

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. November 21st 2007

From the President...

Lest We Forget

Let us take a moment to remember all our fellow stamp collectors that are no longer with us and reflect on the many good times we shared over the years. Let us also take a moment to remember all those who gave up their lives so that we can enjoy the freedom that we have.

Now onto club business; we have just had our 12th annual Stamp Show at a new time of year and I would appreciate any comments people would care to share at this month's meeting. I do not as yet have a full financial report but the indications are that it has proven to be a financial success for the club as well as most of the dealers. Perhaps Bob Ford will have all the figures for this meeting and will be able to give us a report on same.

There are some sets of show covers still available to club members who were not able to attend the show and can be purchased at this month's meeting. There will also be a club auction and some material left over from the show will be offered.

Any one who has some surplus stamps , especially large colourful topicals we certainly can use them to boost up our free stamp supply for the youth club.

Well that is all for now.

Sincerely,

Alan M Charlesworth

Who's Who...

Let me introduce you to Al Roos. He's the guy who is always ever so quietly bidding against me in the auctions. I've had a couple of chats with Al Roos lately. Al helped out at the information session at the mall in mid October. He told me that he would like to see more kids involved in stamp collecting. It was easy to see his pleasure when some enthusiastic children were picking through the giant stamp box. When traffic slowed down a little, we had a chance to reminisce for a while. Al was born in Timmins and farmed for a number of years in Mossley, east of London Ontario. Then for a complete change of pace, he taught in Madoc for a year and then came to Owen Sound where he taught at the West Hill High School for seventeen years. Al worked with mentally challenged kids and kids who needed help with the basics in life. He started out teaching woodworking and went on to teach everything from art to English. He had a good chuckle telling me how he worked with the girls teaching them how to wait on tables. I imagine that Al's years teaching held many triumphs and some disappointments, but I'll bet he was never bored!

Al Roos collects mainly Canadian stamps and has a world wide collection as well. He got his first stamp album when he was seven. Apparently his Scandinavian collection is pretty good. Al's Mother came from Denmark and his Dad came from Sweden, so Al had a great source of stamps from his family's correspondence. His Mom was also very supportive by purchasing mint Canadian stamps for him.

Retired for twenty years now, besides stamp collecting Al likes to paint with watercolours. He went to courses for years and when they were discontinued, him and some of his classmates carried on and formed their own 'Group of Seven'. They paint on Mondays at the west side United Church. In the past Al has shown his watercolours at the Sauble and Warton Arts & Craft Shows. This past summer his landscape and flower paintings were displayed at the Lion's Head Art Show. We'll have to find out where his next show is; I for one would love to see his work!

Upcoming Events...

DEC. 8, Toronto, ON. Winter Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Club sales circuit, refreshments, wheelchair access. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact Herb, 416-445-7720, ntstampclub@yahoo.ca, fax 416-444-1273.

DEC. 9, Ottawa, ON. Regular Stamp & Coin Show, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. 17 dealers. For more information, contact Brian Wolfenden, 613-226-2045.

DEC. 15, 2007, Burlington, ON. Burloak Stamp Fair, Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New Street (at Seneca). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Regular monthly show all year. 6 -9 dealers. Ample free parking. For more information, contact M.P. (Michael) Anderson 905-632-6057 or michael@parcelsplusinc.com.

DEC. 22, St. Catharines, ON. Holiday Inn Stamp Show, Holiday Inn, Niagara Room, Lake St. & QEW. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information, contact Roy Houtby at 905-934-8377.

JAN. 11 - 13, 2008, Toronto, ON. Unipex Toronto Stamp Show, Ramses Temple Shrine Club, 3100 Keele St. Free Admission, TTC Service to Door, Easy Access from Hwy 401, Licensed Snack Bar. Free Parking, Door Prizes. Hours: Friday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sponsor/Affiliate: Unitrade Associates. For more information, contact Doug Robinson or Susan Cartini (416) 242-5900 unitrade@rogers.com. Web site: <http://www.unitradeassoc.com>.

JAN. 12, 2008, Brantford, ON. Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse, Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St. at James Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. 15 dealers, stamp exhibition, refreshments available, silent auctions, draws, club sales circuit books, Canada Post with show cancellation. Sponsor/Affiliate: Brantford Stamp Club. For more information, contact D. Coates, 519-442-3242 or e-mail shasland@kwick.com. Web site: <http://www.brantfordstamp.org>.

