



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: February 21st

February 2001

Public Awareness Day – a very successful event!

Seems a long time ago now, but the Public Awareness Day was held in the Heritage Place Mall on Saturday, January 13th – and a thoroughly successful day it was! The booth was set up in the nick of time and there was a constant stream of people of all ages coming by to talk about stamps and showing off their collections until the mall closed at 6:00pm. Many club members were able to drop by and several stopped to discuss stamps and stamp collecting with the visitors.

We had five frames set up with a variety of stamps on display and it was interesting to note that even non-collectors could happily spend 20 minutes looking at collections of Disney stamps or “Postal History of Grey County”.

The Sun Times gave a fine write up of the event and what made

it all really worthwhile was to see six new faces at the subsequent club meeting.

All kudos to John Cortan for not just putting forward the idea, but pushing it along and making it work.

Annual Stamp Show

The theme of the Owen Sound Stamp Club show this year is “The Collection and Exhibition of Topicals”. It is the hope of your show committee that every member of our club will compete for a medallion by entering at least one frame. One frame will be reserved for every member. More will be available upon request. No limit on entries!

An attractive medallion will be awarded to the best exhibit in EACH of the following categories:

- **Animals of the World on Stamps** (eg. mammals; primates, reptiles, insects, birds, fish, amphibians, endangered species, prehistoric, mystical animals, ...)
- **Sports & Recreation on Stamps** (eg. Olympics, Special Olympics, professional sports, amateur sports, women in sports, winter sports, summer sports, indoor sports, ...)
- **Music & The Arts on Stamps** (eg. paintings on stamps; sculpture, ballet, opera, country music, jazz, artists, musicians books & literature, ...)
- **Hobbies & Pastimes** (eg. card & board games, collections of memorabilia, antiques, magic, stamps on stamps, coins on stamps, ...)

- **History on Stamps** (eg. Events & anniversaries of events, wars & conflicts; politicians, royalties, famous people, ...)
- **Religion & Philosophy on Stamps** (eg. preachers, teachers and prophets, Lent, icons, special days, ...)
- **Transportation on Stamps** (eg. ships, automobiles, trains, aircraft, buses, trucks, hovercraft, submarines, bicycles, tricycles, bicycles, motor cycles, ...)
- **Communication on Stamps** (eg. printing press, television, telegraph, telephone, pony express, postal service, ...)
- **Holidays & Special Days** (eg. Hallowe’en, New Years, Thanksgiving, Canada Day, 4th of July, birthdays, ...)
- **Stamps** (eg. stamps of unusual shape or size, variations in colour, perforation, errors, peel and stick, cancellations, ...)
- **Novel** (Whatever this committee hasn’t even thought of).

Ken Knight
Exhibition Co-ordinator

The Owen Sound Stamp Club will be holding its 5th Show in May. Every member is encouraged to consider putting together an exhibit in the show and further details will be announced in due course. For those of you who would like to give it a try but are uncertain about exactly what is involved in putting an display together, Ken Magee has written an excellent guide to exhibiting at the local level. We are pleased to reproduce this (with Ken Magee's permission) as a three (oh, alright, four then) part series. — Ed.

Getting Started in Exhibiting – Part 3: Write-Ups

The Title Page

Your title page should be visually distinct. It should tell viewers that this is the start of a new exhibit – introducing your subject or topic to the viewers. It should describe what the viewers will see.

The Title: Your exhibit title should be sufficiently larger than the text as to be obvious, but not so large or bold as to be overpowering. A well-chosen title (and subtitle, if any) which ties down the exhibit as to place and time, etc., will make a favourable first impression on the judges.

The Introduction: Your introduction should expand on the title (but think 25 words, more or less, as a guide).

You then need a short plan, outline or statement of organization to tell the viewers how you have organized your material. It should explain (or list) the contents—briefly – like a table of contents does for a book – telling “where to find what” in your exhibit. (The judges do check to see if you follow your stated order.)

