

Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to
Health Safety
Volume 2, Edition 7, August 2021



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!

Attention: We are having a face to face gathering on Tuesday August 31st at 3:00, or should I say mask to mask gathering? This is to be held in Harrison Park at the picnic shelter. We will not be sharing food as we have done occasionally over the years. We ask that members practice safety measures while attending.

Bring some hand sanitizer and wear a mask when in close proximity.

We are hoping to have some of the items recently donated to the Owen Sound Stamp Club available for sale. This will include binders full of stamps. This may be a real jackpot for some members. Because these items are donated to the club we are asking members to refrain from using the items to make a profit. Perhaps unwanted doubles could be donated back to the club for future sales.

This is a good opportunity especially for those members who have been unable to attend our regular Zoom meetings. I really hope to see some faces that we haven't seen for a while!

We will still have our regular Zoom meeting this Wednesday, August 18th and the OS Stamp auction on Wednesday September 1st at 7:00 (6:45).

Last month a number of members shared stories about some of their favourite stamps. Judy Galbraith shared the old Canadian Alexander Graham Bell stamp which has always been one of my favourites too. I did a small presentation about my passion for the stamp day issues of Saar during the 1950s. I am sure Phil Visser will have a lot more information for you about the meeting.

Phil Visser takes care of the Zoom aspects of our regular meetings and the stamp auctions. He has also been Editor of our newsletter 'Stamps on the Bay' for about 4 and a half years now. We all owe Phil a big round of applause and our thanks for doing such a marvelous job. Phil would like to retire as Editor. I know it is one of the biggest jobs for a member. Take a deep look inside and see if you could be up for this challenge. All of you know way more about stamp collecting than I did when I began as Editor for the club several years ago. It was because of being Editor that I

learned so much and I am grateful for that and to all the members who helped me along the way. Special thanks to John Cortan who helped more than you may know. If you are ready for this new challenge (even a teensy bit!) let me or Phil know.

Once again please be prepared to share some show and tell items on the 18th. We have no special plans for the meeting at this time so bring it on! We have some business to discuss such as: partial memberships for auction attendees, especially as it pertains to GRVPA members.

I hope to see you Wednesday and at Harrison Park on Tuesday August 31st. Stay safe!!

Marion Ace

President OSSC

Editors Greeting

Welcome back to **Stamps on the Bay**. Here we are half way through the second volume. This edition is slightly different from the previous ones. A large section is dedicated to report eh last Zoom meeting. It is hoped that this section will make those who did not attend the virtual meeting still being part of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. Believe me when I say we certainly miss the in person meetings prior to the arrival of this pandemic. A next section speaks about attending a "Virtual" Exhibition and then a second section share information about a live stamp show, within the limits of the public health guidelines.



July Zoom Meeting Report

With travel restrictions removed, the number of attendees was well down from previous meetings. Even though the numbers were smaller, it was still a pleasure to see the ten participants socialize. A few housekeeping matters were brought up from the previous meeting. President Marion welcomed everyone and asked Randy to share what had happened with the website and other matters about the Club Circuit books.

Our website has been visited by over 68,000 people since its new configuration was produced by Randy a few years ago. Not much has happened with the circuit books, a side effect of the pandemic. I wonder if that is a symptom that Health Canada will recognize (LOL) as a Covid sign. Randy then did mention receiving a donation from a Vicky Vander Berg of general stamps. These will be auctioned off during the Zoom auctions and possibly at live meetings whenever that will begin again. Bill Findlay also received a donation of a stamp collection from family of a deceased person who had lived in Durham. This collector must have been a secret collector but was very organized. There are many stock books filled with hundreds of stamps as well as United Nations covers. Although it is uncertain who to thank, Bill did mention that the person who brought the stamps was a Mr. Ellis. The club thanks these two families for making the donation of the collections. Plans are being considered on how to have these collections distributed within the club. Whatever revenue is raised will become part of the club's account.

A family event diverted our faithful treasurer from attending the meeting. A general discussion was held about meeting in a park so that all members may have the opportunity (if desired) to socialize by meeting outdoors. A suggested date of Wednesday, August 18th from 3-5 PM in Harrison Park was agreed on. This is to be confirmed. Yours truly will contact the Parks and Recreation Department on reserving the Picnic Pavilion for this gathering. The Zoom meeting would still be held on that evening for those able to attend electronically. Using Zoom as a meeting venue, it has become possible for Ken Magee, Dave Pugh and Ralph Wyndham to attend from a great distance while others can not attend.

