

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. August 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 @ 7:00

## From the President...



The moon was Full last night and then a shock to realize that our meeting this month comes very early and therefore the need to write a few words of welcome. The meeting will be held at the St George's Anglican Church because the paper work hasn't been finalized with the school, so please make sure you go to the church if you are coming to the meeting. We will be having an auction at this meeting and I hope you are willing to participate again.

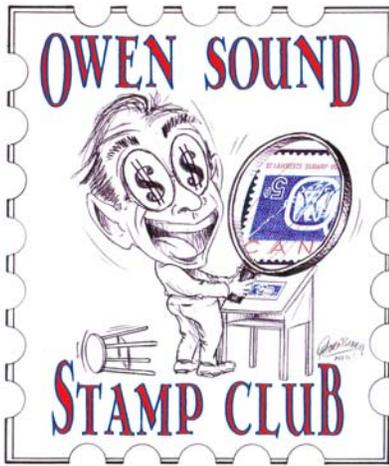
Between now and our meeting date will be the Kincardine stamp show on August 11th. I hope you will be able to attend and support our local club in the hosting of their show. I also remind you of our own show which comes on September 29th. Dealers have been lining up to come and they are looking forward to seeing us. We have finalized the advertising sign and it will be up three weeks before the show. I hope members are able to have exhibits ready for display so that we can encourage others to participate with our club.

As you have probably heard I have been busy with house renovations and so my stamp habit has taken a backseat row this summer. I'm not sure how many of our members use eBay to fill the holes with individual collections, but I have picked up a couple of interesting items in the stamp on stamp topic. Because my computer crashed and I lost my data, I have changed my sniper program and perhaps you might be interested in hearing something about that in the future. Let me know if it is worthwhile to write an article for the newsletter.

Phil Visser  
President OSSC

# WARNING!

OUR AUGUST MEETING WILL BE  
HELD IN THE USUAL LOCATION



John Lemon brought the order of tee shirts, bags and other items customized for the club by Ken Thornburn from Northern Flyer of Tara.

The club has ordered extra bags and mouse pads for sale and for promotional purposes.

If you would like to make an order, call John Lemon at 519 375-7161.

Show off your stamp club and help to raise funds too!

- Tee Shirts – SML \$16, XL- XXXL - \$17
- Golf Shirts - SML \$20, XL- XXXL - \$25  
(shirts available in white, lt. blue and gray)
- mouse pads \$12

Collecting Stamps of Pope

John Paul II

By Pat A. van der Heyden-Peers



Shortly after the death of Pope John Paul II, I became interested in the many stamps issued commemorating his visits to countries around the world.

On a visit to a local store I casually asked the clerk if he had any stamps of Pope John Paul II. To my surprise he

handed me the first day cover for a souvenir sheet with the comment, "This is all I have". Without hesitation I said that I would take it.

On looking closely, I was rather puzzled as the cover purported to come from Hutt River Province. Nothing on the cover or the stamps gave any indication as to where that province might be.

Consulting Scott's Postage Catalogues made me none the wiser. Thanks to the computer and the internet I was able to get some of the information that I needed.

The Principality of Hutt River (as it is now known as) is 595 km north of Perth in Western Australia, consisting of some 18,500 acres of land. It is an independent sovereign state that seceded from Australia on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 1970. Prince Leonard has named parts of the Principality with such names as Lake Beginning, Mount Secession, Lake Serenity and Wild Boar Gorge.

Buildings in Hutt River include an administration building, a post office, tea room, swimming pool, an inter-



Nain is the capital of Hutt River. The Principality exports wheat and wildflowers. Stamps.

denominational chapel and an arcade housing a memorabilia department and historical displays.

The Coat of Arms on the FDC is that of His Royal Highness Prince Leonard. The center stamp commemorates Prince Leonard's inaugural visit to the Vatican by invitation of the Pope. It depicts Pope John Paul II and His Beatitude Patriarch Cardinal Josyf Sipyj of Ukraine with a cameo of the prince. The stamps on the sides depict St. Peter's Cathedral, Vatican City and Santa Sophia's Cathedral.

Being very much a novice at stamp collecting, I began to realize how very interesting and educational this hobby can be.

Pat van der Heyden first wrote this item for the West Toronto Stamp Club. She has recently moved to Owen Sound and we are happy to have her as a member of the Owen Sound Stamp Club!

**Owen Sound Stamp Club 2012 Stamp Show Raffle  
'Triple draw'**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$50 in coupons to be used at any dealer in the show:  
Draw @ 1:00, Winner for 1<sup>st</sup> prize must be in attendance.



