

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. April 15th 2009 @ 7:00

From the Editor...

Hello everybody! You may not realize it, but this is April. This is spring. It is hard to tell sometimes I know. I went to the Hanover meeting last night and I'm glad that I have four wheel-drive on one of our vehicles. Easter is this weekend and I sure hope that Spring comes to visit and maybe she'll even stay for a while. But if Spring doesn't show up; then be sure not to hide white Easter eggs outside.

We had our 'Auction Night' at our last meeting. It went very well. There were a good variety of lots available. We had two junior visitors, one being my Granddaughter *Chelsea* and the other was John Cortan's Grandson *Damien*. *Chelsea* is a bit shy when it comes to bidding - but oh ho - watch that *Damien* bid!

Phil Visser confirmed that this year's Annual Show and Bourse will be on Saturday September 19th at the West Hill High School. Take note of the change of location. The Show has been moved to the High School so that we can hold the Show on a Saturday. The room at the Bayshore Community Centre is far too expensive on Saturdays. The use of the High School is not cheap either, however half the costs will be covered by a grant. We will be able to sell food but we will not have a kitchen. I hope that everyone will be prepared to chip in with food supplies and do a small shift selling food and coffee. Apparently a number of our members and vendors could keel over and die if we don't supply coffee.

Another important item to note: we voted to now charge a 10% commission to the seller of auction items. This is important since we do need to raise more money for our monthly rent. We have also decided to limit the number of auction entries to three. This rule will be exercised especially when we are just having a mini-auction.

Happy Easter, happy spring, see you on Wednesday!

Marion Ace

Editor 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.

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. Website: <http://www.csdaonline.com>.

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. 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. Website: <http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com>.

APRIL 25 - 26, Sudbury, ON

SUDBURY STAMP SHOW, Tom Davies Square foyer, Brady St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, dealers, draws, door prize, food table, exhibits, free admission and free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canada Post and Sudbury Philatelic Society. For more information, contact William "Biff" Pilon, club president, email stampless1@hotmail.com, telephone (705) 560-1274.

APRIL 25, Colborne, ON.

Apple Country Stamp Show, Royal Canadian Legion, 92 King Street E. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., eight dealers, free admission and parking, consignment table, club books, door prizes, draw prizes, refreshments. For more information, contact Sharron MacDonald, telephone: 905-355-2691, email: sharron@linkd.net.

MAY 2, Hanover, ON

Hanover Stamp Show and Bourse, Knights of Columbus Hall, 963 Bruce Rd. 4. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission and parking, 11 dealers, judged exhibits, collectors' supplies, door prizes, kids table, lunch booth. Sponsor/Affiliate: Saugeen Stamp club. For more information, contact Peter Kritz, telephone (519) 364-4752 or (519) 742-5800, ext 2000; email pkritz@coldwellbankerpbr.com.

MAY 2, Oshawa, ON

Special Meeting and Auction, Conant Seniors Branch, 115 Grassmere Ave. Meeting starts at 10 a.m., auction starts at 12:45 p.m. Free parking, hot lunch available, no admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: Stamp Clubs of Oshawa, Whitby, and Bowmanville. For more information, contact Larry Friend, email, lfriend@sympatico.ca, telephone 905-723-8798.

MAY 2 - 3, Ottawa, ON

ORAPEX 2009, Curling Rink, RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr. Ottawa's National Stamp Show, the 48th Annual Stamp Exhibition and Bourse with more than 40 dealers in stamps, postal history and post cards and 150 frames of exhibits. The theme of this year's show is the 150th anniversary of the first cents issue of Canada. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: The RA Stamp Club. For more information, contact Doug Lingard, (613) 737-4864, e-mail: lingardd@istar.ca.

MAY 3, Stratford, ON

Mayday Stamp Show, Kiwanis Community Centre, 111 Lakeside Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Show cachet cover, bourse, stamp exhibits, club sales circuit, free admission and parking, wheelchair accessibility, lunch counter. Sponsor/Affiliate: Stratford Stamp Club. For more information, contact Richard Blackburn, (519) 273-0429, email: richard.blackburn@utoronto.ca.

