

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. February 17th 2010 @ 7:00

From the President...



Greetings and well wishes to all members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club as well as other recipients of this newsletter. The New Year has broken in very nicely and winter travelling has been reasonable, even if the rodent predicts six more weeks of winter. Fortunately the rodent is just an excuse to have a fling and the weather forecasting claim is simply a way to look at the bright side life. So, what is our favourite hobby for the winter? Of course it has to be stamp collecting!

Our last meeting was an opportunity to give the executive the boot, but sadly that only happens in Iraq. The attendance was light, and those present decided that the club executive remains the same. Thank you, **Bob, John and Marion** for your help and willingness to keep our club operating. One of the things we decided was to have various club members offer some story about their own collection or philatelic interest. This newsletter features some input from John Lemon and next month will have my contribution, so that gives you plenty of time to work on a 'Spotlight' article for another newsletter issue.

Some organizational work has been made towards the club show in September. West Hill Secondary School is booked for September 25th. There is a chance that a school function may interfere with the show in which case we need an alternate location. Sorry, but that is the best I can do for now, but I left a strong concern that we needed to know sooner rather than later if the date is available. There is ground floor access at the Rockcliffe church and they will let us use the space on a donation basis.

The club meeting is the usual time and place and **John Cortan** will be bringing his stock for us to leaf through. I am still trying to make arrangements for the March and April club meeting with options being the Hamilton Stamp Club circuit books, Ken McGee speaking about exhibiting and the thought of having the stamp artist come to speak doesn't look like it will happen, so if anyone has ideas for club meetings, please let me know. See you at the St George's Church on February 17th. Cheers!

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Coming Events...

- FEB. 20, Niagara Falls, ON
NIPEX, Stamford Lions Club Hall, 3846 Portage Rd. For more information contact Ed Yonelinas, email mastamps@computan.com.
- FEB. 21, Toronto, ON
Toronto Postcard Club 29th Annual Show, Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Ave. Offering thousands of vintage postcards from the early 1900s through the 50s era, 'chromes' for sale. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$5, free parking, lunch counter. Note new location. Complete details on the TPC website. For more information contact Win Boyd, email info@torontopostcardclub.com, telephone 416-445-4484 416-445-4484. Website: <http://www.torontopostcardclub.com>.
- FEB. 27, St. Thomas, ON
Annual Exhibition, Community of Christ Church, 105 Fairview Ave. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Thomas Stamp Club. For more information contact Martin Dekeyser, 438 High St., London ON, N6C 4L5, telephone 519-681-7145 519-681-7145.
- FEB. 27, Ajax, ON
APEX 2010, HMS Ajax Room, Ajax Community Centre, 75 Centennial Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 18 dealers, door prizes, free parking and admission, lunch counter. Sponsor/Affiliate: Ajax Philatelic Society. For more information contact Roy Haina, email hainastamps@rogers.com.
- MARCH 6, Windsor, ON
WINPEX, Forest Glade Arena, 3205 Forest Glade Dr. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free admission, free parking, 15 dealers. Sponsor/Affiliate: Essex County Stamp Club. For more information contact Brian Cutler, telephone 519-966-2276 519-966-2276 , email cutler@mnsi.net.
- MARCH 13, Toronto, ON
Postage Stamp Show, St. Bonaventure Church Parish Centre, 1300 Leslie St. Free admission. Lots of free parking. Regularly 18 dealers. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact 705-799-2088 705-799-2088 .
- MARCH 13, Oakville, ON
Oakville Annual Stamp Show, Mai Auditorium, 454 Rebecca St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: Oakville Stamp Club. For more information contact Bernd P. Duddeck, telephone 905-845-2326 905-845-2326 .
- MARCH 14, Mississauga, ON
VII Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2010, John Paul II Polish

Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Stamps, coins, medals, paper money, militaria and antique papers. Polish stamps info table, exhibits, Polish Mint info table, and junior table with free stamps. Troyak special medal and show souvenirs. Free admission and parking. Refreshments available. Sponsor/Affiliate: Polish - Canadian Coin and Stamp Club "Troyak". For more information contact Wieslaw Grzesicki, telephone 416-258-1651 416-258-1651 , or Ignacy Kania 905-273-7313 905-273-7313 , email info@troyakclub.com. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>.

