

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. January 18th 2012 @ 7:00

From the President...



Greetings, best wishes and may this be a healthy and prosperous New Year for all of the readers and members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. It is also time to remind everyone that hasn't already renewed their membership in our club to please do so as soon as possible. Also, for those who missed the December meeting, to cover the cost of renting the church facilities, we have raised the attendance fee to \$2 for the meeting. Hopefully this doesn't deter anyone from coming to the meetings.

We will begin this year with a large auction in which everyone can bring as many items they wish to have auctioned off to fellow members. Maybe something has got dusty in your collection or an accumulation of philatelic items may find a new home at the end of the evening. Please come on time so that we can get the items listed and get the records straight for the end of the night. It would also be handy to have small change such as loonies and toonies etc.

The February meeting, weather permitting, will have John Cortan bringing his stock of stamps and covers for your perusal. Since weather is a concern at this time of year I am looking for ideas on what to do for the March meeting. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Following that date, I hope to attract the sales circuit books from clubs further south but I will confirm those details later.

A usual component of each meeting is the opportunity for each member to bring something along that may be of interest to fellow club members. This show and tell time provides a chance to share whatever oddities that may have come in your mailbox recently. For instance, I did receive a letter from the UK with an interesting mix of stamps for postage. In itself it just showed how fellow collectors world wide are dealing with a large stock of unwanted stamps. I showed this cover at the Saugeen club and not much was commented about it until a member made an irreverent remark which got a few hoots from the crowd. I will show you that letter and its content at the meeting. Don't be shy, you too can participate!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on January 18th which is being held at the St George's Anglican Church in Owen Sound.

Cheers.

*Phil Visser
President OSSC*

Dues are due!!!

The New Year is here and we hope to have all memberships renewed by the end of this month. Please bring \$15 in the form of a cheque or cash to this meeting. Those of you who don't get out to the meetings can mail your annual membership fees to **Bob Ford**, the treasurer, but we'd love to see you at the meeting! Bob's address is on the last the page.

The Grand Pré 50¢...A Favourite Stamp

By Bob Graham



I can't honestly name one absolute favourite stamp that I prefer over all others. I very much like the designs and the engraving on a lot of Canadian stamps over the period of 1927- 1967 and within that range I have a number of 'favourites' including my subject here.

The Grand Pré 50¢ stamp was issued on the 4th of December 1930 replacing the magnificent 'Bluenose' 50¢. The main features are a little church against background scenery on Nova Scotia's Fundy shore and in the foreground is the Evangeline monument.

The design recalls the tragedy of the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in 1755. Mainland Nova Scotia had been wrested from the French in 1710 and formally ceded to Great Britain by treaty in 1713. The Acadians persistently declined to take an oath of allegiance to the British King and this became a very sore point with the British colonial administration.

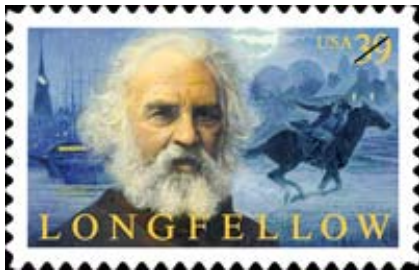
England and France were engaged in ongoing warfare for control of North America and the Acadians naturally assisted the French. The British finally responded by deporting the Acadians to other colonies, mostly along the American seaboard or back to France. Large numbers ended up in Louisiana, where many people of 'Cajun' ancestry remain today.



The statue of Evangeline stands before the little memorial

Some of the deportees managed to escape, making new homes for themselves in New Brunswick or Quebec, both of which were still under the French flag. It is thought that about 12,000 Acadians were expelled between 1755 and 1762. Families were disrupted and many Acadian lives were lost at sea or in exile. Longfellow's poem *Evangeline* (1847) is a poignant saga of lovers separated by the expulsion.

A small part of the "Great Upheaval" which has become symbolic of the whole took place at the church at Grand Pré in September in 1755. There the local male Acadian population of the Minas Basin were told that they and their families were to be deported as soon as ships became available and their lands were forfeited to the Crown.



The original church has long since disappeared but the memorial church, built in 1922, has become the focus of the park that commemorates the Acadian tragedy. This is the church shown on the stamp. The scene is not much changed today except that the trees have grown up. The monument stands in front as it is on the stamp.

Of the stamp, Winthrop Boggs wrote in 1945: *Church at Grand Pré and Monument to Evangeline* – "This is a composite picture of the Acadian home of Longfellow's fictive heroine, *Evangeline*, who seems so real as to be almost a historical personage. The little village is almost deserted now, but the church, a fairly modern structure, at present used as a museum of Acadian relics and the surrounding area, are maintained as a national institution and attract many visitors."

Evangeline's author, American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published the epic poem in 1847. 'The Song of

The Grand Pré 50¢ is the second highest value in 1930-31 "Arch" series produced by the British American Bank Note Co. I have been unable to find the name of the engraver. The stamp is perforated 11, like other BABN stamps of the period.

Many of the exiled Acadians struggled relentlessly to return to their homeland. The government of Nova Scotia in the 1770s willingly allowed their return, the French threat having ceased to exist, but their lands had been given to others and they had to make new lives for themselves. The return of the exiles to Acadia is celebrated as a triumph of the human spirit over great adversity.

Thanks to Bob Graham, a member of the Saugeen Stamp Club and an enthusiast of Canadian engraved stamps.