The Victoria Cross, Part 2 of 2

Ralph Wyndham

This month I finish my quick look at the Victoria Cross. The stamp shown here is the second of two designs issued by Canada post. Last month's stamp showed a real Victoria Cross; this month we see an illustration of the Canadian Victoria Cross together with Queen Elizabeth's signature of approval. The new Canadian VC supersedes the original for Canadian Forces but, like the original, it still requires the reigning Monarch's full assent in order to be awarded. Since its inception in 1993, the Canadian VC has yet to be bestowed.

Now, though, let's go back to 1857. Planning was finally started for the first presentation ceremony and the date was set for Hyde Park, London, June 26, 1857. Queen Victoria made it perfectly clear that she intended to present her new medal personally. The list of recipients however, was not made public until the 22nd, a mere four days beforehand. Winners had to be located and rushed to London for the ceremony. Some winners were too far away; some had left the military by this time and no longer had military uniforms but still showed up for the event.



Of the 111 Victoria Crosses awarded for acts of valour during the Crimean War, 62 men were able to attend that first ceremony including Alexander Dunn, Canada's first winner. The Queen arrived for the ceremony on horseback and to the consternation of some, did not dismount, preferring instead to lean over from the saddle to pin the winners' new medals to their chests. The whole operation took the Monarch just 10 minutes. At 10 seconds per man, there would have been little conversation! The spectacle went over well with the public, though, and they cheered loudly at its conclusion. Apparently few paid heed to the Times newspaper's pronouncement that the medal was "poor looking and mean in the extreme".

Originally a British military award, the opportunity to win the VC was extended to Colonial Forces throughout the British Empire in 1867, and to members of the Indian Army in 1911. At its inception, the VC awarded to navy personnel bore a blue ribbon while the ribbon for army medals was red. When the Royal Air Force was formed in 1918, the blue ribbon gave way to the exclusive use of the red. The motto, 'For Valour' appears on the front of the Cross, while the winner's details (name, rank, number, unit and the date of the action) are engraved on the back. On the Canadian VC, "For Valour" has been replaced by the Latin equivalent, "Pro Valore"

The kinds of deeds that earn consideration for a Victoria Cross are very dangerous. Indeed it is stipulated that the act must be performed in the face of the enemy. The odds of surviving such an action are estimated to be one in ten. It is surprising, then, that it was not until 1920 that the medal could be awarded posthumously. Today, there must be sworn written statements from three witnesses describing the circumstances of an act for it to be considered for the award. No doubt many more soldiers performed deeds worthy of recognition but no witnesses survived to acknowledge the facts. It is for this reason that most nations' Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has that nation's highest honour for gallantry bestowed upon it.

Since its inception, the Victoria Cross has been awarded 1354 times. There are other medals today, such as the Distinguished Service Order for officers and

the Distinguished Conduct Medal for other ranks, which are awarded to recognize acts of valour that could have warranted a VC in the past. The Victoria Cross has only been presented 11 times since WWII, the last two instances during the Falklands War in 1982.



The Victoria Cross, Part II is the fourth in a series of articles about the Crimean War and its influences on the modern world by Ralph Wyndham. Ralph has asked me to mention that since this article was first published, a Victoria Cross has been awarded to Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry for his actions as a Private with the U.K. Armed Forces in Iraq. In two separate instances he saved the hides of his mates while driving an armoured fighting vehicle under a barrage of enemy fire including rocket propelled grenades. He sustained serious head injuries in the second incident and is no longer able to work as a soldier. Beharry received his Victoria Cross from Queen Elizabeth II on March 18 2005.

Thanks again to Ralph Wyndham for this interesting series of articles. the ed.

