

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. June 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 @ 7:00

## From the President...



Well the weather has turned lovely and may have distracted you away from our hobby. This is the beginning of my hobby time, now that work is less demanding. In my catch up phase, I have been soaking and organizing some of the purchases made during the last few months. This reminds me of all the things that seem to accumulate in my stamp room and somehow have expanded into another room so that I can do the organization. But now other changes are coming into my life which includes the plan to move into town.

The plan is now in the "full steam ahead" mode and so clean up is a priority. As the president of this club, somehow I have become a storage location for some club assets. I am looking for a good home for show material, someone who will be willing to store the Scott's catalogues as well as the huge container of "Kids stamps." Volunteers for holding this material would be appreciated.

In the organizing of my stamp room, I came across the card that that Will Van Veen made form the stamps donated by club members. I have made a scan and hope that it can appear in this newsletter (space permitting and editors blessing). Will asked that the card be returned and so it has been dispatched through our mail service.

This meeting will feature a visit from Mr. Jim Brett who is bringing the Saugeen Stamp club's circuit books. I hope that there will be lots of items of interest for your collection. The next meeting (July) will feature a full club auction where the night is dedicated to transferring some of our philatelic interests to other members. I hope to see you on the 20th.

Phil Visser

President OSSC

## Coming Events...

- JULY 21, Burlington, ON  
BURLOAK STAMP FAIR, Seniors' Centre, 2285 New St (at Seneca). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 18th year of regular monthly shows on the third Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers, and always something new. For more information contact Michael Anderson, telephone 905-632-6057, email mpanderson@cogeco.ca.
- AUG. 11, Kincardine, ON  
KINEX 2012, The Davidson Centre 601 Durham St. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, nine dealer exhibits, silent auction, kids table, door prizes, lunch booth. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kincardine Stamp Club. For more info contact John, phone 519-395-5817, email kincstamp@hurontel.on.ca.
- AUG. 18, Bracebridge, ON  
MUSPEX 2012, Muskoka Riverside Inn, 300 Ecclestone Dr. 10 dealers, club exhibits and club table, door prizes, free admission and parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Muskoka Stamp Club. For more information contact Bruce Hughes, telephone 705-385-2020

## On the Cover...the War of 1812...Brock & Tecumseh



A war, even a 'small' war such as the War of 1812, is a broad subject. Where does one begin? Canada Post began with stamps depicting two heroes of the war; Sir Isaac Brock born in Guernsey and Tecumseh, a

Shawnee native from the Ohio area. Neither one a Canadian but both killed in battles of the war and both considered as Canadian Heroes. It seems that there will be more stamps in this series, we'll have to wait and see what else is in store for us.

Sir Isaac Brock is shown wearing the uniform that he died in. It can be seen at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, complete with the hole from the shot that killed him. The background of the Brock stamp shows a European community of the type that Brock was fighting to defend against the Americans. Isaac Brock began his soldiering career as an ensign at fifteen years old. By twentyeight he was lieutenant-colonel of the 49<sup>th</sup> regiment, one of the worst in the forces which he cleaned up to become a respectable regiment. He and his regiment were transferred to the Canadas in 1802. He

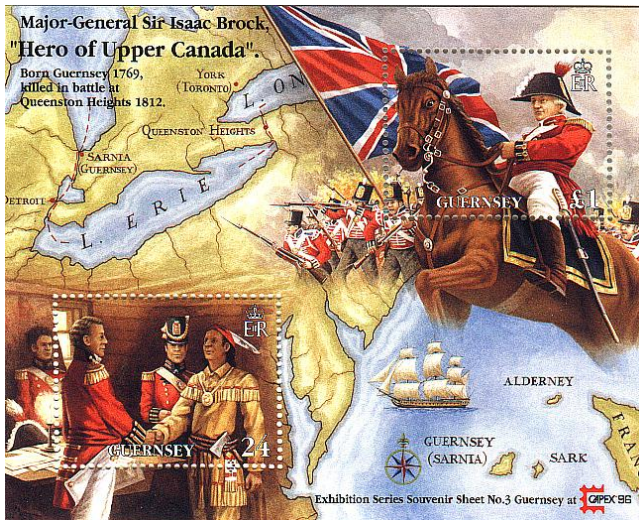
spent ten years at a number of forts in Upper and Lower Canada improving fortifications, enlisting and training militia and preparing for war.

Tecumseh was known for wearing his feathered cap, a wampum belt over his shoulder and a large medallion with a portrait of his Mother; Methotaska. His stamp shows a settlement of various clans which Tecumseh was trying to unite to defend their lands in a long ongoing battle against the Americans. The Shawnee and other other first nations people in and around Ohio fought with the British during the American Revolution. Retaliation for siding with the British and the neverending push for land for the new immigrants lead to attack after attack on native villages pushing them further and further northwest. Some treaties were struck with the U.S. Government that essentially had the Americans buying the native land. This greatly offended Tecumseh and many other natives to whom the concept of selling the land was as foreign as selling the air or the lakes and oceans. While some bandleaders thought it was best to try conform to the new ways or be lost completely others such as Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa (known as the Prophet) worked hard to unite the bands and fight to create an independent Indian nation (to be sponsored by Britain).

