

Canadiann stamp designer Andrew Perro signing a cover that was sent to the students in Bramalea after he wrote a comment, having just browsed their work.

North America Philatelic Society, Postal History Society of Canada and The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

In my mind, this collaboration undertaken by the teachers, students and philatelists was something that could and should be shared on a bigger stage. Indeed, George Pepall had planned to discuss this Youth Project during the RPSC presentation taking place on the Friday in NY. Here was an opportunity for us to illustrate how a fairly simple project could have a much wider effect. The teachers were honoured to give permission to use the artwork and commented that most of the students were “flabbergasted” to be asked. They asked that photos be taken for use in future projects.

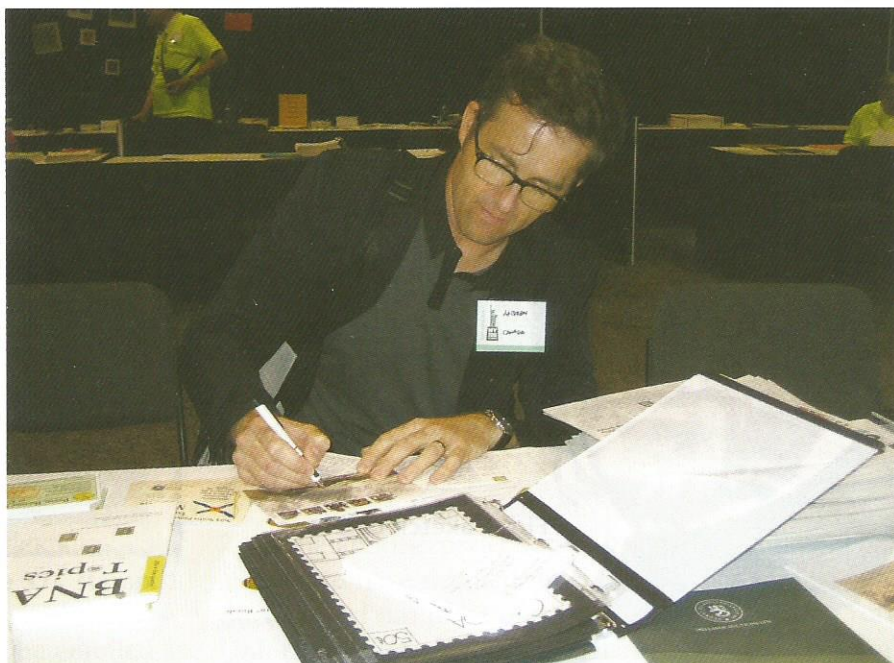
Along with the binder full of art, I made a small notebook available for viewers to offer their comments. Both items were on the Canadian table for the duration of the Show and also present at Pepall’s presentation. Ingo Nessel was in attendance during the presentation to offer his insight as well and the project was well received by the audience.

Knowing that tangible take-home material always helps to preserve memory of an event, and understanding that the kids needed to have proof that their work had made it to New York, I had spent time taking photographs and accumulating items that I could mail back to the Brampton school. Imagine receiving a package, in the mail, from the faraway place where your art is on display! What a great way to end a school year, especially as it would arrive just as Robitaille’s story was set to be published.

This package included, for each student, two sets of waterless dinosaur tattoos from Canada Post, NY2016 show stickers, a life size image of a cell phone that advertised the United States Postal Services just released StampApp, a cover from the Show, a set of Cinderellas advertising Rare and Famous Postage Stamps gifted by one of the stamp dealers, and some miscellaneous publications about the joys of kids collecting stamps for the classes to share.

I found myself staffing the Canadian table after George’s presentation. Things seemed to be winding down, until a young man came by and took a seat. I asked him what his interest was in Canadian philately.

It turned out that he was Andrew Perro who designed last year’s set of the Dinos of Canada. I seized the op-



portunity to have him write a comment in the student’s notebook. He very kindly obliged and also autographed a Dino cover and the Royal Canadian Army Cadets 125th anniversary cover for the class.

These covers were added to the collection of material sent to Brampton from the Show.

Robitaille’s front-page Canadian Stamp News story ran (June 28-July 11, 2016 – Vol. 41, No. 5) and was shared with the classes. In an email, Andrew wrote: “One word... FANTASTIC!”

The photos taken in NY were emailed to the school, and the package of material arrived a few days later. The teachers reported, “We showcased them to the students and they were very happy to hear about their stamps being exhibited to an international crowd. Also, they also “dug” the dinosaur stamps.”

Each of us who ended up participating in the Mount Royal Public School Grade 8 class project is now part of a bigger story. Whether the experience inspires the students to collect, or reignites a family member’s interest in a hobby, which they had put aside years ago, we were all part of an important moment in philatelic history.

The last word goes to the teachers. “We hope to work with all of you again next school year, and encourage any suggestions you may have to make things even better. Involving community members in the school’s life has a tremendous impact. Who knows, in addition to the unit, there may be an opportunity to put Jerry, Bob and Ingo’s suggestion of starting a stamp club at this new school.” ☒

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