

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. February 16th 2011 @ 7:00

From the President...



I extend a hearty welcome to you all as well as an invitation to attend the next meeting of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. It will be held at 7 PM in the basement of the St George's Anglican Church 1049 4th Ave East. I hope the weather holds good and we can meet as usual.

The topic for this month's meeting is simply #1! Just have a look through your collection and see if you have the stamp that Scott would list as #1 (or any other catalogue). The idea is to share what you know about the stamp with the other club members. It doesn't have to be a speech but just an informal get together about your collection. We did discuss the challenge with Canada #1, but to me, the difference between laid and wove paper is discussion enough, so I would love to see #4 in place of #1. The ultimate stamp would be #1 from Great Britain since it is the first stamp ever produced. Hopefully it will appear.

Following the discussion period, we will have time for a club mini auction. So how about dusting off the pile of excess stamps we all have and see if you can confuse me as I try to sell the item (confusion comes all too easy for me unfortunately). The usual time will be available for show and tell and general club business. See you at St George's Church on February 16th.

Finally, a note of best wishes to Barb Shelson. We've missed you these last few meetings and it appears that health concerns have interrupted your visits to the club. If anyone has a chance to be in the neighbourhood of Lions Head, drop in to the Golden Dawn Nursing home to say hello. Bill is hoping to travel when the weather improves and attend some meetings yet.

Cheers!

Phil Visser

President OSSC

Dues are Overdue!!!

Wiarthon Willie has done his thing already, so you know that if you haven't paid your dues, you are overdue! 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...

February – Inventions /
Inventors
March – Baseball

We had a couple of entries for 'literature' in January. One was about Lucy Maud Montgomery and her Anne of Green Gables books. The second entry displayed stamps of a number of American authors.

April seems like a good time to be thinking of flowers but in the mean time see if you can mastermind a page about inventions/inventors.

In the Spotlight...

Errors, Freaks and Oddities...by Phil Visser



The last meeting, Jan 19th, 2011, of the Owen Sound Stamp Club we had Mr. David Don make a presentation about Canadian stamp errors. We all know about the 1959 Seaway invert, but is that the end of stamp errors in Canada? Well read on and perhaps you will appreciate this article and wish that you could have

come to the meeting.

One of the first questions that I asked was "what does it take for a stamp error to be recognized in a catalogue?" David explained that some errors are recognized for being a constant alteration of the design in a consistent place on a plate. But not all errors are recognized and listed by Unitrade or other catalogues and so David shared some of his discoveries of errors in modern Canadian stamps.

The presentation began with the showing some constant errors. If you follow this subject, you might know the burning bush variety in the Group of Seven stamp (#518) or the broken door frame on the Kreighoff painting (#610). These are two examples of constant errors listed in Unitrade. But Unitrade also lists inconstant errors. For example #429A has the deformed leaf variety and #595 has the raised rump variety which is really a shift in the placement of the colour.

What our speaker shared was the varieties that are not listed and that he has been able to find through Canada Post retail outlets. David has traveled around Grey and Bruce counties to the various post offices to look at what ever stamps they have in stock. He has found many different booklet varieties which include misperforated stamps, double impressions, tagging errors etc. The tagging errors are quite



unique and something I had never heard about before (see the illustration to the right). David also found booklets that have been misgummed. If anyone looks at the Canadian Stamp News, you will have seen the ads by a certain company in Saskatchewan looking for those odd items that find their way into the hands of collectors.



Because of a generally good rapport with the post office clerks, David has been able to accumulate an interesting assortment of errors, freaks and anomalies. David showed oddities with Booklet 88. David calls them the storm cloud variety (see the illustration on the left) and the fire ball variety (illustrated at right). The fire ball variety has different positions of the white ball in four different booklets. There are only 14 complete sets of these four booklets known at this time.



At this point, we need to look at the cataloguing of these printing varieties in Canadian stamps. Many years ago, there was a book printed by Darnell with plate errors etc from the early Canadian stamps. One of the difficulties with that catalogue was the numbering system used which did not align itself with either the Lyman catalogue or Scott's. When I came home that evening, I thought I would see if I could get a copy of the last catalogue. It appears to be back in print because there was a 2003 edition available at the used book seller website I visit. Apparently, there is a copyright with the numbering system which Darnell did not acquire or could not come to an agreement with the publishers of those catalogues and so there is another numbering system to follow.

David has started a catalogue with what I will call, the modern printing errors, stamps from the 70's onwards. David faces some challenges with the printing and publishing of it, but hopefully it will become available to all collectors of Canadian stamps soon. We thank David for his enthusiastic presentation and hope to keep in

I hope that everyone will participate in this column. The 'spotlight' can be focused on anything philatelic. Whether you love it, hate it or you just have a story to tell, drop us a touch with you about the progress of the catalogue.