As was mentioned in the July Newsletter, President Marion asked people to share their favourite stamp with others. This opened the floodgates and several members shared how the stamp collecting bug was planted into their consciousness. Judy Galbraith showed Unitrade #274 issued on March 3rd, 1947. The stamp shows Alexander Graham Bell and was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his birth. For Judy its significance was the stamp was issued in the year of her birth. A second reason for being sentimental was that following her father's death, this stamp was found in her father's wallet, but no one knew why it was

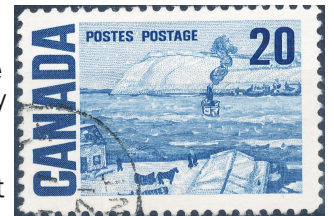


important to her father. Following Judy's ice breaker, Randy took over and shared a few items. A recent letter from Germany had a lovely Europa souvenir sheet on it, but everyone's favourite cancellation was on the sheet, somewhere a pen cancellation was added. Randy went to the Hepworth Post Office to share with them just how unappreciated this cancellation is for stamp collectors. A further item was shown. This is a pair of definitive which was mis-perforated. Did anyone know if this had any value? A suggestion was put out there that Saskatoon Stamps could be contacted (they advertise in the Unitrade Catalogue) for further guidance.



Our next person shared a favourite stamp, which I suspect is a favourite for many other collectors. Bill Findlay shared his appreciation for the 50 cent Bluenose, Unitrade # 158 and appears on the letterhead of "Stamps on

the Bay." While on a recent canoeing trip, Bill took the opportunity to mail a letter with the newly printed Bluenose Miniature sheet. It too would make an excellent addition to a collection, but alas, even with a perfectly clear cancellation at the point of mailing, the letter arrived with a pen cancellation on it. That disappointment did not end Bill's contribution for the evening, a last stamp appeared which shared the image of a favourite animal. The booklet had a pug dog on one of the stamps and it also happens to be a favourite dog for Bill. Speaking of favourites, Ralph Wyndham shared something that he has appreciated with stamps. The series is relatively modern and were issued in 1967, they are the high value Centennial Definitive issues. Ralph shared he made several trips to the post office to get these stamps, and when they finally arrived, it was a few weeks after the official release date. We were reminded that these high values definitive issues are all paintings by Canadian artists showing scenes from across Canada. The screen share showed the 20-cent ferry crossing the St Lawrence River from Quebec City to Levis and the \$1 was a scene of an oil drilling rig in the middle of a farm field near Edmonton. Not being content with showing these two stamps, he continued with the Vimy Ridge memorial monument set issued by France and then reminded us of the Guernica stamp issued by Spain, of which he had published an article in last month's edition of Stamps on the Bay.



Marion Ace demonstrated her gifts of research, producing an exhibit on the topic of a region of the world that has changed administration several times over the last one hundred years or so. This region is more familiarly known as Saar. Starting off as a region of France, it then gained independence, then became part of Germany then France again, independence and finally following a plebiscite, is now a region of Germany. Saar is a region known for industrialization

and mining and so would be an important part of either France or Germany, but since the region is primarily of German ethnic origin, it can be seen why it is now part of the larger country of Germany. A particular collecting interest for Marion is collecting "Stamp Day" covers and Saar produced many stamps for Stamp Day since 1950 until its amalgamation with Germany in 1957. After that time, stamps issued by West Germany were postally used, however, several stamps did feature a "subtitle" of Saar.



Earlier the year 1967 was mentioned. This year also left a very deep impression for your editor. That was the year that a series of stamps were printed to



highlight the AMPHILEX stamp show in Amsterdam. This first stamp was incredibly beautiful, perhaps the blue colour or perhaps for it being a "Stamps on Stamps" issue. Later this stamp led to a particular interest in collecting Netherlands #1, still a passion for me. It is difficult for one stamp to be the centre of my attention, and so the next slide brought the three pence beaver into view for the members. Of course, it is the first stamp


issued for Canada, but has some further significance as the stamp was designed by Sir Sandford Fleming while being part of the CPR across Canada, a national founding event for this young Dominion. Besides being the Surveyor, he also suggested the time zone system so that a zone of fifteen degrees of longitude has the common time across its width. Just think how confusing it would be to have an appointment at noon in another town, but the noon hour was slightly different especially if that town was many miles (kilometres) apart. A common zone time greatly facilitates the scheduling of train arrival and departures and increases efficiency, a true Scottish trait! Fleming also has a local connection. Local lore suggests that Fleming designed the train station at Craighleith, while he also apparently had a summer cottage in the area. Concluding my list of favourites is the Penny Black from Great Britain, the first postage stamp in the world.

