

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. March 20th 2013 @ 7:00

From the President...



This message is dedicated to the die hard club members who came out to the meeting last month. It was very lively, especially when we agreed to go to "Tim's" for some refreshments. Unfortunately, we went there because the school was closed and there was no one there to open the doors. The school was closed due to a snow day, and not realizing that, the diehards drove through mixed conditions to get to St. Mary's. Thank you to all who travelled far and near!

Because the meeting for last month was off, I will try to repeat the plan for this month. To begin we will have some time for any items of club interest, a time for "show and tell" and then a presentation by yours truly. Following the presentation is the time for the mini-auction. Hopefully some people have items ready for the sale. I am currently "snowed under" with work and so my stamp collecting has been put aside for a better time.

A thought crossed my mind last week when I received the magazine from the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the Canadian Philatelist. I was wondering how many other club members are part of any other philatelic organization. Other organizations that exist include the British North America Philatelic Society and the American Philatelic Society. Depending on individual stamp collecting interest, I'm sure that there are many more groups to become part of. Since the Owen Sound Stamp Club is Chapter 191 of the Royal, I hope that there are more members of the club interested in becoming an individual member in the Royal.

A really distant group I am part of is the Netherlands Philatelists of California. It is a group of members interested in philatelic history of the Netherlands. Although I have never attended a meeting, I emailed scans of cancels and wrote a little background on how I had discovered those cancels and what I was collecting. The editor thought my contribution was worthy enough to include in the monthly newsletter and I received a couple of replies to my questions. I was shocked at the request to include my contribution in the newsletter, but at the same time honoured.

This coming Saturday is the Woodstock Stamp Club's show. I am hoping to be able to attend it because it is one of the best shows that I am able to attend. The show has excellent attendance, with some ten dealers (maybe more) and the club show of frames is always very interesting. My favourite one from last year was titled "Mr. Zippy". If you received the Grand News you will notice that the collection and displays of this collector is for sale in Sheffield's Auctions coming up in April. I hope that you can take notice of the shows listed in the Newsletter as well as the Grand News. The success of shows is up to members travelling to each others shows, so if we would like to have good attendance at our show we need to travel to others as well.

This concludes my monthly duty as my favorite prompter reminds me "it is time for the blurb." I hope you think better of my efforts! Hope to see as many of you as possible on the 20th.

Cheers,

Phil Visser

President OSSC

In the Spotlight... Sir Sandford Fleming: Part III: Standard Time & the Later Years by Marion Ace

We've had a look at a number of Fleming's accomplishments. In Part II he was very busy as chief engineer and surveyor for the Northern Railway, then the Intercolonial Railway and then the final coup; the transcontinental CPR line.

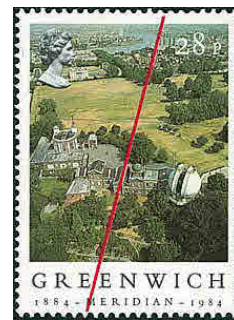
While Fleming was a director for the CPR and the HBC he also started promoting his ideas for standard time zones. It used to be that every city or town went by local solar time which was calculated and then set on the town hall clock or somewhere else convenient and everybody set their clocks to that. This worked just fine until trains came along, the speed of travel became relevant and schedules needed to be produced. With every town along the route using its own time confusion prevailed.



Peter Pan and the Darlings fly past Big Ben. All of London set their clocks and

It is said that Fleming got the idea for standard time when he missed a train in Ireland but he had certainly been on enough trains in Canada to realize there was a problem. In Britain they had already moved to a system of

standard time in the 1850s. With their many towns and many railroads crisscrossing the country they needed standard time but did not



need to break it up into zones. Time was set according to calculations from the Royal Observatory at Greenwich which had been there since it was commissioned by King Charles II in 1675. It was from this point that many star charts and shipping maps were oriented and so it was also used for 'train time'. Especially because of so much seafaring already using the longitude of Greenwich for navigation and of course Fleming's rampant loyalty to the British Empire, Fleming thought that Greenwich made the most sense to use as a prime meridian.

He was not the only one with ideas to create standard time but it was Fleming who had the idea to section off time zones around the entire world to match the twenty-four hours in a day and he also realized that it had to centre upon one line. Cleveland Abbe an astronomer working as the Chief of the United States Weather Service had similar ideas so the two banded together to promote the idea. Fleming became the chairman of the standing committee on time for the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Society was mostly made up of railway men whom Fleming talked to in great numbers and conducted a number of polls based on his ideas. Some his ideas were accepted in 1883 by most Canadian and American railways and were known as 'railway time'. The issue was that it was not used by local people or governments, a prime meridian had not been agreed upon and it certainly wasn't universal.

