

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. November 21st 2012 @ 7:00

From the President...



I have moved since our last meeting and what a challenge that has been. The move itself was well organized (thanks to my darling wife) and the fact that we hired a moving company to do the job. But then there is the aftermath! Wow, where did everything go to, which box is it in? Naturally, my stamp collection was scattered about in many boxes. Slowly it is coming back together again but there are moments of frustration when you can't find what you are looking for. Regardless, we are settling in and adjusting to smaller quarters.

With the move have come discoveries of things that I had gathered, but mainly with things that I had inherited from my father. I didn't know Dad had that! And it fits in with what I am searching for. Needless to say, my eBay days are very limited and so I have no major surprises in my collection from that source. Fortunately the previous purchases have all arrived before the move because Canada Post is proving to be a challenge in getting mail delivered to my mail box. Maybe by the time of the meeting I will be in contact with the world again.

The meeting this month will have Bryan and Gerry Lemanski coming to our meeting with the circuit books from the Oxford Philatelic Society (Woodstock). I have tried to confirm that Bryan is coming but haven't heard back at the time of this writing so I hope that the plan falls into place. In the event that something interferes with the plan, the back up is a presentation that I have made followed by a club mini auction. If you are planning on bringing material for the auction, give me a call before the meeting to confirm what is going to happen that night.

I remind members of the "President's Auction" coming up in December. If any one has excess material to participate in the event, I will be very grateful for donations. For the new members, the President's auction is a "free" auction in that I distribute the President's Funny Money which is used to purchase whatever material that is there. In the past, members ganged up on another member so as to keep a certain item from going there, or made ridiculous bids, or whatever, but the outcome is simply a fun evening.

Hope to see you all on the 21st at the Hillyer Hall in the St. Mary's High School,
555 15th Street East.

Phil Visser
President OSSC

NEW LOCATION!!!

OUR MEETINGS ARE NOW
HELD AT ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

There is parking behind the School and an entrance too!

Grey Cup Trivia is in the air! Are you ready?

On the Cover...the Grey Cup by Ralph Wyndham

Earlier this year I lamented, here in The Bulletin, the sheer number of stamps (34, I think) issued by Canada Post to mark the 100th Grey Cup Game. I recently purchased, only for postal use, mind you, the large nine stamp souvenir sheet containing the eight CFL team stamps along with the single Grey Cup stamp that was issued August 19.

After watching the postmaster make sure, several times, that she was not handing

me two stamp sheets, I accepted it from her. Holding it for the first time, I was unprepared for my reaction! Last month, auctioneer John Sheffield emphatically told us how modern mint Canadian stamps were nothing more than postage and I, who only collect used stamps, found myself suddenly questioning my plan to tear this thing apart and affix the stamps to letters!

The paper is thick and sensuous, the thickness, no doubt, to accommodate the heavy embossing that accentuates the Grey Cup on its stamp and the football player depicted on each of the team stamps. In addition, even though I am not a football fan (the game cannot hold my attention for five minutes), and I will not likely watch the 2012 Grey Cup Game taking place on



November 25th, I found myself drawn to the designs. The Mud Bowl, the Fog Bowl, the Ice Bowl. Somehow, the games depicted on these stamps were connecting with me ... and the Mud Bowl took place four years before I was born!

Today, the Grey Cup Game is the championship game of the professional Canadian Football League played between the League's East and West Division winners. The Grey Cup, the trophy presented to the winner of the game that shares its name, was conceived in 1909 by Albert Grey, 4th Earl Grey; Canada's Governor General from 1904 to 1911.

Originally, Grey planned to donate his trophy for Canada's national senior amateur hockey championship. He was not, however, the only person to have this idea in 1909. Before Grey could offer his trophy to amateur hockey, Sir Montagu Allan, president of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, donated the Allen Cup to senior amateur hockey in Canada.

Since hockey was covered, Grey decided to donate his trophy, a 33 cm (13 inch) silver chalice mounted atop a base that would bear the names of the winning teams, players and team executives, to the national championship of Canadian football instead. Grey was slow to order the new trophy. When it came time to present the first Grey Cup to its first winner in 1909, the University of Toronto Varsity Blues, there was no trophy to present. It would be March 1910 when the first Grey Cup was finally in the hands of its first champion.

