

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. September 16th 2009 @ 6:00

## Attention Everybody...Picnic Alert!!

Our September meeting is a potluck picnic at Harrison Park in Owen Sound. We will start things at 6:00. Family and friends are welcome to this event. See the note 'from the Editor' on page 6 for more information.

## From the President...

It is time again to extend greetings and hopefully everyone is enjoying good health. It is the Labour Day weekend as I write and I have finished my home chores and now for some relaxation with our common hobby. For those of you who missed the meeting last month, I would like to remind you that this month we are meeting in Harrison Park, at the Picnic pavilion, for a "pot luck" evening. We have also invited the Saugeen Club to join us for the evening. Since it is a picnic, we will start a little earlier, meeting at 6 PM in the park. What is unfortunate for me is that I teach to 6 PM and so, I'll be coming a little later.

There was a question at the last meeting as to whether there are any electrical outlets at the picnic shelter. I went there and can confirm that there is NO electricity available. I will be bringing along a large crock pot of chili (warm in temperature) which can feed many people. Thinking of the practical part of this, please bring along your own utensils and bowls/plates etc. We will also spend some time putting together last minute details about the stamp show on the 19th. Please consider where you are able to help for the show. Continuing on the theme of the show, we hope a number of members will have put together an exhibit for people to view and offer a vote on which one they enjoyed the most.

It was very nice to see Lesley Anne come visit from her home in Pennsylvania. Lesley Anne comes only once a year while she vacations in the area. John Lemon visited the club and we hope he will join us again. These thoughts put me in mind on how we can attract a larger group of closet collectors living in the area. If you know of anyone else that also collects stamps, why not invite them to our meetings. Hopefully, the meetings have a variety that stimulates your interests and makes it a worthwhile evening out. I'm looking forward to meeting you at the park on Wednesday, September 16th.

Phil Visser  
OSSC President

It's show time!!

*Come on out to our annual Owen Sound Stamp Show*



Owen Sound Stamp Club  
Stamp Show Raffle  
**Canada Air Mail C2**  
MNH 2009 Unitrade value \$240

*Draw to be held on Sept. 19th 2009 at the O.S. Stamp Show  
Tickets \$2.00 each or 5 for \$5.00*

Coming Events...

**SEPT. 19, Owen Sound, ON**

*Owen Sound Stamp Show, West Hill Secondary School, 750 9th St. W. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission, dealers, exhibits, kids corner, silent auction. For more information, contact Phil Visser, telephone (519)376-6760, email pvisser@hurontel.on.ca.*

**SEPT. 19, London, ON**

*London and Middlesex Stamp Show, Argyle Mall, 1925 Dundas St. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission and parking, draw prizes. Sponsor/Affiliate: London and Middlesex Stamp Club. For more information, contact Pat Delmore, (519) 471-7139, email: patrickjdelmore@hotmail.com. Website: <http://www.middlesexstampclub.com>.*

**SEPT. 19, Toronto, ON**

*Fall 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.*

**SEPT. 19, St. Catharines, ON**

*Holiday Inn Stamp Show, Niagara Room, Holiday Inn, QEW at Lake St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Specializing in stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information, contact Roy Houtby, telephone (905) 934-8377.*

**SEPT. 26, Cobourg, ON**

*COPEX 2009 40th Annual Stamp Show and Sale, Salvation Army Citadel, 59 Ballantine St. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free admission, displays, eight dealers, club sales, consignment sales, raffle, refreshment counter. Sponsor/Affiliate: Cobourg Stamp Club. For*

more information, contact Stephen Snell, telephone: (905) 885-9929, or email: Stephen.Snell@sympatico.ca.

### **SEPT. 26, Milton, ON**

Milton Stamp Fair, Milton Seniors Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr. Show hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features the club sales circuit as well as 14 varied dealers. Sponsor/Affiliate: Milton Stamp Club. For more information, contact Diane, telephone (905) 864-6140, email: miltonstampclub@gmail.com.

### **SEPT. 26, Sarnia, ON**

LAMPEX 2009, Optimist Hall, Point Edward Arena, under Blue Water International Bridges. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 12 dealers, framed displays, free admission and parking, light lunch available. Sponsor/Affiliate: Sarnia Stamp Club. For more information, call (519) 464-2688, email: sarniastampclub@cogeco.ca. Website: <http://www.sarniastampclub.ca>.