- MARCH 20, 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 416-445-7720 , email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca. Website: <http://www.NorthTorontoStampClub.tk>.
- MARCH 20, Woodstock, ON
OXPEX/OTEX 2010, 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, refreshments. Sponsor/Affiliate: Oxford Philatelic Society. For more information contact David Ward, telephone 519-539-2221 519-539-2221 email ward2221@rogers.com.

One Page Challenge...



Al Roos was the winner of our 'One Page Challenge' for January. The subject was the Chinese New Year. Good going Al! Al has chosen Canadian Art as our topic for June. Don't forget to bring your 'Olympics' page to the meeting.

One Page Challenge Topics

February - Olympics

March - Buildings (other than churches and castles)

April - A Famous Person or People, (no royalty)

Al Roos shows us some of the used recent Canadian stamps from the prize envelope he

Norway, Part I

By Ralph Wyndham

The radio is almost always on in my house and some time ago, while hurrying through the kitchen, I just caught a sentence or so. What I heard was that Norway

was once part of Sweden. "Hmm... that sounds interesting," I thought to myself, and tucked the thought into my 'Bulletin ideas' file.



Archaeological evidence shows that tiny Traena Is. was first inhabited in the Stone age

Norway is located in Northern Europe on the Scandinavian Peninsula, west of Sweden. The North Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean splash against its very rugged coastline heavily indented by fjords, the long, narrow inlets carved into the land by glaciers. Total land area is about 304,000 km², similar to the land area of Labrador here in Canada. There are around 50,000 small islands included in this total, the largest ones being in the Svalbard group in the Arctic Ocean, the northernmost permanently inhabited land on the planet.

At the other pole, Norway has several other interests. The nation lays claim to Queen Maud Land on the Antarctic mainland, and Peter I Island off the Antarctic coast and Bouvet Island are considered dependent territories but not part of the Kingdom. Bouvet, a small volcanic island whose nearest neighbour is Queen Maud Land 1750 kilometres to the south, is the world's most remote land mass.



Throughout the Viking age of Europe, the Vikings of Norway sailed the seas as far away as Constantinople at the

Despite its rather high latitude, Norway's climate is rather temperate thanks to the relatively warm waters of the Gulf Stream running along its coast. Summertime averages are +16C in the south and +13 in the north; in winter averages are +1C and -3C respectively. As Norway straddles the Arctic Circle, the seasonal variation in daylight is very large. North of the Arctic circle the sun never slips fully below the horizon between late May and late July and the south has up to 20 hours of daylight. In the winter, night replaces day for as many hours.

The most famous and most feared people from this land, the Vikings, dominated Europe for five centuries. The first Viking settlers to leave their homeland arrived on the shores of Britain in the 780s. Those who returned home brought with them enticing trade goods and tales of poorly defended coastlines. Invasion plans ensued and the first Viking raid took place at St. Cuthbert's Monastery on the Island of Lindisfarne in 793.



Some of Norway's rugged

Over the next centuries, the Vikings spread across Britain, Ireland, Normandy, Russia, Spain and the Middle East reaching as far as Baghdad. The Vikings tried, but failed, six times to conquer Constantinople (now Istanbul). Viking farmers settled on the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland and even spent some time exploring at least as far west as Newfoundland.

These early Norwegians were not a united front against their neighbours. They were also tribal and fought amongst themselves as well. However, by 900 AD King Harald Fairhair was able to unite the tribes into a single nation through clever

diplomacy and foreign policy – and by marrying a Danish princess which, in the world's eyes, made Norway equal to Denmark.

Ironically, the King who could unify a country could do nothing about his family. Harald's youngest son, Erik, pursued the crown ruthlessly by eliminating all his legitimate brothers except for Hakan, who was safely in Britain. Under Erik's rule the union fell apart. Erik then fled to Britain when his brother, who became Hakan the Good, returned home to sort out Erik's mess.

Hakan the Good converted to Christianity while living in Britain and attempted to introduce the religion to his people. However, after his death in 960, Norwegian Christianity virtually disappeared.

