

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. March 17th 2010 @ 7:00

## From the President...



Hello again to all my fellow Owen Sound stamp club members. It is that time again where our relentless editor is sending out reminders to complete this greeting and to urge you all to come out for the next meeting. The meeting will be on Wednesday, March 17th at the usual place, the basement of the St George's Anglican Church in Owen Sound. I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and humour.

This meeting will feature a visit from a local artist who has an interest in the philatelic world. Mr. William Van Veen will be showing some of his painting with stamp themes. Each painting has a different theme, such as famous women in Canada, or sailing ships etc. When I made these arrangements he was really looking forward to coming and possibly to get ideas for future painting with real used stamps on them. He is hoping to get ideas and more importantly access to nice clean stamps. I am sure we can help in that way! We discussed earlier the possibility of buying a painting for the door prize at the upcoming stamp show:

On March 5th and 6th a number of volunteers went to the Heritage Place Mall to promote the club to passers by and especially to the young collectors at heart. A big thank you is extended to John Cortan who did the leg work making the arrangements for this event. John was assisted by several other club members during the Friday and Saturday and thanks are in order to each person who helped. Some secret collectors were discovered living locally and it would be nice to see them come to the club meetings.

Following the visit by Mr. Van Veen, we will be having a small club auction of stamps and other philatelic material looking for new homes. It would be appreciated if either Bob or I knew of how many articles there will be present so that the auction can flow smoothly.

Cheers!

Phil Visser  
President OSSC

Coming Events...

- **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, 416-445-7720, email [ntstampclub@yahoo.ca](mailto: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 info contact David Ward, 519-539-2221 email. [ward2221@rogers.com](mailto:ward2221@rogers.com)
- **MARCH 27, St. Catharines, ON**  
Holiday Inn Stamp Show, Holiday Inn, QEW at Lake St. 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
- **MARCH 27, Peterborough, ON**  
KAPEX 2010, Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd. S., just north of Landsdowne Place Mall. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stamp exhibits, 12 dealers, Canada Post, silent auctions, show cover, club sales table, 5 and 10 cent table, draw and door prizes, free admission and parking, wheelchair accessible, refreshments. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kawartha Stamp Club. For information contact Ted Lichacz, 705-277-3095; or Mark Armstrong, 705-357-3487
- **MARCH 27, Toronto, ON**  
NYPEX, Canegie Centennial Arena, Silver Blade Room, 580 Finch Ave W. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., free admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: North York Philatelic Society. For more information contact Mike Turk, telephone 905-731-8380 , email [turkm@accessvr.com](mailto:turkm@accessvr.com).
- **APRIL 9 - 11, Toronto, ON**  
CSDA Spring National Postage Stamp Show, Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. Hours: Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dealers from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. Canada Post, society, and club information, stamps for kids, hourly door prizes. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association. For more information contact the CSDA, email [director@csgdaonline.com](mailto:director@csgdaonline.com). Website: <http://www.csgdaonline.com/shows>.
- **APRIL 10, 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 705-799-2008 .

- **APRIL 17, Kitchener, ON**  
Stampfest, Community Christian Reformed Church, 1275 Bleams Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., bourse, competitive exhibits, stamp pull, and lunch counter. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society. For more information contact Jim Oliver, telephone 519-893-4092 519-893-4092 , email jimoliver10@hotmail.com. Website: <http://www.kwstampclub.org>.
- **APRIL 23 - 24, Hamilton, ON**  
SPRINGPEX, Bishop Ryan High School. Friday auction with viewing from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., GRVPA clubs' sales circuit books from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday is a 20 dealer bourse including Canada Post, youth booth, silent auctions, and the Hamilton Club Sales Circuit. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking. Light lunch available. Sponsor/Affiliate: Hamilton Stamp Club. For more information contact Michael P. Anderson, 905-632-6057 email mpanderson@cogeco.ca. Website: <http://hamiltonstampclub.com>.

### One Page Challenge...

Phil Visser was the winner of our 'One Page Challenge' for February. Phil's page showed some Olympic stamps over quite a time span. They included some Dutch semi-postal stamps for the 1928 Olympics held in Amsterdam. For his prize, Phil's envelope contained some modern Canadian stamps on paper. Our illustrious president has yet to choose a topic for July.