With the first Cup being presented in 1909, you would expect that the 100th Cup would have been won in 2008. This, obviously, is not the case. World War I came along shortly after the Cup's inception. With the war raging, football competition was suspended for three years (1916-1918). Then, in 1919, infighting between the various Canadian football organizations led to another year without the Grey Cup.

In the early years, Grey Cup competition was limited to members of the Canadian Rugby Union (CRU), all of which were based in eastern Canada. This situation changed with the admission of the Western Canada Rugby Football Union into the CRU in 1921. That year the Edmonton Eskimos became the first western team to challenge for the Grey Cup.

At this time, there was a significant difference in the level of play between eastern and western football teams; the Eskimos suffered the first shut out loss in Grey Cup history. Returning again in 1922, the Edmonton team was defeated again. The string of western team losses continued until 1935 when the Winnipeg 'Pegs beat the Hamilton Tigers.

As the quality of competition increased, lesser organizations dropped out of the CRU. University teams withdrew from Grey Cup competition in 1933. By 1938, the CRU which governed the Grey Cup, consisted of only the Interprovincial Rugby

Football Union (IRFU), the Ontario Rugby Football Union (ORFU) and the Western Interprovincial Football Union (WIFU). With the outbreak of WWII, the IRFU and WIFU suspended operations. At this point, the military stepped in to keep the Grey Cup going as a morale boosting effort but the Cup was only available to military teams from 1942-1944.

The football unions resumed competition in 1945 with the Toronto Argonauts winning again that year. Football was becoming more professional and organizers began to campaign for better field conditions. Field conditions, once considered simply 'part of the game' were becoming a source of embarrassment. A player purportedly came close to drowning in the mud during the 1950 'Mud Bowl' held at Toronto's Varsity Stadium.

Consolidation of football governance continued in the 1950s. The ORFU withdrew from Cup competition leaving only the IRFU and WIFU. These two organizations formed the Canadian Football Council in 1956 to administer the professional game in Canada. The two groups completed the transformation from amateur to professional when they merged in 1958 to become the East and West Divisions of the Canadian Football League and assumed full control of the Grey Cup from the CRU.

A short experiment with expansion into the United States from 1993 to 1995, led to the only non-Canadian team winning the Grey Cup. After losing to the BC Lions in 1994, the Baltimore Stallions returned in 1995 to triumph over the Calgary Stampeders to win the Grey Cup that year. After the CFL's excursion into the USA failed, the Stallions moved to Montreal to reestablish the Alouettes franchise there.

Like both the league and the Grey Cup Game itself, the trophy has quite a colourful history. It survived a fire in 1947 at the Argonaut Rowing Club by seemingly saving itself from destruction by catching a nail protruding from the wall when the shelf on which it rested was consumed in the fire. The Cup has been stolen a number of times and has been held for ransom once. The CFL, having no intention to pay, proceeded to plan a replacement trophy. Months later, an anonymous call led to the original cup's recovery. The 'cupnappers' were never found.

The cup gets to travel every year with each member of the winning team to wherever they wish to take it, usually their home town. It has been damaged four times and who knows what other indignities it has silently endured.

Thanks to the Grey Cup, the last Sunday in November has become perhaps the greatest annual party held in Canada. Regardless of what city hosts the event,



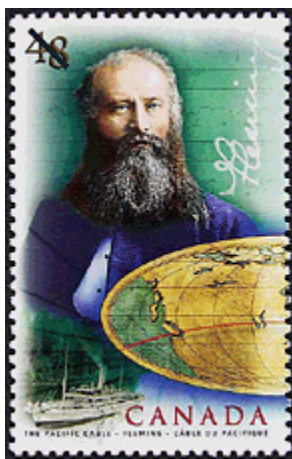
The CFL Team Logos stamps were issued at the end of June. Each team logo

thousands of hardy and faithful fans, from coast to coast, will show up to take in the game and the fellowship offered by it.

Well it looks like Ralph and I are trading places this month. Ralph is the author of this month's *On the Cover* article while I am writing about a topic that piques my interest. I heartily agree with Ralph that the Grey Cup and Grey Cup Games stamps are very handsome indeed! I gripe about the vast number of stamps that Canada issues these days but I also appreciate many of the new issues. Your newsletter bears one of the Grey Cup Games stamps from the souvenir sheet on the cover.

Coming Events...

