

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club
Branch 191 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 7 P.M.
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 4, Edition 11, December 2023**



Hello my philatelic friends!

Christmas is coming. Hanukah has already come. Yule is on the 22nd, though it looks like winter out there as I write this message. Our December meeting falls on the 20th so I am hoping that you will all be overflowing with the Holiday Spirit... (no, not THOSE spirits), the spirit of joy, the spirit of light and the spirit of generosity.

For our December meeting please bring some tempting items to donate for our live auction. All of the proceeds from this auction will go to the OShare program which provides meals for people in Owen Sound. We certainly hear how the need for charity is greater than ever with the rising costs of groceries and housing. I still get ticked off every time I go to the grocery store and I can't imagine trying to provide a proper diet for a young family these days! Of course our annual dues need to be paid as well and while you are in the spirit of donating; we always need donations for door prizes!

We would also like you to bring some tempting treats for us all to share at the meeting. Phil will likely bring some delicious hot apple cider. We will have a Christmas One Page Challenge. Maybe you can find a particular theme for your page ie: red Christmas stamps, snowmen, Santa, or a Christmas stamps of Australia. Whatever your choice, let's fill that frame with Christmas pages!

The online auction on Dec. 6 was pretty lively with items ranging from \$1.00 to \$100.00. Our November meeting had a pretty lively auction too with about 17 members in attendance. We decided once again to move the January, February and March meetings to the third Saturday of the month at 1:00 in the same place. (The New Life Centre). This will help to alleviate driving in dark, snowy conditions.

I hope that all of you have the chance to hug the people you love over the holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at our festive meeting!

Bring some donations for this festive meeting. See you on Wednesday evening of December 20th at 7:00!

**Marion Ace
President, Owen Sound Stamp Club**

Editors Greeting

Are you excited yet? Do you remember the anticipation of getting around the Christmas tree to see what surprises awaited you? The calendar has flipped too many times to reach that level of excitement, but it is sure wonderful to see that in the little ones. Hopefully they are nearby and there is a family get together. Our grandchildren suggested they come to our house on the 23rd or 24th and stay here for a few days. They seem to forget that last year we were promised a massive storm on Christmas day, and so to enjoy family we made those arrangements as a temporary solution to a problem.

But this issue of Stamps on the Bay is not about problems, but excitement about our hobby. Last week my mind was blank, but there are five pages of goodies following this first page. Jim M. has submitted another story as well as there are two meeting highlights to share what you may have missed in November. A few other words have been scribbled to see if they may interest you. Let me know on the 20th!

I was surprised that only a few members seem to follow the Upcoming Shows section. But for those who appreciate the information and do visit other shows there are a few more temptations listed. The key one is that the Oxford Philatelic Society is hosting their show on March 17th. This date conflicts with our planned meeting. We may want to discuss arrangements for that day.

Here is a teaser scan to see which story it might link to:



Undeliverable Mail/Return to Sender

By Jim Molineux

Canada Post returns undeliverable items to the sender provided that there is a valid return address. Reasons for the return of mail are insufficient postage, a non-existent or incomplete mailing address, postal code errors, bad handwriting, failure of the addressee to provide a forwarding address, a deceased or unknown person or refusal of delivery by the addressee. Although not acknowledged by Canada Post, the reasons also include incompatibility with, or damage by, automated sorting machines.

Mail put in the wrong mailbox will be redelivered in the same mail class used to send it. For example, mail sent as Priority Post will be returned as such. In the case of an addressee who has moved, the recipient is legally obliged to write in the forwarding address if known (see Forwarding Mail).