JAN. 19, 2008, St. Catharines, ON. 59th Cathex, Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No admission charge. 14 dealers, club circuit, table sale, lunch counter. Note new location. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Catharines Stamp Club. For more information, contact roystamp@niagara.com. Web site: <http://home.cogeco.ca/~stampclub/home.htm>.

From Dr. Phil A. Telly...

Stamps got you licked? Feeling stamped out?
Don't worry. Don't let it get you down,
Dr. Phil A. Telly has come to town!

Dear Dr. Phil,

Back in August I purchased an Austrian album containing a number of beautiful old Austrian stamps. Previously I had a few pages of Austrian stamps that have just come my way through happenstance. Just the other day I decided to take a closer look at this newly acquired album and pulled out my handy-dandy Scott Catalogue. It took a little while to familiarize myself with the Austrian listings as they have a rather intricate history. Upon looking closer at some specific issues I noticed that some stamps were also listed with 'varnish bars'. Now, I have never heard of 'varnish bars' and at first glance of the stamps in question I could not see any difference. I picked up the album and tilted the pages in the sunlight and sure enough I could see some diagonal glossy stripes. Amazing! Can you tell me anything about these 'varnish bars'? What was their purpose? Did other countries use them? Once again another door down the corridor of stamp history is squeaking open upon it's rusty hinges for me.

Sincerely yours,
Unvarnished

Dear Unvarnished,

The varnish bars first appeared on Austrian stamps in 1899. The bars were applied diagonally to the face of the stamp for the purpose of preventing the reuse of stamps as it was fairly common for people to chemically remove the postmarks to reuse the stamps. This system would also remove the varnish bars thus making them unusable. Application of varnish bars continued until 1908 when it was discontinued.

As for other countries that may have used varnish bars I cannot think of any, but I cannot say definitely not.

I hope this oils your rusty hinges.

Dr. Phil

Dr. Phil A. Telly is our little syndicated column. If you've got questions for Dr. Phil please forward your questions to your editor. Questioners will be kept anonymous unless he or she requests to use their name.

The Canadian National Vimy Memorial

By Ralph Wyndham

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 marked the end of hostilities in World War I, the 'war to end all wars'. This is why this particular day and time were chosen for Remembrance Day each year when we take time to honour those who suffered or died in all wars and armed conflicts.

In 1917, the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) was established. Its mandate was to establish permanent cemeteries and to properly bury the dead. It also tried to determine the best way to memorialize the dead and missing. At the Imperial Conference in England in 1918, the decision was made that memorials be both public and permanent. An IWGC committee awarded Canada 8 battle sites in Europe upon which to construct memorials. In 1920, the Canadian Battlefields Memorial Commission was established. It held a design competition for a Canadian Memorial to be built on each site. Walter S. Allward was announced the winner in October 1921. The selection of Vimy as the only site for Allward's design was announced in 1922. The second place design was erected at St. Julien, near Ypres. The other sites received much less elaborate monuments.



Scott #311 issued July 26, 1936 by France, for the unveiling of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. There is also a 1fr50c value, #312.

While the gallant Canadian military victory at Vimy may have been a significant event in the growth of Canada as a nation and a turning point in the war, Vimy was chosen more for the geographic merits of the 91-hectare site as the most prominent place to build Allward's design; it can be seen for miles around.

Allward said that his inspiration for the memorial came to him in a dream in which he saw the dead soldiers come to the aid of their living comrades in battle. 'Without the dead we are helpless. So I have tried to show this in this monument to Canada's fallen, what we owed them and we will forever owe them,' he explained.

The design consists of the two prominent 27-meter high pylons representing Canada and France and 20 large carved stone figures. The statues are symbolic, representing ideas such as Truth, Knowledge, Gallantry, and the mourning nation.

Atop the pylons stand Justice and Peace. Carved into the stone of the outside walls of the memorial are the names of the 11,285 Canadian soldiers killed in France who

have no known graves. Native Canadian trees and shrubs were planted on the site to resemble the woodlands back home in Canada.

To create his figures, Walter Allward first made clay models. The clay models were used to make molds from which plaster casts were made and the plaster statues were sent to Vimy so that the stone carvers could recreate them on the monument itself.



Scott # 486 for Canada, depicting the Vimy Memorial, was issued October 15, 1968 for the 50th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice.

