

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. October 19<sup>th</sup> 2011 @ 7:00

## From the President...



*I am looking forward to seeing you all again at the regular meeting time on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> in the basement of the St. George's Anglican Church. The last meeting brought a couple of new club members who became introduced to us through the stamp show.*

*Welcome Ron and Chris, we hope to see you again soon. At the meeting, we had a discussion about the show planning for next year.*

*The attendance at the show was sparse but the dealers seemed to be happy with their sales. We discussed whether the next show should be at the same location and decided to try it again for 2012. The location is very easy to find and offers plenty of parking. On the down side, the cost is rather high and we will have to get an advertising sign outside, at a further expense for the day. The show date did conflict with several other shows further south, so we have looked at some dates in early October that may seem better. Some discussion will be had about show dates at this meeting. I am suggesting that we have our show the weekend before the Thanksgiving weekend which will be September 29<sup>th</sup> in 2012. I am looking for feedback from our dealers about that date.*

*To my surprise, I was the winner of the door prize at the show in September! Wow, having purchased tickets for many door prizes over all the years I went to stamp shows, to actually win the door prize is beyond belief. The door prize was a MNH plate block of the \$1 Fisheries stamp, Unitrade #302. I have always looked at door prizes as an "entrance" fee which helps out the club hosting the show, and consequently, winning a door prize is unique to say the least. That reminds me to thank everyone who purchased tickets, which does indeed help to offset the cost of hosting the show.*

*This meeting will feature a visit by Tom Griffith who is bringing the St. Catharines club circuit books. In November we will be seeing the circuit books from the Woodstock club. The December meeting includes the Christmas wrap up and the "Presidents Auction." I do have some material for the auction, if anyone else has other material, donations will be gladly accepted and another lovely evening will wrap up the year.*

Phil Visser

## On the Cover...Canadian Innovations



Canada Post issued four stamps honouring four Canadian innovations on August 17<sup>th</sup> this summer. The chosen innovations are an interesting bunch that spread over one hundred years of inventiveness from the electric oven of 1892 to the first BlackBerry in 1999 with the first pacemaker and the first electric wheelchair being both from the 1950s. Some Canadian innovations have been depicted on stamps before. The 'Fathers of Invention' block of four from the millennium stamps feature: Alexander Graham Bell (telephone), Abraham Gesner (kerosene),

Joseph-Armand Bombardier (snowmobile) and George Klein (inventor) whose electric wheelchair is one of the featured innovations on this new set of stamps.

The 59¢ stamps are available in a booklet of eight self adhesive stamps. The OFDC is cancelled in Waterloo – home of the BlackBerry.

Here is a quick look at the objects of these four stamps. (next page)

*(On the Cover is continued from page 1)*

Dr. John A. Hopps is an engineer who was working with doctors at the Banting and Best Institute in Toronto doing hypothermia experiments for the National Research Council. Experiments by the Russians in WWII showed that it might be easier to do open heart surgery on people with their bodies chilled. The Canadians found that the hearts of the hypothermic bodies tended to stop. Dr. Hopps claims that looked the problem from an engineering point of view and built a device to send an electrical impulse to trigger a heartbeat. The first device was built in 1950. It was over a foot long and not practical for everyday use. The value of the pacemaker as an everyday device did not even occur to the doctors at first. The advancement of transistor and battery technologies and miniaturization led to the viability of human implantation of the pacemaker. The first implantation was in Sweden in 1958. The pacemaker recipient lived for several more years but had to have it replaced frequently. Improvements to the pacemakers have continued to a point where pacemakers are commonplace and quite safe.





What would Alexander Graham Bell make of the Blackberry I wonder? The Waterloo, Ontario company, Research In Motion took a cell phone, slapped a keyboard on it and made it accessible to email and the internet as well as being a media player...and yes, you can make a phone call with it! The Blackberry was first introduced in 1999. By 2003 co-CEOs Jim Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis were running a company making a few million dollars. RIM is now a world wide company making billions. After a number of years of continuous innovation and growth the company's finances have made a downturn. With current attitudes that every company must keep on growing exponentially or die, who knows where RIM will go from here. The original Blackberry shown on the left had a horizontal format.



Thomas Ahearn built and patented the first electric oven in 1892. It was a huge thing; six feet wide and six feet high and very hot. He and his partner Warren Y. Soper demonstrated the oven by cooking an entire meal using the oven and other electric heating devices for the Windsor Hotel in Ottawa. He also had a company that built streetcars that were heated with an electric water heater that he patented. He delivered his electrically cooked meal to the hotel in an electrically powered streetcar. The manager ordered an electric oven immediately. Although the oven was shown at Chicago World's Fair the following year, it was more than thirty years before electric ovens and stoves became commonplace in North American kitchens. It took time to develop ways to control heat levels and the stove top elements.