Many exhibits will probably have some philatelic material on this page, besides the parts mentioned here.

The Body

“Show what you talk about, and talk about what you show.”

Mary Ann Owens

Judges hate long write-ups! Exhibits are meant to be scanned, not read like a book, so keep things simple. Keep your write-ups clear, complete, concise and correct.

Your philatelic material and text should complement each other and run concurrently. Your material is supposed to tell the story; your write-up should clarify and amplify it.

You need not write in full sentences, especially in captions. Some exhibitors prefer “telegraph English” throughout.

Keep the major portion of your text below the material to which it refers. (Sometimes it may be beside the material.)

To check a page for visual balance between material and text, try “the squint test”—hold the page at arm's length, then squint while looking at it. Your material should be the highlight not your text. If you mainly see your material, fine. If the text draws your attention, seriously consider redoing the page.

The Conclusion

Your conclusion – on your final page – should preferably relate back to your introductory plan, outline or statement of organization to “tie” the exhibit together.

Practical Matters

For the write up, you might consider using one of three methods: hand lettering, typing, or by computer.

Whichever method you choose bear in mind:

- That a combination of upper and lower case letters for text can

be read 20% faster and with 20% greater comprehension than all capital letters.

- *Script in any form whether handwriting, calligraphy or from a typewriter or computer should not be used since it is very difficult to read.*
- Use single line spacing for your text, again for ease of reading. Remember that your text has to be readable from frame-viewing distance.
- Your longest lines of text should be about 6” (150mm) long, preferably centred within the mounting area. Your longest full-width paragraph on a page (except on your title page) should be no more than 5 or 6 lines.
- The write-up under a cover should usually not be wider than the cover.
- Your text should NOT be in the same place on every page.
- Your material must be prominent. If you have lots of needed data, consider making a table to record it, especially for postal rates.

If you do decide to **letter by hand**, practice your printing first on scrap paper—to test for spacing and to work out centring, if needed. Try capital letters no larger than 3/16”, with section titles to 3/8”.

If you use pencil, use one that won't smear. Rotate it as you use it, and keep it sharp.

If you use ink, lightly rule pencil guide lines and do the write-up—in pencil, lightly. Then check your spelling! If everything is correct, ink it in. When the ink is fully dry, carefully erase the pencil lines. Drafting pens are available with black pigment ink cartridges. That ink is water and light resistant and dries very quickly. Consider the ‘01’ size for text, and the ‘05’ size for section headings. Also, ask to see the Ames lettering guide. It works!

If using a **typewriter**, clean the type, roller and paper guides each time. Practice typing your text on scrap paper to check for spacing and/or line length. For your “good” pages use a new BLACK ribbon. If you make an error, use correcting tape in preference to “white out”. For section titles you might use ALL CAPITALS, maybe double-struck, or bold if your machine has the capabilities. Never use underlining with capitals – THAT'S OVERKILL!

If you use a **computer**, pick a light, readable font, preferably 10 to 12 points in size. (This is 10 point Aldine 401) Use the same font for all of your text. You could use a slightly larger (12-14 pt., different?) font for section titles (here Belwe Bold, 12 pt.), and a smaller size (try 8 points) for captions, if any. Print a draft copy of each page and get someone else to proofread it. Also, test these draft pages for “fit” of your philatelic material.

Getting Started in Exhibiting will conclude in the next issue with a summing up of what an exhibitors should avoid.

Die Cuts

“The Die Cut/Self Adhesive/Quick Stick (perforated or straight edged) are coming, ready or not”

Die cut stamps have been around for several years. Canada issued its first in 1983 as a postal experiment. It was in the form of a Christmas label called a “Stick 'N' Tick”. The experiment was conducted in the City of Winnipeg only. In 1984 a similar experiment was conducted with the “Stick 'N' Tick” issue in major Canadian cities.

Booklets issued from 1989 through 1993 with a flag design and current postage rates, all sold for more than face value.



