



O.S.S.C.

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

## Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: June 16<sup>th</sup>

June 2004

We have yet to do a final tally, but it does seem as though our 2004 Show was another success. Certainly, it seemed to me that after a bit of a slow start, there was a constant stream of visitors until the doors closed.

It was especially gratifying to see that the “Kid’s Korner” was well patronised most of the day and the “freebie” box is looking distinctly depleted!

Jim Measures from the Saugeen Stamp Club had some encouraging words regarding the exhibits and suggested that we should either have a “competitive” section or, perhaps, submit entries in the Saugeen Show next year.

Jim also suggested we might be interested in a challenge he has made to his club’s members to start a collection of some area or topic that they have never collected before and mount an exhibit to be displayed next year.

If anyone is interested in this, let’s talk about it in our upcoming meeting(s).

Bob Watson

### From the Internet ...

*Apart from folding up letters from Greenland Post marked “Do not bend”, I have never had any problems with the service from Canada Post. Indeed, the woes of Britain’s Royal Mail may point out just how well off we are!*

After a disastrous few years in which it lost billions of dollars, the Royal Mail (briefly renamed “Consignia”) is in the midst of a huge cost-cutting and reorganization program.

While it must be said that the service is now operating in the black, the plans are not going too smoothly.

On May 27 the corporation announced that it had failed to meet any of the 15 performance targets set out in its licence. This is even worse than last year, when it managed to meet 3 of the 15 targets and was fined \$13.5 million.

Under its charter, the Royal Mail is expected to deliver 92.5 percent of the first-class mail the day after it is sent. However, *The Guardian* recently conducted an experiment in which it sent 20 pieces of mail to each of 10 different addresses around the country. Of the 200 items, 114 arrived the next day. After a week, only one of the addresses had received all 20 items and one address had received none.

A documentary TV broadcast revealed widespread laziness, ineptitude and theft among postal workers in central London. With a reporter posing as a postal worker, the program showed mail carriers abandoning their jobs in mid-shift, leaving backlogs of mail amassing at post offices; smoking pot on the job; throwing mail away because they could not find the address; and working with criminal gangs to steal passports and bank account information from letters.

Royal Mail officials have had to endure humiliating lectures in Parliament by enraged legislators. One MP related how he had seen a group of youths set fire to cart full of mail that had been left on the street by a worker whose shift had ended.

Postal officials say that the problems are temporary glitches caused by reorganizations in the systems for transporting, sorting and delivering mail.

Even by the shaky standards of today’s British postal service, Margaret Clare thought it odd that she hadn’t received any mail at all three months after moving to a new house.

After being told repeatedly that no one had sent her anything, not even a junk-mail catalogue, Ms. Clare finally demanded proof. A postal worker took her into a back office and showed her the boxes into which the mail was sorted before delivery.

Ms. Clare pointed out that the boxes for her street were just for even numbers but her house had an odd number. It was then discovered that the post office had simply not been delivering to anyone on her side of the street.

“It may sound carping to say so, but the clear impression is that they’re a total shambles,” she said of the postal service.

Ms. Clare has become a national symbol of postal dissatisfaction. Not that it has helped much with her mail.

She did locate some of her old letters in a heap in the corner of the post office, but delivery since then could only be described as sporadic. Complaints to the Royal Mail have so far yielded a complimentary book of six stamps and promises of a letter outlining what the Post Office plans to do about service on her street. But the letter has yet to arrive.

“It probably got lost in the mail,” Ms. Clare suggested.

Next Club Meeting: Wed. **June 16th** at 7:00 pm

Upcoming Events:

**June 19 (Sat.):** North Toronto Stamp Club will be holding a Postage Stamp Show at Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. East at Leslie St., **Toronto**. 18 dealers, free admission. Hours: 10.00-4.00.

**July 17 (Sat.):** Kincardine Stamp Club is holding its Annual Show & Bourse at The Canadian Legion, 219 Lambton St., **Kincardine**. Free parking and admission. Hours: 9.30-4.00.

**Aug. 21 (Sat.):** Collingwood-Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club will be holding their 30th Annual Show & Bourse at Leisure Time Club, 100 Minnesota St., **Collingwood**. Free parking and admission. Hours: 9.00-4.00.

**Stamp on the Envelope ...**

The stamp on this month's cover is Canada's first self-adhesive to have real perforations – a point of which Canada Post seems quite proud. The perforations do work but, because the paper is double thickness, the stamps don't separate any too easily. The backing paper is slit to make it (fairly) easy to remove, but it actually works out easier to pick the backing away at the corners.

One might wonder if the Victorians didn't have something with that idea of a lick activated glue!

Anyway, the stamps themselves are fine examples of traditional se-tenant commemorative stamps with a clear named portrait of the person being honoured against a background indicating their field of achievement.

The issue was released at the Royal Show held in Halifax this year and the subject matter was doubtless inspired by the city being the birthplace of Samuel Cunard who, in 1840, established the first regular transatlantic mail service. Initially this service was between Liverpool-Halifax-Boston but with a good North American rail links it was found to be more efficient to operate a year round Liverpool-New York service.

Meanwhile, Hugh Allan had begun his own service between Liverpool and Montreal in summer and Portland, Maine, in winter. In due course, the Allan Line won contracts for carrying most Canadian transatlantic mail and was eventually bought by Canadian Pacific in 1909.

The ship behind Samuel Cunard is the *Britannia* which was one of four ships commissioned for the inaugural service and the first to arrive in Halifax.

The vessel behind Hugh Allan is the *North American*, the Allan Line's first mail ship arrival in Montreal.

<i>Title:</i>	"Sir Samuel Cunard" & "Sir Hugh Allan"	<i>Print.:</i>	Lowe-Martin
<i>Issue date:</i>	28 May, 2004	<i>Process:</i>	5 colour lithography plus two varnishes
<i>Denom:</i>	49¢ (both)	<i>Paper:</i>	Tullis Russell Coatings
<i>Layout:</i>	Pane of 16 stamps (4×4)	<i>Gum:</i>	self stick
<i>Des.:</i>	Oliver Hill	<i>Size:</i>	45mm × 32mm
	Dennis Page	<i>Perf.:</i>	13 × 12½
	Bonnie Ross	<i>No.</i>	4,000,000

# OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

## Chapter 191

### Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

[www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> St. E. and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to trade, buy, and sell stamps and philatelic material. An auction is held at 8:00pm.

There are presently about 30 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

The OSSC Newsletter is distributed monthly to members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. 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.

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