

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. January 20th 2010 @ 7:00

## From the President...



*This is our first time for this year to get together and it is entirely appropriate to wish every one a Happy New Year. Hopefully the Christmas period was one of enjoyment and relaxation with family and friends. The weather has been reasonable and hopefully that will continue on the day of our meeting, Wednesday, Jan 20th. We will start the New Year off with an opportunity for a club auction evening.*

*Since the New Year has rolled around again, it is also time to renew our membership for the club as well as an opportunity to elect the officers of the club. The membership for this year is \$15 which includes the increased costs for mailing out the newsletters. As your leader, it would be greatly appreciated if ideas for the meeting could be shared and or organized so that the meetings are interesting to all and cover wide variety of topics in this common hobby we share.*

*After organizing last year's show, it became evident that planning the show for this year needs a much earlier start. If there are any volunteers who are willing to assist in the planning and making arrangements for this year's show, please let me know at the meeting. I would like to begin contacting dealers as soon as possible and getting our information out to the other clubs as soon as possible.*

*Please don't forget the regular parts of the meeting such as the one page display and a show and tell. If you are planning on bringing items for the club auction, please let either Bob or I know ahead of time so that the meeting can begin on time. I hope to see you all at the meeting on the 20th at St. George's Anglican Church at 7 PM.*

*Cheers.*

*Phil Visser  
President OSSC*

## Coming Events...

**JAN. 15 - 17, 2010, Toronto, ON**

*Unipex Stamp and Coin Show, Rameses Temple Shrine Club, 3100 Keele St. Hours: Fri. 11*

a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., TTC service to the door, licensed snack bar, free parking, door prizes. For more information, telephone 416-242-5900 416-242-5900 .

### **JAN. 23, 2010, St. Catharines, ON**

The 61st Cathex, Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 12 dealers, club circuit, lunch counter, free parking, free admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Catharines Stamp Club. For more information contact [stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca](mailto:stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca).

### **FEB. 6, Brampton, ON**

Annual Club Show and Bourse, Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, High School Cafeteria, 292 Conestoga Dr. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring 10 dealers, non-competitive exhibits, table auctions, youth table, club circuit books, refreshments, free admission, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Bramalea Stamp club. For more information contact Bob Thorne, email [b62hkg@yahoo.ca](mailto:b62hkg@yahoo.ca), telephone . Website: <http://bramaleastampclub.com>.

### **FEB. 13, Burlington, ON**

BurlPex 2010, Burlington Central Arena, 519 Drury Lane, (beside Seniors Centre). Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., 13 dealers, club books, silent auction, free parking and admission, lunch counter, draw prizes. Sponsor/Affiliate: Burlington Stamp Club. For more information contact Arnie Janson, email [arnie.janson@ge.com](mailto:arnie.janson@ge.com), telephone .

### **FEB. 20, Niagara Falls, ON**

NIPEX, Stamford Lions Club Hall, 3846 Portage Rd. For more information contact Ed Yonelinas, telephone , email [mastamps@computan.com](mailto:mastamps@computan.com).

### On the Cover...

#### **2010 Winter Olympics are coming to Vancouver and Whistler**

These beautiful panoramic views of Whistler's ski slopes and a cityscape of Vancouver's shoreline have been paired together to show off the venues of this year's Winter Olympics. As a lucky member of the Owen Sound Stamp Club your newsletter has the matching souvenir sheet 'on the cover'. The inukshuk from the top of Whistler Mountain that is featured on the cover of the booklet also comes as two small stickers in the booklets and it can be seen on the top part of the souvenir sheet too. The souvenir sheet comes with the orca and totem pole stickers and has the same irregular rectangular shape with rounded corners of the Olympic souvenir sheets of last year. All of the images used are meant to evoke the 'sea to sky' theme of these Olympic games. In keeping with the theme, the OFDC for the Vancouver cityscape stamp features a close up shot of a killer whale in mid-leap from a calm ocean, while the cover bearing the Whistler stamp features a blue sky with a gliding Bald Eagle. The central area of the OFDC cancellations read 'VANCOUVER

2010' in bold lettering. The finer print in the outer ring of text says Vancouver for the Orca cover and Whistler on the Eagle cover. The OFDC for the souvenir sheet bears both cancellations.