Scott #1191 from booklet #BK110

Greeting booklets issued in 1994 and 1996 had 2 designs. A banner with Canada on each side of a circle. There were 7 different stickers that could be used in the circle.

Both issues were printed in Australia by Leigh Mardon

A similar issue was printed in Canada in 1995 and reprinted in 1997 with some minor variations.

The 1996 Canada Day issue was a mini sheet with a leaf design.

Later in 1996, two souvenir sheets were issued commemorating “Cinema in Canada”.

A souvenir sheet for use in ATM's was issued in 1998 as well as a coil stamp. Both had a stylized leaf design. A booklet pane with a flag and an iceberg design, and a commemorative book "The Automatists" also were printed that year.

In 1999, booklets of Birds, Horses and Kites were printed.

In 2000, books of Birds, Greetings, Tall Ships, Flags and Petro-Canada were issued as well as a roll stamp.

Year 2001 has just begun and we already have several issues of DieCuts covering definitive, commemoratives, US and International rates.

Like it or not this technology is here to stay, (at least until something different come along) as the increasing number of die cut issues indicate.

Collecting these stamps will also have to change.

Bob Ford

What's New from Canada Post...

...and a Million Dollar Question

How do you do with the challenge of the Lunar New Year? The beautiful Snake stamp with the Convex top and Concave bottom,



as the Souvenir sheet certainly required some ingenuity to get them in a straight album.

February 28 is the issue date of the new “IV Games of La Francophonie” stamps. There are two stamps depicting Dance and Highjumping. These 47¢ stamps are issued se-tenant horizontally only. The date for the actual games is July 14–24th.

March 19 marks the opening of the World Figure Skating Championships in Vancouver BC. March 19th also marks the date Canada Post will release a set of four stamps showing women's and men's single skating as well as ice dancing and pairs. Se-tenant blocs of four are being printed, sixteen on a pane with an illustrated gutter between the top and bottom eight. They are perforated 13+.

April 23, 1851 was the date Great Britain transferred the Postal Authority to Canada. The 3d Beaver (Scott #1) was Canada's first stamp. In 1951 this event was remembered with the issue of a replica (Scott #314). The 150th anniversary of this famous stamp, designed by Sir Sandford Fleming will be celebrated with the issue of a domestic rate 47¢ Three Penny Beaver which will be available from April 6th. (While typing this, I realized that it took 100 years to get from number 1 to 314. The new stamp in April will be somewhere in the low 1900s, which means that in the last 50 years about 1,586 new stamps have been issued).

The 25th anniversary of the Toronto Blue Jays will be commemorated on April 9th and the Summit of the Americas on April 20th. Both will have a single 47¢ stamp.

Anybody having problems obtaining single copies of the new definitives, which were only available on rolls, can now order these as singles from N.P.C. Canada Post in Antigonish. The stylized Maple leaf 47¢ is #401311109 while the 75¢ Grey Wolf is #401313109

Who wants to be a millionaire ????

Question:

What Is Deltiology?

- A. Knowledge of river deltas
- B. Study of delta-wing planes
- C. Picture Postcard collecting
- D. Study of the 4th letter Greek alphabet.

[Answer in next month Newsletter].

Charles van Rompu.

Removing used diecuts from envelopes can cause problems. Recent correspondence in rec.collecting.stamps.discuss on the Internet has indicated that whilst soaking in water usually works, sometimes solvents such as hexane, heptane, lighter fluid, or rubbing alcohol may work better. Unfortunately, using the wrong solvent can wreck the stamp.

I gather that the “difficult” issues include Spanish labels and early US examples. I also gather that postal authorities and companies like 3M and Avery are not done with their experimenting yet so changes in glue and backer sheets may well occur over the next few years. [Ed.]

At the last meeting:

Following the Public Awareness Day held at the Heritage Place Mall, it was great to see six new visitors to the club meeting – three of whom are now members. A big welcome to Bill and Barb Shelson, and Kim Scarrow.

