

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club**
Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 7 P.M.
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 3, Edition 4, May 2022



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!

So much has been going on lately I feel like it was quite a while ago that I saw you in Owen Sound. John Cortan had a bit of a farewell sale at our first live indoor meeting in ages, not that he is leaving but he is passing on all his stamp stock to another dealer.

There was a pretty good showing of people at the New Life Centre. We had a new member join us. Please welcome Nathan Seaman to the ranks. There was a lot to discuss at the meeting. We will continue with Zoom meetings and Zoom stamp auctions. The auctions will continue to be on the first Wednesday of the month and our Zoom meetings will be held on the second Thursday at 7:00. Both of these meetings are cancelled in May as our Zoom host is away. This means that our next Zoom meeting will be on Thurs. June 9th which is the opening day of Capex '22. Phil and I will both be there so we will try to have the meeting live from Capex '22 at 5:00! This could be a real blast! The show closes at 6:00 so take note of the early Zoom time! I still have to clear this with our Zoom host so keep your eyes peeled for any changes.

We are also going to have door prize draws and One Page Challenges at our regular meetings which will be held on the third Wednesday each month at 7:00 just like pre-Covid days but at the New Life Centre. Please see the article about one page exhibits further in the newsletter.

At the meeting we decided to have a special auction for the many donations and consignments made to the club by people downsizing. As it turns out the date will not work for some of us. I am looking into getting dealers for a show in September. Due to rising costs (gas, hotels, etc.) I don't think we will have many dealers. Therefore we are looking at having a blended stamp show and large auction on September 24th. We will keep you informed.

Last Friday I had quite the surprise in the mail. In the package was a complimentary book for the club's library from Robin Harris. It is Environment Definitive Series 1977-1987, Second Edition. It is a 480 page spiral bound softcover book covering 7 different definitive series with tons of information and loads of black and white photos. I will bring it to the meeting so we can start taking turns checking this out. I don't know how many

clubs he is sending these books to, but that is a really great gesture! Thank you very much Robin Harris!

It was a beautiful day for the Saugeen Show in Walkerton on May 7th. People were in very high spirits and it seemed that everyone was enjoying themselves. Ralph Wyndham who instigated the show managed to drive up from New Brunswick to participate. It was perfect weather for the long drive.

I hope to see you Wednesday May 18th at the New Life Centre. Please bring some items for an auction and a one page exhibit on birds. For those of you online we'll see you on June 1st for the OSSC Zoom auction and live at Capex '22 Thursday June 9th at 5:00.

Marion Ace

President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

This month's edition of **Stamps on the Bay** is a smaller one. One page has been removed from this month, gems can still be found. One exciting thing is the reappearance of local shows. Check that out on Page 4.

Excitement is building for the **Capex** show in less than a month's time. One key thing is that the RPSC will be offering half price membership. Once a member of the RPSC, there is an offer to purchase the latest book on "**Lets talk Exhibiting**" by David Piercey. Members will receive a \$15 discount when purchasing the book at Capex, or by calling Trajan press during the Capex show if you are unable to attend the event. More information will be available when attending the show, or by calling me directly.

Due to the reduced space in this month's newsletter, the **Blast from the Past** has skipped this edition, but it is expected to return next month. Some information has appeared with the author identified as Mr. I.S. Klein. Of the seven stories I currently have, these focus on stamps from Germany.

Here is the teaser scan, it shouldn't be too hard to determine what story it is tied to:



A Research Project

By Phil Visser

Stamp club members have an opportunity to find philatelic information from each other. Members know that already, but it needs to be emphasized with other "closet collectors" who are not members of a club. Recently Gerd asked about the scan below and wondered if I might know something about it.



There are a couple of things that immediately stand out with this stamp on paper. The stamp is cut in half, a bisect, and the cancellation is very clear. Looking at the date of December 31, 1918, it was used a month and a half after the armistice implemented on November 11th. Many interesting possibilities exist with this item.

One point that jumps into the mind is that this item is "**philatelic**." Defining the term "philatelic" is somewhat difficult. A first definition is that the item is done as a favour for a stamp collector, either by a friendly postal clerk or fellow stamp collector, to create something unusual with a collection. Stamp dealers and exhibition judges tend to frown on "philatelic items."

Philatelic could also mean that the item is "contrived" and would not be found normally. An early leader of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Major Henry Hechler of Halifax, was tarred by the charge that some items he sold were contrived. In recent years that charge has been muted and hopefully his reputation has rebounded somewhat.

