



# Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE **CHALK TALK** WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

For many years I've been following the popular PBS series — "Things that aren't there anymore". It not only features historical landmarks that once existed, it also explores our emotional attachment to things from our past. I recall one episode featured a community protesting the tear-down of the local drive-in in order to build a subdivision.

This summer, I had to confront my own nostalgic feelings over the disappearance of life as it was when I grew up in the Niagara region. On a day trip with my son to enjoy the famous Maid of the Mist boat ride which takes you to the choppy whirling water at the base of the Falls, I discovered that visitors can no longer walk down the craggy rock and flora lined path which leads down the gorge to the boat dock. That natural experience has been replaced with a crowded line-up down a cement spiral ramp to an elevator. Until about 20 years ago, you could park your car beside the stone wall which divides visitors from the raging rapids at the top of the Falls. Today you have to drive to a distant parking lot and take a shuttle bus. Too bad! I also grew up enjoying Crystal Beach Amusement Park which graced the north shore of Lake Erie for over 100 years. Once boasting the world's largest roller coaster, The Comet, all that remains of it today is a crumbling pier and a patch of beach.



Whether it's Wawa, Ontario's giant Canada Goose, Sudbury's Big Nickel, Vulcan, Alberta's Starship Enterprise, Duncan, B.C.'s World's Biggest Hockey

Stick, or many similar, these historical, cultural and just plain fun landmarks that can be seen along roads across Canada will one day inform our childrens' pasts.

Stamps help commemorate history and preserve memories. This week's **Chalk Talk** provides information and useful links on the educational aspects of stamps and stamp collecting. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing access to resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Let us know your thoughts.](#)

Mary Kovack

## OCTOBER IS STAMP MONTH



Did you know that the original function of postage stamps, now often forgotten, is that the cost of letter-carrying formerly was paid by the recipient; stamps indicated it had been pre-paid by the sender, thus the letters were "carriage-free"?

Each October, Canada Post celebrates Stamp Collecting Month by issuing a variety of stamps that can help students learn more about history and the world. [Stamp Month](#) is an important part of Canada Post's commitment to promote literacy through improving reading and letter-writing skills, as well as an understanding of the workings of the postal system among children and teens. Canada Post has developed an array of fascinating [lesson guides and fun activities](#) suitable for classroom use, which can be downloaded, copied and shared.



For information on how to start a stamp club at school, check out [Postal Planet](#). **Stamp Clubs** are a popular extra-curricular activity in Canadian Schools and provide an entertaining way to learn and teach almost any subject. Last year's Canadian Stamp News poll showed that most collectors prefer to collect stamps by country (59.2%) with 21.7% by topic and only 7.4% by specialty.



For teenaged students interested in learning more about stamps and stamp collecting, Canada Post offers a ["Step by Step Collecting Guide"](#). Junior grade students will enjoy the activities and games available through [Stamp Quest](#).

[The Path of a Letter](#) (downloadable PDF) is a colourful presentation intended for junior grade student that explains the basic steps a letter follows on its way to its destination. For senior elementary students, check out [The 7 Steps of Mail Delivery](#).

Postal Planet offers a quick history of [Canada's postal system](#). For a more in-depth look, go to [The Canadian Postal Museum](#) and [The Canadian Postal Archives](#) websites.



## STAMP COLLECTING — FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Canada Post's [Stamp Collecting](#) classroom resources will help teachers across Canada put a stamp on learning.

**This is your guide to the world's most popular hobby!**

Available on the [Postal Planet](#) website, classroom presentations contain ideas on using stamps as part of planned curriculum around a variety of educational themes — history, art, geography, language and the environment. Each themed resource contains a **downloadable** poster and information for the preparation of lesson plans/activity sheets related to stamp collecting. Educators are invited to check out the following Stamp Month classroom presentations:

- [Discover Canada Through Stamps](#) (top right) offers a downloadable [poster](#) featuring a Beluga whale from the Vancouver Aquarium along with some of Canada Post's most popular stamp issues commemorating Superman, Canadian astronauts, Scouting and Winnie-the-Pooh.
- Take your class on an exciting journey of discovery with [Go Wild, Collect Stamps](#) (top left) offering a [poster](#) which features a variety of stamp issues from sunbathing snakes and North America's smallest wild dogs to wetlands and biospheres, books and movies, popular sports and intriguing stories about distant countries

[Stamp Collecting 101](#) provides an introduction to stamp collecting to help teachers incorporate stamp collecting into a lesson plan.

[Source: [www.postalplanet.ca](http://www.postalplanet.ca)]

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### What is Philately?

