

LOCAL RESIDENT ACQUIRES PRICELESS BEZANSON ARTIFACT



Connie Stewart, longtime employee of Canada Post, has in her possession an “Antique Postal Cancellation Hammer” that had been used at the Bezanson Post Office. It has certainly been extensively used but you can still clearly read the die casting.



You will note that the last time the “hammer” was used was June 26, 1990

In 1914, the Bezanson Postal District was formed with the post office being established at the Bezanson Townsite with Cecil Evans acting as the “unofficial postmaster”. The first official postmaster was W.A.

Leonard who operated the post office out of his store known as “Hall and Leonard”.

In 1867, the Royal Mail Canada was established. During the late 1960’s, rebranding was done to “Canada Post”. In 1981, the Canada Post Corporation Act came into effect which abolished the Post Office Department and created the present-day Crown Corporation that privatized postal services across Canada. The postal cancellation hammers for the surrounding areas were eventually collected and stored at Grande Prairie.

In 1982, Connie Kimpe married Creston Stewart and they made their home in Grande Prairie. By 1990, they decided to move to the farm at Bezanson where they raised their family of three boys; Calvin, Carl and Curtis. Connie was employed by Canada Post from 1979 until she retired in 2015. She now has more time for quilting and refinishing furniture, not to mention more time to spend with the grandchildren. Connie always found time to serve on various Community boards and continues to do so.

Written by Wanda Zenner February 2022

[Reference](#)

Interview with Connie Stewart

Wikipedia