- NOV. 17, London, ON
Middpex 2012, Westview Baptist Church, 1000 Wonderland Rd. 100 frame judged exhibition (open to all), 20 dealers, Lucky Draws, free admission and parking. Wheelchair accessible. Lunch counter and refreshments. NEW LOCATION & DATE for show. Sponsor/Affiliate: Middlesex Stamp Club. For more information, contact Patrick Delmore, telephone 519-471-7139 email pj.d@symatico.ca. Website: <http://www.middlesexstampclub.com>.
- NOV. 24, Toronto, ON
Winter 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 begin, email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca.
- DEC. 15, 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 Steve Simon, telephone 905-575-2950, email bas6@bell.net.
- DEC. 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



In the Spotlight... Sir Sandford Fleming: Part I by Marion Ace

The gray thundering, roiling ocean waves matched the gray thundering, roiling clouds above. The whole ship creaked and moaned with the strain of the pendulous lunging of the



massive load of heavy steel rod in the hold below. Surely the very next heave and the steel shall rupture the belly of the craft sending cargo, ship and all souls aboard her plummeting to the ocean floor. Obviously the 'Brilliant' was not named on a day such as this; for of brilliance there was none. It was peril and demise that held the day though brilliant was the future that they hoped for when they departed the shores of their bonnie Scotland, with spirits high and a gleam in the eye, off to the wondrous expanse of Upper Canada. But if this is what the heavens have declared then it would be wise to use the time left as best as possible. The lads took the time to pen the tale of impending doom and give their farewells to their loving family. They stuffed the note into a handy bottle, stoppered it well and tossed it over the side of the vessel where it was certainly more violently tossed for some time to come. Over time the winds settled down somewhat and so did the waves. As luck would have it, a fisherman came across a stoppered bottle with an addressed note within it and passed it along to continue on its route to its intended destination. It must have caused quite a stir and certainly could have caused much distress when the note at last arrived at the home of Andrew and Elizabeth Fleming in Kirkaldy, Fife, Scotland, but as luck would have it, the belly of the small ship did not rupture. The cargo, the ship and all the souls aboard her did not plummet to the bottom of the ocean. The brothers, David and Sandford Fleming and their cousin Henry Fleming did in fact arrive safely to the shores of our great country and were surely very glad to set foot upon dry land again. Thankfully for the boys' parents had received news of the lads safe arrival before receiving the note in the bottle. You too should also be glad of their safe arrival for they went on with their lives to accomplish many things, especially young Sandford who did much to unite our entire country!

Sir Sandford Fleming lived a very full and active life, beginning his training as a surveyor and engineer back in Scotland at the age of fourteen. He was born in 1827 and was just 18 when he journeyed to Canada to Peterborough where he stayed for a time with his uncle, Dr. Hutchison.

As already noted the six week ocean crossing was very rough. The Brilliant dropped the young men off at the Quebec Harbour. To get to Peterborough they then travelled to Montréal by steamer, up the Ottawa River, then down the Rideau Canal to Kingston and on to Coburg. From Coburg to Peterborough they travelled by stagecoach over corduroy roads.

The Rideau Canal built in 1832, made it easier to travel in

The Hutchison House located on Brock Street in Peterborough was built by volunteers for the Doctor in 1837. It is now a 'Living History Museum' with one bedroom dedicated to Sandford Fleming that contains one of his maps of

Peterborough and his sextant and surveying tools that he made himself back in Scotland. His was the first map of the stumpy streets of the fledgling city. He lithographed the maps himself and encouraged by the success of the maps he went on to do maps of Coburg in 1847 and Newcastle and Colborne Districts in 1848. This was not his only occupation during these years. He did some

lithography work in the summer for Scobie & Balfour in Toronto. In '48 and '49 he studied at the Mechanics Institute to prepare for his Canadian surveyor's license. In 1849 he took his exams at the Crown Lands Office in Montreal. He was an ardent imperialist throughout his life which perhaps became evident when he and three other young men rescued a massive portrait of Queen Victoria from the burning Parliament House during a riot. Canada did not yet have a permanent capital city. After the riot it was decided to move parliament to a place of less ethnic friction. Fleming enjoyed the portrait for a time and then returned it to the powers that be.

During his time studying in Toronto and Montreal he met many influential people. Sandford Fleming and architect Kivas Tully collaborated with a number of young architects, surveyors and engineers to form the Canadian Institute, which later was called the Royal Canadian Institute. The Society was formally incorporated in 1851; which is the same year he designed the first adhesive postage stamp of the Province of Canada. For this alone he would hold a place in the hearts of Canadian philatelists but this was just the beginning. By 1851 Sandford was working steadily as a surveyor for the Grand Trunk Railroad but we will discuss his railway career in the second part of this article.