Building the monument was a monumental effort in itself. The structure contains 11,000 tonnes of reinforced concrete and masonry plus 5,500 tonnes of limestone brought to the site from a quarry near Sarajevo, Yugoslavia where, somewhat ironically, the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand provided the final spark needed to start World War I. Work started in 1925. Just clearing the area of unexploded artillery shells and grenades took 2 ½ years.

Each figure, including those atop the pylons, was enclosed in a temporary studio so that the time consuming work of carving the stone could continue in all weather. The plaster models were only half the size required for the finished figures. The carvers, to help them maintain proper proportions in the finished work, used an instrument called a pantograph. On July 26, 1936, after 11 years of work, King Edward VIII officially unveiled the monument.

Walter Allward chose the Yugoslavian limestone for his monument because he believed it to be the most durable he could find. However, it has proved to be no match for the polluted air of our modern age. Currently, the Vimy Memorial, along with the other Canadian World War I memorials, is undergoing extensive renovation. 2005 has seen the memorial surrounded by scaffolding and once again enclosed within a studio of sorts allowing restoration to take place. The Canadian National Vimy Memorial should be fully restored and open to the public again in 2006.

From the Editor...

Well I hope that everyone has recovered from the stamp show by now. I had a good time. I would have liked to look around some more, but then again I could spend hours doing that. Forrest helped out in the kitchen. Thanks Forrest!

(Boy, is he growing!). It might take a little time for people to realize that our show is at a different time of year. Perhaps we need to advertise more. I am sure will have lots of discussion at the upcoming meeting. Thanks to Al Roos for putting up with the inquisition. Also Al Roos won our 'one page challenge'. My entry wasn't available as it was still in the display cabinet after our info session at the mall. Instead of Al picking a topic, I've requested that all our members contribute a topical page at our December meeting. These pages will be assembled into a binder to be used in youth programs. The binder(s) will be a group project, available to be used by us and the Saugeen Stamp Club for youth educational purposes. Your contribution can stick to the rules for our 'one page challenge' ie: three kinds of philatelic material, or do up a page of something that kids will find interesting in any way your heart desires. It would be preferable if there is a bit of information included on the page. Christmas is the time of giving and if we all pitch in I'm sure we can put together a really exciting binder for the kids. Speaking of Christmas, I vote that we put together some sort of Christmas party for our December meeting. Although our club is about buying and trading stamps, it's also about socializing and having fun with like-minded people. John Cortan has mentioned some of the Christmas activities that the Saugeen club gets up to and it sounds like fun to me! I just might drag my butt over to Hanover to check it out.

Thank you to Ralph Wyndham for his timely article about the Vimy Memorial. I don't expect that I'll get to France any time soon to see it for myself. Last year Remembrance Day fell on a Saturday. I ended up taking my Grandchildren to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. I wasn't too sure about going to a war museum, I'm more likely to be found at an art gallery or an Egyptian exhibit, but off we went. Much to my surprise, we all enjoyed the visit very much. The displays were fascinating and did not aggrandize war. There was quite a bit of war art as well. While wandering around the huge building we wandered into a large hall off to one side. It didn't really seem to be set up as a display, but more like a large storage area. In this area were a number of large dramatic plaster figures. I didn't know what they were but after reading Ralph's article, I realize that these statues are the original plasters that are referred to in the Vimy article. Wow! I am glad that I have had the opportunity to see them. Thanks Ralph and thank you to all the people who put up with all the horror and deprivation to fight for my freedom. May we put an end to war.

On the Cover...

This month I am using a souvenir sheet of the new low value definitives recently issued by Canada Post on our covers. Ralph Wyndham has chosen to write an article about these colourful stamps so, instead of getting my two cents worth, this month you're getting a whole nickel's worth from Ralph Wyndham. Thanks Ralph!

Beneficial Insects

By Ralph Wyndham

On October 12 Canada Post ended the 8 ½ year reign of the 8 denomination set of Traditional Trades low value definitives replacing it with a 5 value set depicting beneficial insects. I was never a fan of the very dark and difficult to comprehend depictions of the trades. While I think the new insect definitives are still a bit on the dark side, they are a considerable improvement over their predecessors.

The five values are: 1 cent convergent lady beetle (*Hippodamia convergens*), 3 cent golden-eyed lacewing (*Chrysopa oculata*), 5 cent northern bumblebee (*Bombus polaris*), 10 cent Canada darner (*Aeshna Canadensis*), and 25 cent cecropia moth (*Hyalophora cecropia*).