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - a Black 64 pg. stock book from Lighthouse - \$60 value

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - LED Illuminated 3.2X Magnifier - \$30 value



Draws to be held on Sept.29th 2012 at the  
O.S. Stamp Show at the Royal Cdn. Legion, 1540 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave W,  
Owen Sound. Winners need not be present for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes



**On the Cover...Tommy Douglas: The Birth of Medicare**



On June 29<sup>th</sup> Canada Post released a stamp to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saskatchewan's Medical Insurance Act of 1962 which came into force on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1962. No one is a more appropriate choice to be the face of universal healthcare in Canada than Tommy Douglas. He was the driving force behind the introduction of free healthcare in Saskatchewan. After introducing the Insurance Act in 1961 he left his post as Premier of Saskatchewan to become the first leader of the New Democrat Party. From that vantage point he was able to further his ideals of social justice including Medicare, pensions, unions for civil servants, unemployment insurance and civil rights at the Federal level. Although the NDP never held the

reins of power, Douglas was able to push his agenda especially in times of minority governments.

Medicare had a rocky start in Saskatchewan. Doctors feared lower fees and government interference with their patients. Many went on strike or on 'vacation'. Doctors scared their clientele with the idea of foreign doctors of different races. Due to the strike the government did have to bring in doctors from elsewhere. While the strike was bitter it did not last very long and soon the program was running quite successfully.

It would seem that Medicare suddenly jumped into being but like most things it was more of an evolution. Tommy Douglas was a Baptist Minister in Weyburn Saskatchewan who was greatly influenced by the Social Gospel movement. They believed that the role of Christianity was not just individual salvation but also to encourage social justice for the betterment of all. Tommy was disturbed by the poverty and destitution he saw around him as a result of the Great Depression and wanted to do something about it. He ran for a Federal seat with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) and won in 1935. While still an MP in Ottawa he was elected as leader of the Saskatchewan CCF in 1942. In 1944 he resigned his federal seat and led the Saskatchewan CCF to a resounding victory. Douglas became Premier and Minister of Health.

His first years as premier were very productive. He brought in social justice initiatives including the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights to protect the freedom and equality of its citizens, a number of crown corporations, provincial auto insurance and hospitalization insurance. Medical coverage began by covering treatments for cancer, mental illness and sexually transmitted diseases. Soon pensioners and mothers on Mother's Allowance were fully covered. In 1946 universal Hospitalization Insurance was brought into being.

Douglas wanted medicare for all of the peoples medical needs but it was not



financially possible until Prime Minister John Diefenbaker promised to pay 50% of hospitalization costs to the provinces in 1958. Douglas and the CCF swung into action and he presented the Saskatchewan Medical Insurance Act to the Saskatchewan parliament in 1961. As already mentioned that's when Tommy Douglas then moved back to federal politics to become the

leader of the brand new New Democratic Party. (Composed of the CCF and the Canadian Labour Congress.) The new Premier of Saskatchewan, Woodrow Lloyd and his Health Minister Allan Blakeney continued to work to bring the legislation into law.

Diefenbaker and Pearson both played important roles in the

In 1961 Diefenbaker appointed Justice Emmet Hall to form a Royal Commission to study Medicare. The Justice's report in 1964 led to the development of a national medicare plan based on the principles of the Saskatchewan plan. New federal medicare legislation created under Lester B. Pearson, was voted on in December 1966 and came into effect in 1968. It took a few years to become fully implemented across Canada.

(continued on the next page)

(On the Cover...Tommy Douglas: The Birth of Medicare continued from page 3)

Tommy Douglas remained as leader of the NDP until 1971 and then became the party's energy critic. He retired from politics in 1979 and became a director of Husky Oil. He became a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1981. He died of cancer in 1986. His wife Irma died in 1995. There is a monument dedicated to the two of them in Beechwood Cemetary in Ottawa. They had a daughter named Shirley who became an actress.



Shirley married actor Donald Sutherland and their son Keifer is a very successful actor too. Shirley can be seen in recent years in episodes of Corner Gas. Tommy and Irma also had an adopted daughter, Joan who was a nurse.

The Father of Medicare was known for his wit, his humour and his great debating skills besides his idealism. Many Canadians take great pride in our social programs and some see them as defining who we are as a country. It is no wonder that Tommy Douglas was voted as the 'Greatest Canadian' in 2004.

Tommy Douglas is honoured as a

St. George, Part 1, The Legend  
By Ralph Wyndham



Here in Part 1, we have a look at the story of St. George. If you are like me, you have maybe heard mention of his name and the dragon he killed, but little else. In Part 2 we will take a look at St. George's relationship with England. I hope that club members do not mind two-part articles since we've had so many of them lately. Please let me know if you think they are 'too much'.

A patron saint is regarded as an intercessor in heaven on behalf of whatever group, nation, organization, or even individual who seeks the saint's help. St. George, patron saint of England, is remarkable in

A renaissance interpretation of St. George on

just how widely he is venerated. He is a saint in the Eastern, Russian, and Oriental Orthodox as well as in our Protestant and Roman Catholic religious traditions and is even respected by Muslims. He is patron saint in countries as diverse as Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Portugal, and Russia, and is patron saint of many cities and organizations including the Boy Scouts.

