

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. March 21st 2012 @ 7:00

From the President...



Our unusual winter continues, alternating from heat waves to storms, but it should also allow us to continue working on our collections. Since our last meeting I have received a couple of contacts from people looking for stamp appraisals. The one person didn't make any arrangements, but a couple of nights ago, a person in Owen Sound thought he had some "really old stamps." Well, a quick visit was only necessary to say that the two sandwich bags of stamps would probably get more money at a garage sale than anything else. What is interesting is how did I receive these calls? Well it seems the Internet is to blame, but what is still amazing is why so many people think that a few old stamps must be worth a gold mine!

I am not sure what others do in between meetings, but hopefully there has been time to work on your collection. I was doing that myself, looking at my topical collection of "Stamp on Stamp" and was reminded that there is no ready reference with which to organize the topic. It was suggested that the American Topical Association should have a list for this topic. Alas, the hope was dashed, but I did find a website that a fellow enthusiast has put together and so I share that here with anyone who may have the same interest. The website is : <http://stampsonstamps.brinkster.net/>

One of the most beneficial things of being part of a stamp club is the gathering of fellow enthusiasts to share our knowledge and interest in our hobby. Today (Saturday) I had a fellow collector visit and we compared our collections and interest. I have been inviting him to our club for over a year, but so far to no avail, but maybe this month. I hope you all take advantage of whatever opportunity that comes your way to encourage the closet collectors to come on out for an evening of some fun. In an effort to market our hobby and club, there is a day being planned at the Owen Sound Library in April. Bob has the information which he will share at the meeting, but any volunteers to assist on that day would be appreciated.

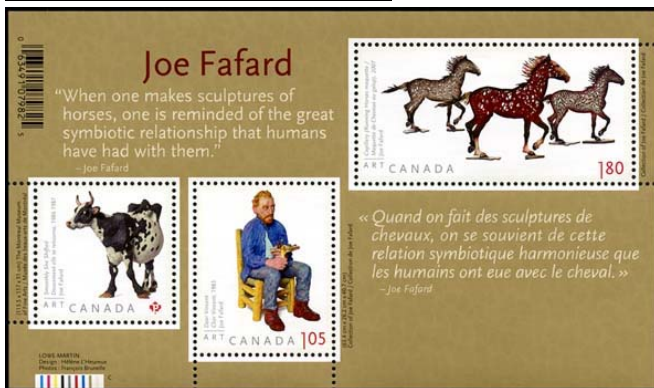
I think it was in the January newsletter that I mentioned the call from Will Van Veen who was looking for stamps about local people portrayed on Canadian stamps. I received a card showing his image on the topic and so I have included a scan of his creation with this newsletter. I hope you can appreciate it. The door prize at our stamp show in 2010 was won by Bob Ford and I wonder if he found a proper place to display the prize.

The meeting this month is about the topic of stamp forgeries. If you don't have a forgery, perhaps you may have had a stamp checked for authenticity, so why not bring that along as well. Of course, this topic will not fill the evening, so a club auction will be open for those who wish to sell some of the extra stamps that always seem to fill our collection. I am looking forward to seeing you on the 21st at the St. George's Anglican Church.

Cheers.

Phil Visser
President OSSC

On the Cover...Joe Fafard



Canada Post's long running stamp series 'Art Canada' is celebrating the work of sculptor Joe Fafard this year. The images on the three new stamps represent typical subject matter for the Saskatchewan artist from the French speaking town of St. Marthe.

'Smoothly She Shifted' is the title of the cow sculpture found on the permanent rate stamp. Cows and cattle in general are favourite subjects for Joe who spent much of his youth milking and caring for his family's cows. Joe found the physique of cows very interesting with their knobby legs, boney hips and pendulous bellies and teats. The role of cattle in our economy and landscape is huge. They are raised all across this country in a land from which they did not come from and are generally seen as just a packet of meat or as the ubiquitous hamburger by the average urban dweller. This is why he chose the figure of a relaxed cow for his first really large commission. Seven large bronze copies of the sitting cow make up the piece called 'The Pasture'



which has graced a grassy area at the Toronto-Dominion Centre since 1985. 'The Pasture' is like the eye of the storm - all peaceful and calm while city life and traffic rages all around it.