### **OCT. 3 - 4, Ottawa, ON**

Ottawa Fall Stamp Fair, Greenery Room, Travelodge Hotel and Convention Centre, 1376 Carling Ave. Hours: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free parking and admission. Door prizes. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information, contact Roy Houtby, telephone (905) 934-8377.

### **OCT. 17, Guelph, ON**

Guelphpex 2009, Evergreen Seniors Centre, 683 Woolwich St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking, 15 dealers, club circuit books, exhibits. For more information, contact John Kneitel, telephone: (519) 856-9497, email: jekneitl@sympatico.ca.

### **OCT. 18, Bramalea, ON**

GRVPA 15th Annual Club Fair, Terry Miller Centre, 1295 Williams Pkwy. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 15 GRVPA clubs plus guest clubs from the GTAPA, single frame GTAPA exhibition competition, more than 700 circuit books, more than 400 lots in two silent auctions, free parking, snack bar. Sponsor/Affiliate: Grand River Valley Philatelic Association. For more information, contact stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca.

### **On the Cover... 'Roadside Attractions'**

Canada Post has decided to take us all on a cross Canada three-legged road tour. It is a lively and colourful tour of large roadside tourist attractions or curiosities. There are four stops on the first leg of our journey which begins in Prince George, British Columbia to visit Mr. PG. We then travel to just north of B.C. to the Watson Lake Signpost Forest, Yukon. Travelling east we then arrive at the Inukshuk in Hay River NWT. After that we head down to see a giant Easter egg in Vegreville, Alberta. Slap on your seatbelts 'cause here we go!

Mr. PG represents the lumber industry roots of Prince George.



In his youth the spruce Mr. PG was 40' tall. His first public appearance was at the PNE in Vancouver where he won 'best float' in the parade. He attended a number of major parades where he talked and due to hinging he could duck power lines. Born in 1960, by 1983 he was rotting and like the six million dollar man was rebuilt with modern materials, but somehow he ended up about 13' shorter. Although he is now fiberglass and sheet metal he is painted to look like wood and now he is safety conscious so he wears a bright yellow hard hat. The time capsule in his new chest keeps the community of Prince George close to his heart.

In 1942 G. I. Carl K. Lindley of Danville Illinois was told to go and fix that signpost that got damaged. He was in the Yukon at Watson Lake working hard on the Alaskan Highway. Lindley fixed that sign and while he was at it, he added a sign of his own naming his own home town and the distance to it. Buoyed by the idea his fellow workers began to add signs of their own. The concept grew and grew until travelers from around world were posting signs on a regular basis. Some signs are lovingly handmade while many of them are official signs not likely to belong to those who mounted them there; such as the 6' by 10' sign from the German Autobahn. The concept is being copied in many places. Who can forget the signposts on the TV set of M\*A\*S\*H? Lindley returned to Watson Lake with his wife 50 years later in 1992 to witness a couple from Ohio post the 10,000<sup>th</sup> sign in the Sign Post Forest. Still the phenomenon snowballs. There are now over 64,000 signs in the forest, that's about 41 times the population of Watson Lake!



Signpost Forest of Watson Lake,



Inukshuk of Hay River,

Now we travel east to Hay River, NWT. Hay River lies on the south side of Great Slave Lake, north of Alberta. Here stands a three meter high Inukshuk built to welcome the Arctic Winter Games in 1978. Now, it would seem that Hay River is pretty darn north, but to some people from Hay River the inukshuk is inappropriate because the community actually lays within the bounds of the boreal forest not the Arctic tundra. Other people are satisfied since it does represent the Arctic Winter Games. Some people take the argument even further and suggest that the rock sculpture is exactly that- a sculpture or adornment, not an inukshuk. Norman Hallendy who wrote 'Inuksuit: Silent Messengers of the Arctic' said "an inukshuk is something that acts in the capacity of a human being, such as giving directions to people". Whatever your opinion may be on the matter, the inukshuk is becoming a well known symbol of Canada not just the Arctic anymore.