An example of a "contrived" letter actually happens at sea. In the 1930's the S.S. Nascopie sailed the Arctic waters to the various communities in the North West Territories. It became possible to have letters mailed from these communities which would bare a stamp indicating it was mailed from the Nascopie and the postmark of the community. These letters were addressed to a gentleman in Winnipeg. Another

example of a contrived item was from Australia. A certain person in Australia mailed letters to each Post Office in the territories asking the Post Master to cancel the letter with a numeral cancel. Although it was "contrived" this record of numeral cancels provides an excellent reference library for cancel collectors today.

Since the stamp on paper is a bisect, the issuing country is not clearly found, but some experience with this country's stamps revealed its identity. This stamp was issued by Belgium. It is Scott number 114 and is valued as 20 centimes. The series of stamps that this is part of was printed in London, England during WW 1. Not all of Belgium was occupied in that war, but the city of Gent was in the part of Belgium that was occupied.

In the short duration between the armistice and the mailing of this stamp, it would have taken time to distribute the new series of stamps through the entire country. The stocks printed during the war would have been limited and so a bisect would be a possibility as being legal use of postage stamps.

A digression is needed to show how the stamp world has been helpful in confirming what is seen in the scan. Members may be aware of my interest in Owen Sound postal history. That interest put me in contact with the co-leader of the Fancy Cancels Study group of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS). This gentleman suggested several months ago to join the Facebook group "**Canadian Fancy Cancels**." This was easily achieved, but Facebook suggested I also join "**Ken Pugh Stamp forgeries**." And so the connections opened up another world of knowledge. Sharing the above scan with this group provided several observations.

Cameron H shared that the stamp is "on graph paper." This is not visible in real light, but certainly is on the scan. Shortly thereafter Henry G. replied that in his opinion this item was genuine. James K wondered if this stamp was on a "railway card" or other "government document?" Pierre C shared that "your cut stamp and obliteration look pretty authentic." He continued that "Belgian half stamps (bisects) were used in various eras, especially during World War 1." Pierre concurs with what is written above about the timing of December 31st makes it most likely genuine.

One other source of information was Dr. Gregg R. from London, ON. Focusing on the cancellation of Gent 2, Gregg's knowledge shared that there were no government offices near the 2nd post office in the city of G(h)ent, and so he thought it was most likely legitimate, however, he would have liked to see the entire envelope to confirm it was 100 percent legitimate. Who knew so much could be found out by tapping on the keyboard?

What is a One Page Exhibit?

by Marion Ace

At our live meeting in April...yes, live in-person with actual human beings gathered together... it was decided that we will restart having one page completions at the live meetings. We used to have these competitions regularly. Some of you may recall

that we have had one page competitions for our annual stamp show. I like to call ours the One Page Challenge and so I will. The pages at the stamp show were judged by a proper judge and the one with the most points was awarded the title of 'best in show'. Another possibility is to have all of the viewers vote for their favourite and the winner is awarded the 'people's choice award'. There is a difference between the types of awards.

What is the point of the One Page Challenge?

First of all have fun! Challenge yourself. The point of any exhibit large or small is to tell a philatelic story. For a single page exhibit there should be a title and a line or two stating the purpose of the exhibit and let the items shown tell the story. Keep descriptions as short as possible...there is not much room on a single page. The story you decide on should be as narrow as possible not a topic that could be told in several frames of exhibits. We decided that our first topic for the One Page Challenge will be 'birds'. Everybody has some stamps with birds on them. 'Birds' is a huge topic. Your job is to find one small aspect about birds on stamps. Here are some random examples:

- 1) Puffins on Canadian stamps (elements could include postal stationery with a puffin on it)
- 2) Swans as a symbol of love on American stamps.
- 3) The blue jay as a baseball symbol.
- 4) Canada geese on air mail stamps.
- 5) Ducks on postal cancels.
- 6) A certain bird stamp cancelled in Owen Sound. (postal history)

I'm sure one could expand upon these subjects too, so narrow it down as much as possible. The overall subject ie: birds, should be as broad as possible so everybody can find one small aspect of the subject that they want to tackle.

What are the rules?