Fafard gained his Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Manitoba in 1966 and then his Master of Arts at Pennsylvania State University in 1968. He went on to teach sculpture and pottery at the University of Saskatchewan. By 1974 he resigned his teaching to sculpt full time at his home in Pense, Saskatchewan. During this period much of his work was in ceramics, clay and plaster. He sculpted many of the people he met in the area and also his parents. He liked sculpting older people whose faces told a whole story in themselves. Some of his sculptures were busts and others were full figures often seated on a chair as 'Dear Vincent' can be seen on the American rate stamp. While he sculpted many of the local characters, he also sculpted a number of well known people and some artists whom he admired. Some of the famous people include Farley Mowat, Donald Sutherland, Jean Chretien, Bill Cosby and John Diefenbaker with hands on hips standing on a chair. He sculpted the Queen complete with her hat, gloves and pearls. 'Dear Vincent' is a good example of how Fafard finished some of his artists, painted in the same style that the artist used. In the eighties he sculpted a whole series of forty faces of Vincent Van Gogh based on Van Gogh's own self portraits. The group was sold sight unseen as one piece for \$40,000 to an Edmonton collector. Other artists he sculpted include Cezanne, Gaughin and Da Vinci. The choice of the sculpture of Van Gogh displayed on the stamp may have more than one purpose. This summer you can have the opportunity to see a special exhibit of fifty of Van Gogh's paintings from May 25th to September 3rd at the National Gallery of Canada. The exhibit 'Van Gogh: Up Close' focuses on some of the artist's representations of nature including some never exhibited pieces.

Among other awards, Joe Fafard was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1981. He has honoraru doctorates

After his big commission with the TD Centre in 1984-5 Joe Fafard purchased his own foundry and more and more of his work was cast in bronze. In the 1990s he began to experiment with

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(On the Cover... Joe Fafard continued from page two)

sheet steel, imagining himself as drawing in steel. The \$1.80 international rate stamp shows three horses called 'Capillery'. They are macquettes, in this case small lazer cut steel sculptures about a foot tall, used as preliminary studies for much larger pieces. The final sculpture called 'Running Horses' is a series of 11 horses of lazer cut steel nearly life size. The metal is finished with coatings that range from yellow to red and black. They are a herd of mares and colts with a very muscular mustang bringing up the rear. The 'Running Horses' were installed on their own little boulevard on Sussex St. in front of the National Gallery in Ottawa in November 2011.

Horses are another favourite subject for Joe. He often sketched horses in his youth which led to people telling him that he should be an artist. Young Joe didn't even know what an artist was at the time. A lovely sketch he did in 1980 of a horse called Fancy is featured on the OFDC for the permanent rate stamp. Fancy is also set into the background of the uncut press sheet. The sheet has four of the Fafard souvenir sheets set above two panes of sixteen of the cow stamps.

'Smoothly She Shifted' is available in a pane of sixteen stamps. 'Dear Vincent' and 'Capillery' come in their own self adhesive booklets of six and of course all three come on a souvenir sheet. There is also a gutter product available in limited numbers that bears three each of the booklet stamps. The press sheet will set you back \$33.36 plus tax. As a special tribute, the first day covers will be cancelled at the now nonexistent Post Office of Ste. Marthe – Rocanville where Joe Fafard's father Leopold Victor Fafard was postmaster from 1951 to 1969.

We don't often have sculpture represented on the Art Canada stamps. These colourful and lively images are a welcome addition to the series.

Alaska Highway Part I... by Ralph Wyndham

Sometimes I find myself searching for inspiration for a topic and other times, it falls into my lap. In this instance, it did so literally! I opened an old issue of



The National Gallery of Canada is home to *Running Horses* and five other sculptures of Joe Fafard's. The three horses called *Capillery* are a macquette for the *Running Horses* sculpture.