Patriotism was still running strong in the veins of Americans since gaining their freedom from British rule in the American Revolution. Britain was deeply entangled in war against Napoleon Bonaparte. In their need for more sailors the British simply stopped American ships and removed all British born men. The British would not relinquish their rule over British subjects to allow them to become naturalized Americans and they prevented trade with France. The War of 1812 was officially declared on June 18, 1812 against Britain by President James Madison.

Attacking Canada had a few purposes: the Americans wanted to gain naval control of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, they wanted to stop the British from aiding the Indians via the Canadas to stop the advancement of the settlement of the Northwest Territory (Ohio, Indiana and Michigan) and it would be simple to take the Canadas to use as a bargaining chip with the British (so they thought!). Some experts believe that conquering the Canadas was never a goal of the war. Either way the northern Liberalists (U.S.) were not interested in more war, they wanted a strong central government and wished to keep some ties with Britain anyway. Upper Canada was sparsely populated, mostly by British Empire Loyalists who were not enthusiastic

about the war but certainly did not want to be invaded by the States. It was thought that the French in Lower Canada would see invasion as liberation but they didn't want the Americans either. With the Brits busy fighting the French they took a defensive stance in the new country where a sparse force was left to defend the land. In the beginning of the war General Isaac Brock and Chief Tecumseh were probably Upper Canada's most enthusiastic defenders.



This Guernsey souvenir sheet issued for Capex 96 honours Guernsey born Sir

were itching to bring the fight to the Americans so they crossed into the States and laid siege to Fort Detroit. Hull had twice the numbers but Brock defiantly demanded surrender. While Hull thought about it for a couple of days, Brock warned him that the natives wanted blood and would have no mercy. They had Tecumseh's people continuously circling around whooping and hollering to appear as a much larger and bloodthirsty force. Hull surrendered and his soldiers nearly mutinied. The weapons seized were a great boon to the ill-equipped Canadians.

To Brock's chagrin a short truce was declared by the Americans allowing them to organize and amass more troops. Brock used the time to fortify and prepare troops along the Niagara River. The bulk of the troops were stationed at Fort George on Lake Ontario under General Sheaffe. It was not known where the next attack would come from; Lewiston, Buffalo, Fort Niagara or where? He set up communications in the form of telegraph wires and beacons. Every town welcomed him with rejoicing.

Brock's first campaign in the War of 1812 took him from Fort York to Amherstburg where he met Chief Tecumseh. The two warriors found mutual respect in each other and bonded very well. Sandwich (Windsor) had been invaded by U.S. Brig. Gen. William Hull. With no back up in the foreseeable future and the locals unwilling to provide supplies, Hull

retreated back to Fort Detroit. Brock was told to take a defensive stance in Sandwich. Both Brock and Tecumseh



In the wee hours on October 13<sup>th</sup> troops under the command of Solomon Van Rensselaer came across the River from Lewiston under the cover of artillery bombardment from Fort Grey above the town. Some the U.S troops climbed the steep hills above Queenston to take possession of an 18 pounder situated there. It was between the town and the Heights where Sir Isaac Brock was shot in the chest by a musket ball and died while leading a charge of men to retake the battery. General Sheaffe showed up later with reinforcements and circled around Queenston Heights to meet up with militia and native troops from Chippawa to the south and proceeded to rout the Americans. Many Americans were taken prisoner and many drowned trying to get back to the States. The jubilation of the triumph was greatly dampened as all grieved the loss of Sir Isaac Brock.

This stamp celebrating Brock's 200th birthday

Until July 1813 the British maintained naval control over Lake Erie under Commander Barclay. The Americans managed to slip through the blockade when Barclay's ships were resupplying. In September the Battle of Lake Erie ensued with a decisive victory for the well armed Americans.

The British forces at Fort Amherstburg under Major General Henry Procter began to retreat from Fort Amherstburg. The Fort had been blockaded by American ships for some time before the battle on the lake, they were out of food and their guns had been mounted on Barclay's ships. Tecumseh and his band of 500 men had no choice but to go with Procter although he made his displeasure known to Procter. Retreat from this point would leave his people's lands open to American assault. The plan was to retreat to



Burlington Heights on the west end of Lake Ontario.

They travelled in bateaux up the Detroit River, along the south end of Lake St. Clair into the Thames River. In deference to Tecumseh, Procter halted the retreat at Moraviantown (near Chatham) which was the highest point the bateaux could travel up the river. They

continued on foot another couple of miles where they turned to face the enemy. Tecumseh and his men flanked the army's right side, hiding in the swamp. To get to the Brits the Americans had to pass in front of the native Americans. Richard Johnson took 20 horsemen into the native's position to distract them from the main American force. Fifteen of his men were killed and in that battle Tecumseh was also killed. No one is sure who killed him or what happened to his body.