Canada's first postage stamp was

Fleming was known to Sheriff Rutter who took the young designer to meet the newly minted Postmaster General James Morris at the Ellah Hotel in Toronto February 24, 1851.

Sandford Fleming was eager to help develop a more efficient method of mailing letters and enthusiastically started sketching

ideas right away and the new stamp was issued on April 23rd, 1851.

The three penny beaver is assigned three different numbers in the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Stamps not including varieties, re-entries, etc. No. 1 and No.4 are both imperforate issues, one on laid paper and the other on wove paper. No. 12 is a perforate issue and the image is also reissued in the first 'cents' issue for five cents as No. 15. These stamps are the first in the world to have an image of an animal or in fact anything other than a portrait of the head of state or a numeral. Fleming used the image of the beaver to represent the industrious



Fleming managed to save a large portrait of Q Victoria from burning in a fire during a riot in Montreal. It was

nature of the people building the young nation and also to underscore the economic importance beaver pelts played in the development of this country.

Many years later Sir Sandford Fleming designed another stamp although this time it was not adopted. As an ardent imperialist Fleming was part of a movement to standardize postal rates between all members of the British Empire. Fleming's idea was to have one stamp to be used across the realm.



Hon. William Mulock became Postmaster General in 1896. The post office was



inefficient and losing money at the time. He wanted flat rates too but also strongly advocated lower rates. His proposal at the Imperial Conference on postage rates in London in 1898 was accepted but not enforced across the realm. Mulock decided to

Fleming's proposed stamp stir up some interest and used the stamp to show the vastness of the Empire. The 2 cent rate equalled 1 British penny...hence the name.

Mulock's imperial penny post stamp inadvertently

Mulock also used the Conference to promote Sir Sandford Fleming's idea of a trans-Pacific telegraph cable. The idea was to have a telegraph cable to circumnavigate the world making communications possible between all areas of the British Empire without touching on 'foreign' lands.

Fleming even tried to get one of the Hawaiian Islands annexed in his efforts. He first proposed this idea in 1879. Construction of railroads across the land went hand in hand with telegraph poles and Fleming wanted to see the telegraph cable continue right on from Vancouver to New Zealand and Australia.



Although private telegraph companies were against the idea and he had to bombard Ottawa and the colonial conferences with notes, letters and proposals, with Mulock's help Australia and New Zealand agreed to the concept. The task was then to figure out a route. By 1902 cable was laid from Bamfield, Vancouver Island to Fanning Island, then to Fiji and on to Norfolk Island. At that point two cables were laid, one to New Zealand and one to Australia.

The CS Colonia was specially built to carry the heavy

Sir Sandford Fleming was knighted in 1897 by Queen Victoria, her Diamond Jubilee year. He was very outspoken and stubborn. He was often embroiled in controversy and sometimes fired from positions. The same qualities that got him in so much trouble also allowed him to accomplish many things against great odds.

Stay tuned for Part 2 when we discover his role in the development of the Canadian Railway and standard time.

From the Editor...

WARNING: Don't forget meetings are now held at St. Mary's High School. Please park behind the school and use the doors located there.

I am looking forward to browsing through the Oxford circuit books.

We have a prize for a Grey Cup Trivia Quiz. I think it will be a bit different this time, so expect the unexpected!

It's time to consider paying your annual dues to the Club.

We'll see you on Wednesday.

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 cafeteria of St. Mary's High School (555 15 St. East). 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:

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Vice-Pres.: John Cortan (519) 395-5817

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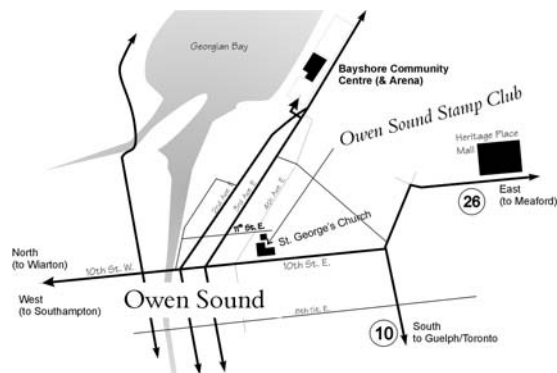
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ase note that this map has not yet been changed to show our meeting location!!!

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