 8-kilometre long road crosses Euphrasia Township in a north westerly direction and has its western terminus at Griersville in St. Vincent Township.

EUPHRASIA

Thomas A. Stayner, the Postmaster General of the Province of Canada, wrote to The Honourable D. Daly on July 26, 1847 as follows,

*"Sir: I have the honour to report for the information of the Governor General that I have received authority . . . for establishing post offices at the following places and I have accordingly respectively to request from His Excellency nominations to the respective Postmasterships. The new offices to be opened are . . . Euphrasia, District of Simcoe – The Postmaster must reside on the main post road between Barrie and St. Vincent (Meaford), about 12 miles from the latter place."*¹

The need for a post office and the fact that William Rorke had considerable experience as a postmaster led to the Euphrasia post office being established on April 6, 1848 with Mr. Rorke as Postmaster. Euphrasia was the first settlement of any importance in the Township of Collingwood. It may seem unusual to name a post office

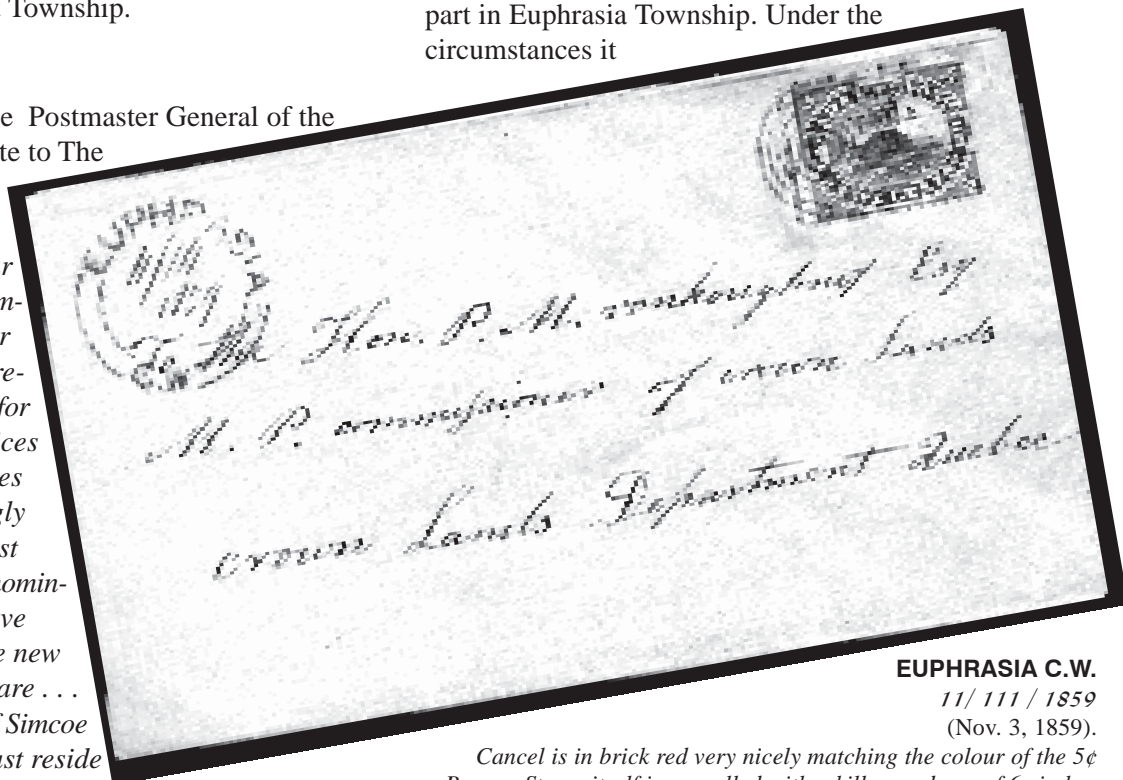
in Collingwood Township after a neighbouring township, Euphrasia. The Municipal By-law N° 75 of October 9, 1849 reads as follows,

"In respect to the attachment of certain townships to each other. . . The united townships of St. Vincent, Euphrasia and Collingwood . . ."

On August 31, 1850 Municipal by-law N° 8 was passed and reads in part,

"In respect to the attachment of certain townships – the united townships of Euphrasia and Collingwood in which the senior township shall be Euphrasia."

Part of the village was in Collingwood Township and part in Euphrasia Township. Under the circumstances it



EUPHRASIA C.W.

11/11/1859

(Nov. 3, 1859).

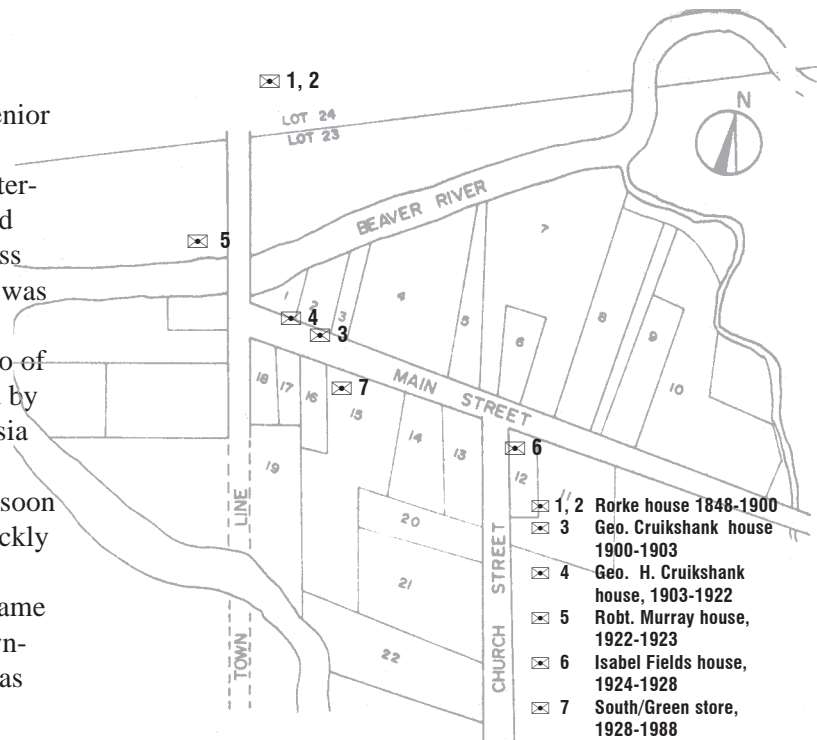
Cancel is in brick red very nicely matching the colour of the 5¢ Beaver. Stamp itself is cancelled with a killer made up of 6 circles.