Pysanka of Vegreville,

The last stop on our summer road trip is in Vegreville, Alberta to see a giant Easter Egg. It is called Pysanka which is the Ukrainian word for Easter egg. Each aspect of the geometric pattern holds traditional folkloric meaning. Pysanka was built by the

community to honour a century of peace and security provided by the RCMP. It is the largest Easter egg in the world and was quite a design feat as well. This was the early 70s and Prof. Ronald Resch of the University of Utah had to develop new computer programs to assist in designing Pysanka. The shell is 2,000 lbs. of aluminum facets and the internal turnbuckle struts are another 3,000 lbs. It all rests on a steel and concrete base weighing 27,000 lbs. This amazing egg sits at a 30 degree angle and rotates like a weather vane. This showpiece of the RCMP Centennial Celebrations sits at the east end of Vegreville overlooking a fishpond near the entrance of Elk's Park. *(On the Cover continued on page 4 )*

*(On the Cover continued from page 3)*

As already noted this set of stamps is very colourful. The original images are in fact oil paintings by Bonnie Ross of Nova Scotia. The artist has taken some liberties as the egg, Pysanka is actually bronze, gold and silver, but as depicted it looks more traditional in colour. The bright upbeat look is in keeping with a sense of fun and adventure while discovering Canada that Canada Post is trying to portray.

The curvy topped pressure sensitive stamps as shown here are available in a booklet of 8. A set of 4 traditionally rectangle stamps can be found as a lick and stick souvenir sheet. The First Day Covers are cancelled in Prince George.

We'll see which oddball attractions Canada Post brings us next year. Which Ontario site will they stop at; the Wawa Goose, the Colborne Big Apple or maybe the Big Nickel of Sudbury?

Marion Ace

*After Phil's discussion about number cancels in August, he got inspired to look at a broader range of number cancels and has put his thoughts to paper. Here is a chance for those who missed out on Phil's talk to see some of what they missed! Thanks Phil, the ed.*

## WHAT'S WITH THOSE NUMBERS?

By Philip Visser

Are you a stamp collector or a philatelist? According to L.N. Williams in his book "Fundamentals of Philately", the terms are exclusive of each other. Williams defines a philatelist as a person with the "love of the study of everything relating to franking." The term "franking" is simply the word we commonly use today called "cancellations." So the topic of this article is a short discussion about number cancellations from around the world. But why use numbers? The most likely point of using number was to obliterate the stamp and to identify the post office where the letter was mailed from.



The use of number cancels seems to have been used in many different countries during the late 1800's. My interest in cancels stems from long ago, but it was the beauty of the type of cancels used by the Netherlands that made me look at the many different types of cancels used world wide. The picture of the Dutch number cancel shows the hexagonal shape which consists of twenty six dots around the number 205. Although the stamp is less than ideal with missing perforations, the cancel itself shows the elegance of both the stamp design and the clear, crisp, easily readable number. This type of cancellation was in use in the Netherlands for about twenty four years. This stamp also points out some of the challenges of a thematic collection, the stamp condition versus the quality of the theme. The Netherlands was not the only country that used numbers and dots. France also used dots and numbers, but the shape of the design was a star pattern and appears mostly on the Emperor Napoleon series.



Many other countries used number cancels. In the process of specialization I came across number cancels from the Australian States. The picture to the left shows that the shape surrounding the number is oval with a series of lines inside the border of the oval shape. Also evident is that the



number is joined by the letter "V." This cancel changed over time and so the stamp on the right shows an oval shape without a border, a larger scale number and horizontal stripes. The oval shape is a common theme among many countries that used number cancellations. Other Australian states also used number cancels as a method of defacing the stamp. Note how this type of cancellation obliterated the stamp design and thus prevent reuse of the stamp by the receiver of the letter. (WHAT'S WITH THOSE NUMBERS? continued on page 5)

(WHAT'S WITH THOSE NUMBERS? continued from page 4)



The star burst design was also used in other countries. The picture shows a stamp from the German state Bavaria. What can be seen is that the cancel is a circular shape with no outside border and thick lines emanating outwards like the spokes of a wheel. The inside circle encloses the number "189" and does a good job of hiding the stamp design. Circular shapes were not confined to the continent of Europe. Canada also used circles and the Unitrade Catalogue lists the



two ring and four ring cancel with values. However, it doesn't list the type shown on the Canadian Queen Victoria stamp. In this illustration the number is clear and is completely surrounded with a heavy grill pattern of stripes. Clearly this killer cancel did its job of hiding the stamp design!