Four UK stamps issued in 1984 celebrate the 100th anniversary Greenwich Meridian being chosen to be 0° longitude. This



Fleming spent the last 35 yrs. of his life as a Chancellor of Queen's U., He

Delegates from twenty-five countries attended the International Meridian Conference in Washington D.C. on October 1884.

Sandford Fleming was the only delegate to put forth a paper. In it he called for the prime meridian to be located through Greenwich. The Americans wanted it to be in Washington D.C. and the French thought the meridian should go through Paris. The French ended up abstaining from the vote. Despite the griping, Greenwich was agreed upon. It took several years to enact laws and change the way of doing things. The exact description of the time zone lines went through years of tweaking and eventually daylight savings time was added to the picture. It is fairly simple now to figure out what time

it is anywhere in the country or around the world!

Never seeming to do only one thing at a time, Fleming took the post of chancellor of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario after getting fired from the CPR in 1880. He helped to put applied arts and sciences into university education. Meanwhile he was acting as a director for the CPR and the HBC; promoting standard time, imperial penny postage and the transpacific



telegraph cable. If that's not enough; he also married his sweetheart from Peterborough (Jean Hall) ten years after his arrival to Canada who bore nine children for him. (Two of the children died very young.) He was known as a family man, though one wonders when he was there. He stayed in his position of chancellor until his death in 1915.

He was knighted in 1897; the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough along with a number of campuses are named after him along with a branch of the U of T, a large park in Halifax and a town on the CPR line in Saskatchewan. He has written much material and a number of books have been written about him. J. M. Cole's book is called "No Better Inheritance". "Time Lord; Sir Sandford Fleming and the Creation of Standard Time" was written by Clark Blaise. Hugh MacLean wrote "Man of Steel: the Story of Sir Sandford Fleming." There are numerous websites that discuss his accomplishments.

Dr. John C. Polanyi, 1986 Nobel Prize winner for chemistry was awarded the Sir Sandford Fleming Medal from the Royal Canadian Institute. Other

As a man who did so much to unite Canada, the British Empire and even the world there are many who wonder why Sir Sandford Fleming is not much more famous than he is.

Coming Events...

- MARCH 30, Toronto, ON
 NYPEX 2013 - Annual Stamp Show, Skaters Lounge Room, Herbert H. Carnegie Centennial Centre, 580 Finch Ave. W., west of Bathurst Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dealers, door prizes, silent auction, snack bar, TTC accessible, free admission, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: North York Philatelic Society. For more information contact Mike Turk, telephone 905-731-8380 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northyorkphilatelicsociety>.
- APRIL 6, London, ON
 Lonpex 121, Churchill Room, Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exhibits, 12 dealers, draws, free parking and admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: London Philatelic Society. For more information contact Don Slaughter, telephone 1-519-472-0206, email donslau@execulink.com. Website: <http://www.londonphilatelicsociety.com>.
- APRIL 6, St. Catharines, ON
 Best Western Stamp Show, Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn), QEW at Lake Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and free admission, sponsored by Roy's Stamps, specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British

Commonwealth. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information contact Roy Houtby, telephone 905-934-8377

- **APRIL 17, Toronto, ON**
Semi Annual Stamp Auction, Skaters Lounge, Herbert H Carnegie Centennial Centre 580 Finch Ave W., one and a half blocks west of Bathurst Street. Hours: 6 to 9 p.m. Free admission, free parking, TTC accessible. Sponsor/Affiliate: North York Philatelic Society. For more information contact Mike Turk, telephone at 905-731-8380 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northyorkphilatelicsociety>.
- **APRIL 19 - 21, Toronto, ON**
National Postage Stamp Show, Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. Show 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. Dealers from across Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, Canada Post, society and club information, stamps for kids, hourly draw prizes and much more. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association. For more information telephone 519-681-3420, or email director@csdaonline.com. Website: <http://www.csdaonline.com/shows>.

On the Cover ... Magnolias



When you're driving around town in spring and suddenly you spot a tree with large tulip – like buds so outstanding on the bare tree branches just beginning to open; doesn't something seem to bloom inside you? I just can't take my eyes off of those magnificent magnolias and then I wonder how many collisions are caused for that very reason?