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was natural that since the post office served the two townships it should be named Euphrasia after the senior township.

William Rorke came to Canada in 1822 from Waterford, Ireland. He settled in Hallowell, Prince Edward County where he became the centre of many business activities. Besides being the Crown Land Agent, he was also a merchant, a storekeeper and a postmaster. (Hallowell changed its name to Pictou in 1837.) Two of Mr. Rorke's sons, Thomas J. and George, journeyed by team and wagon from Hallowell (Pictou) to Euphrasia (Heathcote) area in 1847. They settled on Lot 24, Concession 12, Collingwood Township. They were soon joined by their father, William. A log house was quickly built on this lot. The Euphrasia post office operated from Mr. Rorke's log house. In 1850 Mr. Rorke became a Township Councillor. He took the position of Township Clerk the following year, (1851), and resigned as postmaster. Thomas J. Rorke, his son, who was the treasurer of the United Townships of Euphrasia and Collingwood since 1850 was appointed postmaster in 1851. Thomas Rorke also acted as librarian and clerk of the 4th Division Court which sat at Euphrasia.



HEATHCOTE

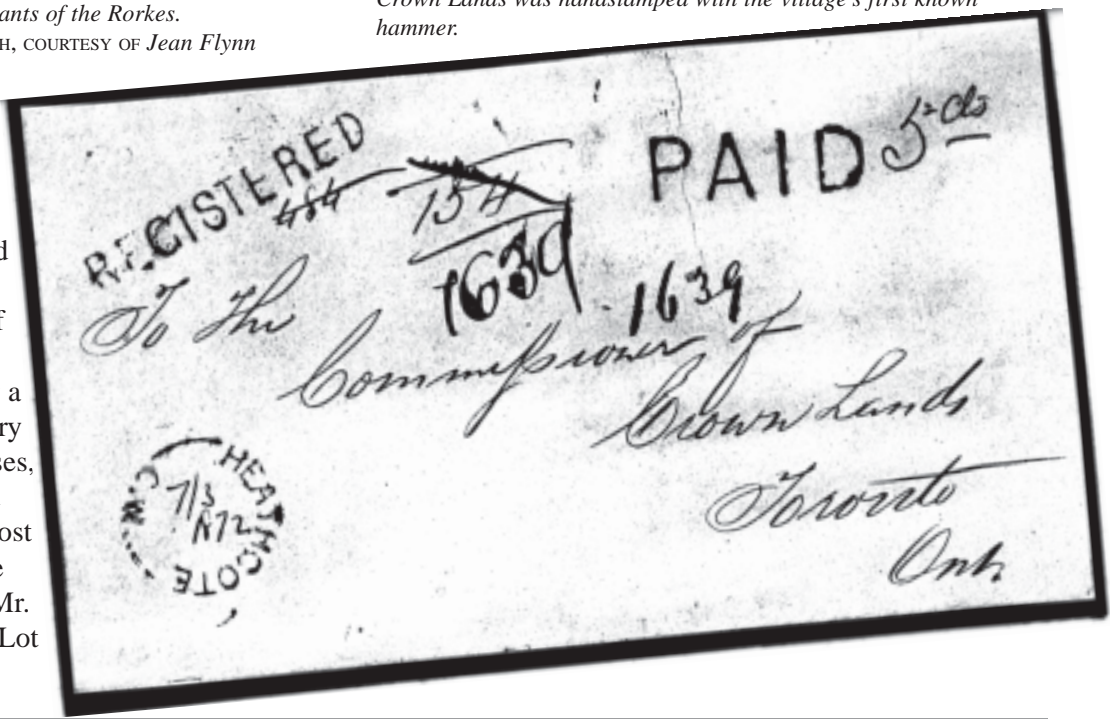
Other post offices were being opened in the area so the village fathers in 1859 decided to ask the Post Office Department to rename the post office Williamstown in order to conform to the village name. Since a Williamstown post office already existed in Glengarry County the Post Office Department asked that a new name be chosen. The Rorke family suggested the name Heathcote², which was very descriptive of the location of their house, "a cottage in the flat or scrub". The post



The Rorke homestead, home of the second post office in Euphrasia and Heathcote, from 1853 until 1900. The house is still occupied by Gerald White and his son, descendants of the Rorkes.
PENCIL SKETCH, COURTESY OF Jean Flynn

HEATHCOTE C.W / 7/ 3/ 1872

This early Heathcote registered cover to the Commissioner of Crown Lands was handstamped with the village's first known hammer.