#### philately (n.)

"stamp-collecting," 1865, coined by Fr. stamp collector Georges Herpin (in *"Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste,"* Nov. 15, 1864), from Gk. *phil-* "loving" + *ateleia* "exemption from tax," the closest word he could find in ancient Gk. to the concept of "postage stamp" (from *α-* "without" + *telos* "tax").

### EDUCATORS/STUDENTS: **FREE** SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM CANADA POST!

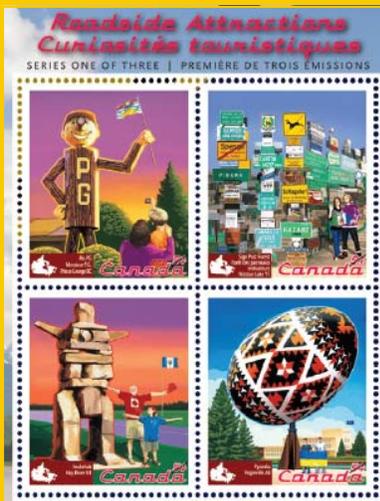
Keep up to date with what's new in stamps and collecting by [subscribing to Canada Post's free publications.](#)

**Collections** is a tri-annual magazine featuring all the latest news in stamp issues.

**Details** is a philatelist's dream - a quarterly magazine that brings you the background stories and design techniques on new stamp releases, full-colour illustrations, product descriptions, late-breaking news, technical innovations in stamp design.



[To learn more.](#)



## Wild, wacky and wonderful! Roadside Attractions Stamp Series

Quirky, creative roadside attractions thrill thousands of Canadians annually. This first set of stamps ([shown, left](#)) in a three-year series showcases four of these local highway monuments. Planning a field trip to one of these attractions? Use these stamps and collectibles to make the children's visit even more entertaining. Also, fascinating facts about these and other stamps as well as practical tips about stamp collecting can be found at [stampquest.ca](http://stampquest.ca).

### Education news and related articles

[Emperor Hadrian's auditorium found in Rome subway dig](#) -- Marta Falconi, [THE ASSOCIATED PRESS], TheStar.com, October 21, 2009

"Archaeologists on Wednesday unveiled the remains of an ancient auditorium where scholars, politicians and poets held debates and lectures, a site discovered during excavations of a bustling downtown piazza in preparation for a new subway line. The partially dug complex, dating back to the 2nd century A.D., is believed to have been funded by Emperor Hadrian as a school to promote liberal arts and culture. Known as the "Athenaeum" and named after the city of Athens, which was considered the centre of culture at the time, the auditorium could accommodate up to 200 people, experts said."

[Provincial gap in tuition fees is growing, StatsCan finds; Undergrads in Ontario pay an average of \\$6,000 a year, twice what is charged in Nfld., Quebec; students group seeks federal transfers](#) -- Elizabeth Church, GlobeCampus.ca, Globe & Mail, Oct. 20, 2009

"Tuition fees in Ontario are now the highest in the country, with undergraduates paying just shy of \$6,000 a year on average, more than double the cost for students who study in the most affordable jurisdictions – Newfoundland and Quebec. The growing gap in tuition costs across the country is reflected in new numbers from Statistics Canada. While the average increase for tuition this school year was the same as last, at 3.6 per cent, that national number masks a disparity among provinces in their approaches to fees for postsecondary education. At one end is Ontario, home to the largest proportion of Canadian undergraduates and universities, where tuition increases have been capped at 5 per cent in recent years. At the same time, other provinces have frozen fees or allowed them to rise more gradually. Nova Scotia, traditionally the province with the highest tuition levels, cut fees this year for its residents, in part in response to public pressure and students who were leaving the province for less costly undergraduate degrees in Newfoundland. Quebec has long had a two-tier tuition system, with lower rates for provincial residents."

[B.C. schools face cuts to libraries, lunch programs; Maintenance, extracurriculars had to be cut to protect core funding, Education Minister says](#) -- Justine Hunter, GlobeCampus.ca, Globe & Mail, Sept. 09, 2009

"Funds for hungry school kids, classroom computers and schoolyard jungle gyms are being cut this year in B.C., even as the province's education minister maintained yesterday the province's public school system is "well-funded." Parent advisory councils were notified yesterday that their gaming grants will be halved this year – money that goes to enrichment programs like libraries, play equipment and sports uniforms. Later in the day, gaming officials quietly unveiled cuts to a program that provides counselling and school meals to the province's most vulnerable students."... It's the latest in a round of aggressive cost-containment measures that has school officials wondering what will come next in what they are calling a funding crisis."

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We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

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