Canada Post has made a very big deal of these new stamps. In addition to panes of 50 stamps for everyday use, the corporation has issued a 44 cent souvenir sheet sporting one copy of each denomination and also an uncut press sheet. The press sheet, containing three panes of the ladybug, two panes of the Canada darner and one pane of each of the other three insects, is numbered and signed by the designer



The convergent lady beetle is one of the most common and widespread of the 450 species of this beneficial insect found in North America. They are slightly oval shaped with red forewings. The number of black spots on the wings varies from just a few up to 13. However, the short white lines behind the head that form a rough 'v' are found on all individuals.

The name, lady beetle, may have its origins in the Middle Ages when it was called 'Beetle of Our Lady' after the Virgin Mary. It was believed that the little insect came from heaven to save crops. In other cultures the beetle is associated with good harvests, good weather or good luck.

Aphids are the lady beetle's favorite prey. Anywhere you find aphids from southern Canada to South America, you may find *H. convergens* or her cousins. The female beetle will lay her eggs near populations of aphids in a wide range of crops – wheat, sorghum, various vegetables, orchard crops and more. When the eggs hatch, the larvae, which look somewhat like tiny six legged alligators, begin to dine on aphids like the adults do. After four growth stages, or instars, the larvae will pupate and the adult will emerge within 12 days and start the cycle over again. In the autumn, convergent lady beetles will gather in large numbers in sheltered places outdoors to hibernate for the winter. It is the Asian lady beetle that may be found in the house in the fall; *H. convergens* stays outside.

Biological pest control companies take advantage of the instinct to mass together by locating and collecting the hibernating insects. The hordes of bugs (around 70,000 per gallon) are then sold to farmers and gardeners wishing to control aphids and other small insect pests in their crops. Unfortunately for buyers, the autumn instinct to gather reverses in the spring. If the captured beetles are fed first it reduces the tendency, but when released they take to the air and disperse for parts unknown rather than make themselves at home where their purchaser wants them.



The lacewing, like the convergent lady beetle, is a friend of farms and gardens. There are two families of this insect, green and brown. All have four clear wings with a prominent network of veins, resembling lace, giving rise to their common name. The golden-eyed lacewing (*Chrysopa oculata*), featured on the three cent stamp, is one of the most widespread lacewings in Canada being found everywhere in the country except Nunavut. They are strongly attracted to light; if you spend a warm summer evening outdoors with a light on, you will almost certainly see a few.

Adult females lay eggs throughout the spring and summer. Each individual egg sits atop a slender stalk of silk 8-10 mm long. When the eggs hatch, the larvae, also called aphid lions, immediately begin the hunt. Aphids may be the favoured prey but these voracious beasts will eat any small insect or spider, in any stage of growth including small caterpillars – and each other. By the time a lacewing larva has gone through its three instars, or growth stages, it will have eaten hundreds of insects. The mature larva spins a round cocoon and enters the pupa phase. Late season pupae will lay dormant until spring when the adults will emerge to begin cycle again.

Lacewings are also used as part of commercial pest management control systems. Unlike the lady beetles that must be harvested from the wild, lacewings are easily raised in captivity and may be distributed in egg, larval, or adult stages.



They are especially helpful in the controlled environment of a greenhouse.

After a pair of hunters, a beneficial gathering insect, the bumblebee, is represented on the 5-cent definitive by the northern bumblebee (*Bombus polaris*). This insect is a large hairy bee usually marked with black and yellow bands. Most species inhabit temperate regions around the world with only a handful found in cold climates. *B. polaris*, a cold climate bumblebee, has been found as far north as Ellesmere Island well above the Arctic Circle.

Bumblebees are social insects that gather nectar and pollen from flowers to feed themselves and their young like their honeybee cousins do. Bumblebee colonies are much smaller,

though. They do not make and save honey to maintain themselves through a long winter. Instead, workers, males and immature bees die off each winter leaving only a few fertile females to carry on the following spring. When they emerge in the spring, females find suitable nest sites, often underground in places such as old mouse holes, where they build wax cells in which to lay eggs and start the new season's colony.

It is a myth that bumblebees should not be able to fly and it is unclear where this story originated. Their beating wings create lift, similar to that of the spinning rotor of a helicopter, allowing them to become airborne.

One of the bumblebee's most important traits is its ability to vibrate its flight muscles rapidly without moving its wings. This shivering motion creates a buzzing sound when the bee is not flying and is important for two reasons: it is part of the insect's ability to regulate its body temperature and buzzing dislodges pollen from flowers, such as tomatoes, that do not easily surrender their pollen.