On the Cover...Carrie Best



If you like stories about Canadians with backbone, then Carrie Best is your gal. She spent a very long life fighting injustices and racism in a time when racist attitudes were standard fare.

Mrs. Best was a black woman born in 1903 in New Glasgow Nova Scotia, the province with the highest black population in Canada at the time. Despite the higher population, racism was just as rampant there as it was across North America. Blacks were banned from restaurants and many other businesses and job prospects were few. Black women were expected to become domestic servants and that's about it. Even when the job markets widened for women substantially during WWII, black women only got the dirtiest and most dangerous jobs such as bomb making in the munitions factories.

Carrie Best wanted a career beyond that of a domestic worker and went to the USA to pursue nursing and teaching careers both of which she found dissatisfying. She returned home to New Glasgow and married Albert Best and raised a family. Mrs. Best often went to the local movie theatre with her son. In 1940 they were arrested while sitting in the whites' only section of the theatre which was actually what they usually did. In 1946 the same thing happened to Viola Desmond from Halifax, who wasn't even aware of the local law. That must have been the last straw for Carrie Best because she took up Miss Desmond's cause with fervour. Along with her son Calbert she started *the Clarion*, the first black owned and operated newspaper in Nova Scotia. In the paper they publicized the Desmond case and other racist acts and mistreatment. Her work led to the dissolution of Nova Scotia's



segregation laws in 1954. Keep in mind that the famous incident when Rosa Parks refused to sit at the back of the bus in Alabama didn't happen until the end of 1955. Other well known cases include the fight when a black baby was not allowed to be buried in a whites' only cemetery. Decades later she took up the fight against the overcharging of property taxes on land owned by poor black families on Vale Road in New Glasgow. The high taxes were installed to force the families out of the area to open the land up to developers. She prepared a report about the situation for the Human Rights Commission.

Carrie Best was concerned with injustices to whomever they happened. She was very outspoken about the lousy treatment of the Mi'kmaq people on local reservations. Daniel N. Paul, a Mi'kmaq writer for the Halifax Herald, called Carrie Best a 'genuine hero' in his tribute to Carrie after her death in 2001.

Although the *Clarion* closed its pages in 1956, Best was a very active advocate for human rights for the rest of her life. She wrote a column called *Human Rights* that was published in a number of Nova Scotia newspapers. Even in her very senior years she still had many speaking engagements. In her lifetime she also had a radio program for twelve years that featuring poetry and book readings.

Carrie Best loved poetry and knew many poems by heart. She

Carrie Best received honorary degrees from St. Francis Xavier University of Antigonish and the

published books of her own poems and in 1977 published her autobiography, *The Lonesome Road*.

The life of this human rights advocate has not gone unnoticed. Carrie Best has been the recipient of many awards. She became a Member of the Order of Canada in 1974 and became an Officer in 1979. She has received awards from the Congress of Black Women, the African Baptist Association and the Human Rights Commission of Nova Scotia to mention just a few.

Carrie Best and baseball player Fergie Jenkins are both being honoured on Canadian stamps for Black History month and in fact, the United Nations has declared 2011 as the International Year of African Ancestry. For the first time in its series celebrating black history Canada Post has honoured two people for which there are photographs. The stamps are coloured mostly in sepia to have that old photograph look. Their signatures are in the foreground in red and small images of their respective Order of Canada medals are shown. Each stamp has been allotted its own pressure sensitive booklet of ten stamps.

Marion Ace

The Elephant... by Ralph Wyndham

Regardless of the topic I choose to share with my fellow stamp collectors, I am almost always amazed and nearly overwhelmed by the stories represented by the stamps we collect. This month's topic is no different!



Elephants are far more than extremely large beasts wandering about Africa and Asia consuming large amounts of vegetation. Intelligent and highly social, they are sensitive creatures with a broad, almost human, range of emotions. They have the largest brain of any land mammal and their 70 year life span is quite similar to

ours.

There are three species of elephant, the African savanna, the African forest and the Asian. Until

fairly recently, the African forest elephant was considered only a subspecies of its savanna cousin. However, DNA testing has shown that the two are significantly different.

You can get some idea of the elephant's size when

African savannah elephants are the largest of the three; the largest bulls may stand 12 feet tall and weigh 12,000 pounds (3.5 m\5500 kg). The forest elephant, being smaller than the savanna elephant, with a longer, narrower face is more adapted to travel through dense vegetation.