*There is only one face to this handsome new booklet of Olympic stamps, but keep your eyes open for 24 different back covers.*

Details magazine is pretty hazy as to how many cancels there will be or how to get them. They do say that the cancels will be available at some Post Offices in Whistler and Vancouver or through the philatelic centre. The cost and the format are not revealed except to say that the information should be online by January 12<sup>th</sup>. January 12<sup>th</sup> is also the release date for this new 57cent issue; exactly one month before the opening of the games. Hopefully this newsletter will be post marked on the day of issue!

It would be great to see the games live wouldn't it? If you plan to attend the games I hope that you are hale and hardy and your wallet is too! You may encounter a few hurdles along the way. Both Vancouver and Whistler are expensive places to hang about in and I'll bet that price tags have grown exponentially. There are other things to consider as well. Apparently none of the venues can be reached by car. In some cases public transit will drop you off over a kilometer from your destination. But, there will be plenty of parking for bicycles. Now that may not seem too strange for Vancouver in winter however, bicycle parking will be available at Whistler too! Each indoor event warns spectators that they could be standing outside for hours just to get in. If you have tickets for any of the arena events for more than one game, even if the ('On the Cover' continues on page 3)

*('On the Cover' continued from page 2)*

tickets are for the same seats, you will have to leave the building to go and stand in line to re- enter

for the next game. Some of the events at Whistler have grandstand seats but that's extra of course. Most people



attending those events will be standing outside the entire time no matter the weather. If you haven't already reserved your spot on the bus yet, then you're now paying twice as much for your seat. So try not to envy the people at the games too much. If you don't have tickets to any of the events, then stick a few Olympic stamps in your album and sit back and tell your armchair just how much you appreciate it as you watch the games in style!

Marion Ace

## Of Skis and Skiing

By Ralph Wyndham



We are all familiar with skiing as winter recreation and competitive sport but this is a recent development in the history of the ski. Prehistoric skiers are depicted on cave walls and the oldest known skis in existence, believed to be about 4500 years old, are in the Djugarden Museum in Stockholm,

Sweden.

Primitive skis, short and fairly wide, more closely resembled their older ancestor, the snowshoe, and were a tool to help hunters and travelers move through deep snow more easily. Originally, they were made from the long femur bone of large animals, split lengthwise, and strapped to the feet more to stay on top of the snow than for any tendency to slide over it.

This 4,000 year old rock carving of a skier was found on Rodou

Of course, over the centuries the ski's improvement continued. A pair of wooden skis, thought to be around 2000 years old, long and narrow with a tip pointing upwards closely resembles the modern ski.

The people of Norway have a central role in the early development of both the ski and skiing. Ski makers in Telemark province in Norway created the first ski with 'camber' around 1850. Camber is the slight upward bulge of the ski's center that can be seen when not in use. It allows for more even distribution of a skier's weight over the length of the ski providing the skier with a better glide through the snow and better control.



Cross-country skiing, the first skiing style is

These same ski makers were the first to make a ski with a 'waist' by making the edges of the ski curve inward so that the tip and back of the ski are wider than the middle. The 'waisted' Telemark ski gives the skier much more control in downhill turns.

Though simple in appearance, the modern ski is a complex combination of variables including physics, engineering, and materials science. Glass fibers, Kevlar, titanium, plastics, composite materials and even nanotechnology may be used in ski construction. The type of skiing to be



done, and the skier's skill level, leads to many variations in skis, both subtle and more obvious. Length, width and how the skier's boot is bound to the ski are all affected.

Norway was the first country to put soldiers on skis, around 1200, during a war with Sweden, and introduced skiing competitions to its soldiers around 1670. The first civilian ski event was held in 1843 in Norway. Norwegian technique and technology made skiing accessible to more people by making it easier and more enjoyable. By the 1860s ski clubs and competitions were being established not only in Norway, but also around Europe and as far away as Australia.

Norway was the first country to put its soldiers on skis

Growth of the sport continued early in the 20th Century with the first ski ('Of Skis and Skiing' continues on page 4 ) ('Of Skis and Skiing' continued from page 3 )



holiday packages. Norwegian miners who came to America for work introduced the first ski competitions and resorts to the country. The first Winter Olympic Games, held in 1924 at Chamonix, France, included Nordic skiing events: cross-country, jumping, and Nordic combined (a race combining jumping and cross-country).