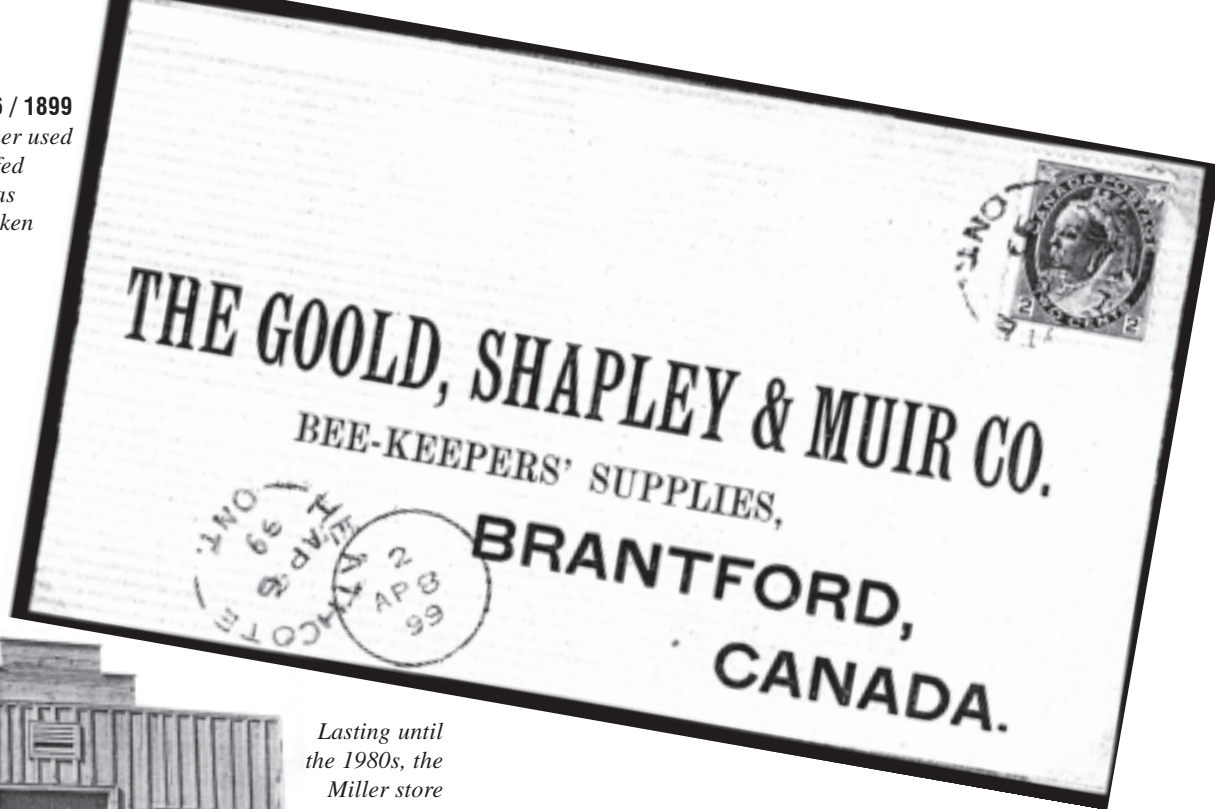


The settlement that gradually grew around the post office in the 1850s expanded rapidly into a village known as Williamstown. It was named in honour of an early settler, William Fleming, the father of Sir Sanford Fleming.

Thomas J. Rorke was now a banker, a money lender, a notary public, a general agent for leases, mortgages, a storekeeper and the postmaster. In 1853 the post office moved a short distance south from the log house to Mr. Rorke's new plank house on Lot 23, Concession 12.

HEATHCOTE ONT. / AP 6 / 1899

The 22.0-mm A1 hammer used on this cover was proofed March 23, 1880 and was Heathcote's second broken circle hammer.



Lasting until the 1980s, the Miller store which had been built about 1853, served as Heathcote's third post office under Geo. Cruikshank Sr. Still standing it has now been converted to a residence.

office changed its name to Heathcote on October 1, 1861. However the village retained the name Williamstown and did not adopt the new name until about 1874. Thomas Rorke continued as postmaster until June, 1900 when he passed away. He had served as postmaster nearly fifty years.

George Cruikshank Sr. was appointed the new postmaster on July 1, 1900 and on that day moved the post

The Cruikshank house next to the old Miller store, is said to have been home to the post office (#4) possibly after 1915 when Mrs. Hannah Cruikshank became postmaster following her husband's death.



office to his shop which was located north side of Main Street, Lot 3 on the 1944 Heathcote Survey. Mr. Cruikshank was well known having opened a carriage shop in Heathcote in 1869. He also operated a casket factory and was Secretary of the School Board, Union School Section No, 4. When Mr. Cruikshank died on April 30, 1903 his son George Cruikshank Jr. took over the post office and operated it for 11 years until his death on February 9, 1914. In this time period the post office moved to the house just west of the Cruikshank shop (Lot 2 on the 1944 survey).

Mrs. Hannah Cruikshank, wife of George H. Cruikshank was appointed to the postmaster's position on May 18, 1915, a post she held for seven years until 1922 when she resigned.

In this time period there is some confusion between who is postmaster and who were postal clerks. Minnie Hetherington was the clerk that handed out the mail.



Still standing in the year 2001 is the home of Robert Murray and the location on the Euphrasia side of Heathcote's fifth post office.



HEATHCOTE ONT. / JUN 3 / 1911

Post Card mailed from Heathcote to Dufferin County's Amaranth Station. It is struck with the third 19.5-mm broken circle hammer.

Mrs. Ernest Beer and Robert Murray, postmaster 1922-1923, in front of the grist mill in Heathcote.

PHOTO COURTESY OF Jean Flynn



Florence Cruikshank took over after her father died while Minnie continued to help Florence. At the same time William Harris operated the store. All this took place while officially Mrs. Hannah Cruikshank was postmaster. She resigned from the position in 1922.

Her successor was Robert Murray, postmaster from October 22, 1922 until November 12, 1923. Mr. Murray's assistant, Mrs. Isabel C. Fields carried on the post office business. She was officially appointed postmistress on January 2, 1924. In 1928 she resigned.

Robert Murray lived in the house on the west side of the townline and the north shore of the Beaver River. This house is located on a ¼-acre parcel of land on the SE corner of Lot 24, Conc. 1 in Euphrasia Township and with his appointment the post office moved to his house in 1922. It in effect became the fifth location for the Heathcote post office. In the mid-1920s Robert Murray bought the Dr. J. F. McKee's house (Lot 12 on the 1944 Survey) when the doctor moved his practice to Thornbury. Once again the post office moved. This became the sixth location.

Charles H. South purchased the store on Lot 15 (see

1944 survey) in 1925. This store had been built in 1869 by William Hewish. When Mrs. Fields resigned the postmastership in 1928 Charles Smith applied for the position and received the appointment on May 16, 1928. He immediately moved the post office to his store. Sworn in as assistants were Catharine South and Viola Armstrong. In 1932 Viola Armstrong, Katherine L. Armstrong, George C. South and Mrs. H. L. South were shown as assistants. In 1938 ownership of the store was transferred to George C. South, a son of Charles. Charles South remained postmaster. Post Office revenue in 1939-40 was \$387.27. The postmaster's salary amounted to \$325.54 In January 1940 Savings Bank business was established at the Heathcote post office. Revenue in 1945-6 had increased to \$761.00. Due to ill health and being 77 years old Charles H. South tendered his resignation as postmaster on September 29, 1947.

The store was sold to Harry Green who had been postmaster at Avening, Ontario for more than 25 years. Green renamed the store, *Harry Green & Sons*. On October 31, 1947 the post office was transferred to him on a temporary basis. The appointment was made permanent on January 30, 1948. The position had been advertised but only Mr. Green applied. During the 1940s



All of Heathcote's doctors occupied this home at one time or another, the last being Dr. J. F. McKee, who sold the house to Robert Murray, Heathcote's sixth postmaster.