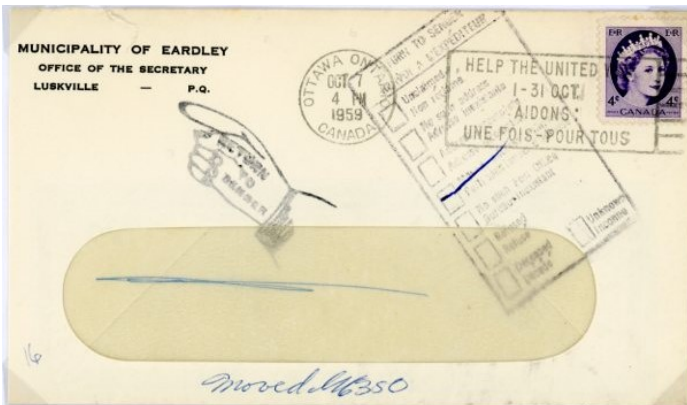


Figure 1

Prior to the widespread use of computers, mail being returned was handstamped as shown in Fig. 1 with the reason for non-delivery identified by a checkmark. Fig. 2 shows a variation requiring the use of different handstamps. The current practice is to affix a computerized label which includes the reason for non-delivery (Fig. 3).

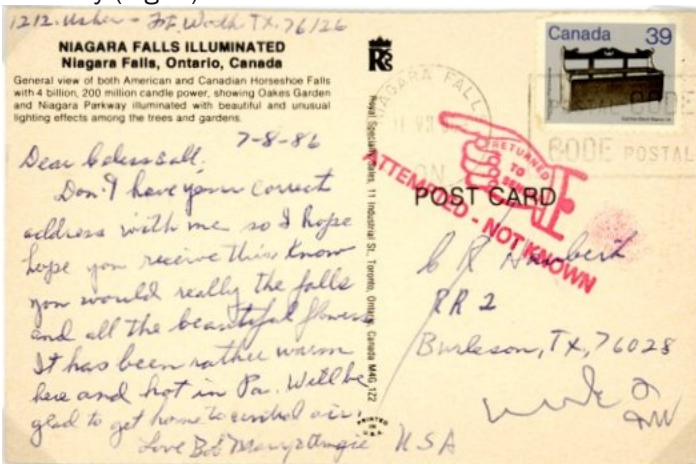


Figure 2

If a valid return address is Not available, Canada Post is legally permitted to open mail and destroy items of no obvious value. This done at an Undeliverable Mail Office¹ with two locations either in Toronto



Figure 3

charity. Canada Post now plans to launch an online auction of its undeliverable merchandise on eBay.ca after a successful test run produced healthy sales. Cash acquired by opening mail or by sales revenue is deposited to the Credit of Canada Post. Illegal contents are reported to the Police.



Figure 4

Items other than mail are often dropped into letter boxes. Keys are common because of the War Amps charity's key tag program. In a typical year, Canada Post will also receive about 18,000 lost wallets. Postal employees will try to reunite the wallets with their owners. Yeah right!

1. Formerly "Dead Letter Office"

Nov 9th Zoom Meeting

Due to illness, Marion was unable to chair the meeting. These duties fell on the Vice President who reports the following discussions of that evening. It was good to see ten members present with about half being long-distance members. This is precisely the reason for having this means of connecting.

A warm social welcome was spread through crowd. Opportunities to share philatelic "finds" appeared. We congratulate Ralph who has mastered the "Share Screen" feature of Zoom. The results of his Share Screen follow.

Ralph seems to have a connection with the Baltic States and so showed an Estonian cover bearing an imperf stamp. Some research connecting with the sender revealed that these stamps had somehow escaped the print shop and appear on mail from that country. It also seems that the stamp is likely considered to be "printers waste." This term indicates a trial run of a printing to ensure printing quality.