After some further general chit chat, wondering when in person meetings will begin, the evening ended at about 8:45. With respect to in person meetings, the first thing to find out is what will be possible with St. Mary's High School. At this point, contact cannot begin until the teachers and administrators return to school later this month. Stand by for further updates, but one thing is sure, an in person meeting just can't happen until at least October. Once in person meetings can start the question is what can be done

for the long-distance members attending via technology.

BNAPEX Convention

BNAPEX Convention



BNAPEX, the annual stamp show and convention of BNAPS, is held in different locations from year to year.

BNAPEX 2021 Virtual
2 - 6 September 2021

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, BNAPEX 2021 is a virtual online convention this year. Many exhibits are now available for viewing. For the latest, go to the [BNAPEX news page](#).

- ▶ [BNAPEX 2021 Virtual](#)
- ▶ [Previous BNAPEX conventions](#)

Above this paragraph is a screen shot of the BNAPS website, www.bnaps.org. A few months ago, an article appeared speaking about this organization. One of the benefits of this group of philatelists is attending a national exhibition. This exhibition has many high-quality exhibits as well as a stamp bourse. More of the focus is on postal history but there are also many Study Group meetings held during the convention period. I attended the meeting held in Niagara Falls several years ago and it was at that time I became a member of this group. This year's convention was slated to be held in Winnipeg, but the pandemic became a fly in the ointment, and the Convention is being held remotely.

Attending the convention electronically is ABSLOUTELY FREE. The essential thing to do is REGISTER on the BNAPS website, BNAPS members need not register because when you visit the main website, login registration is automatic. The convention will run from September 2nd to 6th. From the BNAPS web page, the bottom left of the page shows the above image. At the bottom of the section about the BNAPEX is a hot link "BNAPEX 2021 Virtual." Clicking this link will bring a visitor to the part where it is possible to register. After the opening greeting and the Register hot button is a section titled "Exhibition." This part of the page shares information that there are forty-five exhibits with a total of one hundred and fifteen frames. Following this link will show the breadth of exhibits available to view. I have seen the presentation made by Sam Chiu about the C-Force soldiers sent to Hong Kong just before the start of World War 2 in the Pacific. A very interesting story as told by postal history.

Please remember that these exhibits have taken many

years to accumulate, and that more can be added as other pieces of history appear in the marketplace. Many of the exhibitors have made exhibits for years and have crafted exhibits into the form that you see today. It is amazing the amount of history that philately can bring into a collector's attention. Scrutinizing the exhibit contents gives a hint on what can be done in this hobby. However, don't let the exhibits scare anyone away from preparing an exhibit, I just need to remind you of our President who put together an exhibit for the Royal in London several years ago. It was well received and I'm sure Marion is building on what was shown at the Royal.

One aspect of exhibitions is the opportunity to acquire items for a personal collection. While it may not seem possible at this virtual convention, dealers will be "virtually present." There will be an opportunity to see what items may fit into your collection. The details on how this will work is not explained on the BNAPS website, but I am sure it will be possible to reach dealers who have never come to our local show, or in Hanover or Kincardine for that matter. Us "frontier" clubs are at the edge of the main philatelic body. Like the British Empire of a century ago where every outpost had an importance on the overall welfare of the empire, each philatelic outpost is significant to the overall body of philately in Canada.

Stampfest 2021

Exciting news, a live stamp show in a few weeks time. First to correct an error from last month, the date of this show is **August 28th**. The following information is available from the website canadianstampnews.com and if you plan on attending this event, please check the Canadian Stamp News page for the latest information. The Kitchener Waterloo Stamp club will be following all the provincial and local health guidelines to limit the risk visitors may encounter from contracting the virus at the show.



The above ad has been copied from the KW Stamp club website which highlighted the 85th Anniversary of the club, but due to the health situation at the time, the show was cancelled. However, the location is correct for anyone planning on attending. I have spoken with some of the members from the KW Club, and they suggest taking a lawn chair along to sit outside while waiting your turn to enter the hall. That will provide an opportunity to still enjoy meeting acquaintances and socializing. There will be a food

truck outside from which to purchase food (and likely drinks) and enjoying the good weather.

The show itself will have six dealers present, who will be a mix of stamp dealers and postal history sellers. It would be nice to hear a report on how the show went should anyone be going on that day.