On the Cover...Year of the Dragon 2012

It is the Year of the Dragon once again. In 2012 the dragon is in the



element of water. The domestic rate stamp has the black silhouette of a dragon embossed on a red background. The Chinese character for dragon sits on a gold foil background in the upper right corner. Gold foil also describes some scales on the dragon and is used in a line of a curl pattern along the bottom of the stamp. While the curl pattern is meant to represent water, I would have to say that the image fails to evoke any sense of the water element. With his toes all splayed wide and a wide-eyed look the dragon takes on a slightly comical appearance and is kind of endearing. The golden dragon on the international rate stamp is rendered quite differently from the little black dragon. He has much more dimension to him and appears to be formed of molten gold. The white framed stamp bears his head and the tail end of his body comes into view weaving up the rest of the souvenir sheet. If you look closely you will find a bit of the background patterned with stylized ocean waves, even so the souvenir sheet has the feel of looking into an active volcano rather than anything to do with the water element. An effort is made to represent the element each of the lunar calendar creatures are in at this time; however Canada Post's determination to rely heavily on the colour red throughout this cycle of the lunar calendar certainly makes that difficult. While I do like the two dragon stamps my only other criticism is that they seem completely unrelated. If you look back to last year's rabbit stamps you'll see that the style of the design was carried over from one to the other and they made a handsome pair. This year's pair have a white frame and a square containing the Chinese character for 'dragon' and a similar colour scheme, that's it!

As is usual the domestic rate stamp (a Permanent stamp) is available in a pane of twenty-five stamps and the international rate stamp comes on a souvenir sheet. Either item or a corner block of the little black dragon is available on the OFDC cancelled in Toronto. Also as per usual for the Lunar New Year stamps an uncut press sheet of twelve of the souvenir sheets is available too. But that's not all folks! This year Canada Post has introduced another souvenir sheet, this one is called the transitional souvenir sheet. It contains the \$1.75 rabbit stamp situated below the new \$1.80 stamp with an image from each of the domestic rate stamps on the sides. (I can't imagine the new 'transition stamps disappearing any time soon from the Canadian scene since Canada Post spends so much time thinking of more ways to get us to dig into our pockets. They're doing a fine job of it too!) Another new item is a booklet of six of the golden dragon. It is surprising that this format is only coming available now. It appears like the booklet can fold up into a little folder the about the size of a credit card with an image of the golden dragon on the front. If you still have money to spend you can purchase any of three Year of the Dragon coins. Two of the coins have lotuses or water lilies on them which definitely tie them into the water element. Happy New Year!

Coming Events...

- JAN. 21, 2012, St. Catharines, ON
63rd Cathex, Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St. Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission and parking, lunch counter, 12 dealers, club circuit, children's (beginners) area, exhibits. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Catharines Stamp Club. For more information contact Stuart Keeley, email stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca. Website: <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca>.
- FEB. 4, 2012, Brampton, ON
Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show & Bourse, Judith Nyman Secondary School - Cafeteria, 1305 Williams Parkway, Between Bramalea Road and Dixie. Hours: 09:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Featuring 10 dealers, exhibits, table auctions, youth table with free stamps for beginners, club circuit books, refreshments, free admission, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Bramalea Stamp Club, GRVPA, GTAPA. For more information, visit our website or Facebook page "Bramalea Stamp Club". Contact b62hkg@yahoo.ca or Bob Thorne, telephone 905-792-3526. Website: <http://www.bramaleastampclub.com>.
- FEB. 18, Niagara Falls, ON
NIPLEX 2012, Stamford Lions Club Hall, 3846 Portage Rd. Sponsor/Affiliate: Niagara Philatelic Society. For more information contact Ed Yonelinas, telephone 905-262-5127 email mastamps@computan.com.
- FEB. 25, Ajax, ON
Apex 2012, Ajax Community Centre, 75 Centennial Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission and parking, 17 dealers, youth booth, door prizes. Sponsor/Affiliate: The Ajax Philatelic Society. For more information contact donaldbeaumont@yahoo.com.
- MARCH 3 - 4, Mississauga,, ON.
IX Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2012, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd.(just south of Hwy.403). . Sat. \$2 adult admission, Sun. free admission. Free parking. Refreshments available. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Stamps, coins, medals, paper money and militaria, exhibits, "Troyak Junior" table with FREE stamps for kids, Troyak special token and show souvenirs. Sponsor/Affiliate: Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club "Troyak". For more information contact Tom Malicki, telephone 905-281-0000, website: www.troyakclub.com, email info@troyakclub.com. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>.

From the Editor...

Welcome to Ken Magee who joined our club this year. I don't know how often he'll make it to the meetings - but hopefully he'll make it once in a while!

We all had fun at the Christmas meeting last month. Both Phil and Ted brought their spouses. Thanks for joining us ladies! John Lemon brought his friend Sheena who works out of the Tara Post Office!

Be sure to bring lots of items for the auction and your dues if you haven't already paid them.

Members enjoyed **Bob Graham's** article about Mount Hurd recently so I dug up his *Grand Pré* article that Ralph Wyndham printed in the Saugeen Bulletin in November 2010. I hope that you enjoy it.

You might want to know that I am hurrying to finish this newsletter so that your copy will be cancelled on the day of issue for the Lunar New Year stamps. See you on Wednesday!

Marion Ace
Editor OSSC

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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 10th St. E. and 4th 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 25 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: \$15; Junior- Free

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