Unfortunately you have to stick to an 8 ½ x 11 inch page. I prefer working on larger pages but to keep things equal stick to a regular sized page. You can present the page vertically or horizontally which may work better for some covers. Other than that there are no real rules. At our meetings we will all be voting for our favourite page. Keep in mind that if these were to be judged then the page should have at least three different philatelic elements. Say what? Yes, three philatelic elements. You can choose to follow this rule just to get exhibiting practice. Some examples of philatelic elements are:

- 1) A mint stamp
- 2) A used stamp
- 3) A first day cover
- 4) A postally used cover
- 5) A souvenir sheet
- 6) Colour, gum or perforation varieties.
- 7) A block of four or booklet panes
- 8) Pre-cancels

- 9) Postcards or postal stationery
- 10) Whatever else you can think of!

So, include three or more elements if you want to. Although we will choose our favourite there are no losers in this. The object is to have fun, challenge yourself and learn something from yourself and others and possibly build confidence towards making larger exhibits.

Another new thing for our meetings will be door prize draws. Tickets will be 2 for \$1.00 or 5 for \$2.00. You will no longer have to pay the treasurer the \$1.00 monthly meeting fee. We hope this will be an incentive for you to spend a little bit more. It is not mandatory. The prizes will come from donations from members and others. Chris T. has enthusiastically agreed to run the door prize draws. (I never exaggerate!)

Sometimes it helps to have some time to prepare a One Page Challenge. So I am choosing a few topics to get us started. Our '**Stamps on the Bay**' newsletter, and the website, will have an updated listing of future challenges. The winner will choose a topic to add to the calendar starting with August.

There will be five or six door prizes. As an added incentive for the One Page Challenge the winner will get to choose the first item from the door prizes. Bonus!

One Page Challenge Topics are:

May 18: birds

June 15: a building

July 20: an athlete or sports team



April Meeting Highlights

Sixteen intrepid souls arrived at the first in person meeting held in two years! We were also very happy to greet a new member who joined that evening, Nathan Seaman. It was also a sad evening in that long time member and dealer John Cortan is retiring from being a stamp dealer. One benefit from the pandemic is that we can meet regularly at the New Life Centre for the foreseeable future.

Business matters did fill part of the evening. One matter that needed some discussion was the continued use of Zoom meetings. Several members of this club live a long distance away but can attend electronically. The main matter of discussion is that we will hold a Zoom meeting on the second Thursday of the month. Meeting formats for both in person and Zoom meetings is the same. There will be an opportunity for Show and Tell and perhaps a guest speaker.

At the conclusion of business, a flock of collectors mobbed John's stamps. I trust members came away happy. Hopefully Nathan was impressed enough to return in May.

UPCOMING SHOWS

MAY 13-14, Hamilton Springpex 2022

Salvation Army Citadel, 835 Stone Church Road East, Hamilton, ON, L8W 1R8

Large voice auction 7 pm Friday with viewing starting at 5 pm. Guest Sales Circuit Friday evening beginning at 5 pm. Saturday hours are 10 am – 4 pm that include a 12 dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies plus Silent Auctions during the day and Youth Booth. New location, free admission, ample free parking and building is accessible friendly with no stairs to manoeuvre. Light food and refreshments may be available if Covid restrictions allow. Sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club.

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JUN 9-12, CAPEX 22

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Toronto, ON, M5V 2W6

It will be Canada's first international show in 26 years and just the fourth North American international exhibition since 1996. In addition to having an 86-booth bourse with dealers, auctioneers and postal services from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and Australia, the show will also be the world's first International One-Frame Stamp Championship Exhibition. Four hundred single-frame exhibits are set to compete for international honours in the largest showing of single-frame exhibits the

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world has ever seen. The exhibition will also include an international literature competition.

More than 25 national and international groups will participate in CAPEX 22 with seminars, presentations, book launches, exhibit tours, society tables and booths, member meet and greets, annual general meetings, board meetings and social events.

CAPEX 22 has the patronage of the Federation Inter-Americana de Filatelia (FIAF) and recognition from the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie. The international exhibition is also supported by several sponsors, including major trade organizations such as CSN, Eastern Auctions, Gary J. Lyon (Philatelist), R. Maresch & Son Auctions, Sparks Auctions, Stanley Gibbons, Stamp Auction Network and major societies such as the British North America Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Society. The Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation has also participated in developing the first-of-its-kind International One-Frame Stamp Championship Exhibition.

Web: <http://capex22.org/contact/>

AUG 20, KINEX 22

Kincardine Davidson Center, 601 Durham st., Kincardine, ON, N2Z 1L6

Kincardine stamp clubs annual show is back there will be door prizes, 10 dealers, lunch booth

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