



# BC Philatelic Society Newsletter

*Bringing stamp and postal-history collectors together since 1919*

The BC Philatelic Society — Always on-line at [www.bcphilatelic.org](http://www.bcphilatelic.org)

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## BC Phil names new Life Member — by Bob Ingraham

**F**ritz Graf was named as a life member at the Society's AGM on March 13.

Life members, recognized for their commendable service to philately, retain the privileges of membership but don't have to pay annual membership fees.

June Gibson, another life member of the Society, nominated Fritz in a letter to the executive. She wrote:

*As a member of the Society, in good standing, I would like to put forward the name of Fritz Graf for consideration of granting him an Honorary Life Membership to the Society.*

*My purpose for so doing is out of respect for his long service to the Society and the membership. His numerous contributions have been performed generously and willingly over the years. He has also faithfully participated in the society's activities such as his contributions at our annual shows.*



▲ BC Phil member Fritz Graf, at the right, receives his certificate of life membership from Treasurer Derren Carman at the Society's AGM on March 13. Another life member, June Gibson (seated), nominated Fritz as a life member for his many years of service to the Society. — Martine Mercier photo.

Fritz collects Swiss stamps and postal history and regularly attends auctions as a seller, a

buyer, and a member of the auction committee. He has presented programs about his collections and exhibited at VANPEX. Not a few members have received gifts of Swiss stamps and covers from Fritz.

Some of Fritz's significant contributions have been behind the scenes: He regularly drives far out of his way to provide rides to other members, and is the unofficial "maintenance engineer" for our exhibition frames. The cheaply made frames seem determined to wear out before their time, but Fritz has used skills honed as an Air Canada mechanic to add years to their life. For the past several years, he has been in charge of the heavy lifting involved in transporting the frames to VANPEX from their home in Richmond and back again.

In addition to June Gibson, Fritz joins eight other life members of the BC Phil: David Allen, Ken Barlow, Derren Carman, Bob Ingraham, Trevor Larden, Roger Packer, Eric Ranger, and Bill Topping.

## Out with the Old, in with the New VANPEX 2013

— by Martine Mercier, Exhibits Chair

**I** volunteered as Exhibits Chair of VANPEX 2012. Praised and thanked by some members and discouraged by others, I needed to find out for myself what kind of challenge I was getting into. Well, I'm back as VANPEX 2013 exhibit chair and ready to do it again.

I loved my experience as exhibits chair. VANPEX 2012 had its good moments and bad moments, but gave me the opportunity to meet other philatelists, learn from some my mistakes, and ensure that I do a better job for VANPEX 2013.

VANPEX 2012 comprised fifteen dealers and 42 exhibit frames. Two exhibits stood out: John



Keenlyside's Philip Timm's Images of Suburban Vancouver — 1900-1910, and Pete Jacobi's When Lumber was King. John's exhibit won a gold medal and the Grand Award, Pete a vermeil medal and the Reserve Grand award. We appreciated the efforts of first time exhibitors such as Geoff Carter and Rob Casey, and welcomed the one-sheet exhibition chaired by Bob Ingraham. See the

complete list of VANPEX 2012 exhibits and awards in the on-line VANPEX 2012 Palmares.

This year, in VANPEX 2013, we will see some

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changes: Fewer frames, more participation, better scheduling for exhibitors, and a medal-presentation ceremony.

The VANPEX 2013 Committee encourages everyone to participate in this event. Let's have some fun!



◀ A TYPICAL VANPEX 2013 SCENE: BC Phil members and guests congregate at bourse tables. Stamp dealers normally get more attention than exhibits, but a good many bourse purchases end up in exhibit frames at future exhibitions. — Martine Mercier Photo

## Why you should exhibit at VANPEX 2013 — by Bob Ingraham

**Y**ou are cordially invited to exhibit at VANPEX 2013, scheduled for Sept. 20-21 at West Burnaby United Church.

What? You won't exhibit? Why not!? Oh, I see. You won't exhibit because you don't want to be restricted by exhibiting rules. Because you don't want to be judged. Because your collection isn't good enough.

A few years ago I would have agreed with you, but then a friend suggested that letters I had sent to my family from Vietnam in 1966 could be the basis of an interesting exhibit. She was right.