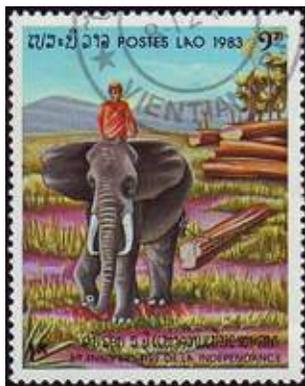
The Asian elephant is generally a bit smaller than its savanna cousin and has much smaller ears. Tusks, used for fighting, foraging, digging, moving things and the like are actually elongated incisor teeth. While both male and female African elephants have tusks, usually, only the Asian males do. The Asian elephant is also more closely related to the woolly mammoth than to its African relative.

As you might imagine, it takes plenty of food to keep such a large body going. Eating a wide variety of grasses, leaves and twigs, fruit and bark, elephants will consume 4% to 7% of their body weight every day. That large bull's daily intake may be more than 500 pounds, or 230 kg. of vegetation. For harvesting all of this food elephants use their trunk, pulling up clumps of grass, or reaching high into trees pulling branches down to their mouths and stripping off leaves and fruit.

The elephant's trunk, a fusion of its nose and upper lip, is extremely versatile and sensitive and can be up to 8 feet long. There are 6 major muscle



An Asian elephant family adds interest to this meter label that



groups in the trunk that break down into more than 100,000 muscle units. African elephants have two fingers on the tip of their trunk allowing them to pick things up – even a straw or a single blade of grass -- while the Asian animal has only one finger and has to pick objects up by wrapping its trunk around them. With all those muscles being constantly exercised, the trunk is also very strong and large elephants can pick up as much as 500 pounds.

Social order in elephants is very extensive and starts with the family group. The family consists of 2 to 50 or more usually related females with their young offspring both male and female. The family is most often led by one of the older females in the group who has demonstrated her knowledge and abilities to the group and over time has earned the group's respect. Individuals in the family demonstrate a high degree of teamwork in nearly every aspect: group defence, resource acquisition, care of the young, decision making, etc.

Elephants are used as beasts of burden. Logging is one area that their great

Just above the family is the bond group. Bond groups consist of 5 or more related families. Ties are not as close, but bond group members still form alliances against aggressors, assist in child care and greet one another in a special way. Several bond groups form a clan and share the same foraging area when food and water are in short supply.

(The Elephant continues on the next page).

(The Elephant continued from page 4)

Mature males live outside the family. As a young male reaches maturity between 9 and 18 years of age, he will, over a period of 1 to 4 years, leave the family to live on his own or in small male groups.

The final level of social order is the whole community of elephant families, bond groups, clans and males linked by genetic and social relationships of mating and parenthood. This broad association is known as a population. Populations live in large but fairly definite territories. There is some interaction and mating between individuals of different populations but it is not common.



Pregnant females will carry their calf for 22 months before giving birth, the longest gestation period of any land mammal. Calves will weigh around 120 kg or 260 lbs at birth and rely on mother's milk for the first three months. They will then start learning what to eat and forage on their own but will not be weaned till about three years old. Calves may continue to suckle after that if only for comfort. Allomothering,

the care of infants by individuals other than the mother, is important for elephant calves. The calves of inexperienced mothers get more attention from allomothers than do the calves of experienced ones so the more allomothers in a family, the greater chance calves have to survive.

Just as human babies do, elephant calves require years

As intelligent beings with good memories and long lives, elephants have the capacity to learn a great deal

in a lifetime. Through observation and context calves begin to learn what to eat, who their relatives and friends are, appropriate behaviour, where and when to forage, how to avoid danger. Young females learn mothering skills as allomothers. Young males will learn from older ones as they become independent.

In travelling their territories over many years and through the seasons, elephants learn where and when to find particular foods and water and how to return to these places over and over. Elephants wearing radio collars for study in Namibia, had to endure a drought in 1981. While 85% of other herbivores in their range died, the elephants, knowing how to find food and water, all survived.



Elephants learn to use tools. They will throw logs and rocks at opponents, or they may use these same items break an electric fence; they can trim a branch to just the right length for a fly switch or a backscratcher. On the Internet, there are lots of videos and photos of elephants painting pictures of elephants and landscapes. While the realistic pictures are apparently created with the guidance of a handler, it is a testament to the animals' ability to learn the commands and possess the dexterity in its trunk to be able to create a picture

that is better than anything I could do with a paintbrush.

