

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. January 16th 2013 @ 7:00

From the President...



It almost seems like it was yesterday when we had our Christmas meeting. The President's Auction seemed to go very well with several members sharing their "funny money" in attempts to get a most desirable item. But the calendar tells me that Christmas is past and we have started a New Year. I extend my best wishes for this year and hope that it may be filled with health and prosperity for all of our club members.

We will start the year off with a visit from our resident stamp dealer, John Cortan. John will be bringing his stamp stock as well as the covers and post cards in his stock. I hope we will all be able to support John by filling in the holes in our respective collections. Don't forget that John is able to get specific items from Unitrade, so if you need some philatelic material, albums, refill pages etc, just give John a call and those materials will arrive. John's phone number is provided in the newsletter because he is part of the club's executive.

With the mention about the executive of our stamp club, the first meeting of the year is an opportunity to elect or reelect the executive for the club. The present executive have served in their respective capacities for several years, and so the club should consider that changes can occur, so carefully consider the change over procedure so that a new executive member may not have to jump into a fire when an unexpected situation arises.

It has struck me that somehow things have slipped a little bit for the club. At the start of the meeting is an opportunity for members to have a "show and tell." This hasn't happened over the last few meetings, an oversight on my part, so if you have received some interesting philatelic items or found a great source of information, please feel free to share your discovery. The meetings are an opportunity for the budding philatelist (reentering the hobby) to ask questions etc so that the hobby can expand for that person. It seems that we have had several new members join over the last year or two and perhaps this is needed for those who are seeking information.

The itinerary for the first few months of this year includes John's "visit" in January, a public presentation by yours truly in February followed by a mini-auction, a large "large auction" in March and then a speaker, Mr. Peter Wood who will be demonstrating a very cost effective magnifier as well as speaking about the British North America Philatelic Society in April. Following that, I should be able to arrange visits from club circuit books from the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association for a good part of the remainder of the year.

The weather has been pretty decent for travelling so I am looking forward to seeing as many of you who are able to be present on January 16th at the St. Mary's High School. As far as I know, the meeting will be in Hillyer Hall again. Cheers

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Don't forget... Dues are Due!!!

For only \$15.00 a year you can be an Owen Sound Stamp Club member and receive this amazing newsletter each month! What a deal!

Coming Events...

- JAN. 19, 2013, St. Catharines, ON
64th Cathex, Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free parking, free admission, 12 dealers, club circuit, lunch counter, exhibits, beginner area. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Catharines Stamp Club. For more information, contact Stuart Keeley, telephone 905-227-9251 email stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca. Website: <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca>.
- FEB. 2, 2013, Brampton, ON
Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse, Judith Nyman Secondary School, 1305 Williams Parkway. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Featuring 10 dealers, exhibits, table auctions, youth table, club circuit books, refreshments, free admission, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: GRVPA, GTAPA. For more info see our Facebook page "Bramalea Stamp Club," email b62hkg@yahoo.ca, telephone Bob Thorne 905-792-3526
- FEB. 16, Niagara Falls, ON
Stamp Show and Bourse, Stamford Lions Club Hall, 3846 Portage Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: Niagara Philatelic Society. For more information contact Ed Yonelinas, telephone 905-262-5127, email mastamps@computan.com.
- FEB. 24, Don Mills, ON
32nd Annual Toronto Postcard Club Show, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court (Don Mills Rd. & Wynford Dr.). Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Forty tables of

vintage postcards for sale, admission \$7, free parking, TTC accessible. Full details at www.torontopostcardclub.com. Sponsor/Affiliate: Toronto Postcard Club. For more information contact Win Boyd, email info@torontopostcardclub.com. Website: <http://www.torontopostcardclub.com>.

In Memoriam...



I regret to share the news with the members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club that **Barbara Shelson** passed away on Monday Dec 31st. I found out about her death on the evening of the 3rd, and so made plans to attend the funeral on January 4th. I offered condolences to Bill on behalf of the club members. Bill looked to be in much better health and he said very confidently that he would be coming back to our meetings once things have been settled down.

I remember Barb as an encourager, who supported me in the early days when I became the President. She continued to do so until she took ill and needed care in the Nursing Home. Barbara left many memories for me. It was always interesting to see the dynamic between Barb and Bill during the mini-auctions, once even bidding against each other for the same item! These are very fond memories for me. One of the jobs of the President is to organize the annual stamp club show. The first show I organized, rather amateurish compared to last year's show, there suddenly appeared a silent auction on the day of the show. This was something I knew nothing about, but Barb and Bill organized it and the proceeds helped make the show that year a profitable one. Their efforts demonstrated how the club needs participation from almost everyone to make the show a success.

Our condolences are offered to you Bill as you transition into a different world without Barbara by your side. We hope that you are able to make it to future meetings.

Sincerely,

Philip Visser, President OSSC

NEW LOCATION!!!

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

From the Editor...