Collectability

By Phil Visser

A few meetings in the past, guest speaker Gregg Redner spoke about his passion for collecting parcel post stamps from Belgium. Each collector probably has an underlying reason for collecting their topic, but has anyone deliberately set out to collect something new just on a lark? Some background information may help decide if that inspiration is a worthwhile project.

Taking the inspiration of Gregg Redner, this article will use some guidelines on deciding the feasibility of a new idea. A logical place to start is by looking at a stamp catalogue. Consulting the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, the parcel post stamps are given a prefix of "Q." Scott lists four hundred and ninety stamps up to the date of 2005 in their catalogue.

That seems simple enough, but another tool to consider is by looking at the catalogue value to see if it is doable. This inspection showed that most stamps were available for modest sums, with some reaching a value of approximately \$100. However, one series of stamps catalogues for considerable money with several stamps priced at over a \$1000. Can a budget afford that kind of investment/expenditure?

Next steps can include a search of Circuit books to see if they are available. By going to Circuit Book Explorer, the books have ninety-seven pages of stamps from Belgium. Some of the pages have been scanned and it is possible to see a few parcel post stamps are in the binder.

As Gregg mentioned in his presentation, it is possible to go much deeper into this topic than just collecting the stamps. This topic is a doable collection until Gregg mentioned collecting the various railroad station cancels, especially when a complete database has not been gathered.

Leaving this topic aside, how about collecting the country of Belgium? Again, a review of the Scott Catalogue will show a person that many kinds of stamps have been printed and used in the Belgian postal system. Regular postage is used but there are also listing for semi-postal stamps, air post stamps, air post semi-postal stamps, special delivery, postage dues, military stamps, official stamps, newspaper stamps, the previously mentioned parcel post stamps, and finally German occupation stamps.

Using the Scott catalogue as a beginning point, the annual edition I am referring to is 2009. Many other stamps have been issued since that year, but it provides a basis of figuring out the collectability for this country. Looking at the catalogue number, Scott has assigned 2,205 stamps for use on postage. The next section listed by Scott is for Semi-postal stamps.

It is at this section that a cultural difference comes to the forefront. On the American side of the Atlantic Ocean there is a anti-tax mindset, originating from our southern neighbour with the Boston Tea Party being the historical reminder of minimal taxation. However, the European continent looks at semi-postal stamps as a method of supporting charity, for under-privileged children, those needing assistance during the lean part of the year (winter for instance), for seniors whose living standards are much lower due to reduced ability to work and for the support of refugees. These causes can be supported by purchasing stamps and the few cents given to charity can build up throughout the nation to support the causes. Up to 2009, Scott lists 1,175 stamps in this section.

One wonders how the designated letters came about, but Scott has chosen the Letter "C" to prefix air post stamps (airmail). These stamps were initially issued to pay for the air transit cost for delivering expedited mail. This service has now been mostly relegated to the past, but Scott lists 20 (twenty) different Air Post stamps.

The concept of charity also entered this section and so Belgium also issued Air Post Semi Postal stamps. Scott designates this section with the prefix "CB" of which there are thirteen stamps (13) listed. During the early years of postal service, it was possible to have expedited delivery options, and so Scott has a section for Special Delivery Stamps. Prefixed with the letter "E" only six (6) stamps are listed by Scott.

During the early years of the postage system, people would forget or deliberately under pay the postage rate, and so the advent of Postage Due stamps. This section lists 78 stamps. Military Stamps were designated for the use of the Armed Forces of the Country, but not many are listed five (5). There was even one Military Parcel Post Stamp issued. Government business also received separate treatment and so this section list ninety-five (95) stamps. Newspapers also received preferential treatment and Scott list forty (40) stamps in this section.

All told, from a collectability standpoint, Scott lists four thousand stamps numbers. If anyone has researched catalogues, it will be noticed that not every stamp is listed with a direct number, for instance a stamp designated as #13a (example) or perforation varieties which also receive letters. Modern times has also shown sheets of stamps issued with twenty different stamps in the sheet, so #1792 is followed by twenty letters.

While four thousand stamps may seem achievable, the lettering system followed by the degree of detail a collector may have can easily expand the collection exponentially. Happy collecting!

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Vimy Ridge

Neil Elson is asking the club member who spoke with him about a Vimy Ridge First Day Cover. Please contact him at the earliest convenient moment.

