

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. January 19th 2011 @ 7:00

From the President...



Greetings, best wishes and may this be a wonderful New Year for all of the readers and members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. It is amazing how time flies by and once again your faithful editor prompted me to get this message ready. It is also time to remind everyone to renew membership in our club. The dues for this year remain at \$15, which covers the cost of receiving the monthly newsletter.

The December meeting was a lovely gathering and my thanks to all who brought goodies and contributed to the "Presidents Auction." Fortunately, the weather was cooperative and an evening of fun was had.

We have several exciting things to look forward to this year. To start off with, this meeting will feature a guest speaker, Mr. David Don. David has amassed a huge collection of Canadian EFO's. Now, you may be wondering what EFO means, so I will define this acronym. EFO is short for "Error, Freaks and Oddities" and David will discuss some of his discoveries. David also is the final stages of creating a catalogue for this topic and bringing it along to the meeting. He will be discussing the errors from the modern printings of Canadian stamps. Please invite as many people you may know who may be interested in this topic.

Future meetings for this year include a study on #1s and circuit books from St Catharine's and Cambridge. The topic for #1 is open for anyone who has the #1 stamp for any country, province or state. Of course, the cream of the crop will be the penny black, which I believe some club members have in their collection. Please bring it along. I will be bringing along #1 from the Netherlands and I will share some information about it with you. It will be nice to see as many members or former members who can contribute to this topic. The March meeting is open for ideas, but April will bring the books from St. Catharine's and May from Cambridge.

Please don't forget the regular parts of the meeting such as the one page display and a show and tell. I hope to see you all at the meeting on the 19th at St. George's Anglican Church at 7 PM.

Phil Visser

President OSSC

Dues are due!!!

This is the New Year folks. Please bring \$15 in the form of a cheque or cash to this meeting. Those of you who don't get out to the meetings can mail your annual membership fees to Bob Ford, the treasurer, but we'd love to see you at the meeting! Bob's address can be found on the last page.

One Page Challenge...

January - Literature
February - Inventions /
Inventors

Larry Crane likes baseball so that's the topic he's picked. In March when your heart is just aching for a lovely spring day, get working on a page about baseball and let a smile light up your face!

Larry brought a page with two Christmas aerogrammes on it to our Christmas meeting. I happen to know that Larry also likes books so I hope he has his page on literature well under way.

In the Spotlight... Rare Stamps... by Ralph Wyndham



What seems like ages ago, fellow Saugeen Stamp Club member George Vanner gave me an old article about the rare and unique British Guiana 1 penny black on magenta stamp. (The small South American country is now called Guyana.) While not the only unique philatelic rarity, it has become one of the most famous.

It was found in his family's attic by L Vernon Vaughn on an old sheet letter. Not very attractive, the boy sold the stamp for six shillings in hopes of finding a better

copy at a later time. The collection of the purchaser, N. R. McKinnon, including the plain little stamp, was then sold to Thomas Redpath of Liverpool for 110 pounds. After this, the single stamp itself was sold to Baron von Ferrari of Paris for 155 pounds.

The 1951 Scott Stamp Catalogue lists this British Guiana stamp with a value of \$50,000. The value of this stamp has increased

In 1922 the Ferrari collection, bequeathed to the Berlin Museum, was confiscated as war reparations by the French government. This collection, sold by the French government, was purchased by Arthur Hind of Utica, New York for \$37,000. After his death, Arthur's widow, Anna Hind Scala, sold the stamp, as a single lot to Finbar Kennedy, manager of Macy's Philatelic Center for a then world record price of \$45,000.

The origin of the one penny stamp is not clear. Because of delays in 1855, the supplies of stamps in British Guiana became exhausted. A provisional version, based on the 1853 design, was ordered from the Royal Gazette Printing Office. The provisional issue was in use for much of 1856 but usage was light and climatic conditions were not favourable for survival of unsold stamps. No other examples of the one cent stamp have ever come to light despite intensive searches.



In the 1980s, the stamp was purchased for almost \$1 million by John DuPont. Mr DuPont is currently serving a life sentence for murder and the stamp is in limbo somewhere in a bank vault awaiting its owner's release. It remains to be seen just what the stamp may fetch the next time it is offered for sale.