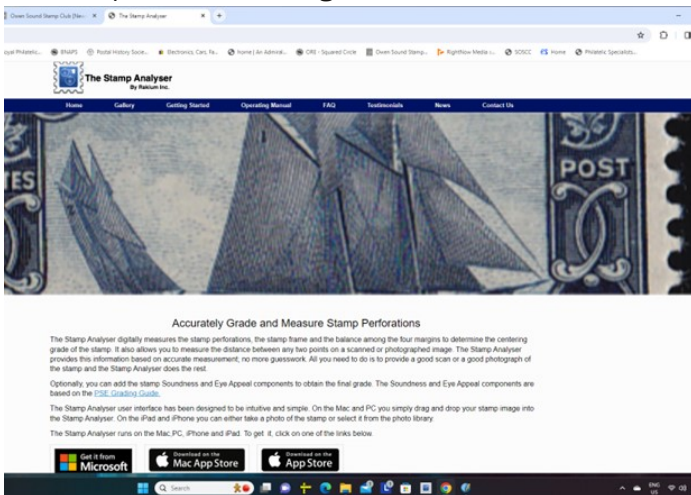
A final share concerned the success of a "Silent Auction." Ralph attended a philatelic meeting in Fredericton and that evening there was Silent Auction. It was a nice tin formerly holding some goodies and so sight unseen, he put a \$10 bid on it. No one else challenged his bid and so he is now sorting through the finds with some surprisingly good catalogue stamps.

The moral of the story is keep looking and take a chance, sometimes a real sense of satisfaction brightens the day.

Several members of the OSSC (Owen Sound Stamp Club) participate in the online auctions held by the Oxford Philatelic Society, North York Stamp club and of course our own club. Winning bids result in mail arriving at your home. Bill F showed a cover containing a win but adorned by many 5 cent stamps to make up the postage.

Our computer guru shared a tool on the cellphone that can help translate non-English languages into English. He demonstrated by holding up an Asian stamp and the cellphone translated the characters into English. How neat! If you wish to do something like that, a cellphone with a camera is needed and of course the app free from Google.

Following a short back and forth between Randy and I another piece of software came out. Randy seemed to think the name of it was "Image Bursting." The program is designed to take a scan of multiple stamps and split the single scan into a separate scan of each stamp. There are commercial products that do the same, but borrowing Bill's philosophy, I prefer to spend my money on stamps, not other things.



At the end of the meeting, I had an opportunity to share news about another computer program. The program is called Stamp Analyser. If the user either scans or takes a picture on the cellphone of a stamp, this program will provide the perforation of that stamp. This is done much quicker than can be done by a perf gauge.

The program is developed by Rakium Inc, a business based in Hudson Quebec. There is a fee to purchase the app. Downloading it onto my computer took several tries and required signing into my Microsoft Account. This was new but eventually success was achieved and the program has been shared with other collectors at the West Toronto Stamp club. Some of those members were not able to navigate Microsoft and so returned to the use of gauges.

Our meeting ended at approximately 9 PM with the participants full of more knowledge. Please feel free to join the meetings and especially, be prepared to share something that has recently been found or rediscovered.

Nov 15th In person Meeting

Sometimes life gets busy. The evening of the 15th provided me an opportunity to attend three events. The first one was attending a dinner and the second one was coming late to this meeting. Upon my arrival the business part had been completed. The door prize draws started before I could purchase any tickets, but several people did have their numbers drawn.

A quick scan of the room showed seventeen members and guests were present. Fortunately, one new guest introduced himself to me. Steve K comes from Port Elgin. He had visited the club several years ago. His memory was better than mine because he recognized me. Life was busy for him at that time and so did not return until this meeting. Welcome back Steve.

Another club stalwart also missed the meeting. Bob F stayed home to recuperate from some medical procedures. Even so, the room was full of voices who used their numbers to bid for items that were available in the auction. Thanks go out to the auctioneer, Randy, recorder Judy and the traveling collection agency, Bill. Many items were sold, while some other items returned to their owners.

The auctions have changed somewhat with more expensive items being offered for sale. Be prepared to spend significant levels of cash. What items come to each meeting for the auction is a surprise worth being prepared for.

Dryden Ontario

By Phil Visser

A road trip earlier this year took us through the community of Dryden, Ont. A break was appropriate at that moment, so we looked for an interesting stopping place. This brought us to a former visitor centre converted into a sort of artists co-op.