Dr. George J. Klein is often referred to as the most productive Canadian inventor of the last century. He worked for the National Research Council of Canada for 40 years. During WWII he and his team built the first nuclear reactor outside of the United States in the search for nuclear weapons. The ZEEP reactor at Chalk River used unrefined uranium and led to the invention of the famous CANDU reactor. He worked on antennae systems for the Gemini and Apollo space missions and later on the Canadarm. Of his many innovations perhaps the most humanitarian are the microsurgical staple gun and the electric wheelchair. He designed the power wheelchair working in conjunction with Veterans Affairs Canada and the Canadian Paraplegic Association.

It is said that Dr. Klein was very moved when he saw how his new invention gave mobility to the severely wounded veterans and even gave quadriplegics some independence. The original prototype has been owned by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History since 1979.

### Tall Buildings...Part I

By Ralph Wyndham

After last month's article about glass, I thought it was a somewhat logical extension to take a look at tall buildings since glass is such a prominent feature of almost all the tall buildings you see downtown in any large city.



The Great Pyramid at Giza was the world's tallest in 1549.

I was somewhat surprised, when I began my research for this, that tall buildings are not new. I'd kind of forgotten about the 4600 year old Great Pyramid of Giza. But it has always been in a class by itself. Reaching 146m/479ft, the pyramid was not surpassed

until 1310 AD when the 160m/520ft tower of Lincoln Cathedral was completed in England. However, since no construction drawings exist and no accurate measurements were ever taken, the claim is unverifiable because the tower collapsed during a storm

We don't really know exactly what the Great Pyramid's purpose was, but it was not for everyday use by people. Buildings of 10 to 12 stories were common in the Roman era. The lower couple of floors would be used as shops or the residence of a wealthy family with the upper floors being rented out to the lower classes.

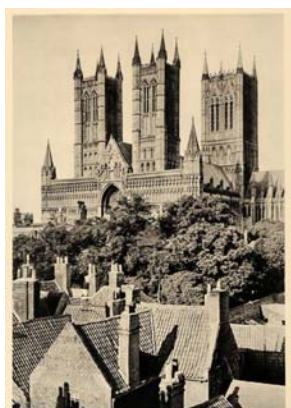
Residential towers, usually built by for both defence and status, were also common Europe. 12th century Bologna boasted around towers. The tallest, the 'Two Towers', reaching 97m/319ft, still stand today.



rented out to the wealthy families in Medieval 100 residential

Tall fortress-like homes were not limited to Europe, either. The town of Shibam, now part of Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula, was built in the 16th century entirely of tall mud brick buildings as a defence against attacks by Bedouin nomads. Shibam, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, still has the tallest mud brick buildings in the world with many over 30m/98ft.

Shibam's tall mud brick buildings have made the



All these early tall buildings were of masonry, mud, or timber-framed construction. The weight of stone and brick and the low weight bearing capacity of mud and wood, limited just how tall a building could be built. The taller a masonry or mud structure rises, the wider it has to be at the base in order to spread its weight across the foundation. The



Philadelphia City Hall, one of the world's tallest masonry structures features a 167m/548ft tower and has brick and granite walls up to 22 feet thick at their base.

Cast iron, and later, steel, made plentiful by the industrial revolution, led to the next big advance in construction. Though heavy in themselves, cast and steel can carry much more weight relative to their own weight than stone and brick. Once mass production made large amounts of cheap steel available, it became the material of choice. Being less brittle than cast, it makes an even lighter, stronger, and more flexible framework than cast.

The Lincoln Cathedral was the first structure to surpass the Great Pyramid in

"The Flaxmill", built in 1797 in Shrewsbury, England was the first to be at least partially framed using cast iron columns and beams. Another big milestone in construction "Oriel Chambers", built in 1864 in Liverpool,

The 533m/ 1815ft CN Tower in Toronto, like the Great Pyramid and the Lincoln Cathedral do not

England. Though only 5 stories tall, it is the first iron-framed, glass curtain-walled building.

Unlike the walls of your house which, unless you have bearing walls or support posts in the basement, take all the weight of the roof, floors (and all the furniture, etc, sitting on them), plus their own weight down to the foundation, curtain-walls are basically a thin barrier against the weather. The sheets of glass in the glass curtain exterior are held in place by horizontal lintels and vertical dividers called mullions. The (Tall Buildings is continued on the next page)

(Tall Buildings is continued from the last page)

mullions sit on the very ends of the floor beams which then distribute weight to the vertical frame elements.