Canadian Stamp News, one likely given to me by Dave Pugh, and something fluttered down onto my lap... it was the 8-cent 'high value' denomination from Canada's Centennial definitive series depicting A.Y. Jackson's painting 'Alaska Highway Between Watson Lake and Nelson'. It has always been one of my favourite Centennials, so I thought I'd give it a go...

February is Black History Month in Canada and the story of the Alaska Highway's construction also happens to be a noteworthy event in the history of African Americans. In the early 1940s, the American military was still a segregated institution. African Americans were not considered fit for combat. Nor was it believed they could perform and survive in a cold environment.

However, white American soldiers were now in short supply being deployed in both the European and Pacific war theatres leaving the US military with no choice but to employ black engineering units in the highway's construction. Working under the same difficult physical

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conditions as their white counterparts but with the added hardships of dealing with white commanding officers who often resented their duties, and working in the field with the poorest construction equipment, often doing the hardest tasks, black engineering units built roadway matching or exceeding the quality of that built by their white comrades.



So many black soldiers were decorated for their exemplary service during construction that the US military had to re-evaluate its assumptions about black soldiers and began deploying them in more active roles. There was still a long, long struggle ahead in ending discrimination in the military, as the story of Carl Brashear, a navy diver, whose story is portrayed in the movie *Men of Honour*, illustrates. During the Korean War, the US military became the first US institution to become integrated.

The National Gallery of Canada commissioned artists H.G. Glyde and A.Y. Jackson to document the construction of the Alaskan Highway in October of 1943. Above

It was fitting symbolism that the final gap in road construction was closed when a black cat skinner from the 97th Engineers broke through the bush to meet his white counterpart from the 18th Engineers on October 25, 1942. The highway's

official opening ceremony took place November 20, 1942 at Soldier's Summit near Kluane Lake, Yukon. It was bitterly cold that autumn, nearing -50F, but actual temperatures were classified information at the time.

When the road was formally dedicated, Brig. Gen. James A. O'Conner singled out the black troops for their hard work and dedication stating,

"Some day the colored soldiers, accomplished far from a major place in the country."

Speaking during ceremonies in March,

Governor paid tribute the contributions of the all black 93rd, 95th, 95th and 388th engineering regiments by saying: *"If you've ever driven the Alaska Highway, you might remember a bridge just south of Delta on the way to Tok, that spans the Gerstle River. There's a sign on both ends displaying its name - the Black Veterans Memorial Bridge. It is a small gesture to name a bridge, but I hope that by doing so we will be reminded of the significance of the contributions of the regiments and of every black soldier since."*

The road begins in northeastern British Columbia at Dawson Creek, cuts across the northeastern corner of the province to Watson Lake, Yukon Territory, continues west to Whitehorse and Haines Junction, crosses into Alaska ending at Delta Junction. Proposals for such a road began in the 1920s. It was on the wish list of Thomas MacDonald, director of US Bureau of Public Roads. Slim Williams, another advocate of the highway idea travelled the route by dog sled in 1933 and again in 1939 by motorcycle in an effort to heighten awareness of the idea.

A major stumbling block in making the highway a reality was the Canadian government. By far the largest portion of the route would have to be built through Canadian territory and Canadian politicians saw no merit in paying for a road that would only benefit a few thousand residents of Yukon Territory.

(Alaska Highway Part I is continued from page four)



accomplishment of these achievements their homes, will occupy lore of the North

Black History Month
2002, Alaska's Lt.

The USA and Canada both issued stamps in May 1992 to mark the 50th anniversary of

After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, a land route to Alaska suddenly took on a sense of urgency. The threat of Japanese attack was now keenly felt all along the west coast of North America and the United States quickly put an Alaska Highway plan in place.