I made a point of looking for postcards to mail to my grand children. Their excitement is quickly mentioned when we got back together when we returned home. It was also a test for me to see how many of the postcards would receive a postmark. Alas not many!

One post card that interested me is the one shown in figure 1. There are a few things of interest with this card. Naturally, the top image drew my interest. Its significance is that this small boat was constructed by Russell Brothers in Owen Sound. It was used to push logs around towards the paper mill.

The bottom part of the postcard is another significant feature near the artist co-op. A search of Wikipedia mentions that "Max the Moose" stand 5.3 metres tall. While the real animals are not that tall, they certainly tower over a car.

Monuments tend to leave memories to visitors, even if they do not stop by. My first trip out west was forty years ago. Its purpose was to attend a wedding for one of Shirley's cousins. On that trip I had a cow and calf cross the highway a few hundred metres in front of me. Brakes were applied until the animals had entered the forest on the other side of the road.

It also brought back memories of our former President, Larry Crane. He too was fascinated by the giant beasts



Figure 1

and started a collection on that topic. At the dispersal of Larry's collection, a purchase of the collection now resides in my accumulation.

Moose are a fascinating topical collection. Some time in the future an exhibit will come out of this accumulation. Apparently, another collector has followed this topic as well, but he too has sold the collection off.

But the topic of this story is Dryden Ontario. Here Wikipedia has provided a rich source of information. It is the halfway point on a trip from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg along Highway 17 (aka Trans Canada highway). Its founding started from the building of the railroad from Ontario to British Columbia.

Trains were steam and required water and fuel (wood or coal) to move on the rails. Originally named Barclay Tank, it serviced trains on their trip across Canada. This region was settled by First Nations people who hunted and fished the region to survive. Chopping wood provided another form of work for the residents of the area.

The present name originates from the 1895 Ontario Minister of Agriculture, John Dryden. On a trip and stop at Barclay tank, John Dryden noticed clover growing nearby and thought this could be good

agricultural land. The following year (1896) an experimental farm was founded at stopping point. Gold was discovered before the agricultural settlement was founded. It mustn't have been a significant find because no further mention has been made about this metal.

A short time after it was recognized that the region offered good resources for the pulp and paper industry. The Wabigoon River and Lake offered a good spot to build an industry. These resources and the transportation of the rail system proved the main reason for the community prospering. In 1910 the paper mill was built, and logs were floated down the river.

Unfortunately, it is also famous for inflicting a terrible disease on the local Ojibwe people. This mill dumped mercury into the river and the natives living downstream suffered from what is called Minamata disease. Mercury poisoning entered the fish who in turn were consumed by the natives.

This brief look at a northern community may leave readers a memory worth making a stop for on their travels. The trip from Thunder Bay and Winnipeg is famous for rocks and trees, trees and rocks and water (title of an Arrogant Worm song).

Seasonal Celebrations

By Phil Visser

Tradition has many of us thinking seasonal celebrations are about Christmas. Yet Canada is a multi-cultural country. This has been recognized by Canada Post and now we have different seasonal celebration stamps.

Canada Post began the seasonal celebration trilogy with the annual Christmas stamps. Again, it comes with four different designs. The "P" booklet stamp is the Christmas stamp while the three souvenir sheet stamps feature winter scenery (see Figure 1). These stamps were issued on Nov 2nd.



Figure 1

A second seasonal celebration is the Diwali stamp. It was issued on Nov 9th. It took a little research through Wikipedia and Almanac.com to learn about this festival. It is called the "Festival of Lights." It is a celebration by Hindu people to show and some other religion in the Asian sub-continent.

Almanac.com explains Diwali as "the triumph of light



Figure 2

over dark, good over evil, and the blessings of victory, freedom, and enlightenment.” Figure 2 shows the stamp issued this year. It was issued in booklets of six stamps at the “P” postage rate.