HEATHCOTE ONT. / FE 26 / 1927
The fourth 20-mm broken circle hammer was proofed May 6, 1924.

Built in 1867 by William C. Hewish, this photo shows the store in 1909 under the proprietorship of R. Conn & Son. It became the post office from 1928 until 1988 under the stewardship of Charles South, Harry, Vernon and Ted Green. Since 1988 it has been the base for the community mail boxes as seen in the photo below.

post office assistants were Charles Vernon Green (son of Harry), Annie G. Green, Otto E. Baker and M. Baker. During Mr. Green's ownership of the store major renovations were carried out and additions added to the building. Saving Bank business was withdrawn on August 15, 1949. Ten years later the Post Office Department advised Mr. Green that due to his age, (he was 72 on November 19, 1959), they planned to appoint his son Charles Vernon Green as postmaster. As of February 1, 1960, Charles Vernon Green was officially the new postmaster. During this period the Heathcote post office was under the supervision of the Meaford postmaster.



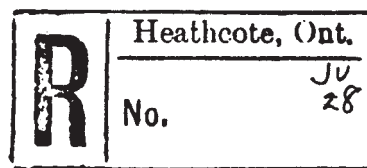
Charles Vernon Green relinquished the reigns of postmastership to his son Edward (Ted) Green in 1985. Ted Green remained postmaster until the close of the office on April 29, 1988.

In its effort to assign numbers to post offices, the Post Office department gave Heathcote the following numbers: 3164 (MOON); 392103 (POCON); and N0H 1N0 (POSTAL CODE). The size of the office may be judged by the fact that 1973 revenue amounted to \$1,526.00 and the February 2000 householder count is 56, including 4 businesses and 1 rural route handled by the RR#1 Kimberley rural route contractor.



Although the normal steel hammers have been well documented, the story is different for the rubber handstamps – here there is a great possibility to discover other devices. The known proofs are shown herewith.

The story does not end here. Heathcote as a postal address with its postal code of N0H 1N0 continues to this day. Service is now provided by the RR#1 Clarksburg rural route contractor by means of community mail boxes as seen in the photo above.



HEATHCOTE ONT. / IV 28 / [1988]
The last day of postal operations was April 28, 1988. The year plug had been mislaid or simply lost. This 24-mm cds hammer had been proofed September 18, 1940.

REFERENCES:

- [1] Public Archives, Record Group 3, Series 1, Vol. 8 P.334/5
- [2] G. L. White, Heathcote, Ontario.
- [3] Dorothy Crysler
- [4] Jean Flynn
- [5] *An Illustrated History of Collingwood Township*, Council of the Township of Collingwood, 1979.
- [6] *Euphrasia: Glimpses Past & Present*. Euphrasia Historical Society, 1989.
- [7] *Euphrasia II: Fascinating Glimpses of the Life in the Township*. Marjorie Alderdice, 1996.

POSTMASTERS OF HEATHCOTE

William Rorke	April 6, 1848 until 1851
Thomas J. Rorke	1851 until 1900 [Death]
George Cruikshanks, Sr.	July 1, 1900 until Apr. 30, 1903 [Death]
George H. Cruikshanks	June 1, 1903 until Feb. 9, 1914 [Death]
Mrs. Hannah Cruikshank	May 18, 1915 until 1922 [Resignation]
Robert Murray	Oct. 22, 1922 until Nov. 12, 1923 [Resignation]
Mrs. Isabel C. Fields	Jan. 2, 1924 until Apr. 19, 1928 [Resignation]
Charles H. South	May 16, 1928 until Sep. 29, 1947 [Resignation]
Harry Green	Oct. 31, 1947 [Acting]
Harry Green	Jan. 30, 1948 until Jan. 31, 1960
Charles Vernon Green	Feb. 1, 1960 until 1985
Edward Green	Jan. 26, 1985 [Temporary]
Edward Green	until closing of post office April 30, 1988

POST OFFICE BUILDINGS ON POST CARDS

Nº 11 in a Series

HAWKESTONE
Robt. C. Smith

[REF. 130]

HAWKESTONE / ONT. In addition to the duplex mentioned above, a Lee type S-7 was proofed on May 29, 1953. A moro handstamp was proofed on July 31, 1936.

The nearest house on this real photo card has a sign reading HAWKESTONE / POST OFFICE between its two upper windows. This post office was opened under the name Hawkstone on June 1, 1856 with Charles Young Bell as postmaster, the name being corrected to Hawkestone some time in the 1870s. It was located in Oro Township, Simcoe County, near Lake Simcoe. The card is postmarked with the HAWKESTONE / ONT. duplex (Lee type B-11) on July 12, 1922, during the 1909 to 1944 postmastership of Mrs. Thomas A. Stone, the tenth Hawkestone postmaster; the large sign over the porch in fact reads T. A. STONE / GENERAL MERCHANT.

Bruce Graham lists three different postmarks for this office in his book; one is a HAWKSTONE / U.C double broken circle, and the others are single broken circles reading HAWKESTONE • ONT. / CANADA and