In 2007, I won a silver medal at VANPEX for my one-frame exhibit, *37 Days in Vietnam — A Hospital Corpsman's Story*. My exhibit taught me a lot about the philately of the Vietnam War era, and led to the development of what is now a large, world-wide collection of stamps and covers related to the war. And I learned these useful facts about exhibiting:

• Exhibits are *not* limited to rare and expensive items.

Traditionally, stamp exhibitions highlighted the rarest and most expensive stamps and covers. Over the years, however, our hobby has matured. Rare and expensive items still turn some judges' heads, but almost any material, including

non-philatelic material, exhibited in new ways, will be well received.

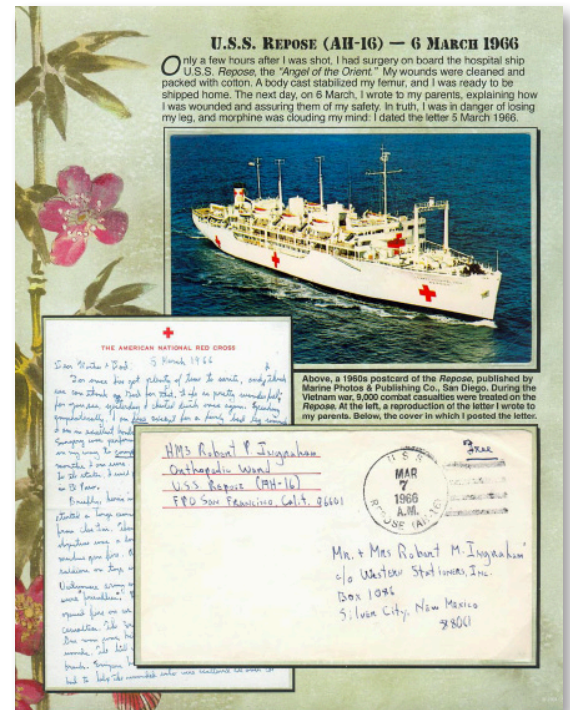
• Exhibitors *can* ignore rules.

Traditionally, exhibitors were encouraged to mount only philatelic items, on white or ivory exhibit sheets. Today, exhibitors are allowed to mount almost anything on paper of their choice. My Vietnam exhibit was mounted on green paper and included several photos and picture postcards. (The image at the right shows a sheet from the exhibit.)

• Exhibiting *isn't* about medals.

Medals are nice to receive, but exhibiting isn't about medals. It's about the meaning of philately. An album page displaying only stamps or a cover or two, with no explanation and kept forever in a closet, is the equivalent of an untranslated Dead Sea scroll — full of potential but seldom seen and not fully appreciated. Like those old scrolls, our collections have worthwhile stories to tell us, but only if we bring them into the light of day.

Oh. About those judges: judges just offer opinions, which you might or might not agree with. So what? In the end, *you* are the best judge of



your own exhibit.

Have I convinced you to exhibit? I hope so. At least one VANPEX frame *could* feature your first exhibit.

## BC PHILATELIC:

### Members acclaim new Executive at AGM

Immediate Past President Bob Ingraham was acclaimed president at the March 13 Annual General Meeting, succeeding Duff Malkin, president since 2008. Bob served previously from 2005 through 2007.

Also acclaimed were Geoff Carter, Vice President; Martine Mercier, Secretary, and Derren Carman, Treasurer.



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## Friends of BC Philatelic Society:

The BCPS enjoys the support of the following stamp dealers:

- **ALL NATIONS STAMP & COIN**  
5630 Dunbar St, Vancouver, B.C.  
604-684-4613 / collect@direct.ca  
www.allnationsstampandcoin.com
- **F.V.H. STAMPS**  
102-340 Cordova Street West, Vancouver, BC V6B 1E8  
604-684-8408 / Toll Free: 1-866-684-8408  
FvHStamps@aol.com / www.fvhstamps.com
- **WEEDA STAMPS**  
P.O. Box 31054, RPO University Heights, Victoria,  
BC V8N 6J1  
250-385-1826 / 1-888-685-1826 / beverly@weeda.com  
www.weeda.com

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