King Olav Tryggvason (Olav II) made the next attempt to introduce Christianity. Olav's betrothed, Queen Sigrid of Sweden, refused to convert so Olav cancelled the marriage contract. Sigrid then married

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('Norway, Part I' continued from page 3)

King Svein Forkbeard of Denmark. Olav fell victim to treachery and Denmark took over Norway.



Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim was started in 1070 as a memorial to King Olav II, who finally brought

King Olav Haraldsson, who also converted to Christianity in England, was finally able to establish Christianity as the religion of the land in the 11th century. In 1023 he built a stone cross in Voss that still stands today and in 1024 he founded the Church of Norway. Olav II was killed in battle in 1030 while resisting another Danish invasion. He was eventually canonized as a saint and Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim was built as a memorial to

him. In 1537, the Reformation arrived in Norway and Catholicism was replaced by Lutheran Protestantism.

The Viking Age was beginning to wane in Europe. King Harald III was killed, and his Viking army defeated, at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in September, 1066. This event is generally considered to have broken the Vikings' reputation for invincibility. King Sigurd I continued foreign raids as far away as Lebanon, but the situation was becoming volatile at home. After Sigurd's death in 1130, civil war crippled the country for years to come and by 1319 Norway was united with Sweden



King Olav II was killed in a 1030 battle resisting a Danish

leaving the once great power a mere province of its neighbour. Further decimation of the nation arrived in the form of the Black Death plague in 1349. More than half the population perished and those

who remained were forced to return to the land to survive.

In 1397, Norway, Sweden and Denmark were brought together under Danish control through the Kalmar Union. Sweden left the union in 1521 but Norway remained under Danish rule until 1814; a total of 436 years.

*Stay tuned next month for Part II of Ralph Wyndam's 'Norway' article. Thanks
Ralph.*

The Spotlight... the 1976 Montreal Olympics

From John Lemon

*By the time our meeting rolls around on the 17th the Olympics will be well under way. In keeping with the Olympic theme John Lemon pulled out his Olympic Stamp Souvenir Collection booklet. There are two of these fancy booklets; one with the stamps issued before the Olympics and the second one containing the stamps issued in 1976. They are made of good quality paper and have padded brown leather- look covers with a slip case. John has submitted some excerpts from Volume 1. If you have memories to share about these Collections drop us a line.
The Editor*

A Little Knowledge Behind the Canadian Stamps for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games



1976 Olympic Games

Canada's first stamp issue honouring the 1976 Olympic Games features the Montreal Organizing Committee's symbol – five interlaced rings crowned with a symbolic “m.” The five rings symbolize the Olympic spirit of universal brotherhood, while the “m” signifies the three tiered winners' podium. The :m: also represents Montreal, acknowledging that city's honour as host of Canada's first Olympic Games.

Issued Sept. 20, 1973

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1974 Semi-Postal Issue

The graphic element in this issue again incorporates the specially designed Montreal symbol featuring five interlaced rings crowned

with an “m”. These stamps were the first semi-postals ever issued by the Canadian Post Office. The small surcharge gave the public a convenient opportunity to voluntarily and personally support the Games and amateur sport in general. Issued April 17, 1974



Water Sports

Canada's second issue of semi-postals in support of the 1976 Games depicts some of the water sports in which athletes the world over will compete at Montreal and Kingston. Various aquatic activities have been with us since the days of the early Greek Games. Equipment and techniques have improved, but in terms of competitive thrust, enjoyment and spiritual devotion, those who compete in the 1976 Games will not be any different from participants of the ancient Games. Issued February 5, 1975



McKenzie Sculptures

Robert Tait McKenzie, creator of “The Sprinter” and “The Plunger” was a Canadian doctor who believed that sports should form an integral part of everyday life. In his sculptures, McKenzie sought to show the beauty of the human form at the moment of resolve, believing that athletic sculpture illustrated the link between physical and spiritual virtue. Dr. McKenzie won a bronze medal for art at the celebration of the XI Olympiad in Berlin, 1936.