PROOF STRIKES
< 22-mm A4 Broken Circle
proofed JA 16 1880



20.5-mm A1 Broken Circle >
proofed DE 15 1894

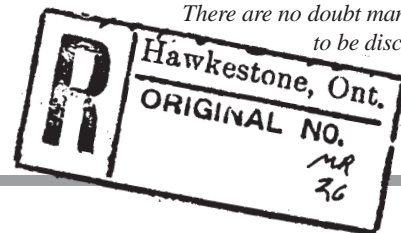
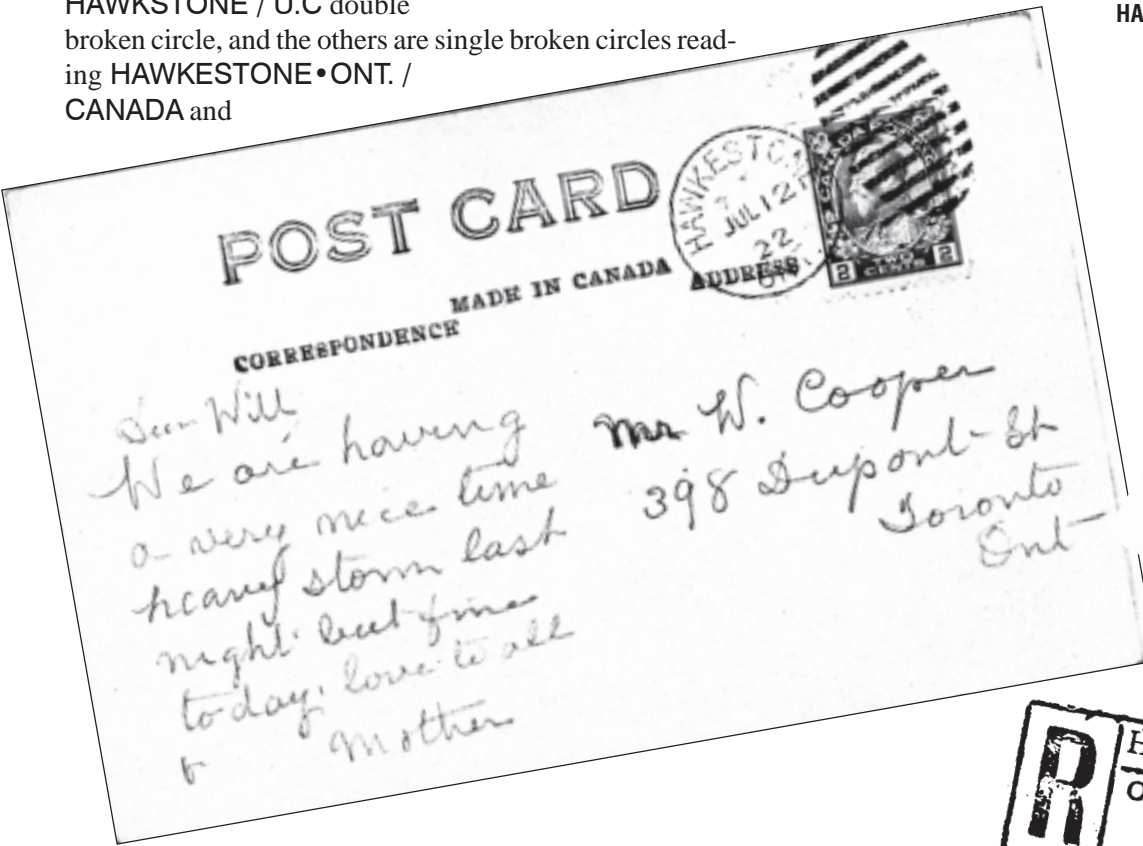
HAWKESTONE ONT. / JUL 12/ 1922

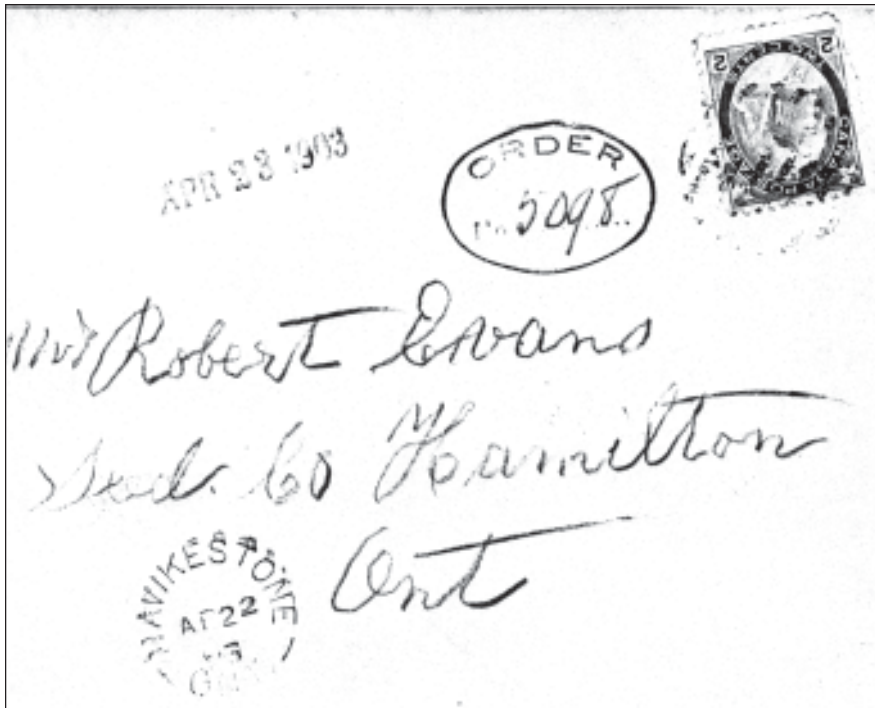
The post office was housed in the establishment of T. A. Stone, general merchant. This B-11 duplex hammer was proofed September 6, 1913.

A second S-7 duplex hammer was proofed much later on May 29, 1953.



Only one Reg. Box was proofed in March, 1926. There are no doubt many more to be discovered.





HAWKESTONE ONT. / AP 22 / 1903

A seed cover to the Robt. Evans Seed Co., Hamilton.

HAWKESTONE ONT. / MAR. 12 / 1965

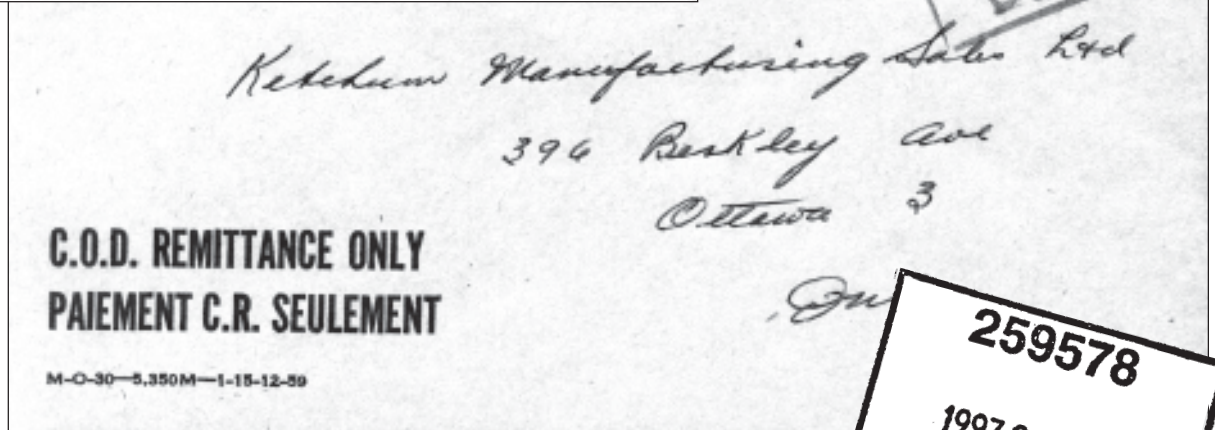
The MOTO handstamp that was proofed July 31, 1936 was used as late as March 12, 1965.