Such widespread popularity has led to many stories and myths surrounding the saint from many time periods, many cultures, and there are many places where he is said to have slain that terrible dragon. Although St. George's Day, April 23, is considered the date of his martyrdom in 303AD, of the man who stood up for his faith and died for generally accepted that such a man did exist.



little is known it but it is

Saint George is sometimes said to be from town now in present day Turkey. There also existed George of Cappadocia who lived in the fourth Archbishop of Alexandria and although he was an archbishop, he belonged to a sect that believed that Christ was a mere mortal. It seems he was also a man of questionable character and was killed by an angry mob in 362. Hardly the stuff from which saints are made!

Cappadocia, a a real verifiable century. He was

The earliest known account of his martyrdom, dating between 350 and 500 AD, was discovered during the construction of the Aswan Dam in Egypt in 1964. According to the story, George was born to a family from Cappadocia living in the northern Nile Valley and is baptized a Christian by his mother against his father's wishes.

St. George on a 1919 Georgia stamp. The saint is very important in the tiny nation where there

Once old enough, he joins the Imperial Service and rises rapidly through the ranks. Seeking promotion, he goes to Lydda where he finds that a pagan (continued on the next page)

(St. George Pt. 1, The Legend continued from page 4)

ruler has sentenced Christians to death. George vigorously denounces the worship of Apollo and is tortured horrifically. Archangel Michael then brings him back from the dead and restores his health.



As a result of the miracles and St. George's subsequent preaching, many people convert to Christianity including the pagan ruler's wife. After George attacks temples dedicated to Apollo and Hercules, the enraged ruler finally has George beheaded.

St. George's Cathedral in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. There is also a St. George's Cathedral at Lalibela carved out

A second early Christian description of the saint's life is found in the 6th Century Vienna Palimpsest (a palimpsest is a manuscript that

has been erased and then written on top of). In this story the saint is an outstanding officer of Cappadocian descent in the Imperial Service but living in Palestine rather than Nubia.

Again, he confronts a pagan ruler, Dadianos, who has banned Christianity and ordered pagan sacrifices. A defiant St. George gives away his wealth and refuses to perform sacrifices. The saint is tortured to death three times and each time is brought back to life by Archangel Michael and the Lord before finally being martyred upon his fourth death.

Dadianos, described as a tyrant, or dragon, may be the origin of the dragon slaying concept. Dadianos' wife, Empress Alexandra, after witnessing many miracles performed by St. George including raising the dead, converts to Christianity along with many others. The empress, or or saved, by the saint. Imagery in the tradition portrays the saint on man rather than a dragon.

One of the most influential of stories appeared in The Golden of Lore about various saints written Voragine around 1260. In this story,



'princess' is converted, Greek Orthodox horseback trampling a

the dragon slaying Legend, a compilation by Jacobus de St. George, then a

Roman officer, arrives in Silena, Lybia where the residents are being terrorized by a fierce dragon living in a nearby lake. They fed the dragon sheep to appease it but as the supply of sheep dwindled, they began to feed the beast one sheep and one young person until only the king's daughter was left.

George arrives at the lake shore just as the princess awaits her fate there. As they are talking, the dragon appears. George makes the sign of the cross, mounts his horse, and charges the dragon and subdues it with a blow from his lance. St. George has the princess lead the wounded beast into town where he tells the frightened townsfolk that he was sent by the Lord to help them and if they would agree to be baptized, he would slay the dragon for them. The people do agree and St. George kills the dragon with his sword. The king and more than 20,000 are baptized that day.

On St. George's Day, April 23, 1961, Germany chose a depiction of the saint to honour the Bou

The Saint refuses payment asking that the money be given to the poor. Instead of payment, he gives the king four rules to live by: Cherish the church of the Lord, always attend mass, honour the priests and care for the poor.

So, that's the basic story. You can see how much liberty has been taken with the story between just two authors. Imagine the collection of stories you might be able to accumulate from around the world!

### Coming Events...

- **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. 11, Brampton, ON**  
Brampton/Mississauga Stamp & Coin Fairs , Fairfield Inn & Suites, 150 Westcreek Blvd. Free admission and parking, 36th year in operation, with more than one million worldwide stamps in stock, plus covers, postcards, coins and currency notes. Related supplies also available, many at discounted prices. For more information contact D. Jackson, email dejackson8138@gmail.com.
- **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
- **SEPT. 8, 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 the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information contact Roy Houtby, telephone 905-934-8377

### From the Editor...

**WARNING:** This meeting will be in the usual location. We expect to move into the St. Mary's High School next month. Stay tuned for more information.

Don't forget Kincardine's Stamp Show on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August. They will be raffling a framed full page of the personalized stamps created for the Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2008. See the coming events listing for more information.

**It's trivia time!** The article about Tommy Douglas could have been much longer. It was a pleasure to read about him. I'll see if I can get some trivia questions thrown together in time for meeting. So sharpen your wits and your pencils!

We'll see you on Wednesday.

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

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 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

**Club Officers:**

President: Phil Visser (519) 376-6760

RR #5., Owen Sound ON N4K 5N7

visserps@bell.net

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