Issued March 14, 1975



Track and Field

These three commemoratives were issued as part of the Olympic series depicting various athletic disciplines contained in Olympic competition. The marathon pictured on the 25 cent stamp recalls the famous run of Pheidippides from the battle scene at Marathon to Athens, announcing

victory of the Greek armies over Darius, the Persian conqueror. The first modern

I hope that everyone will participate in this column. The ‘spotlight’ can be on something unusual, something that you are just fond of or something you detest. You can write a paragraph or two or a page or two. I will need a good scan or photo of the marathon race was won by a Greek shepherd, Spiridon Loues, to the jubilation of the crowds at Athens in 1896. Issued June 11, 1975

From the Editor...

John Cortan is bringing his goods to the meeting and he will need a few helping hands to help him unload beforehand and to pack up afterwards. Also **John Cortan** has now booked the Heritage mall for Friday and Saturday March the 5th and 6th for our public info day. We will need some help to people the booth and to assist with set up and take down. Hopefully everyone will come out and help for a few hours.

DON'T FORGET THAT DUES ARE DUE. They are \$15 as discussed in previous issues!

Bring your Olympic 'One Page Challenge'. See you on Wednesday,

Marion Ace,
Editor OSSC

On the Cover...The Right Honourable Romeo LeBlanc



Romeo LeBlanc is a man who had a strong belief in the courage and goodness of Canadians. He acted as our Governor General, the first Acadian or Maritimer to do so, from April 1995 to October 1999. Dennis Page, one of the designers of the new stamp honouring Mr. LeBlanc has included the flags of Canada, New Brunswick and Acadia on the stamp in respect for LeBlanc's pride of all

aspects of his heritage.

The portrait used has been cropped from his official portrait painted by Christan Nicholson. The painting is quite striking with its bold deep reds in the

Susan Margles of Canada Post and Governor General Michaëlle Jean unveil the new stamp honouring

background and the shadows of his face contrasted by cool blues and grays and the bright light shining on him. Romeo LeBlanc was present for the unveiling of the portrait at Rideau Hall in 2003. He died last year of

Alzheimer's disease at the age of 81.



This 2002 stamp celebrates 50 years of the requirement for Governor

His long and interesting career began in teaching. His passion for education was still very much in evidence later when he created the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History and the one-time History Medal for the Millennium awarded to top Canadian history students at the turn of the millennium. After teaching Mr. LeBlanc went on to become a foreign correspondent for Radio-Canada, which lead to him becoming Press Secretary for Pearson and Trudeau. He must have enjoyed the politics because he then became the MP for the riding of Westmorland-Kent in New Brunswick. Romeo LeBlanc acted as the Minister of Fisheries in three of Trudeau's cabinets. He was to hold

that post longer than anyone else ever had but his real claim to fame as Fishery Minister was the expansion of Canada's coastal fishing zone from 12 miles to 200 miles through the development of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

His parliamentary career moved on to the senate in 1984 and he was appointed as Speaker of the senate in 1993 however, it was in his role as Governor General where he really had the opportunity to shine as a man of the people- more specifically all Canadians. We have already seen that he was a friend of fishermen and to educators and students. As a great promoter of all Canadian history, he was a staunch supporter of Francophonie and also had great respect for the culture and history of Canada's aboriginal peoples. He proclaimed June 21 to be National Aboriginal Day. Summer solstice would seem to be a good choice of a day to celebrate the culture and heritage of our native peoples.

He believed in volunteerism and the courage of everyday Canadians and he developed the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award to recognize the extraordinary contributions of ordinary Canadians to their communities.

As a man of the people he also brought the Office of the Governor General closer to the people. He was responsible for giving a number of awards which he often brought to the people. He travelled all across Canada to attend award ceremonies. In an opposite vein he had Rideau Hall, the home of Governor Generals, opened up to the public. People now have much greater access to the hall and the grounds. Programs and events are held there now such as concerts and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Foundation's annual Teddy Bear Picnic.

The gummed stamp is available in a pane of sixteen. Scattered on the margins of the pane can be seen Romeo LeBlanc's personal coat of arms, the Order of Canada insignia, the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award and the Governor General's Academic Medal.

Romeo LeBlanc was considered to be a humble and modest man and he got things done. He was loved far and wide across our country and is an excellent ambassador to have on a Canadian stamp.

Marion Ace



The Order of Canada is the highest award bestowed by

Owen Sound Stamp Club

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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. Guests or new members are always most welcome. Annual membership fees: Full-\$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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