All in all, it was a pretty lively meeting with lots of discussions on all sorts of philatelic topics. John Cortan (RoyalOak Stamps) had a fine selection of stamps for sale along with some useful accessories including stamp mounts and stock pages. The books from the Philatelic Circuit were passed around and several members had surplus stock on offer.

Next Meeting: February 21st.

The next meeting of the Owen Sound Stamp Club will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21st, in St. George's Church, Owen Sound (as usual).

Matters to be discussed will include:

- Insurance for club events.
- The 2001 Show.

Upcoming Events

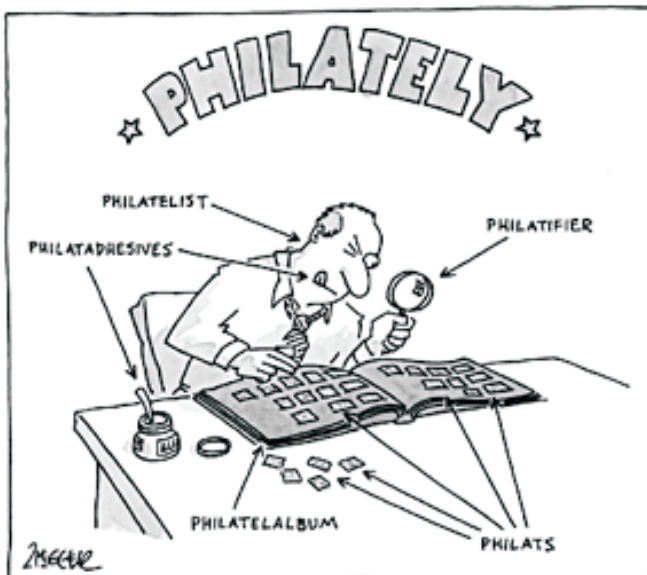
The 5th Annual Show and Bourse will be held on May 27th at the Bayshore Arena. Mark that date!

Selling stamps at Club Meetings

It has been said before, but maybe worth saying again:

It seems to me that an important function of a club such as ours is to make it easy for members to buy, sell, and trade stamps between themselves. So, if you have excess inventory, bring it along to the meetings. Whatever the catalogue value, it may be just what another member is after – and, then again, maybe it isn't but who knows until you try?

Bob Watson



OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (on the corner of 10th St. E. and 4th Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to check out the stamps in circuit books from the North Bay Philatelic Society, the Royal Philatelic Society and/or the Peninsula Philatelic Circuit. Members also trade stamps and covers between themselves.

There are presently about 20 members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

For further information, see us on the Web or contact any of the following Club officers:

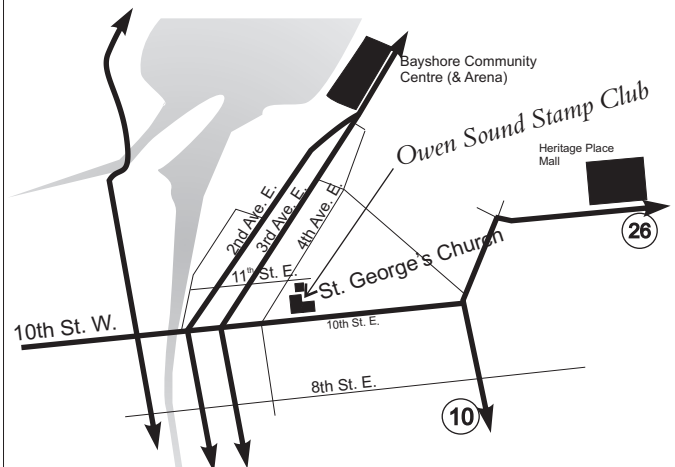
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The OSSC Newsletter

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The OSSC Newsletter is distributed to members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club on an irregular basis (but hopefully several times a year).

Opinions expressed by contributors to this newsletter are those of the named author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Owen Sound Stamp Club (nor of the editor).

Contributions are always most welcome. If any reader has news, information, opinions, or announcements that might be of interest to the OSSC membership, please contact the editor.