

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. March 18th 2009 @ 7:00

## From the President...

Greetings fellow stamp club members and interested visitors. Time just seems to go faster than my watch tells me, and so here again is a gentle reminder to make plans for Wednesday, March 18th. Yes, we will be meeting at the regular location (basement of St Georges Church in Owen Sound) and time (7 pm) and we can have an enjoyable evening with our hobby.

This meeting will be the chance to share some of those excess stamps accumulated over the years go to another home. We will have a large auction of what you don't need in your own collection. I would suggest you make packets or glassines with a quantity of stamps from a single country, region or just a plain mix of duplicates. I will be bringing stamps from the Netherlands, Australia and whatever else I can put together. Our next meeting (April) will see the circuit books from the Stratford Stamp Club be available to buy stamps from.

If the number of auction items is low, there may be time to do good old fashioned stamp trading between club members. It seems we are all specialized in certain areas, but I was challenged a number of months ago to look at the larger aspect of the hobby, to have a general collection. Consider for a moment that you accumulate a small collection from a new country and see if this may raise some excitement in our hobby. Sometimes those elusive holes can never be filled and it takes the steam out of the hobby, so why not expand! This meeting should give you an opportunity to be filled with the excitement we had when we first started our collections a few days ago!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday and possibly new visitors. Now that the clocks have moved forward, we can travel to the meeting in a bit of daylight. Please take a moment to encourage other collectors to join us.

Cheers

Phil Visser

President OSSC

## Coming Events...

### **MARCH 21, Toronto, ON**

Spring Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, club sale circuit, wheelchair access, refreshments available. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact Herb, telephone (416) 445-7720, email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca.

### **MARCH 21, Woodstock, ON**

OXPEX/OTEX, John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free admission and parking, exhibits, dealers, youth area, prize draws, Canada Post counter, and refreshments. Sponsor/Affiliate: Oxford Philatelic Society. For more information, contact David Ward, (519) 539-2221, email ward221@rogers.com.

### **MARCH 21, Toronto, ON**

Spring Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Club sales circuit, exhibition and bourse, refreshments available, free parking and admission, wheelchair access. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact Herb, 416-445-7720, e-mail: ntstampclub@yahoo.ca.

### **MARCH 28, Toronto, ON**

NYPEX 2009, Carnegie Centennial Centre, 580 Finch Ave. W. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 12 dealers, silent auction, raffle and a snack bar will be available. Sponsor/Affiliate: North York Philatelic Society. For more information, contact Mike Turk, 905-731-8380.

### **MARCH 28, Peterborough, ON**

KAPEX 2009, Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free admission. Draw, door prizes, giveaways for children, exhibits, dealers, club books, limited edition show cover. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kawartha Stamp Club. For more information, contact Karl Wysotski email kingfisher@nexicom.net.

### **APRIL 4, London, ON**

Lonpex 117, Churchill Room, Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Featuring 12 dealers plus club sales circuit, prize draws, free admission and parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: London Philatelic Society. For more information, contact Don Slaughter, (519) 472-0206, donslau@execulink.com. Website: <http://londonphilatelicsociety.com>.

### **APRIL 11, St. Catharines, ON**

Holiday Inn Stamp Show, Holiday Inn, QEW at Lake St. Hour: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information, contact Roy Houtby, at (905) 934-8377.

**APRIL 17 - 19, Toronto, ON**

CSDA National Postage Stamp Show, Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. Hours: Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dealers from across Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Sponsor/Affiliate: CSDA. For more information, contact [secretary@csdaonline.com](mailto:secretary@csdaonline.com). Website: <http://www.csdaonline.com>.

**APRIL 18, Burlington, ON**

Burloak Stamp Fair, Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St. Regular monthly show in our 15th year. Held the third Saturday of every month, year round. Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Six to nine dealers, always new material, active buyers. For more information, contact Michael Anderson, telephone: (905) 632-6057, or email: [mpanderson@cogeco.ca](mailto:mpanderson@cogeco.ca).

**APRIL 18, Kitchener, ON**

Stampfest 2009, Community Christian Reformed Church. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Features an exciting dealer bourse, competitive exhibits, including one-page entries (our exhibit entry form can be found on club website), free parking, free admission, hourly and special draws, stamp pull, lunch counter, and other surprises. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kitchener Waterloo Stamp Club. Jim Oliver at (519) 893-4092, email: [jimoliver10@hotmail.com](mailto:jimoliver10@hotmail.com). Website: <http://www.KWStampClub.org>.