On February 6, 1942, the US Army approved the highway project and just five days later, the US Congress and President Roosevelt gave their approval to what would become one of the greatest engineering feats of WWII. Between the official start of its construction and its official opening, 1700 miles of road would be punched through the wilderness between Dawson Creek, B.C., and Haines Junction, Alaska.

Canadian officials were still in no mood to build a road they felt had very little value to Canada. Construction could only begin if the United States paid for the entire construction effort and if the Canadian portion of the road was turned over to Canadian control after the war.

Be sure to stay tuned next month for Part II of The Alaskan Highway from Ralph Wyndham!

Coming Events...

- MARCH 17, Woodstock, ON
OXPEX/OTEX 2012, John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Dr. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. snack and lunch counter, 16 dealers, Canada Post, free parking, entry and admission, youth area, circuit books, prize draws, and many exhibits. Sponsor/Affiliate: Oxford Philatelic Society. For more information, contact Ron Wilton, email rwilton@oxford.net. Website: <http://www.oxfordphilsoc.com>.
- MARCH 24, Toronto, ON
Spring Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact Herb, telephone 416-445-7720 email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca.
- MARCH 25, Kitchener, ON
Post Card Memories Show and Sale, Bingemans' Embassy Room, 425 Bingeman Centre Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$5, children under 12 free with adult. Free parking. Antique and modern post cards, featuring an unlimited array of interests, from royalty to racecars, rock stars to heavenly stars, politicians and popes, statues, steamships, animals and sports, all holidays, from pre-1900 to post-2000. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kitchener

Waterloo Cambridge Regional Post Card Club. For more information, contact Dave, telephone 519-885-3499

- MARCH 31, St. Catharines, ON
Best Western Stamp Show, Best Western Hotel, QEW at Lake St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information, contact Roy Houtby, telephone 905-934-8377
- MARCH 31, Toronto, ON
NYPEX 2012, Herbert H Carnegie Centennial Centre, 580 Finch Ave. W. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dealers, door prizes, silent auction, snack bar available, TTC accessible, free admission and parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: North York Philatelic Society. For more information, contact Mike Turk, telephone 905-731-8380. Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northyorkphilatelicsociety>.
- APRIL 7, London, ON
Lonpex 120, Churchill Ballroom at the Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Featuring 12 dealers plus club sales circuit, prize draws, free admission and parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: London Philatelic Society. For more information, contact Don Slaughter, telephone 519-472-0206 email donslau@execulink.com. Website: <http://londonphilatelicsociety.com/>.
- APRIL 13 - 15, Toronto, ON
National Postage Stamp Show, Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. 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. 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. Annual Exhibition of the North Toronto Stamp Club. Website: <http://www.csdaonline.com>. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association. For more information, contact director@csdaonline.com, telephone 519-681-3420.
- APRIL 14, Hamilton, ON
AppraisalRAMA, Bishop Ryan Secondary School (Quigley at Albright). Hours: Sat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event is directed to anyone who has come into possession of a stamp collection but does not know what they have. Knowledgeable club members, and six dealers will be on hand to answer questions and provide guidance on how to continue with the collection or the best way to sell it. No purchases will be made during the event, but appointments for detailed evaluations can be scheduled. Light refreshments will be available along with informative hand-outs. Everyone welcome, no experience required. Sponsor/Affiliate: Hamilton & Burlington Stamp Clubs. For more information, contact Michael Anderson, telephone 905-632-6057 Website: <http://hamiltonstampclub.com>.

From the Editor...

Hello everybody! Well, it would seem that spring is here. The robins are singing, the trout are spawning and my heart leaps with joy! By the time that I see you on Wednesday it will officially be spring too.

We're having an auction this month. This will be a larger auction so bring extra items.

Thank you to **John Cortan** for bringing his stamp stock in February. I had no problem finding some goodies for my collection.

I hope to bring some recent Canadian used doubles that I have and I hope some others will too so that we can exchange a few stamps.

It's trivia time! Be sure to read the *On The Cover ... Joe Fafard* article and you may win a prize!

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

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 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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