Increasing body temperature by buzzing allows bees to fly in cool weather. This is especially important for our northern bumblebee that maintains a body temperature 2 1/2 degrees (4°F) higher than its southern cousins while it flies from flower to flower in the cool arctic summer. Buzzing is important to humans because every time we buy a 'hothouse' tomato, we have a bumblebee to thank!



The new 10-cent stamp depicts the dragonfly *Aeshna canadensis*, the Canada darner. I have been a fan of the dragonfly ever since watching a television program about them. It featured a lot of slow motion video of dragonflies in flight showing how these fabulous insects can hover, turn as they hover and accelerate to full speed in an instant yet control each wing individually. There are many species of darner and they are among the largest and fastest dragonflies in North America. The word 'dragon' comes from a Greek word meaning 'sharp-sighted one'. With a pair of compound eyes, each consisting of 30,000 smaller lenses, the dragonfly is particularly adept at detecting motion.

Darners, named for their long slender abdomens that made people think of darning needles, have blue, green or yellow thoracic stripes and abdominal spots on a dark background. There is a lot of colour variation even among individuals of the same species making casual identification difficult.

The Canada darner prefers to make its home in marshy areas with floating vegetation around small lakes and ponds. Beaver ponds are ideal. How appropriate for the 'Canada' darner! The female lays her eggs near the water. When the eggs hatch, the larvae, or nymphs, enter the water and begin to feed on small insects, including mosquito and black fly larvae. No wonder we consider dragonflies beneficial.

Larvae live in the water for two or three years molting up to 15 times before climbing from the water to become an adult. Like their young, adult darners are keen predators. Called hawking, darners capture and consume their prey, usually mosquitoes and other small insects, while in flight and may eat up to 15% of their body weight daily. Life for an adult is rather short, usually only a couple of months, but we humans can be grateful for all the annoying pests they have eaten in the meantime.

So far, we have looked at three insects that improve harvests by eating pests, one that does so by pollinating flowers, and one that eats many mosquitoes. Now, on the 25-cent stamp, we meet the colourful cecropia moth, *Hyalophora cecropia*. A member of the Saturniidae family, the giant silkmother, it is the largest moth in North America with a 12-15cm wingspan.



When it is time for the cecropia larva, or caterpillar, to change into a pupa, it spins a cocoon as many moths and other insects do. Canada Post's Details magazine mentions that the cecropia's silk is particularly strong. A number of the cecropia's Saturniid cousins in India and China are the foundation of a wild silk industry there, but here, only hobbyists or textile artists might spin silk from cecropia cocoons. Most silk is harvested from the cocoon of the domestic silk moth, *Bombyx mori*, which is not a Saturniid.

I think education is the benefit of these spectacular insects. The cecropia is used in various university studies including the search for new medicines and also as the subject of live insect displays at zoos and as school projects.

Many people raise moths and butterflies as a hobby. You may be able to find larvae in the wild, or there are many sites on the Internet offering for sale the eggs or cocoons of many species, including the cecropia. (Caterpillars may not travel well.) Caterpillars can be placed on a suitable host plant outdoors inside a tent of light material to protect them from their many predators, or may be raised indoors and fed fresh leaves everyday. For a child, watching a cecropia moth emerge from its cocoon, letting it sit on their hand as its wings spread and dry for flight then letting it go can only help to inspire wonder and respect for nature.

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (corner of 10th St. E. and 4th Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to trade, buy and sell stamps and philatelic material. An Auction is often held at 8:00 pm.

There are presently about 20 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

Members and guests also contribute \$1 at 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 to all members. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are expressly those of the individual author.

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. Please submit any news, information, opinions or announcements to the editor.

OSSC Library:

Books in the library are available for loan to any member (but please return at the next meeting).

Present holdings include:

Postage Stamp Catalogue – Scott (2000)

Catalogue of Canadian Stamps – Unitrade (2000)

Concise Catalogue of Great Britain Stamps – Stanley Gibbons (2004)

Catalogue of Canadian Stamps & Supplies – CWS (2005)

Canadian Errors, Freaks & Oddities – Darnel

The Edward VII Issue of Canada by G. C. Marler (Nat. Postal Museum, 1975)

The Admiral Issue of Canada by C.C. Marler

Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century

Numerous journals (still only partly sorted) including:

The Canadian Philatelist (RSPC); Scott's Monthly; Topical Times (Journal of the American Topical Assoc.); and Details (Canada Post)

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