**APRIL 24 - 25, Hamilton, ON**

SPRINGPEX, Bishop Ryan High School, Quigley at Albright. Hours: Fri. 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday events: G.R.V.P.A. Club sales circuits, silent auction, voice auction, refreshments Saturday events: 20 Dealers, Canada Post, youth booth, silent auction, sales circuit. Sponsor/Affiliate: Hamilton Stamp Club. For more information, contact Michael Anderson, telephone (905) 632-6057, or email: [mpanderson@cogeco.ca](mailto:mpanderson@cogeco.ca). Website: <http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com>.

**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 A. Telly,



Great Britain  
watermark:  
Scott #251:  
Tudor Crown

I wonder if I could impose on you to have a little discussion on watermarks. Watermarks can make life difficult when sorting many older stamps but they certainly keep things interesting. Many countries used them, perhaps some still do. What purpose do watermarks actually serve? Most watermarks are obviously very specifically designed to be used on stamps. They may be letters such as: ER2, referring to the reign of Queen Elizabeth the 2nd, or crowns also referring to the monarch or perhaps a symbol or

pattern such as a star or a zigzag pattern. I have not noticed any watermarks on my Canadian stamps. Don't you think that that is a little odd?

Also, do you have a preferred method of illuminating the sometimes illusive watermark?

I eagerly await your edified response,  
From an uptight... I mean... upright citizen.

Dear Upright,

Those interesting things called watermarks have been used by printers as security measures with limited success for centuries, long before stamps were even thought of. The first known use of watermarks was in 1282 in Italy. At that time it was more for advertising. It wasn't until the 1600's that the English used it for discouraging counterfeiters of currency.



Watermarks were created in the papermaking process. The designs of the watermark were attached to a screen that was attached to the dandy roll. The extra pressure from the watermark symbols caused the paper to be thinner showing the mark as the water is pressed out of the paper by the dandy roll. It is this process that also creates laid lines and woven marks that can be found on some paper varieties.

The watermark on the left was so heavily done that it has embossed the stamp.

Watermarks can be very difficult to read even with a detector, some Great Britain and some early East Germany issues especially come to mind. Other watermarks can be quite easy to see by simply looking at the back of the stamp turned face down on a black surface.

German  
'Net'

The reason for choosing a particular watermark are varied, for example your G.B. ER2 is obviously patriotic in nature or the Swastika watermark of WWII Germany was for "patriotism" or propaganda purposes depending on your viewpoint.



As for Canadian eh! It is true, Canada did not use many watermarks, however there were three from the early issues of Canada: the stitch, Alex'r Pirie & Sons and E & G Bothwell Clutha Mills. The Pirie watermark which was actually the name of the printer printed diagonally on the sheet. The E & G Bothwell Clutha mills watermark appears to have a little mystery about it. The paper was printed in Scotland and the best explanation was that the 'E' stood for Edinburgh, 'G' for Glasgow where the company warehouse was on "Bothwell" Street and Clutha was the old name for the Clyde River. The watermark was done in two lines with only a small portion of the mark appearing on each stamp. Though not

German  
watermark:  
Scott #304:  
DBP and

necessarily intentional, the origin of the Stitch Watermark is straight forward. This mark was created by the dandy roll as the others were but only because there were actually stitches on the screen joints on the dandy roll or where the screen was repaired.

(Dr. Phil is continued on page 4)

(Dr. Phil is continued from page 3)



When it comes to detecting watermarks the best and safest is still proper watermark fluid. There are also some electronic detectors. I have used some of the less expensive ones and feel fluid is probably still better. The more expensive detectors can be more than \$500 but I have no firsthand knowledge of them so I cannot comment on their accuracy.

Britain's  
'large crown'

Well I hope this helps, I wouldn't want to leave an Upright citizen  
Uptight and confused!

Doc 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 and Dr. Phil will be kept anonymous unless he or she requests otherwise.

### Dues are Overdue!!!

If you didn't pay in January; you're late! Membership fees are still only \$10.00 a head or \$15.00 per family. Please keep in mind that your annual membership fee doesn't even cover all the costs of producing and mailing your newsletter, so every paid up membership is greatly appreciated. If you can't pay in person please send a cheque to Bob Ford whose address is on the last page.

### The Victoria Cross, Part 1

Ralph Wyndham



On October 21, 2004, Canada Post issued two stamps to honour the 150th anniversary of the act of heroism that made Alexander Roberts Dunn Canada's first recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest military decoration that can be awarded to British or Commonwealth forces. The stamp shown here is an actual Victoria Cross won by a Canadian. Next month in part

two, we will see the Canadian Victoria Cross approved by Queen Elizabeth in 1993.