Here it is seen used in purple on a commercial envelope.



3156 / HAWKESTONE JUL 19 1962 / ONT.

This MOON strike validates a C.O.D cover. to Ottawa, Ontario.



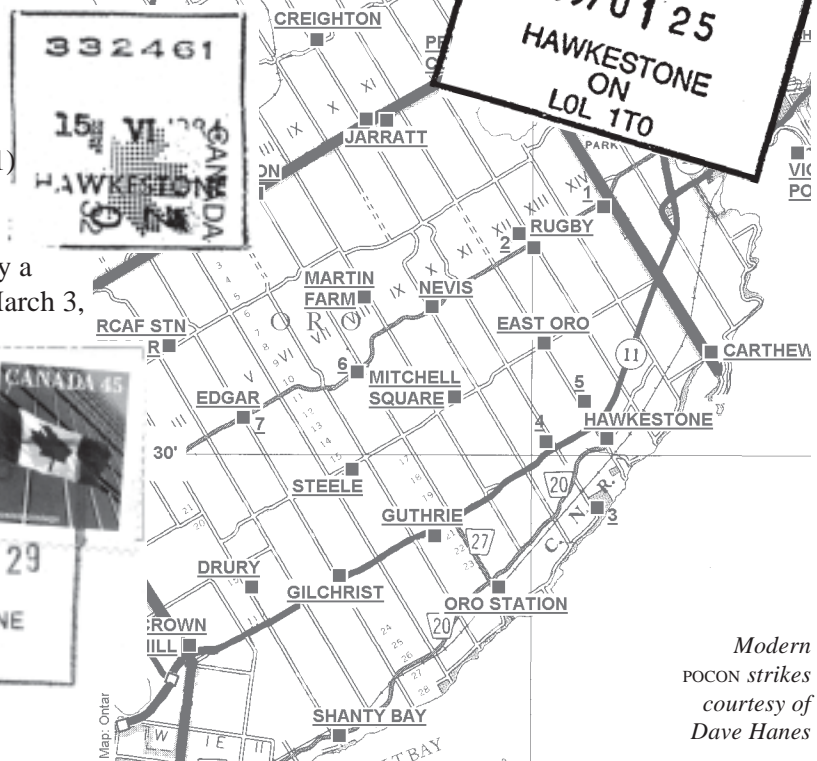
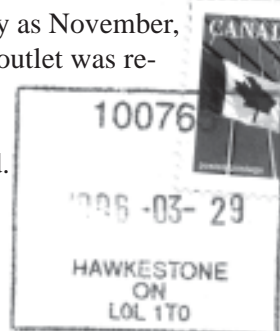
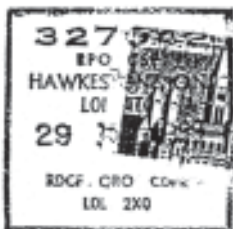
PRESENT-DAY HAWKESTONE

Although one might assume that Hawkestone has passed on into the books of history, it is still very much alive. The old post office (332461) was closed April 1, 1988 at which time the HAWKESTONE/ORO RPO was established.

This in turn was replaced by a retail Outlet (100765) on March 3, 1993.

As early as November, 1996 this outlet was replaced by one on

Conc. 11, south of the Ridge Rd. Today Hawkestone is served by the Oro Post Office which is the base for three Hawkestone Rural Routes numbering 1070 householders.



Modern POCON strikes courtesy of Dave Hanes

Celebrating the Opening
of a post office in
THORNBURY
Gus Knierim

[REF. 131]

Friday, May 11, 2001 was the *Official Opening* day of the new postal facility in Thornbury, Ontario. Not since the late 1950s had the town's citizens experienced such a splendid show of federal presence. Although moving day from the old facility on Bruce Street was the weekend of April 28, the new post office was open



The new post office on Arthur Street West.



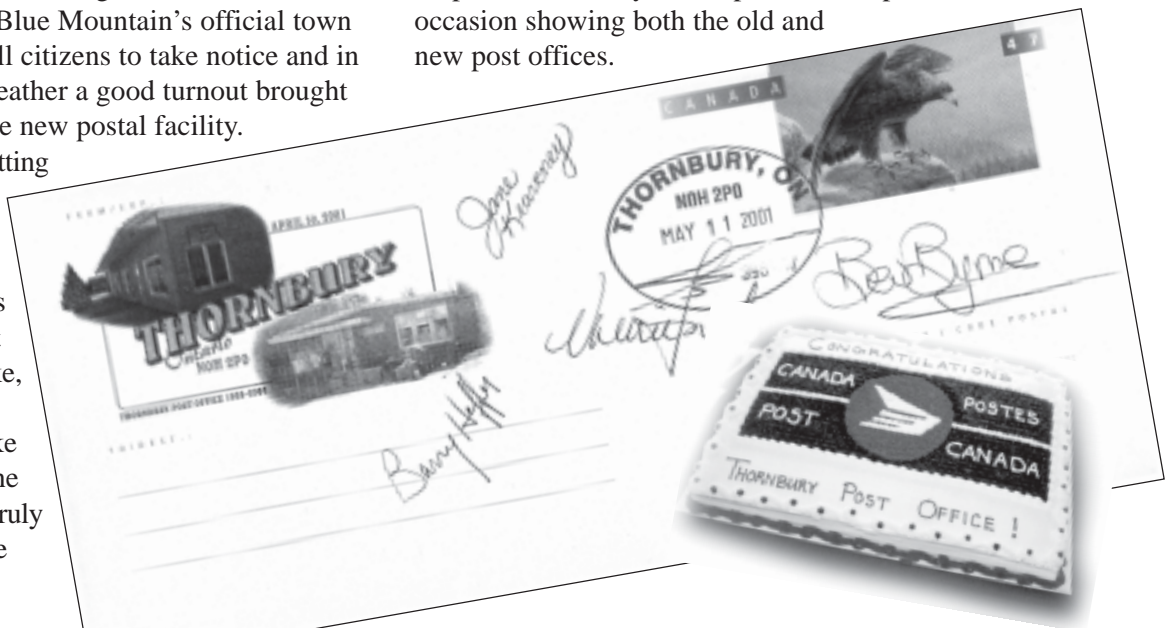
Art Lapointe, the Town of The Blue Mountain's town crier is calling all citizens. On January 1, 1999 the Town of Thornbury and Collingwood Township merged to form a new municipality.