Looking For:

A new club member has started collecting later in life, although the urge has been present for many years. Like many of us, life seemed to take control of our activities, but now the golden years allows us to choose what to do! Dick Tenbergen joined just before the Covid pandemic arrived, and since that time I have assisted in filling in his Canadian collection of Christmas and "Queen Elizabeth" stamps. Now time has allowed Dick to expand into other areas of Canada. If anyone has Canadian duplicates and are willing to help Dick expand his collection, please contact him and you can discuss if a mutually beneficial arrangement can be arranged. Please contact Dick at tenbergen@aurocom.com

What Am I?

At the request of John Cortan, the following scans are provided to help identify an unknown French label. For the persons receiving a paper printed version of this newsletter, it is a yellow label with the letters "A.O." on it. A red arrow has been placed to point at the label. This label is found on both the front and back of the letter. If anyone has any knowledge of what purpose this label serves, please let John know at johncortan1@gmail.com



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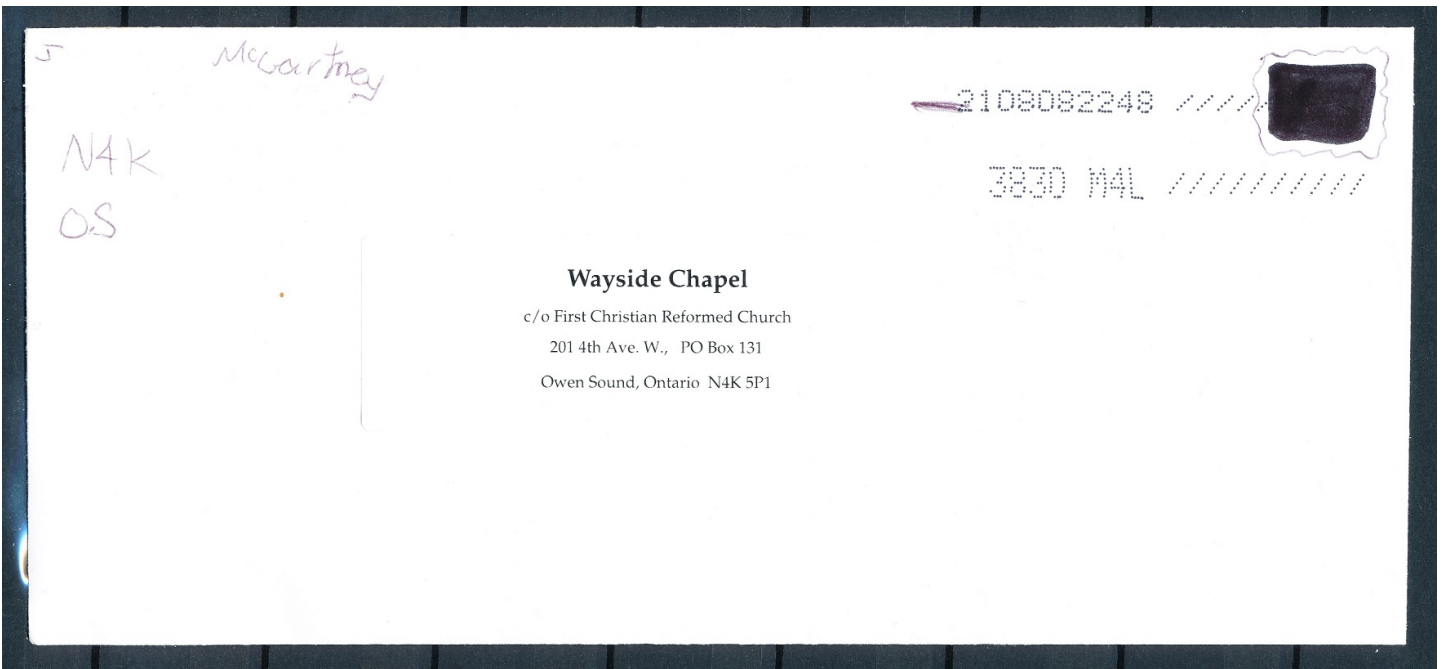
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How Did This Get Through the Mail!



The above envelope arrived at the Church Office and it is simply incomprehensible how it reached its destination. The Wayside Chapel is located on Highway 6, between Springmount and Shallow Lake. Envelopes are provided for those wishing to leave a donation, which does happen during the summer season. However, in the upper left corner is a simulated stamp, with simulated perforations and a black marker indicating a pretend stamp. Somehow, it passed through the cancellation devices at the Gateway Terminal in Mississauga and arrived at the Church Office free from Postage Due charges!. The return address has been altered to protect the identity of the sender, but presumably a child.