The political process creating the Victoria Cross took several years. Prior to 1854, when the Distinguished Conduct Medal was instituted for Non Commissioned Officers and Privates, the Order of the Bath was the only battlefield decoration in the British military and it was only available to those above the rank of Captain. During the Crimean War, newspaper correspondents were sending home reports of the courage and stamina of the ordinary British soldier under the trying circumstances of error, prejudice and rigid attitudes of officers on top of appalling health conditions.

December of 1854 saw Captain Thomas Scobell stand in the House of Commons and move that "an order of merit" be established to reward sailors and soldiers of all ranks for outstanding acts of gallantry. In January 1855, Secretary of State for War, the Duke of Newcastle, wrote to Prince Albert (Queen Victoria's husband) to remind him of their discussion about a decoration open to all ranks. The Duke felt that acts of heroism should not go unnoticed simply because a soldier was below the rank of Major. He also felt that the chance of winning such an honour would make soldiers more willing to face danger and suffer privation. Shortly after this, Lord Panmure became Secretary of State for War. He continued correspondence on the topic with Prince Albert. A draft Royal Warrant creating the honour was sent to the Royal Couple. The Prince did not like the name "the Military Order of Victoria" and suggested it be called simply "the  
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(The Victoria Cross is continued from page 4)

Victoria Cross'. Albert said "treat it as a cross granted for distinguished service which will make it simple and intelligible".

The Queen selected the design from the proposals presented. The original bore the motto 'for the brave' but the Queen changed this to 'for valour' feeling that the former implied that the only brave soldiers in battle were the ones winning this award. The first proof was in copper which the Queen felt was ugly and heavy-looking so she suggested bronze. Someone got the idea that bronze from Russian cannon captured during the Crimean War should be used. Much later it was discovered that the cannon used were Chinese and may not have even been in the Crimea.



The bronze from these cannon was very hard. The jewelers, Hancock and Company, selected by Lord Panmure, found it to be so hard that it broke the dies that were created to make the medal. This forced the decision to cast the cross instead. Casting created greater

relief in the medal's features thus enhancing the design.

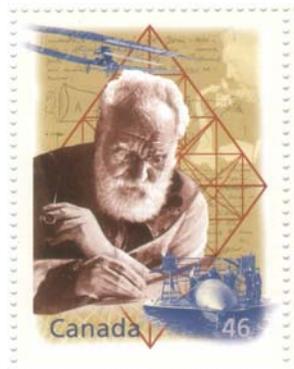
The Order establishing the decoration was finalized in the spring of 1856. More months went by while it was decided who would be eligible for the award. Now the selection of recipients could take place. The army and navy established Boards to adjudicate the selections. Commanding officers were invited to put nominations forward. Some Commanders, hoping to bring glory to their regiments, named as many as 38 candidates while some offered none. More time still was needed to select the actual recipients.

*The Victoria Cross Part I is the third in a series of articles about the Crimean War and its influences on the modern world by Ralph Wyndham. I look forward to reading part II. Thanks Ralph! the ed.*

### On the Cover... First Flight in Canada



People in Baddeck Bay, Cape Breton had the darn good sense to take the replica Silver Dart out for a test flight on Sunday February the 22nd this year. Monday was meant to be the big day; marking one hundred years since the first flight of a controlled, powered fixed wing vehicle flight in the British Empire by the humble 'Silver Dart'. Roberta Bondar, Loreena McKinnnet, Governor General Michaëlle Jean and the Skyhawk parachuting team were all expected to take part in the festivities. However, the weather had no intention of cooperating in a mild mannered way. Although great pomp and circumstance went by the wayside it was still represented in a lesser degree.



Several hundred onlookers were at the take-off site, some of them descendants of the original crowd fortunate enough to view the original historical flight. Also on hand was Gerald Haddon, the grandson of J.A.D. McCurdy, the pilot of the original Silver Dart. Mr. Haddon of Oakville Ontario became involved in the construction and re-enactment of the flight of the Silver Dart when he discovered the Aerial Experiment Association 2005 Inc. was building the replica in the Welland area. The group named themselves after the designers of the original aircraft, the Aerial Experiment Association.

Who was the Aerial Experiment Association? It will come as no surprise that Alexander Graham Bell had a very large hand in the development of this group. It was his wife Mabel who encouraged and financed Bell to start the group. The

Alexander  
Graham Bell put  
together the

Bell's summer home overlooked Baddeck Bay on Bras d'Or Lake, Nova Scotia. They first recruited J.A.D. McCurdy, a lifelong resident of Baddeck who was a mechanical engineering student and son of A.G.

Bell's right hand man.

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McCurdy brought with him fellow student Frederick W. 'Casey' Baldwin.

They were joined by motorcycle designer Glenn Curtiss who designed the engine and Thomas Selfridge from the U.S. Army. Unfortunately Mr. Selfridge later became the first casualty of manned flight.

