

# Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



## September 2024

The month of September has many celebrations, including Labor Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; Patriots Day on the 11<sup>th</sup>; and Uncle Sam Day on the 13<sup>th</sup>. But don't forget National Gold Star Mother's Day on the 9<sup>th</sup>; and most importantly, Wife Appreciation Day on the 15<sup>th</sup>.



*Scott #3259*

### Notes from our club meetings:

Preparation continues for BIRMPEX 2024, September 13 & 14 at Sokol Cultural Center in Dearborn Heights. Club members stuffed hundreds of envelopes with show flyers at our August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The volunteer and dealer schedule is now complete and we are looking forward to a successful show.

The annual club dinner will again be held at Shields Restaurant in Troy (Maple Road at Crooks) on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Price is \$16 per person.

### Upcoming events:

Club meetings – September 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. Meetings are currently held in room #4 at the rear of the senior center.

The Pontiac Stamp Club is sponsoring a tour of the Marshall postal museum on September 7<sup>th</sup> and anyone interested is invited to meet at the museum at 10:00 a.m.

Birmingham Stamp Club show, BIRMPEX 2024 is at Sokol Cultural Center in Dearborn Heights on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Modern Stamps Public Stamp Auction on the 14<sup>th</sup> 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

# Helicopter Mail Across Canada

Walter Koster

Canada began experimenting with the delivery of mail by helicopter in 1946. Over the next few decades helicopter mail service was selectively used to areas where winter delivery was virtually impossible. The service was infrequent and most helicopters of that time could not exceed a maximum weight lift of 700 pounds nor operate with a cloud base of less than 500 feet. *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, published by the American Air Mail Society (AAMS), lists thirty-five helicopter mail flights between 1950 and 1987.

One of note is the Canadian Centennial Copter Project, a 100-day, coast-to-coast helicopter flight across Canada in the summer of 1967. A three-place Enstrom F-28 helicopter piloted by Frank Ogden carried specially printed covers at each of the 80+ stops from Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, to Victoria, British Columbia.



The privately prepared first-flight cover (above) was issued in conjunction with the Centennial Copter Project to announce the July 6, 1967 dedication and first flight to the heliport on top of the Samsonite Luggage Office Building in Stratford, Ontario. Only 1500 covers were printed featuring the three-color printed cachet. This cover is franked with the 3¢ dull purple Queen Elizabeth II definitive (Scott #456) and the 5¢ deep orange and purple Queen Elizabeth II Portrait and Centennial Symbol (Scott #471), postal stamps to prepay the 8¢ per ounce airmail rate to the United States.

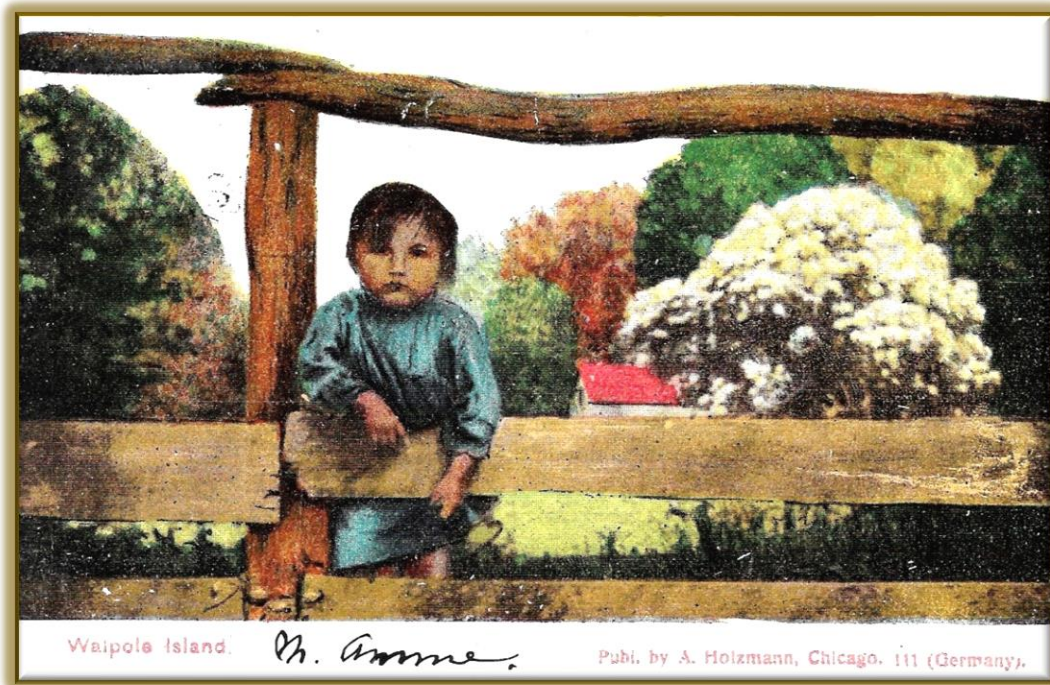
Postal markings are a "Stratford, Ontario, 11 AM, 6 VII 1967" circular cancel, a "Commemorating Heliport Opening / 6 July 1967" slogan cancel, and a seven-line machine cancel. Under the four-digit American Air Mail Catalog (AAMC) numbering system, this cover is identified as H-6701ag.

Ref: Cover from Author's collection;

*The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, American Air Mail Society (AAMS), Durbano, P., Heifetz, M., & Ramkisson, R. Eds., (1997); *A Chronology of Canadian Postal History*, <https://www.historymuseum.ca>

# Walpole Island

Michael Swope



Featured above is an Alfred Holzman Publishing Company (Chicago) post card, printed in Germany (the Holzman company did not print in the United States until 1904). The post card depicts an image of a First Nation child on Walpole Island, Ontario, Canada.

Walpole Island is part of the First Nation Reserve in southwestern Ontario, on its border with Michigan. The island is located in the mouth of the Saint Clair River on Lake Saint Clair at about 75 miles from both Windsor and Detroit. The island is the “disputed” resting place of Tecumseh, the nineteenth century leader much renowned for his resistance against American westward expansion.

Walpole Island is *unceded territory*, meaning that the land was never legally ceded or given to the British Crown through treaty or other agreement. It is inhabited by First Nation peoples of Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa descent, who call it *Bkejwanong*, meaning “where the waters divide”.

The post card is franked with the 1¢, blue-green, Franklin postage stamp, Scott #300 and CDS cancelled at Algonac, Michigan, on August 17, 1903.

