



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2013

POSTAL NOTES

Newport, OR - This year the Newport Post Office is commemorating the Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games in a unique and meaningful way. They are getting their own pictorial cancellation stamp!

In use since the 1840s in Britain, and since the 1880s in the United States and Canada, the postal service was allowed to express their creativity by making their own stamp cancels.

Hand stamping postage was a time-consuming task so the postal authorities devised ways to make their work easier and the pre-cancelled stamp came into existence. On each piece of mail you usually find two things - a stamp cancel and a post mark which give the recipient some tiny clues about the journey of their letter from sender to recipient. Adding a commemorative cancellation to the letter makes it that much more special.

The festival's Executive Director, Belinda Goody said "Jim Olsen of Portland has been a stamp collector of stamps since an early age and was also fascinated with postmarks would send post cards to Postmasters in towns with interesting names just to collect the various pictorial cancellations which noted special events. In 2004 Jim helped to plan and design one for the National Convention. As an enthusiast of both the festival and the philatelic forms; Jim approached us with the idea and we thought it would be a wonderful way to promote Celtic heritage and the festival so we contacted the Newport Post Office to find out how to go about it." She then created the design and presented it to the Postmaster for approval.

Newport Postmaster, Robert Pratt, said "The United States Postal Service values diversity both in the workplace, and in the community. Supporting local cultural events with special cancellations is a great way for us to honor that principle. I am looking forward to attending the Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games this year and I hope it is a great success."

Postmaster Pratt will be available at the "7 Celtic Nations Station" at the festival on Saturday & Sunday to hand stamp cancellations for festival patrons and to sell pre-stamped post cards commemorating this wonderful community event which includes a stamp for each day of June 7, 8 & 9 when the festival will be at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds.



7 Celtic Nations Station
June 7, 2013
Newport, OR 97365



NewportCelticFestival.com

Postal patrons will also find the commemorative pictorial cancellation stamp available at the Newport Post Office prior to the festival which can be stamped on all mail being sent from Newport.

To find out how you can get your own commemorative stamp, please contact your local post office for details.

For more information about this year's Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games, please visit www.newportcelticfestival.com or call 541-574-9366.

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