Employees and honoured guests are present at the special moment when the ribbon of stamps was cut. Left to right: Valerie Ford; Jane Keaveney; town crier Art Lapointe; MP Paul Bonwick; Mayor Ross Arthur; Canada Post Local Area Manager David Cassidy; Postmaster Barry Heffer; and Bev Byrne.

to the public on April 30. It was an occasion with all the pomp and ceremony that such a significant event requires. The Town of The Blue Mountain's official town crier was present to call all citizens to take notice and in spite of the threatening weather a good turnout brought a festive atmosphere to the new postal facility.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony the public was invited inside to view the new expanded facility and to chat with the various dignitaries of the day. But to put the icing on the cake, refreshments were served including a wonderful cake that was decorated with the Canada Post logo. It was truly a masterpiece – if only the

adhesive on stamps would taste as good. A special 47¢ N° postal stationery envelope had been printed for the occasion showing both the old and new post offices.



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CRAIGHURST *via* NORTH SIMCOE BRANCH R.W.Y. 1887

[REF. 132]

road however by road and rail the distance was about 29 miles. Interesting cover!

One important other fact that came to the forefront after I scrutinised the addressee's name is that this cover is addressed to *J Craig* who was the former postmaster of the Craighurst post office. He resigned April 6, 1872. His successor, according to the *PORC* was Thomas Craig, appointed April 6, 1872 and resigned November 25, 1886. The post office was formerly located in the townships of Flos, Medonte and Oro. The Craighurst post office was permanently closed March 31, 1970.

J. C. Campbell & Sue Sheffield

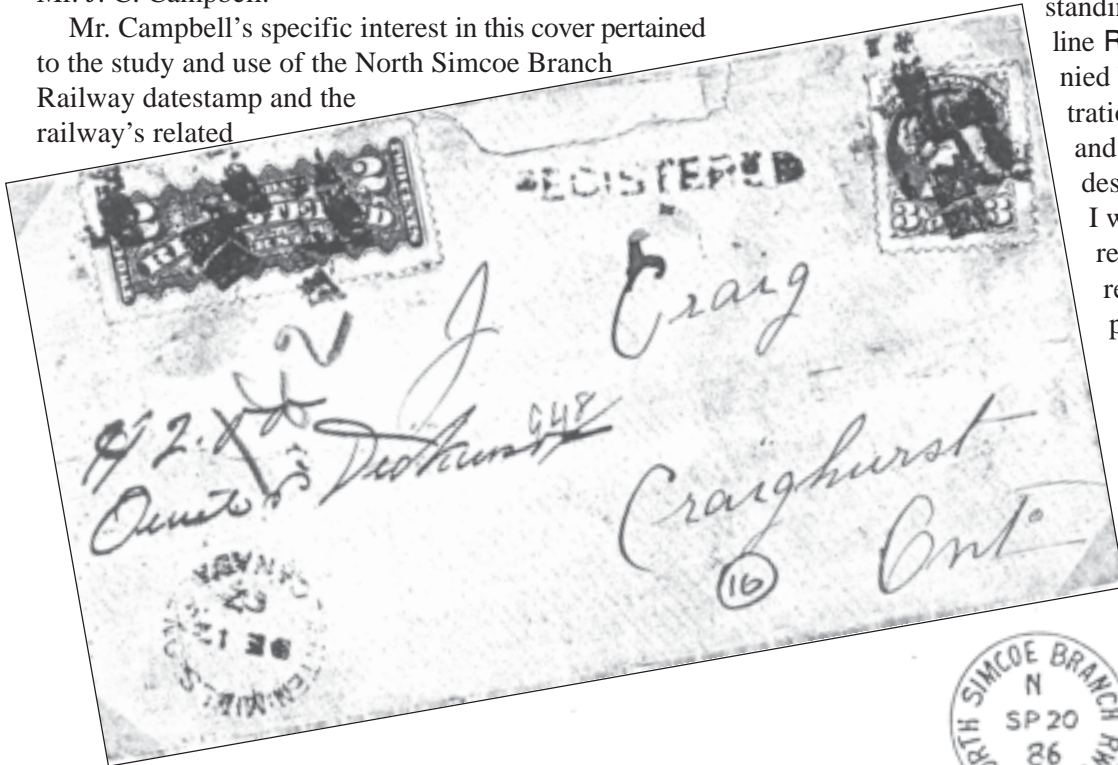
Every once in a while some very interesting or unique aspect about a cover maybe unintentionally overlooked by one collector and noted by another. This is the case in the example of a cover from the collection of Mr. J. C. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell's specific interest in this cover pertained to the study and use of the North Simcoe Branch Railway datestamp and the railway's related

standing strike of the straight line REGISTERED is accompanied by the manuscript registration numbers #182, #948 and below the place name of destination, Craighurst, #16. I wonder if this is all the registered mail that was received at the Craighurst post office by December 12, 1887?