Alpine, or downhill skiing, made possible by the Telemark ski and the heel strap (another Norwegian ski innovation), is a discipline that was championed by British skiers. An Englishman, Arnold Lunn, invented the slalom race where skiers must make a series of turns between pairs of flags, called gates, as they race downhill to the finish line.

Italian occupation forces during WWII banned

European skiers, even in the Alps, long familiar with the Scandinavian Nordic style of skiing were reluctant to embrace this new style. Members of the International Ski Congress, particularly the Norwegians, resisted adopting British rules for downhill and slalom racing. The slalom was beneath a true skier's dignity and "[only] suitable for ladies and untrained Englishmen". Alpine races were finally accepted, however, and became part of the Olympics at the 1936 games in Bavaria, Germany.



World War II intervened in Europe, at least, slowing down the growth of recreational skiing there. This period did help underline the strategic importance of the ski. When the Soviet Union invaded

Finland in 1939, the Finnish army resisted in what became known as the 'Winter War'. Though greatly outnumbered, the Finns, on skis, successfully resisted the Red Army well into 1940 inflicting heavy casualties on the invaders before being forced to accept defeat. In Slovenia, the occupying Italian forces banned the use of skis by the local

Mid-air acrobatics are a part of modern 'freestyle' skiing. Norwegian skiers were the first, in the 1930s, to

population fearing that resistance forces could strike and quickly escape by ski.

Alpine skiing continued to grow after WWII with Alpine resorts being established in both Switzerland and Austria. The invention of the tow rope and the chairlift helped make the sport appealing to a greater number of people by making the long, arduous climb up the mountain slope unnecessary to enjoy the few minutes needed to ski back down.

Today there is such an array of skiing choices, different disciplines among all the various styles of skiing. From high mountain helicopter skiing to cross-country over the nearest winter trail or snow-covered field on skis to suit the terrain, the snow conditions and the skier's abilities from novice to most advanced, there is something for everyone who wants to participate. That first early traveler on the crude skis of bone that he just made, finding his way through the dark Scandinavian winter, could never have imagined where it would lead!

Thanks Ralph!

### From the Editor...

A good time was had by all at our Christmas meeting. We had a good assortment of funny munny auction items and lots of goodies. There were some bag lots, some mint corner blocks, the maple tree souvenir sheet, oversized OFDCs, a couple of my stamp boxes and more! Thanks to everybody who donated auction items. Most people participated in the gift exchange. Phil Visser presented me with a gift to thank me for my work on the newsletters. Thanks folks!

John Cortan has now booked the Heritage mall for Friday and Saturday March the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> for our public info day. Hopefully everyone will come out and help for a few hours. We'll discuss this at the meeting.

I hope that we'll have a good turn out for our January meeting for elections and a lively auction. We are always looking for fresh blood for the executive positions. Bring some stuff for the auction and your page about the Chinese New Year.

See you on Wednesday,  
Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

### One Page Challenge...



I was the lucky winner of the 'one page challenge' held in December at our Christmas party. Part of my prize was this lovely used fly fishing souvenir sheet. I was lucky to get that prize but there was no luck involved in winning since I was the only entry. Now, I can just carry along and win all the prizes or maybe some of you can challenge me. Come on, I'll

take you all on!

Taking a lesson from the Saugeen Club, I am going to publish a regular calendar of our 'one page' topics. This will give contestants a chance to accrue and assemble items for each category. So come on, bring it on! The winner can choose the next topic to add to the list. The topic should be wide enough to encompass different ideas. Here are some topic suggestions.

Marine creatures – fish, seashells, whales, mermaids etc.      Birds      Royalty  
 Flowers      Definitives  
 Land Transportation      Music – singers, composers, instruments etc.      Castles or Churches  
 Boats – anything from rafts to battleships.      Mammals      Art      Canadian Art  
 Space  
 Military – war, remembrance, awards, generals, etc.      Space      Politicians  
 Plant Life  
 Fiction – authors, characters, movies, cartoon characters.      Maps      Flight  
 Scouting      Air Mail  
 Art - other than paintings      Winter Sports      Summer Sports      Disney  
 Angels      Stamps on Stamps  
 Landmarks – Eiffel tower, monuments, lighthouses, Big Ben, pyramids etc.      Flags  
 Europa

January - Chinese New Year

February - Olympics

March - Buildings (other than churches and castles)

April - A Famous Person or People, (no royalty) (people- ie. scientists or musicians etc.)