Sweden's first stamp is supposed to be blue green but was also accidentally printed in this colour. The 2004

Some indication of how the British Guiana stamp may sell should it come on the market in the future may be suggested by another unique philatelic item, the Swedish 3 skilling yellow. The first set of 5 stamps issued by Sweden in 1855 included a 3-skilling value issued in a blue-green colour and an 8 skilling version issued in yellow. At some point during printing of the 8 skilling stamp, the plate for the 3 skilling was inserted on the press by mistake resulting in the colour error. Or was the wrong ink applied to the press while the 3 skilling was being printed?

Like its South American counterpart, it is said that the Swedish stamp was first found by a schoolboy among his family's correspondence. Today, 150 years after it was issued, still only one example is known. It was sold for 2.5 million Swiss francs in 1996. It was sold again in 2010 to undisclosed buyers in an 'international consortium' for at least the \$2.3 million it fetched in 1996.



Value can be a difficult thing to determine. It all depends on an item's story and how many wealthy people desire to own it. Canada's famous 12 penny black depicting a young Queen Victoria, certainly not unique, catalogues for \$150,000 for both very fine mint and used examples in the 1998 Unitrade Catalogue.

In contrast, perhaps Canada's rarest stamp with only two known examples, both used, is the 2c large queen on laid paper. The use of this

paper is also said to have been an error. Catalogue value in 1998 was \$250,000 in fine condition. To me, that does not seem like much of a rarity premium over the more 'abundant' twelve penny stamp.

Both of these early Canadian stamps are printed on laid paper. The 2¢ green on laid paper is #32. The same image found on

Thanks to Ralph Wyndham for his informative article!

On the Cover...Year of the Rabbit



The New Year has arrived and like clock work Canada Post is bringing in the Chinese Lunar New Year stamps. It is the year of the rabbit once again. Bunnies are hopping right across the five stamp by five stamp pane. The embossed rabbits follow the legs of the rabbit before them, creating a continuous motion across a strip of the stamps. The stamps are colourful and lively. The pure white bunny edged with gold foil stands out strongly from the rich red background. Colourful branches and foliage curl all around the rabbits. Behind the foliage weaves a more subtle curlicue Chinese pattern that looks like clouds. It can also be found all over the borders of the pane in a clear or very delicately tinted varnish.

The same curlicue pattern is throughout the background of the souvenir sheet and again more subtly on the stamp itself but without the varnish. A large bronze coloured rabbit enclosed by gold foil edged blossoms forms the bulk of the mini sheet. A small view of the domestic rate rabbit stamp perches at the top of the sheet. The international rate stamp sits at the bottom of the sheet in keeping with the format of the rest of the souvenir sheets from this round of Lunar New Year stamps. Details magazine says that the design for the stamp was inspired by traditional Chinese embroidery and based on a robe medallion. Perhaps the medallion was traditional cloisonné enamel as the roundel on this stamp could certainly be done as an enamelled dish or medallion. It is interesting how cultural styles and patterns are used in many different media. I recently came across a beaded hair cover piece. It was constructed mostly of red beads the shape and size of the red blossoms on the souvenir sheet. Wires came up through each flower and a multifaceted green bead was strung into the center of the flower and all of them strung together to form a very fancy hair net. What an amazing item.

As usual the Lunar New Year stamps are available in a number of formats. The souvenir sheet is quite striking on the red OFDC. The domestic rate OFDCs are



Instead of hopping from stamp to stamp the bunnies on this stamp chase

available with a single stamp or the corner block of your choice. Uncut press sheets of twelve souvenir sheets can be purchased for \$29.95 plus tax. Two lunar coins were already released in September last year. One rabbit coin is a \$15 silver coin costing about \$100. There is also an 18 karat gold hologram coin of a rabbit with a...you guessed it...a carrot, for about \$700 including tax.

The stamps were released January 7th but if you can handle crowds then head on down to Chinatown as the Lunar New Year begins February 3rd this year.

Marion Ace

Congratulations John Cortan

At our December meeting **John Cortan** announced that he has at last opened a used book store in Ripley.