But they don't all bloom on bare branched trees nor do they all have large tulip-like buds, in fact there isn't much that you can say about magnolias that is a hard and fast rule.

Magnolias can be deciduous or be evergreen. Some grow like large shrubs 2.5 – 3 m high while many grow to be trees 7- 10 m high and some varieties grow to be 15- 20m. The flowers are often around 10cm long or more in shades of white to pink and even purple as the hardy 'Eskimo' variety on one of the new stamps. The other stamp, the 'Yellow Bird' is the much less common yellow colour. The 'Leonard Messel' used on the OFDC is more of a bush variety with florets in clusters not at all like the typical magnolia most of us are familiar with. Photos of two more of the pink toned varieties have been used; one inside the booklet of ten and one on the big bright souvenir sheet. Coil versions of the stamps can be ordered in lengths



of 4, 10 or 50. A cute little dispenser is available for the large coil and some bold and bright new reusable shopping bags are available for \$1.99 each. (Very nice!)

Magnolias prefer warmer climates however a number of varieties do survive in our area. There are over two hundred varieties not including modern hybrids.

Magnolias have been around for millions of years and covered most of the earth.

They were around before bees and were being pollinated by beetles.

The flowers had to be tough to accept the weight of a beetle, so the petals are actually tepals. What are tepals? Wikipedia describes

tepals in this way, "In some plants the flowers have no petals, and all the tepals are sepals modified to look like petals." Apparently tulips and lilies also have tepals not petals. It's as plain as the proboscis on your face.

The magnolia is the state tree and state flower of Mississippi, the state flower of

The last ice age wiped out magnolias in many parts of the world but they survived in areas such as: Southeast Asia (e.g. China, Japan, Viet Nam, Korea and Borneo), south east USA, Mexico and northern South America. Small areas such as Borneo and Columbia have around ten varieties known to only to them.



Chinese monks have been cultivating magnolias for well over a thousand years. They enjoyed them as a symbol of the feminine and used them for coughs and colds. Pharmaceutical companies have now realized that the bark of those Chinese trees produces a

There are many varieties of magnolias in China. They make a

chemical said to be five times as powerful as valium for anxiety disorders and less addictive. The bark on the magnolias of the American south is said not to burn and has a long tap root which helps it to hang on during hurricanes. Many other varieties have very shallow roots. So as you can see, there is great variety within the genus magnolia.

Once again Lorraine Toussaint has gone to the Ottawa Experimental Farm to photograph flowers for this ongoing series of flower stamps for issue in late winter (perhaps to bring us hope that spring will return!) This series has included flowers native to Canada and hybrids for Canada.

These varieties of magnolia trees and more are growing at the farm in Ottawa. Their website has an aerial view of the grounds showing where various magnolias are planted and if you'd like to see what magnolias will grow in our climate check out <http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca/magnolias.htm> and follow the links.



In Memoriam...

Bob Chapman use to be a regular at our meetings but unfortunately he suffered a stroke a few years ago and had to move to

a nursing home. Bob died on February 28th in the Kincardine Hospital.

John (Bob) Chapman was a good friend, a devoted supporter and member of his local Legion and an especially avid stamp collector. Bob was always ready to go to a Stamp Club meeting, (he was a member of three local clubs, the RPSC and GRVPA). He was also ready to attend any Stamp Show or Auction he could get transportation to (Bob never had a license to drive.) Bob collected virtually anything to do with stamps and after his parents' passing he took over half of the ground floor of the house just for his stamp collection. Bob will be greatly missed as he was great company going to philatelic events.

Sincerely,

John Cortan

From the Editor...

It is sad to hear of Bob Chapman's death. He hasn't been able to come to meetings for a while but he still received our newsletters. Hopefully he knew that we were thinking of him.

I hope that you enjoyed reading about magnolias. Once or twice a year we try to use a pair of se tenant stamps on your cover and the magnolias souvenir sheet is just what the doctor ordered for spring fever!

We come to a close at last with part iii of the Sir Sandford Fleming article. I find him to be such an amazing person; I hope that you found the articles interesting.

Ron Vanderburgh had a few spills early this year and has some severe knee damage. Hopefully he'll make it to a meeting soon. Get healing Ron!

We'll see what Phil has up his sleeve and make sure that you bring some interesting stuff for me to bid for on Wednesday!

Marion Ace

Editor OSSC

PS: Dues are now way overdue! If you haven't paid yet, please do!

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The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of St. Mary's High School, 555 15th St. East. Please park behind the school. The 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 30 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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