A third seasonal celebration is Hanukkah. It is celebrated by the Jewish faith. The central figure is the menorah, the eight

headed candelabra. It is a celebration from Jewish history on a miracle experienced with the lighting of the candle. When some articles of the Temple were returned to Jerusalem, a celebration was ordered.

Only consecrated oil was allowed to be used in the menorah. When the temple items arrived, there was only one day's supply of consecrated oil, while the celebration was eight days long. The oil lasted for eight days. It also took eight days for the oil to be consecrated. So, the light was never extinguished during this period.

Figure 3 shows this year's design. It too was issued in booklets of 6 at the “P” postage rate. Apparently, it is difficult to find these stamps.

Remembering the references to light in the Christmas story, the angels shining in the night skies and the "Star of Bethlehem", all three celebrations refer to light. While the Christian culture celebrates Christmas on December 25th, both the Hindu and Jewish faiths use the lunar calendar and so are around the same time but this year precede Christmas as we may be more familiar with.

According to Almanac.com, Diwali occurs on November 12th. Google provides that Hanukkah begins on the evening of Dec 7th and runs through to December 15th.

References:

1. <https://www.almanac.com/content/diwali>
2. <https://www.google.com/search?q=date+of+hanukkah+2023>



Figure 3

Upcoming Shows

JAN 13, '24

Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show

Branlyn Community Centre, 238 Brantwood Park Road, Brantford, ON, N3P 1N9

Free admission, free parking, 12+ dealers, silent auction, Club circuit books, youth booth, door prizes, stamp exhibits, snack counter, wheelchair accessible.

Web: <http://www.brantfordstampclub.com>

JAN 27, '24

74th Cathex Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St., St. Catharines, ON, L2R 5L3

74th CATHEX, sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club, will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 10 dealers, youth table, club circuit. Free parking and admission. Lunch counter on site.

Web: <http://www.stcatharinesstampclub.ca>

FEB 25, '24

Toronto Postcard Club Annual Show

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Canada's largest vintage postcard show featuring 30 tables with thousands of postcards for sale from many countries, covering many topics. Cash admission \$7. Free parking. TTC accessible.

Web: <https://torontopostcardclub.com/tpc-annual-show/>

MAR 3, '24

Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show

John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, ON, L4Z 1V8

Sponsored by the Troyak Club, the Mississauga Coin and Stamp Show will be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with 60 tables and more than 30 dealers. Free evaluations plus buying, selling and trading. Admission is \$7 (children under the age of 16 are free), and parking is free.

Web: <https://troyakclub.com/shows/>

MAR 16, '24

Oxford Philatelic Society 72nd OXPEX & 42nd OTEX

St. Mary's Catholic High School, 431 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, ON, N4V 1E8

Framed & judged exhibits, sales circuit books, buy it now table, 15 dealers, youth gift bags, draw prizes. Free admission & parking. Everyone Welcome !

Phone: 519 442 0350

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Wrap Up

Have you written a list, checked it twice? Maybe this Christmas season will bring some goodies for your collection. In the mean time, we had a family gathering at the New Life Centre with forty eight present. Four others couldn't make it for different reasons, but a good time was had by all. The accompanying picture shows a "gift" to see some different perspectives on this season! We hope that the meeting on the 20th will be full of good cheer and especially to raise funds for OShare. Being part of this community gives us an opportunity to return to it what has been received.

Recently President Marion and chief go-getter Bill dropped in to visit the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Library. They turned over the proceeds of the Scott Catalogue sales. The sale, less the club's commission, was about \$300. The Library staff were very pleased and look to repeat this again next year.



Pictured from Left to Right:

Bill Findlay OSSC member, Sharon Wagenaar, Information Services Specialist and Marion Ace, President OSSC

"The Grinch" is one of those Christmas Classics! Here is a reminder that this season is not the time to have a heart two sizes too small!