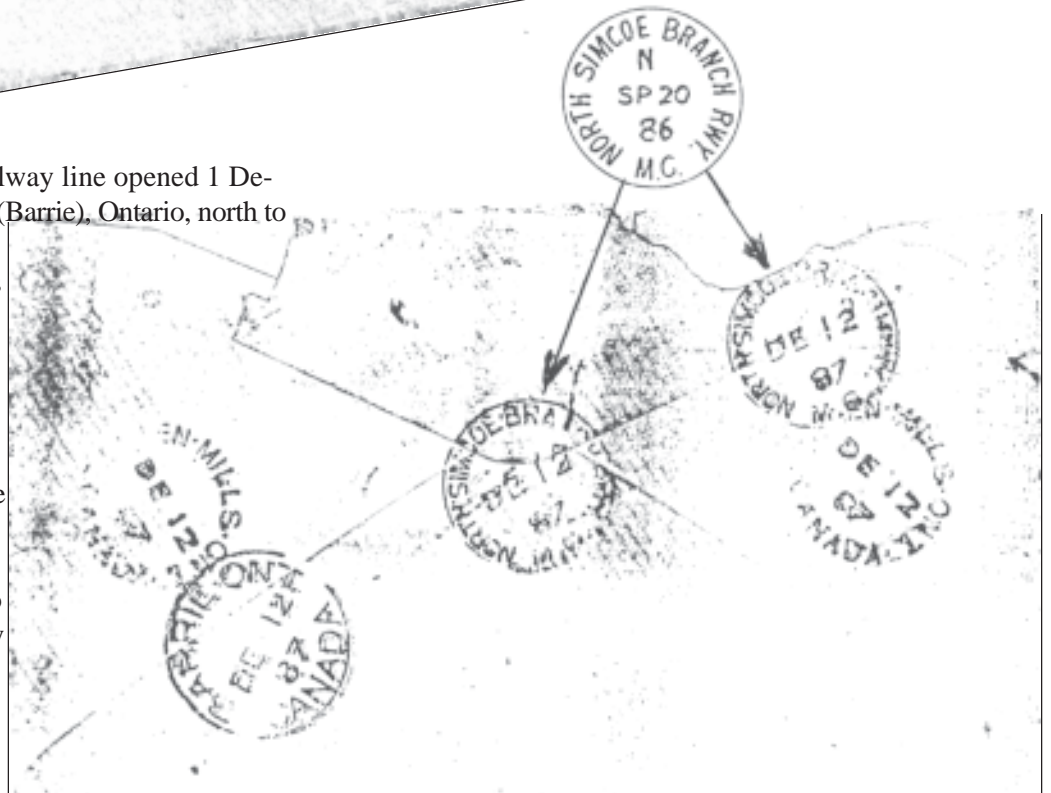
The cover is post-marked with a broken circle ANTEN • MILLS ONT / DE 12 87 and

[continued on p. 194]



history. J. C. writes, "This railway line opened 1 December 1878 from Allandale (Barrie), Ontario, north to Penetanguishene, Ontario a distance of 34 miles. Ten years later it was absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railway".

These examples are catalogued as RR-113 and are dated DE 12 87. RF is 315. Presently reported span of use is 1881 to 1891. Being a REGISTERED cover it likely contained cash. Antenn Mills to Craighurst is about 8 miles by



CRAIGHURST *via*
NORTH SIMCOE BRANCH RWY. [cont'd]

two free standing strikes on the reverse accompanied by a BARRIE ONT cds DEC 12 87 CANADA and two cds strikes of the NORTH SIMCOE BRANCH RWY M.C. N DE 12 87.

Even though the cover was roughly opened, what a gem! Special thanks to Mr. J.C. Campbell for sending this item along to me and for permission to submit it to our study group for reference. Does anyone have other examples addressed to J. Craig that could be included

in a follow-up article or any other information?

GREY

Notes

**A BRIEF DIGEST OF
CURRENT POSTAL
HAPPENINGS**

[REF. R-128]

by Roving Reporter Gus Knierim

In issue N° 19, we described at length what appeared to be a new find, that is a B2 Double Broken Circle for **Flesherton**. NOT SO!! Closer inspection and some hard detective work by Robert C. Smith proves without a doubt that this cover is in effect struck with a **Walkerton** B2. We apologize if this sent you on a wild goose chase looking for more.

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in the Counties of
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DUFFERIN & SIMCOE

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12-29

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Muskoka District Post Offices:
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by SUSAN M. SHEFFIELD

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- Soft cover, wire spiral bound,
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- ISBN 0-9681196-1-1.

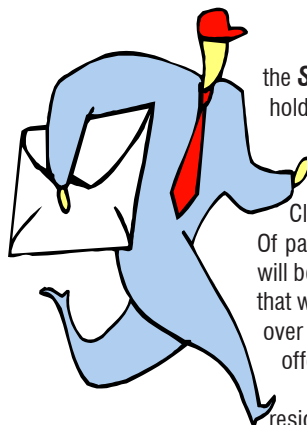
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On **Tuesday, July 3, 2001**

the **Saugeen Stamp Club in Hanover** will be holding a

"Charity Auction"

to raise money for a defibrillator for the Clifford Fire Department.

Of particular interest to Postal History Collectors will be a lot of 1000 envelopes all from the 1930s that were received at a Neustadt business from all over Ontario. They have been donated and will be offered in well described lots of 25 each.

As well, for current postmark collectors, the residents of Clifford are saving all their envelopes

from now until our meeting and the Fire Department will be delivering these for auction at the same meeting. Should be a lot of fun. This is not a special night but our regular meeting night.

Check for address and times below in CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Everyone is welcome!

If you are in our Region why not visit a
STAMP CLUB

Your Stamp Club Announcement is *free* for the asking!

BARRIE DISTRICT STAMP CLUB – Club meets on the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of the month, 7:30 p.m., at Parkview Centre, 189 Blake St., Barrie. CONTACT *Lew Metzger*, (705) 721-8354

COLLINGWOOD COIN & STAMP CLUB – Club meets on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY & FOURTH TUESDAY** of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Library, Second & Maple Sts., Collingwood. *Fourth Tuesday is the regular night.* CONTACT *Stephen Morris*

KINCARDINE STAMP CLUB – Club meets on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of the month, 7:00 p.m., at Anglican Church, 415 Russell St., Kincardine. CONTACT *John Cortan*, (519) 395-5817

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB – Club meets on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of the month, 7:00 p.m., at St. George's Anglican Church, 149 4th Ave. East, Owen Sound. CONTACT *Robert Ford*, (519) 376-4788

SAUGEEN STAMP CLUB – Club meets on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Hanover Library, 451 10th Ave., Hanover. *Peter Kritz*, (519) 364-4752; *Jim Measures* (519) 327-8265

JOIN A CLUB – SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE