

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. December 21st 2011 @ 7:00

From the President...



On the way to the meeting last month, I made a visit at one of the many Tim's in town to bring some refreshments for our guests. At the drive thru window, the young man asked if I was a stamp collector, and if so would I be interested in buying his stamp collection, "It was really large!" This was related at the meeting and greeted with a chuckle from those present, but sure enough, the young man was persistent and emailed me to have a look. So a meeting was set up and it looked to me that he had been introduced to this hobby as part of a school activity or club effort. It was indeed worth a chuckle, but I encouraged him to keep what he had and when he was older and wanted to rejoin the hobby he could easily add to the collection.

Now, how did this young man get my email address I wondered? The answer came quickly, because Trajan Press emailed me to make sure our club information was correct, it was but I am sure the young man did a Google search and got my information, including email address. This puts me to wondering if the club should consider setting up a web page. Does any other club have a web page? Some points to consider and discuss informally at the next meeting.

Well, being contacted was the order of the month for me. You may remember about a year and a half ago we had a guest speaker, **Mr. Will Van Veen**. Will is a local artist and stamp collector who makes collages from damaged stamps about various topics that may be of interest to people. Will called me to see if I or club members had extra copies of stamps concerning Owen Sound and Grey county. He listed several stamps such as the McClung, Bethune, MacPhail and Billy Bishop stamps. He needed some fast to complete few collages which were being sent overseas to Europe. Beside those Will mentioned, my wife wondered about Tom Thomson and sure enough they were added to the list. I searched and had a few of some on the list, and contacted other members in the club who live close by and within a week we had some 55 stamps for Will. In gratitude, Will made a \$20 donation to the club and so I wish to extend thanks to **Rob Armstrong, Bob Ford, and Rick Lokos** for their efforts.

The meeting will also feature the "President's Auction." Donations have been received from several sources as well as excess stuff I have around here. If anyone else has a donation to add, they will be gratefully received. Let's see how much fun can be had when only "funny money" can be used. If this is new for you, well come on out and see what you can buy with the President's funny money. This will be distributed at the meeting before the auction begins. The funny part will be to see how you can buy something you really want. DO you save your "money" or make a stab at something else and hope you have enough left over until later.

The December meeting last year was the earliest possible and thus furthest away from Christmas. This year the meeting is the closest it can be to Christmas. I hope to see as many as possible to come and also invite you to bring your spouse along for the evening. We will have a gift exchange - \$10.00 max. and bring some treats too! I am looking forward to seeing you at the St. George's church on the 21st. Cheers.

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Mount Hurd...By Bob Graham

Canada's stamp issue of 1928-29 is known to collectors as the Scroll Issue. It was distinctly innovative for at least two reasons. Unlike previous definitive series, the portrait of the reigning monarch is restricted to the lower denominations, up to 8 cents, while higher denomination stamps are pictorials, showcasing different regions of the country. The balance between royal portraits and pictorials for definitive series pioneered in 1928-29 was so successful that it was retained, with slight variations, through to the end of the Centennial series in 1967. It is also the first regular series of stamps to have fully bilingual text.

Best known in the Scroll Issue is the splendid 50 cent Bluenose, which has been claimed to be the world's most beautiful stamp. The 10 cent stamp in the series, while forever overshadowed by the Bluenose, also merits admiration.



Canada 10¢
"Mount Hurd"

The 10 cent stamp was selected to represent British Columbia, and features a spectacular mountain. Mount Hurd is located in eastern British Columbia, near the Alberta border, just off the Trans-Canada Highway, about 8 km from the village of Field. It lies south of the confluence of the Ohtertail and Kicking Horse Rivers. The mountain was named in 1904 after Major Marshall Hurd. An American Civil War veteran, Hurd



Artist Frederic Marlett
Bell-Smith, O.S.A.,
R.C.A. Director of
Alma College, St.
Thomas. from 1881-

assisted Major A. B. Rogers in locating the best route for the Canadian Pacific Railway through the Selkirk Mountains, which became known as Rogers Pass.

In 1886, Canadian Pacific Railway management began to offer free rail passes to artists who would create pictures of scenery, in an effort to stir interest in Western Canada rail tourism.

One artist who seized the opportunity was Frederic Marlett Bell-Smith (1846-1923). Bell-Smith loved the Rocky Mountain scenery and splendour on and in demand.



Western Canada rail tourism. opportunity was 1923). Bell-scenery and splendour on and in demand.

His rising fame brought him to the attention of Princess Louise, wife of former Governor-General the Marquis of Lorne, and her recommendation in turn led to the opportunity to paint a portrait of Queen Victoria. That honour was accorded to very few artists. The Queen is said to have been pleased with the portrait.

Bell-Smith's original *Ice-Crowned Monarch of the Rockies*, a 28x36 inch



Entitled "Ice-Crowned Monarch of the Rockies", Bell-Smith's watercolour painting of Mount Hurd, created on a trip to the Rockies in 1891, was chosen for the 1928 stamp. Elements in the picture were moved around by the artist to produce the best visual effect, and no precise spot exists from which it can be said

Mount Hurd was one of five classic Canadian stamps honoured in a set marking the

the picture was painted. Two riders on horseback are clearly seen in the painting as they approach a river at the bottom of the valley in the foreground. They are still present on the stamp but are so reduced that one almost needs a magnifying glass to see them. The owner of the painting at the time, Mr. R.

D. Hume of Toronto, lent it to the Government for the purpose of copying it on the stamp.

The stamp was designed by Herman Herbert Schwartz and engraved by Robert Savage, one of the finest American picture engravers of the twentieth century. A totem pole is seen in each end panel, framing the mountain. At first these seem incongruous, as the totem poles were erected by coastal tribes. If it is recalled that the stamp was meant to represent British Columbia to all Canadians, their presence makes a little more sense.

The next definitive series also included a pictorial stamp featuring a majestic mountain - but that's another story for another time.

Thanks to Bob Graham; a member of the Saugeen Stamp Club and an enthusiast of Canadian engraved stamps.

On the Cover...Holiday Stamps of 2011



It has been a tradition of Canada Post in recent years to produce four stamps for the Christmas season. Three stamps are of one theme and the other stamp is completely different. They are all Christmas stamps but some have a religious theme and some reflect other aspects of Christmas and winter. The religious and secular stamps alternate each year being presented in a set of three.

This year's secular stamp is represented by an image of holly. It is the fourth in a series of single secular stamps issued every other year since 2005. The set includes the snowman, the reindeer, the Christmas tree and continues with the new holly stamp. The images from these stamps have been made into Christmas cards and are available in a set of twelve along with a booklet of twelve holly stamps for \$15.95.

The religious Christmas stamps this year depict aspects of the stained glass windows from the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Kingston. The Cathedral is approaching a century and a half in age. Its magnificent stained glass windows were made in England and shipped to the USA. The Americans refused to release the windows to Archbishop Cleary until duty was paid. Offended by this, the Archbishop spoke to Sir John A. MacDonald who managed to get the windows shipped. Were the duties ever paid? Apparently nobody knows!

Saint Mary's has several very large windows that encircle the building. Each of these huge windows is made up of a number of stained glass panels. The carved stone tracery that supports each panel may appear delicate from afar but it is carefully designed to be quite strong to support the heavy panels. In this Cathedral the windows down each side are made up of two tiers of three lancet shaped panels surmounted by the apex panels which fill space above the lancets to give the whole window a lancet shape. Each of the six lancet panels (in the two tiers) has a central area that depicts stories from the Bible. The rest of the panel is filled with elaborate floral patterns painted on in geometric formations.

The first two windows tell stories from the Old Testament. The third focuses on the life of Mary and the fourth moves on to tell of Christ's birth. This is where the images from our Christmas stamps have come from. Further windows tell the story of Christ's life.

The photos for the stamps were taken by Mark Thompson. Andrew Perro, the designer of the stamps has zoomed in on some central figures of the panel and removed them from their original background to show them in front of the patterned floral areas from above or below the pictorial part of the panel. A beautiful example of the floral patterned areas is



shown on the cover of the three booklets and across the top of the souvenir sheet. The figures that Perro has detailed are: the Angel who appeared to Joseph is on the 'permanent' rate stamp, the Nativity scene on the US rate stamp and the international stamp shows the visit of the Magi.

The OFDC is cancelled in Kingston of course. The cancellation is in the form of one of the round floral patterns. The only OFDC available bears the lovely souvenir sheet. If you want to get all of the stained glass stamp products you'll have to order the 'gutter product' which is the American rate booklet attached to the international rate booklet.

The images on this year's Christmas souvenir sheet come from a window at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the

Dues are due!!!

The end of the year is quickly approaching. 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 is on the last the page.

Coming Events...

- JAN. 14, 2012, Brantford, ON
Annual Show and Bourse, Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking, Canada Post franchise, 20 dealers, silent auctions, club circuit books, door prizes, stamp exhibits, lunch counter and refreshments.
Sponsor/Affiliate: Brantford Stamp Club. For more information contact Brantford Stamp Club, Box 25003 West Brant Postal Outlet, Brantford, ON N3T 6K5, telephone 519-442-3242, email shasland@kwick.com. Website: <http://www.brantfordstamp.org>.
- JAN. 21, 2012, St. Catharines, ON
63rd Cathex, Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St. Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission and parking, lunch counter, 12 dealers, club circuit, children's (beginners) area, exhibits. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Catharines Stamp Club. For more information contact Stuart Keeley, email stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca. Website: <http://stcatharinessstampclub.ca>.
- FEB. 4, 2012, Brampton, ON
Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show & Bourse, Judith Nyman Secondary School - Cafeteria, 1305 Williams Parkway, Between Bramalea Road and Dixie. Hours: 09:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Featuring 10 dealers, exhibits, table auctions, youth table with free stamps for beginners, club circuit books, refreshments, free admission, free parking.
Sponsor/Affiliate: Bramalea Stamp Club, GRVPA, GTAPA. For more information, visit our

website or Facebook page "Bramalea Stamp Club". Contact b62hkg@yahoo.ca or Bob Thorne, telephone 905-792-3526. Website: <http://www.bramaleastampclub.com>.

From the Editor...

I hope everyone will make an effort to come out for our Christmas meeting. Join in on the gift exchange. There will be coffee and apple cider. I'll bring the club's plates and napkins and if some of us bring along some treats and donations for the 'President's Funny money Auction' we'll all have a grand ole time!

Owen Sound Stamp Club

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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

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