Hello folks. My heart is heavy having just received news of Barb's death. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to see her one last time when I delivered the Shelson's stamp club shirts to them in Lion's Head. Barb used to enjoy harassing a few of the guys and Phil is absolutely right about her always being supportive of other members. She always encouraged participation. Our hearts go out to **Bill Shelson**. We hope you can make it to a meeting Bill.

I'm afraid that your faithful Editor is a little under the weather again. The flu is everywhere!! So if you did take up nail biting as you anxiously await the next instalment of the Sir Sandford Fleming article, you may have no nails left at all. We do have a small *On the Cover* article though. Your Lunar Snake has been cancelled and sent to you on January 8th, the day of issue!

I think that a good time was had by all at the Christmas meeting. I got to chatting with **John Appleton** about buying stamps on-line. That is something he hasn't tried yet, so I said I would mention some sites. Naturally you may have some fears about purchasing things over the internet. I went out and got another credit card and set it up with a low limit. If some were to go on a spree on-line the credit card company would be onto it pretty darn quickly. I only use this card on-line so there are no mix ups. Next I signed up with Paypal. The handy thing about Paypal is that it sends funds in whatever currency the seller is asking for. Paypal converts the currency and my credit card is charged in Canadian funds. There might be a small conversion fee tangled in there somewhere but if so it isn't much. Generally it is the sellers who are paying the transaction fees. I found Paypal through a stamp site called Stamp Wants.com. It is an American based site now called BidStart.com and was just taken over by the Stanley Gibbons company. This is a large site where there are many stamp sellers. You must join the site to make purchases. Here you can find regularly going auctions or stores of various sellers. You can comparison shop or search for hard to find things. Once again Paypal is handy. I do not give my card number to any of the vendors and they are paid in American dollars or whatever they are asking for. Club members **Rick Lokos** and **Rob Armstrong** are sellers on BidStart.com.

Rob Armstrong also sells on Delcampe.net out of Belgium. It works the same way and many of the sellers accept Paypal too. The attitude is different though and some sellers ask you to pay the paypal fees. This is a much more

European site and you will encounter many more people of different languages. I have successfully made deals with people who don't speak English. I found it a little harder to get used to but it is working out.

Ebay is another option but I find it harder to navigate and find my areas of interest.

I hope that this can help people thinking about buying stamps on-line. But the web is just one way of finding stamps. It helps to support your local dealers too. Long time member John Cortan has a store in Ripley that also sells used books and jewellery and who knows what all!

I look forward to going through some of John Cortan's wares on Wednesday evening. If a few members showed up a little early I'm sure John could use some help bringing his boxes in. Give John a call if you are looking for something specific.

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

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|  | <h2>ROYAL OAK STAMPS</h2> |
| <p>Stamps • Postcards • Postal History • FDC's Canada and the World Philatelic Supplies</p> | |
| <p>JOHN CORTAN Phone: 519-395-5817 E-mail: royaloak@hurontel.on.ca</p> | <p>Box 295 Ripley, Ontario N0G 2R0</p> |

On the Cover ... Year of the Snake



Our Canadian stamp year begins with the Year of the Snake stamps. As usual there is a pane of 25 perforated Permanent rate stamps and a long souvenir sheet bearing a perforated international rate stamp and the myriad of associated products. Both items are printed on a rich heavy paper and are embossed but surprisingly only the souvenir sheet has gold foil details. The booklet of six international rate die cut stamps that folds down to credit card size does not have the gold foil either.

This year's snakes are associated with the water element. Wavy lines can be seen underlying the image of the large green snake and there are light concentric circles beneath the red domestic rate snake which is meant to

appear as slithering atop the water. Neither one of these images brought to mind water nor water snakes to me.

The green snake is displayed in a figure eight configuration which is a number the Chinese consider very lucky. If you are lucky perhaps you can afford one of the three handsomely framed products available. There are only 800 enlarged prints of the green snake available. They are very striking and would definitely keep my Mother-in-law away. I don't want to cause trouble though, so I best avoid the uncut press sheet too.



The New Chinese Lunar Year begins on February 10 this year. Happy New Year!

Owen Sound Stamp Club

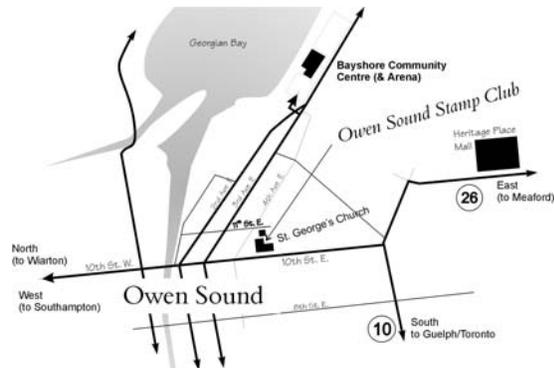
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The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of St. Mary's High School (555 15 St. East). The main business of the evening is typically to trade, buy and sell stamps and philatelic material. An Auction 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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ase note that this map has **not** yet been changed to show our new meeting location!!!