

Birmingham – Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



January 2025



Scott #5952

2025 is the Year of the Snake according to the Chinese lunar calendar. It will be celebrated around the world and is a time for cultural traditions, the promise of fortune in the new year, and family reunions. In 2025, the Lunar New Year

falls on January 29th. The Snake symbolizes wisdom, transformation, and opportunities for personal growth and change.

Notes from our club meetings –

Doug Brzak presented a check for \$225 to the club in remembrance of Chris Crossley at the request of Chris' wife, Elaine. The money to be used to pay for the club website.

Welcome new club member Jim Moore of Clarkston – He found us on the web!

President Rusch discussed preparations for our clubs upcoming show, FERNPEX 2025, on February 14th and 15th at Sokol Cultural Center. Show announcement has been published in the APS monthly journal.

Volunteers are needed for the registration desk (a great opportunity to be the first to examine incoming collections) and kitchen. Mail announcements will be stuffed at the January 21st club meeting.

Happy New Year!

Club Meetings –

January 7th and 21st, 6:00 p.m. at the NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. We meet in Room #4 at the rear of the building.

Upcoming Events –

Winterpex 2025, Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Sokol Cultural Center, Dearborn Heights

Modern Stamps Public Stamp Auction #525, January 25th, at their Oak Park facility.

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Ken Rusch, President

Fred Como, Vice-President

Phil Kwasny, Secretary

Robert Helbig, Co-Treasurer

Faisal Qureshi, Co-Treasurer

Michael Swope, Editor

Bluenose on Stamps

Walter Koster

January 8th will mark the 96th anniversary of the first Bluenose postage stamp (Scott #158). The *Bluenose* has become an iconic image - featured on seven Canadian postage stamps; on the reverse of every Canadian ten-cent coin (except those minted in 1967 and 2001); and, on the Nova Scotia license plate since 1921.



Scott #158

Designed by self-taught Canadian naval architect William Roué (1879-1970), *Bluenose* was a celebrated Nova Scotia racing ship, a hard-working fishing vessel, and a symbol of the province. In 1921, after a season fishing cod and scallops off the Grand Banks, the *Bluenose* defeated the schooner *Esperanto* of Gloucester, Maine, in a race off Halifax Harbor. Her victory returned the highly-prized International Fisherman's Trophy to Nova Scotia. During the next 17 years, no American or Canadian challenger could wrest the trophy from her.

In 1929, Canada Post celebrated her accomplishment with a 50¢ commemorative stamp, included in the King George V, Scroll Issues, Scott #149 – 159. Stare at the image long enough and the ocean waters seem to swell as the prow of the ship cuts through them. The billowing sails also seem to fill with cool salt air and the majestic *Bluenose* appears to almost sail off the edge of the page.

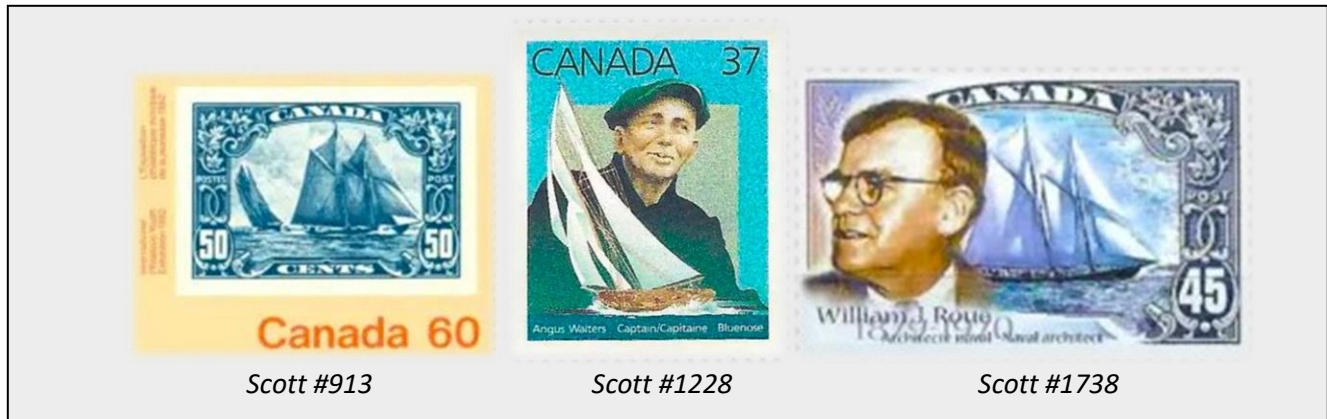
Unfortunately, fishing schooners became obsolete after World War II and, despite efforts to keep her in Nova Scotia, the aging *Bluenose* was sold as a freighter to work Caribbean waters. In 1946 she foundered on a reef and sank off the coast of Haiti. All hands were saved but the once proud *Bluenose* was wrecked beyond repair.



Scott 913a

Her daughter, *Bluenose II*, was built to original plans in 1963 and now serves as a goodwill ambassador visiting ports throughout the Eastern United States and Canada. The beauty of the original 1929 design can still be seen in a reproduction included in a souvenir sheet issued to commemorate the 1982 International Philatelic Youth Exhibition (Scott #913a).

Artist renderings also appear on a 1988, 37¢ stamp honoring her captain, Angus Walters (Scott #1228), and a 1998, 45¢ stamp honoring her builder, William Roué (Scott #1738).



In 2021, Canada Post issued two nondenominated (92¢) se-tenant permanent-rate stamps in booklets of ten depicting *Bluenose* and a fishing boat (Scott #3294) and *Bluenose* racing another schooner (Scott #3295), plus a souvenir sheet of two stamps (Scott #3293) and souvenir sheet of two stamps with a Capex 2022 overprint (Scott #3293c).



< Scott #3293

✓ Scott #3293c



Ref: Reprinted in part from author's article published in Linn's Stamp News, Vol. 82, No. 4230, November 23, 2009.

Raisin River Massacre Monument

Michael Swope



The Battles of Frenchtown, also known as the Battle of the River Raisin and the River Raisin Massacre, were a series of conflicts in Michigan Territory that took place January 18–23, 1813, during the War of 1812.

As part of a United States plan to advance north and retake Detroit, on January 18, 1813, Americans forced the retreat of the British and their Native American allies from Frenchtown (present-day Monroe). Despite initial success, during the second battle on January 22nd, the ill-prepared Americans lost 397 soldiers and 547 were taken prisoner. This was the deadliest conflict ever recorded on Michigan soil, and the highest number of Americans killed in a single battle during the War of 1812.

The Massacre Monument was erected along the banks of the Raisin River in Monroe and dedicated in 1904. The featured post card was published by A. W. Munch of Monroe in 1935. It is franked with the 1¢, green, Washington (Scott #804) and was cancelled at Monroe on August 21, 1939.



Ref: Battlefields.org; Wikipedia.org