Another shape used is that found in the United States. I call this shape the "seeing eye" cancel. The shape looks like a vertical eye with the number in the centre of the shape. The lines of the cancel are thick and even leave a circular shape around the number cancel itself. My collection includes the same shape with the numbers 1, 6 and 11. The fun part will be trying to research the significance of the number with the stamp. For instance, the numbers used in the Netherlands indicated the city of origin of the letter. This same pattern was used in the Australian states. Yet, the one remarkable thing with the United States is that number cancels were used into the 1930's or '40's.



What is the ultimate fascination with this topic is that trying to fill the "holes" in our collections may be really impossible, but the joy of philately is that common, inexpensive and widely available stamps may provide a new avenue to explore the world of stamps. Have fun and take another look at all of those extras you have in your collections.

### From the Editor...

At our August meeting **Phil Visser** gave us a lively talk about numeral cancels complete with a slide show. Well done Phil!

As Phil already mentioned, **Lesley Anne Botte** came by for her usual August visit. Lesley Anne is a stamp dealer. She deals in American and world-wide stamps and philatelic paraphernalia. You can reach her at [rmb@ptd.net](mailto:rmb@ptd.net)

**John Lemon** came by from Chatsworth. He found a listing for our meeting on the internet. John told us that he really enjoyed Phil's little lecture and would be interested in more such informative evenings. So don't be shy, if you've got a specialty or an area of strong interest come and share your knowledge. If you've found some interesting little tidbit bring it along for discussion.

I bumped into a number of the usual suspects at the Kincardine Show on August 15<sup>th</sup>. It was nice to see **Bill Van Trigt** whom we haven't seen for a while. Hey, come on out for the picnic Bill.

Speaking of the picnic – **Don't Forget the Picnic** – Phil will be late but hopefully the rest of us can get to Harrison Park around 6:00. This is potluck, so

bring whatever you want. Phil is bringing chili, John Cortan and Bob Chapman might bring a bucket of chicken, so some salads, appetizers or desserts could be considered.

The club is looking for food donations to sell at the Stamp Show. I am forming a list of items being donated. Please let me know what you'd like to bring. I have some plates, napkins and the like from last year. We have coffee, pop, chili, banana muffins, hot dogs and the fixings coming so far. We need some people to bring some sandwiches and whatever else turns your crank. Keep in mind that we will not have a kitchen.

I am hoping to make a show cover to be available for the show and tickets will be available for a lovely MNH C2 Canadian Airmail stamp.

Keep working on exhibits for the show.

See you on Wednesday at the Park and on Saturday at the show!

Marion Ace

Editor OSSC

## 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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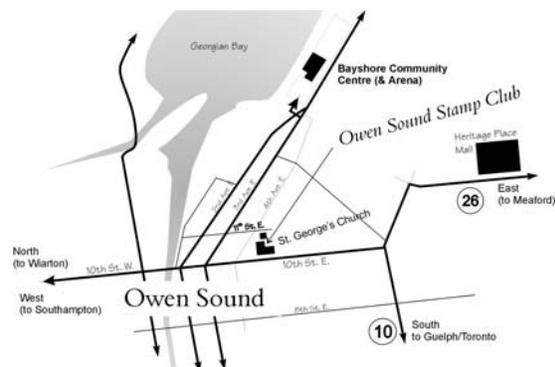
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## **Stick to it!**

By Myron Waterman

Oh! prim little postage stamp, "holding  
your own"

In a manner so winning and gentle,

That you're "stuck on" your task--- (is that  
slang?)

you will own,

And yet you're not two-cent-imental.

I have noted with pride that through thick  
and

through thin

You cling to a thing till you do it,

And, whatever your aim, you are certain to  
win,

Then I turn to whatever my hands are  
about

And with fortified purpose renew it,

And the end soon encompass, for which

I set out, If only, like you, I stick to it.

The sages declare that true genius, so-  
called,

Is simply the will to "keep at it!"

A "won't give-up" purpose is never  
forestalled,

No matter what foes may combat it.