May - Insects, spiders or creepy crawlies

## The Spotlight...Churchill and Roosevelt in Albania?

by Marion Ace



This stamp is part of a set of at least four stamps that appear to

I was leafing through some stamp albums looking for some Churchill stamps for a one page exhibit when I came across this stamp and its three mates. I wondered why Churchill and Roosevelt were on stamps from Albania and who is the fellow between them? So, I pulled out my Scott Catalogue and tried to look up these stamps. Much to my surprise there weren't any stamps issued in 1952 in Albania. But of course, another look at the stamps and I notice that they must

be semi-postals. No nothing there. How odd. Another look at the stamp. Hey, that's not how they spell Albania on the other stamps. Shqiperia is printed on most of their modern stamps with some saying Shqiptare here and there throughout their postal history. From the late 40s through to the late 60s many stamps say Republika Popullare Shqiperise or R. P. E. Shqiperise. Other variations include Shqipni, Shqipenie, Shqiperija and yes I finally found one stamp with Shqipnija marked on it like my stamps. That stamp was issued under German Administration in 1944. One glance at my Ally covered stamp tells me it was not issued under German Occupation, perhaps that is the point. Maybe these stamps speak of freedom or rebellion. Perhaps the guy in the middle can give me some clues.

I went online and typed Gjergji Kastrioti. It turns out that Gjergji is the number one historical hero of Albania. His father spent most his life fighting off the Ottoman Turks who were spreading like the plague 5 - 600 years ago. As the youngest son, Gjergji Kastrioti was sent to Adrianople as part of a not so great peace treaty in 1422. Here in the heart of the Ottoman Europe he attended and excelled at an Ottoman ('Churchill and Roosevelt in Albania?' continues on page 6 ) ('Churchill and Roosevelt in Albania?' continued from page 5)

Military Academy. His prowess was such that he became a general before twenty. He became known as 'Iskender Bey' the Moslem version of Lord Alexander, comparing him to Alexander the Great. That name morphed to Skenderbeg which is the name he is most known by. He fought well for the Ottoman Empire for many years. When his father died in 1443 he realized the peril of his situation. Skenderbeg managed to duck out from Ottoman force with 300 loyal Albanian horseman and removed the Ottoman Governor before the end of the year. The Ottomans were not able to take over Albania until after the death of Skenderbeg in 1468. They held on to that country for 425 years.

Although I never did find a listing for this stamp, I did find some other Albanian stamps honouring Skenderbeg. Three stamps featuring a cameo of Skenderbeg were issued in 1951 for the 483<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of his death. The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death was also honoured in 1967. This set of eight stamps depict a gold medallion with different centers featuring him, his castles and a battle scene. If anyone has any of these stamps I would be interested in seeing them.

Gjerji Kastrioti was a man revered for his courage, his faith and his military genius. His life was well documented in his own time. He has even been the subject of poems by Longfellow and Lord Byron. I don't know who printed these stamps, but I think that their intent was to give great honour to Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill by placing them next to the greatest freedom fighter of Albania.

*I hope that everyone will participate in this column. The 'spotlight' can be on something unusual or something that you are just fond of. You can write a paragraph or two or a page or two. I will need a good scan or photo of the item or you can leave it*

DON'T FORGET THAT DUES ARE DUE

## Owen Sound Stamp Club

**Chapter 191**  
**Royal Philatelic Society of Canada**

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (corner of 10<sup>th</sup> St. E. and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to trade, buy and sell stamps and philatelic material. An Auction is often held at 8:00 pm. There are presently about 20 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels, from beginner to expert.

*Guests or new members are always most welcome.*

*Annual membership fees: Full-\$10; Family-\$15; Junior- Free*

*Members and guests contribute \$1 at each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for use of their room.*

*The OSSC Newsletter is distributed to all members. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are expressly those of the individual author.*

*Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. Please submit any news, information, opinions or announcements to the editor.*

### Club Officers:

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