Don't forget to bring your 'Buildings' page to the meeting. This does not include churches, cathedrals or castles which would make excellent topics themselves. How about parliament buildings, opera houses, homes or buildings by a specific architect as subjects?

#### **One Page Challenge Topics**

**March** - Buildings (other than churches and castles)

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

#### Norway, Part II

By Ralph Wyndham

Last month I ended Part I in 1521 when Sweden left the Kalmar Union that was formed in 1319 consisting of Denmark, Sweden, and the weaker Norway. Under Danish rule, Norway continued to languish.

Norway lost control of Iceland, the Greenland colonies withered and disappeared and the Orkney and Shetland Islands were annexed by Scotland. Denmark and Sweden used Norway as a battleground for the 7 Years War (1563-1570) and the Kalmar War (1611-1614). Two further wars cost Norway significant territory lost to its enemy.



The end of Norway's union with Sweden failed in 1814 but was peacefully

Denmark enforced trade restrictions against Norway in the 18<sup>th</sup> century that left the country weak and vulnerable to famine when it suffered crop failures from 1738 to 1742 in the Little Ice Age. Denmark's influence over Norway was finally ended with its defeat at the hands of Britain in the Napoleonic Wars. Denmark's defeat, however, led to the Treaty of Kiel which awarded Norway to Sweden in the 'Union of the Crowns', not the sovereignty that Norway desired.

Norwegians resisted and in 1814 drafted their own constitution and elected Christian Frederick as their new king. Sweden objected resulting in the short-lived Norwegian-Swedish War in 1814. A British and Russian blockade of the coast prompted the combatants to settle and Norway accepted Sweden's choice for king and continued under Swedish influence. Norwegians kept their new constitution and domestic institutions but Sweden controlled all matters of foreign affairs and diplomacy.



Artist Edvard Munch was part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Norwegian

The failed quest for independence did not put an end to the Norwegian desire for identity and self rule. The Norwegian romantic nationalism

movement continued to define the national identity through cultural expression.

Artists of international stature like playwright Henrik Ibsen, composer Edvard Grieg and painter Edvard Munch were among those contributing to the nation's cultural identity. Language was part of the process as well. Two official forms of the written language were created: Bokmal and Nynorsk.

A constitutional referendum was held in 1905 and almost no one favoured continuing the union with Sweden. This time, with the pivotal contributions of then Norwegian Prime Minister Christian Michelsen, a peaceful dissolution of the union with Sweden was made official on June 7, 1905. Norwegians elected Prince Carl of Denmark, second son of future king Frederick VIII of Denmark, as the new king of Norway.



Taking the name Haakon VII, the new king went on to become one of the greatest Norwegians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was particularly well respected for his leadership during the

Nazi occupation of Norway during WWII. His 52 year reign ended with his death in 1957. His descendants continue to reign in Norway with the Norwegian storting, or parliament, making the choice of successor.

Prince Carl of Denmark was elected King of Norway when the union with Sweden was ended in 1905. As King Haakon VII, he proved to be an outstanding monarch who reigned for nearly 52 years. His return

Norway remained neutral during WWI though Britain forced her to use ever greater amounts of its sizable merchant fleet to move war cargo for Britain and to participate in the trade blockade against Germany.

WWII was much more difficult for Norway. Disregarding Norway's declaration of neutrality, Hitler ordered the invasion of the country in April, 1940. King Haakon VII and the Norwegian government fled to England so they could lead their country from relative safety. Vidkun Quisling, leader of Norway's small National Socialist party, became 'minister president' of a puppet government under the control of Reichscommissar Joseph Terboven.

Throughout the five years of Nazi occupation, the Norwegian resistance movement fought the occupation with both armed resistance and civil disobedience. Norwegian merchant ships took part in all Allied operations throughout the war.

(*'Norway, Part II'* continues on page 4 )

(*'Norway, Part II'* continued from page 3 )



Germany sent many Serbian and Russian prisoners of war into forced labour in Norway. The Arctic Highway through Saltfjellet earned the nickname 'blood road' due to the large number of lives lost during its construction.