The team developed a few prototypes that had some limited success. The ailerons or wing flaps that the team developed to help steer the plane are still used in airplane design today. The AEA worked in both Baddeck and Hammondsport New York. The first flight of the Silver Dart was actually in the U.S.A. The frozen surface of Baddeck Bay was a pretty good runway, so the Silver Dart was packaged up and brought to Cape Breton where it had fifty odd successful flights until it eventually crash landed at a demonstration for the armed forces at Camp Petawawa. No one was hurt in the crash. The military couldn't see any use for aircraft.



This year's reenactment flight was piloted by Canadian Astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason. The first attempt of the day ran into difficulties when the front wheel fell off. But that's no big deal for a seasoned astronaut. After some quick repairs Bjarni went on to complete five short flights for the cheering crowds. Since the official Monday flights had to be cancelled the crowds who did manage to make it to the Sunday demonstration can count themselves as very

lucky including; Hugh Bell Muller a great-grandson of Alexander and Mabel Bell.

The site of the Bell's summer home Beinn Bhreagh is still a private estate, however ten hectares have been given over to become the Alexander Graham Bell

National Historic Site. The Silver Dart Centennial Committee

members who planned the celebrations surrounding the

reenactment have formed a Legacy Committee with Dr. Roberta

Bondar as Honorary Chair. The Committee is raising funds to build a new

aviation and innovation wing for the A.G. Bell Nat. Historical Site. The aviation centre will house the new Silver Dart and other exhibits along with simulators.

The proposed innovation wing will contain a multi-purpose theatre and

conference and learning centres. All of this is located in Baddeck, population

about 1000. It sounds like a great place to visit.

From the Space  
Shuttle to the Silver  
Dart



The 2009 festivities were not the first time the first Canadian flight was recreated. The RCAF built a model Silver Dart for the 50th anniversary of Canada's first flight. The winds were high and gusty forcing the light plane to crash. The vehicle was mended and has been on display at the Canada Aviation Museum located on CFB Ottawa ever since. Many displays, events and learning opportunities about the 100th anniversary of flight in Canada can be found at the museum this year.

Canada Post issued a stamp honouring the flight of the Silver Dart fifty years ago and it did again on February 23rd this year. I found so much interesting information about this subject that I haven't even got around to discussing the stamp. The illustrator of the stamp, Michael Little went to great lengths to present the image of the Silver Dart well. He ended up building a model of it and photographing it from angle after angle. It is an odd looking contraption so presenting it at just the right angle was important to keeping the image easy to read, pleasing to the eye and appear to be in flight! The main body of the stamp is expressed as an oil painting of the era. Daniel Trottier, the Manager of stamp design and production at Canada Post is so pleased with the liveliness of the details that he recommends that you check out the stamp with a magnifying glass.

Not bad Canada Post: interesting subject and very attractive stamp. A thumbs up on this one!

( Hey - did you notice that the 'P' rate symbol is not red! )

Marion Ace

### From the Editor...

We had another lively evening at our February meeting. **Jim Brett** brought the Saugeen Stamp Club Circuit books. The club paid for Mr. Brett's dinner and presented him with our February newsletter with the whole 'Winter sports of the Olympics' souvenir sheet on the cover. I hope that the trip was worthwhile for his club. We did end up having an auction as well, which certainly interfered with perusing the circuit books.

**John Cortan** was presented with a January newsletter sporting a 'Year of the Ox' single and the souvenir sheet as a thank you for setting up his wares at the January meeting. Thank you to John also for bringing Jim Brett to the meeting.

**Rache Sullivan** visited the club for the first time. We hope that the Owen Sound resident will find his way back to us again.

This is our auction meeting. **Ernie Coates** donated a couple more items for the auction including a full mint sheet of the new American Edgar Allan Poe issue. I'm looking forward to seeing what else shows up.

A number of people handed in their 'What do you want?' sheets. Once we get a few more handed in I will compile the information. Remember we just want the information so that sellers and auctions will have material available that you want!

I'm not sure when March break is here in Owen Sound, but I do know that my Grandchildren will be visiting with us and I hope that at least one of them will join us at the meeting. I hope that some other young people will make it out to this meeting. Hey Forrest, nudge, nudge.

There sure are a lot stamp shows in the next four weeks. I hope that you get a chance to attend some of them. The Saugeen Stamp Club Show will be on Saturday May the 2<sup>nd</sup> and you know that will be here in the blink of an eye!

See you on Wednesday! *The Ed.*

## 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 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 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.

Guests or new members are always most welcome.

Annual membership fees: Full-\$10; Family-\$15; Junior- Free

Members and guests contribute \$1 at each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for use of 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.

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