The British cannon failed to fire, the exhausted, half-starved men barely put up a fight. American reinforcements arrived and with the death of Tecumseh the native federation disappeared. Procter and 250 men took off. The rest were taken captive. Procter was later court martialled for his lack of leadership in the *Battle of the Thames* as it became known.

Unfortunately Tecumseh's dream died with him. The Indian Federation fell apart without Tecumseh to unite them.

The war continued on with Britain becoming fully involved in 1814 after the war with France ended. It was then that the war was brought to the United States - but that's a story for another time.

The brash and zealous Brock was given the title of 'Sir' after his victory at Fort Detroit. Many places and streets have been named for him: Brockville, Brock Township, Brock University and many more. An 185 ft. monument to Brock stands at Queenston Heights. The remains of Brock and

William Harrison, the then Governor of the Indiana Territory was the general credited with the victory at the *Battle of the Thames* in

his aides-de-camp Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell are buried beneath the monument.

Tecumseh had an Ontario town named after him on the south shore of Lake St. Clair. Tecumseh Park in Chatham has a plaque honouring his memory. A Canadian naval reserve in Calgary is named after the great warrior too. He is not forgotten in the United States either; towns in five states and numerous buildings are named after Tecumseh.

War of 1812 celebrations are going on all over the place this summer. The Canadian War Museum is putting on a special exhibit that tries to examine the War from four different points of view: Canadian, British, American First Nations and American. How Canadian of them!

The setenant Brock and Tecumseh stamps are available in a pane of sixteen stamps. This is also a joint issue with Guernsey of the Channel Islands. An official first day cover is available with cancellations from Tecumseh, Ontario and Guernsey.

### From the Editor...

The search is still on for a new meeting place. We'll see what members have to report this month.

Bill Findlay brought some Bestine to the meeting and demonstrated the removal of US, British and Canadian self-adhesive stamps from their covers. Judy Galbraith brought some orange citrus spray which is used in a similar fashion. Bill impressed many of us by removing some American stamps which tend to disintegrate when soaked in water. He was even successful at removing some the new British Machins with the slits in them. Dab a little of the product on the envelope side, give it a moment then gently peel the stamp from the paper. The Bestine removes the stamp from the envelope but the sticky backing often remains on the stamp, Bill recommended corn starch, talcum powder or baby powder to neutralize the goop. Remember to use Bestine a little at a time in a well ventilated area if you want to hang on to those last few brain cells and keep it away from children!

It's trivia time! In May we had a trivia Quiz in relation to the second part of the *On the Cover ... Titanic* article. This time it was done on paper. Larry Crane was the definite winner with about five people tying for second place. I think it went fairly well (although not nearly so riotous) so we'll give it another go this month. We will battle questions about the War of 1812 and I will try to get the appropriate FDC as a prize. The questions will be based on material actually in the *On the Cover* article. For those of you who were unable to attend the May meeting, here are the

trivia questions from last month. All of the answers can be found in May's newsletter.

I know that many of you are interested in Canadian history on stamps so I chose this time to put both of the War of 1812 stamps on your cover which is cancelled on the day of issue. I hope that you are all pleased.

Sharpen your pencils folks! We'll see you on Wednesday.

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

<b>Titanic Trivia Quiz II</b>	
1.	Approximately how many pieces of mail were thought to be aboard the Titanic?
2.	Name two different items found in the pockets on Oscar Woody's body. a. _____ b. _____
3.	Was the Royal Mail Flag flying when the Titanic sank?
4.	What was the annual pay of the U.S. Sea Post clerks aboard the ship?
5.	What was the name and job of the person who told about the mail clerks trying to save the mail? job _____ name _____
6.	What kind of mail were the clerks trying to save?
7.	What was the plaque in Southampton honouring the Sea Postmen cast from?
8.	Two facing slips that were found on Oscar Woody's body sold for how much each in 2007?

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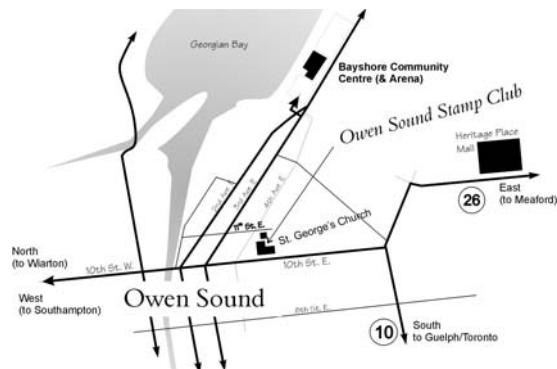
The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (corner of 10<sup>th</sup> St. E. and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to trade, buy and sell stamps and philatelic material. An Auction 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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