Believe it or not, he will also be selling philatelic supplies, stamps, post cards and other goodies. Be sure to drop by. The shop is open six and a half days a week.

Good luck in your new venture John!

Coming Events...

- JAN. 14 - 16, 2011, Toronto, ON
Unipex Stamp and Coin Show, Rameses Temple Shrine Club, 3100 Keele St. (between Wilson & Sheppard) at Maryport. 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. Free admission, TTC service to the door, easy access from Hwy. 401, licensed snack bar, free parking, door prizes. Sponsor/Affiliate: Unitrade Associates. For more information contact 416-242-5900
- JAN. 22, 2011, St. Catharines, ON
62nd Cathex, Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. free admission and parking, 12 dealers, club circuit, childrens' area, exhibits, lunch counter. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Catharines Stamp Club.
- FEB. 5, Brampton, ON
Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse, NEW LOCATION - Judith Nyman Secondary School - Cafeteria, 1305 Williams Parkway. Show times 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Venue location is on South side of Williams Parkway just West of Bramalea Road. Featuring 10 dealers, non-competitive exhibits, table auctions, youth table, club circuit books, refreshments, free admission, free parking and lots of philatelic door prizes. All are welcome. Sponsor/Affiliate: GRVPA, GTAPA. For more information, email b62hkg@yahoo.ca, call Bob Thorne at 905-792-3526 Website: <http://www.bramaleastampclub.com>.
- FEB. 12, 2011, Burlington, ON
Burlington Stamp Club BurlPex 2011, Burlington Seniors' Centre. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission and parking, 13 dealers, lunch counter, silent auction, draw prizes, exhibits, and much more, special invitation to new collectors! Sponsor: Burlington Stamp

Club. For information, contact: Arnie Janson, 905-637-0545 email: gjansons@sympatico.ca. Sponsor/Affiliate: Burlington Stamp Club.

- FEB. 19, 2011, Niagara Falls, ON
NIPEX 2011, Stamford Lions Club Hall, 3846 Portage Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: Niagara Philatelic Society. For more information, contact Ed Yonelinas, telephone 905-262-5127 email mastaps@computan.com.
- FEB. 26, Ajax, ON
APEX 2011, HMS Ajax Room, Ajax Community Centre, 75 Centennial Rd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., free admission and parking, 17 dealers, club table, lunch and refreshments available. Sponsor/Affiliate: Ajax Philatelic Society. For more information contact David Goreski, telephone 905-579-3349
- FEB. 27, Thornhill, ON
Toronto Postcard Club 30th Annual Show, Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Ave, at John Street. Canada's largest postcard show offering thousands of vintage postcards. More than 20 dealers will offer a wide selection of postcards from the early 1900s through the 'chromes' of modern times. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$5, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Toronto Postcard Club. For more information, contact Win Boyd, info@torontopostcardclub.com. Website: <http://www.torontopostcardclub.com>.

From the Editor...

The Christmas party has come and gone! There were lots of good treats including homemade cinnamon rolls and homemade rum balls; watch out for the breathalyser kids! Gifts were exchanged and funny munny was flying. I managed to find some items of interest in the President's Auction as did most of us. Thank you to all of those who donated to the auction or brought treats and gifts. A good evening was had by all.

It should be an interesting evening with David Don coming to chat with us. I've bumped into him at a number of shows and he always had something interesting to show me.

Don't forget your *One Page Challenge* on literature! Oh...and don't forget membership dues too.

See you on Wednesday!

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

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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 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

Club Officers:

President: Phil Visser (519) 376-6760
RR #5., Owen Sound ON N4K 5N7
psvisser@hurontel.on.ca

Vice-Pres.: John Cortan (519) 395-5817
P.O. Box 295, Ripley, ON NOG 2R0
jcortan@hurontel.on.ca

Sec./ Treas. Bob Ford (519) 376-4788
721 8th Ave. E., Owen Sound, ON N4K 3A5
robford@log.on.ca

Editor: Marion Ace (519) 934-1998
P.O. Box 286, Tara ON NOH 2N0
marionace@bmts.com