The German army adopted a scorched earth policy in the face of the Russian advance into Norway in 1945. Farms, forests, towns and villages were torched in an effort to destroy any resources that might be used by the Russians in their offensive against the Germans.

Many Norwegian merchant ships were sunk during WWII. This 1944 stamp depicts the "Irma" going down.

Times remained hard for the nation after the war. Norway was broke and in ruins. Full rationing lasted until 1952 and rationing and price controls remained for some things until 1960. Shipping and whaling were about the only industries providing significant income for the country. Then, in 1969, oil was discovered in the North Sea. The Norwegian government founded its own oil company, Statoil, in 1972. By the early 80s, the state's startup costs were paid off; during the 1990s the country paid off its foreign debt. Once one of the poorest countries in Europe, Norway has grown to be one of the world's richest thanks to oil and gas revenue.



Norway became a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1949 and a founding member of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) in 1960. There have been two referendums on Norway joining the European Union (EU) in 1972 and 1994, and both were defeated.

*Oil and natural gas have turned Norway from one of the Europe's poorest nations to one of its wealthiest. This 1996*

*Today, Norwegians claim to have the most egalitarian social democracy in Europe. Using the national oil and gas income together with high income taxes and high service fees, successive socialist governments have built an extensive social welfare system with free medical care and post-secondary education as well as generous pension and unemployment benefits. It seems to me that it is only right that the wealth of a nation should benefit everyone, not just those who may control the ground under which that wealth might be found.*

*Thanks again to Ralph Wyndham for another interesting and informative article.*

### From the Editor...



*L to R: Brandon and Blaine Hodder, Selena McLaughlan and Ashley Morley had lots of fun choosing stamps from the Kids Box during our Stamp*

*world just like that! It is also a good opportunity to rekindle that stamp spirit in latent collectors. I wish you were there. I hope that you'll make it out to the meeting. Bring your 'Buildings One Page Challenge'.*

*These youngsters had a lot of fun at our booth in the Mall over March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. John Cortan put a lot of effort into this. Despite Phil's praise for those who helped out, I have to say, "Where was everybody?" This weekend gives us the chance to bring philately to the attention of young and old alike. You may be surprised at how many people's eyes light up when they see that big box of stamps! Kids start asking questions about the stamps right away. They are learning about the*

*Marion Ace, Editor OSSC*

### The Spotlight: My Early Stamp Collection

*By Philip Visser*

*As a young collector, I was a junior member of the Oxford Philatelic Society. There the leaders made it a project to have as much participation with making displays for the annual show, thus I was encouraged to prepare a display. Well, what I had collected from Canada and worldwide was not anywhere near the*

quality of the older members, but they encouraged the youth too by having categories for the new collectors and novice displays for first time exhibitors. At one meeting the president encouraged me to start something new that no other member was collecting, and so I chose the country of Australia.

Starting was simple and it was individual. I soon discovered that the Scott's catalogue didn't nearly meet my level of interest. My level of interest was definitely increased when I was able to get a Stanley Gibbons (SG) British Commonwealth catalogue and so the next mission was finding a stamp album. This was difficult, so I made my own stamp album pages using the SG catalogue as a guide. Now I was challenged to find the different watermarks and perforation varieties which Scott omitted.



I was drawn to this country by the simple elegance of the first series of stamps, the map and kangaroo. My fascination for the varieties led me to attending shows in Woodstock and London. I helped a dealer in our club at the London show, so getting there wasn't a problem. Saving my dimes and nickels and whatever I picked up off the street soon expanded the collection. As I celebrated more birthdays, I soon had a sizeable collection. The picture shown is Scott # 1 and is a lovely well centered copy which as with all the stamps from the early 1900's is a challenge to find and is why the other issues are not included in this story.

With a job, I continued my collection by getting involved in buying auction lots from Vance Auctions. By this method I found many other types of varieties like the two types of printing for the Sydney Harbour bridge issue of 1932. On the left is the engraved or recess printing style and the other one is the typography type of printing. The other stamps, the 3 pence blue and the 5 shilling green in the series were only printed with the recess type of printing. So this distinction is fairly easy to see. But not all the early differences are quite so easy!