On the Cover... International Year of Astronomy



Wow!! What an amazing, awesome universe we are a part of! Here we have two glimpses into the macrocosm as two microcosms. And what a fine job was done designing these stamps. Looking into these stamps you can get a sense of depth and the continuous layers of universes to infinity. As you can see, these fabulous stamps designed by Keith Martin are featured on a souvenir sheet which is also available with an overprint of the IYA logo visible only under ultraviolet light. You can

also purchase an uncut press sheet of fourteen souvenir sheets surrounding a swirling galaxy. I have to say that all the products bearing these stamps are quite stunning, including the first day cover and the booklet of ten pressure sensitive stamps. The booklet includes envelope seals that show glimpses of ten different nebulae. My only possible complaint about the design is the use of the white border on the stamps. The border does help to define the limits of the stamps especially as seen as part of a souvenir sheet or booklet. However, if the image extended to the edges of the stamps then; especially when seen singularly, such as on an envelope, they would better portray the limitless expanse of the heavens.

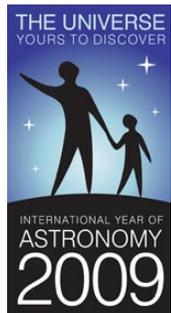


The Herzberg Institute for Astrophysics was named after Nobel Prize winner Gerhard Herzberg, one of the National

You may be wondering just what these images have to do with Canada. The left-hand stamp features the Horsehead Nebula with the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory of Saanich, B.C. in the foreground overlaid with the 54 cent denomination. The Observatory, located near Victoria, has three telescopes, the largest being the 1.8 meter Plaskett

telescope. The international caliber Observatory is used by a number of astronomers and students and is home to the Nat. Research Council - Herzberg Institute for Astrophysics. They also have courses and educational programs and viewing for the public. For a schedule of events go to http://www.hia-ihc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/public/link_e.html.

The layout of the second stamp reflects the first one. In front of the Eagle Nebula is the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope. The CFHT is situated 4,200 meters above sea level on the dormant volcano of Mauna Kea. This incredible 3.6 meter telescope is jointly run by the University of Hawaii, the Centre national de la recherche scientifique of France and Canada's National Research Council. The photos of the nebulae used on the stamps were taken with this telescope by Jean-Charles Cuillandre. He has also released the movie 'Hawaiian Starlight' depicting the cosmos and the surrounding landscape using time lapse photography.



The UN declared 2009 International Year of Astronomy (IYA) marks the 400th anniversary of the moment Galileo aimed the first telescope at the deep night sky. "The Universe - Yours to Discover" is the slogan of this worldwide effort to educate people about the environment beyond our planet. 135 countries are participating in international activities. Various scientific groups and associations and universities are involved in backing and developing programs for the public and for schools. A simple, easy to build telescope will be promoted to millions of people. People will be recruited all over the world to do a star count in order to measure light pollution. Just enter 'IYA 2009 Canada' on internet explorer to see what's going on in Canada or do a search with just 'IYA 2009' to see programming information from around the world.

Two thumbs up for these two delightful stamps. I can hardly wait for warm enough weather to get out and contemplate the stars. — Marion Ace

MY WORLD

by

A. Postage Stamp

My world is where I am, where I go, where I came from.... I know few borders and I am welcome where'er I travel. The messages I bring are sometimes bold, sometimes sad, sometimes serious and sometimes happy... but always I bring word from one mortal to another. My colours vary, sometimes red, sometimes blue or green or brown; here of late I am of many hues and shades and tones. My size will vary as did my thickness... when I flew the great Barrier Pigeon-O-Gram

service I was as thin as tissue paper and I well remember my trip across the Indian feudatory State of Barwani when I was of thick and glazed paper! But these days I am quite substantial and sometimes almost the size of a small invitational envelope.

I have traveled o'er the world from 1840 to this date. I have seen kings and kingdoms come and go, empires won and lost, the tides of war and the challenge of space. I have carried the designs of mortal man's religions and reflected the arts and glories of ancient Thebes... but it is still my world, whether by boat or plane, rocket or camel, whether over the mountains or the desert, through cities, villages and hamlets... in my world I bring mortal man closer together.

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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.

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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