William LeBaron Jenney is credited with designing the first building with a complete load-bearing frame where the walls support none of the building's weight. Jenney's design was the first to employ structural steel in the building's support skeleton, but not exclusively, as cast iron and wrought iron were also used. Though only 10 stories tall, the Home Insurance Building in Chicago is considered the first true skyscraper. To the people on the street in 1884, this daring new building certainly seemed to touch the sky.



This American definitive certainly evokes pride

Land shortages, particularly in downtown Chicago, New York and London, led to a skyscraper construction boom in the late 19th century. Queen Victoria was not a fan of very tall buildings and complaints from her limited the height of buildings there.

The quest for ever-taller buildings is certainly spurred on by personal, corporate and national pride. When Walter Chrysler, the auto maker, commissioned the Chrysler Building, still New York's second tallest building, he

elected to pay for the building himself rather than have the company own it so that he could bequeath it to his children.

### Coming Events...

- *OCT. 15, Guelph, ON*  
*Guelph Stampex 2011, 685 Woolwich Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 12 dealers, club sales circuit books, lunch counter, exhibits, youth table, draw prizes, free parking and admission, wheelchair access. Sponsor/Affiliate: Guelph Stamp Club. For more information contact George Shepherd, telephone 519-242-8022.*
- *OCT. 22, Cambridge, ON*  
*GRVPA Club Fair, United Kingdom Hall, International Village Dr. Seventeenth annual Club Fair, hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission, free parking, 12+ club circuits (15 member clubs), 2 silent auctions, door prize, youth table. Sponsor/Affiliate: Grand River Valley Philatelic Association. For more information email [stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca](mailto:stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca).*
- *OCT. 22, St. Catharines, ON*  
*Best Western Stamp Show, Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel, 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*
- *NOV. 4 - 5, Hamilton, ON*  
*Hamilton Fall Show, Bishop Ryan High School. Friday Auction Night, large voice and silent auctions, 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: Dealer bourse: 20 dealers, Canada Post, Hamilton Club sales circuit, youth booth. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Light lunch available, ample free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Hamilton Stamp Club. For more information contact Michael P. Anderson, telephone 905-632-6057, email [mpanderson@cogeco.ca](mailto:mpanderson@cogeco.ca). Website: <http://hamiltonstampclub.com>.*
- *NOV. 5, Chatham, ON*  
*KENTPEX 2011, Active Lifestyle Centre, Merritt Ave. Free admission and parking. Many dealers. A variety of exhibits using Royal/Royale 16 page frames. Free draws for philatelic prizes. Lunch and snacks available on site. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kent County Stamp Club. For more information contact Paul McDonell, telephone 519-354-1845, email [prmcdonell@sympatico.ca](mailto:prmcdonell@sympatico.ca).*
- *NOV. 11 - 13, Toronto, ON*  
*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. The Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association National Postage Stamp Show with dealers from across Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Canada Post, society and club information,*

stamps for kids, hourly draw prizes and much more. Free admission, TTC close to Exhibition Place. FREE... #2 in a series of limited edition postcards. Offer good while supplies last. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association. For more information contact [director@csdaonline.com](mailto:director@csdaonline.com). Website: <http://www.csdaonline.com>.

- NOV. 12, Cambridge, ON  
Cambridge Stamp Club Show and Bourse, United Kingdom Club, International Village Drive. Hours 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., free parking and admission. Door prizes, draws, snack bar. For more information contact Steve Klages, telephone 519-622-6204

**Editor's Note:** Please notice the GRVPA Club Fair in Cambridge on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although our club is not a member of the association, a number of the member clubs bring their circuit books to our meetings. Circuit books from all of the member clubs will be there and I am told that they have a really good silent auction.

### From the Editor...

Thank you to all the people who helped out at our annual stamp show on September 17<sup>th</sup>. To my great relief Shirley Visser took care of the lunch counter most of the time. John Lemon and Bob Ford took care of raffle tickets, show covers, door prizes and the freebies. Members John Cortan and Alan Charlesworth showed their wares as dealers. Dave Pugh and Larry Crane worked on the exhibit displays. Most of us contributed to the lunch and snack table, thanks everybody. And thank you to Food Basics for lending us a coffee urn again. I'm sure I've overlooked some people, you are all appreciated though.

A couple of dealers did not make it to the show so I actually had the chance to visit all of the dealers. I had a good time; I hope that you did too.

We missed you Bob Chapman and Barb & Bill Shelson.



Phil Visser hovered here, there and everywhere and had the nerve to win the

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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 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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