My appetite for different varieties lead me into finding paper varieties. I'm not sure why, but this Air Mail series was printed on different types of paper, wet paper and dry paper. This different paper types lead to slightly different sized stamps. The scan shows that the top stamp is slightly wider by about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm, but also narrower by about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. This was printed using the wet paper

method and the second method was with dry paper which is the bottom stamp in the scan. It took a long time to find the two, but I was successful as you can see.

What is really challenging for me is when the catalogues mention paper varieties of smooth and rough paper. Fortunately, this was not too often, but it is mentioned for the Coronation Issue for King George VI and the Queen mother, of 1938. I resisted the search simply because I thought it was too difficult for my level of senses. But alas, the challenge would not let me go and I was surprised to actually be able to sense the difference! Now in finishing this article, I pass the Olympic Torch to my fellow club members. First, prepare a simple story about your interests with stamp collecting for the monthly newsletter, and second, the stamp on the left is damaged, so John or anyone else, is there a copy available? Cheers and happy collecting.



### On the Cover...Olympic Gold



On February 17<sup>th</sup> I walked into my local Post Office and Penny, Tara's postmaster said to me, "Hey, check these out. They've just come in today!" Canada Post surprised us all with a special set of stamps to be released on the occasion of a Canadian athlete winning the first

Olympic Gold medal on Canadian soil... and did we ever! As I'm sure you all know by now, our athletes went on to win 14 gold medals! Wow! It would seem that the faith that Canada Post placed in our athletes was well justified. The bigwigs at Canada Post must have done some serious high-fives because the first gold medal was awarded to Alexandre Bilodeau a member of the Canadian Freestyle Skiing Team of which Canada Post has been the main sponsor of since 2006. They have a six year contract to sponsor freestyle skiers from novices right up to champions. Good going Canada Post!

The medal was won on Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> and the stamps became available online on the 15<sup>th</sup> and were shipped out across the country on Tuesday. They arrived in my Post office on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> which was also stamp club meeting day in Owen Sound. So, I bought one of the booklets and a couple of the two-stamp souvenir sheets. I did up a couple of covers with the souvenir sheets, got them cancelled and brought them to the meeting for all to see. I was hoping that the 17<sup>th</sup> was going to be the OFDC date, but probably it isn't. CPC's online Collectors Shop has a photo of the Official First Day Cover with a post mark on it –



but without a date. CPC is touting this issue as the first time an event has been commemorated on the same day as the event happened. If that is correct, it will be unusual because I don't think that they normally have first day cancels on Sundays. I guess we'll have to buy one to find out what the official date is!

The stamps show a close-up view of a Vancouver 2010 Olympic Gold Medal dangling from a ribbon. The blue background has a subtle wave effect that is prevalent in all the graphic designs of this Olympics. The stamp was designed by Naomi Broudo and Violet Finvers of the Vancouver-based firm, Tandem Design. I'm afraid that I can't say that I like this new stamp; however I can't say that I like the design of the medal either. Gaudy would seem to be the appropriate description here. Even so, the souvenir sheet and the booklet are bright and cheery and the commemorative cause is bang on.

I can't help but wonder if this is first time that the Corporation has waited silently in the wings. Have there been other stamps similar to these that never got released? If anyone has knowledge on the subject, please let us know!

Marion Ace

## 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 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 25 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: \$15; Junior- Free

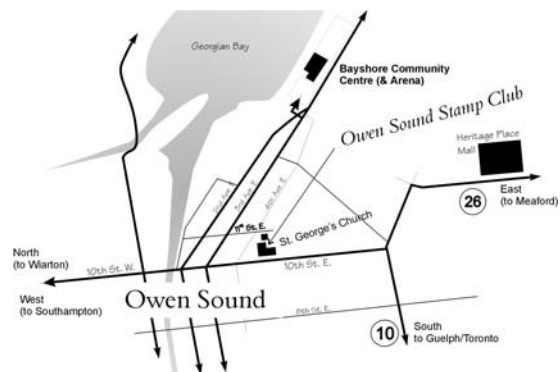
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