A topical collection of just elephant souvenir sheets is possible as there are

In any society, communication is important. Elephants learn to recognize the voices of hundreds of individual family members and friends and can hear them from up to 2 kms away. They have a repertoire of around 70 different sounds ('words'?) that they use to discuss suggestions and decisions made within the family. The sole of the elephant's foot is very sensitive to vibration. By making a very low frequency sound called a rumble that vibrates through the ground elephants can communicate over fairly long distances by sensing these vibrations through their feet. Foot stamping, often a danger signal, can also be 'heard' this (*The Elephant continues on the next page*).

(Elephants continued from page 5).

way. Learning even extends to sound as elephants have been known to mimic chirps, purring, humming,

croaking and whistling. At a Korean zoo, keepers thought someone was in the

elephant pen as a voice could be heard. It turned out that their charge learned to imitate her keeper's commands.



Like us, elephants have strong individual personalities. Some are strong leaders, there are introverts who keep more to themselves while others are extroverts enjoying the company of friends; some are more popular than others. They will show great joy at meeting an old friend even when they have been apart for decades. They can be angry or sad. They will try to help a sick family member; bring food to her, try to help her stand, protect her from danger.

They will even protect other species from danger. In one instance, a man with a broken leg was placed in the shade of a tree and guarded all day. When a rescue party arrived, she would not let them approach and had to be frightened away. They grieve over their dead and may attempt to bury the body and will stop to observe a minute or two of silence at a spot where a relative died in the past.

Sadly today, elephant society is showing signs of breaking down. This is mostly at the hands of humans occupying elephant territory, interfering with their migrations, and with poaching, murdering

An ornate riding basket, most likely for royalty, is strapped atop this Asian

animals for their ivory tusks. The oldest animals have the largest tusks, making them the primary targets of poachers. These are also the leaders of elephant society, the matriarchs and the large dominant bulls. Without their knowledge being passed on to the young, they are losing their way. Orphans in decimated families are showing signs of behaviour connected to post traumatic stress.

Unless we, as an entire species, show the entire elephant society the same empathy and respect that the one elephant showed the injured man, what hope can there be for them?

Thanks to Ralph Wyndham for his informative and insightful article!

Coming Events...

- 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>.
- MARCH 6, Mississauga, ON
VIII Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp and Collectibles Show 2011, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403). Many tables of stamps, coins, medals, paper money and militaria. Polish stamps expert info table. "Troyak Junior" table with boxes of free stamps for kids. Troyak special token and show souvenirs. Free admission and parking. Refreshments available. Sunday, March 6, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sponsor/Affiliate: Polish-Canadian Coin and Stamp Club Troyak. For more information, contact Ignacy Kania 905-273-7313 or Janusz Peter Machulec 416-724-4410, email info@troyakclub.com. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>.

- **MARCH 5, Windsor, ON**
WINPEX 2011, Forest Glade Arena, 3205 Forest Glade Drive. Free admission, free parking, 15 dealers. 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sponsor/Affiliate: Essex County Stamp Club. For more information contact Brian Cutler, telephone 519-966-2276, email cutler@mnsi.net. Website: <http://www.essexcountystampclub.com>.
- **MARCH 12, Oakville, ON**
OAKPEX 2011, St. Paul's United Church, east of 4th line on Rebecca St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., youth booth, table auctions, refreshments available, free admission, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Oakville Stamp Club. For more information contact Bernd Duddeck, PO Box 696343, Oakville ON, L2N 2T6.
- **MARCH 19, Toronto, ON**
NYPEX, Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Ave W. The show will be in the Skaters Lounge Room from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dealers, door prizes, silent auction, snack bar, TTC access, free admission, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: North York Philatelic Society. For more information contact Mike Turk, telephone 905-731-8380, email turkm@accessv.com.
- **MARCH 19, Woodstock, ON**
OXPEX/OTEX2011, John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free admission, free parking, 16 dealers, exhibits, youth area, Canada Post booth, club circuit books, show cover, lunch and snack counter. Exhibitors invited, free entry form and rules and regulation available at www.oxfordphilosoc.com or by email. Sponsor/Affiliate: OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.
- **MARCH 26, Peterborough, ON**
KAPEX 2011, Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exhibits, free admission. Win a complete set of Canada's Large and Small Queens. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kawartha Stamp Club. For more information contact Mark Armstrong, telephone 705-357-3487 email msaphilatelicsstudio@msn.com.

Wanted: Stamps, souvenir sheets, covers and FDC's with *Leontopodium alpinum* on them. For those of you unfamiliar with this term it is the common alpine flower the Edelweiss. This is for my personal collection. Many thanks John Cortan

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 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

pvisser@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

rob.darford@rogers.com

Editor: Marion Ace (519) 934-1998

P.O. Box 286, Tara ON NOH 2N0

marionace@bmts.com

