

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. February 20th 2013 @ 7:00

From the President...



In preparing to write the message for this month, I looked at the one from last year. One thing is the same as last year and that is the abundance of winter weather we have received, even if it has been punctuated with periods of rain. Hopefully good health is with you and we will be able to see you at the upcoming meeting on February

20th.

For this meeting, I will be showing a PowerPoint presentation on one aspect of my collection. Following the presentation, there will be time for a club mini-auction. Some of the newer club members may not know what a mini-auction is. I usually try to combine a mini auction with a meeting where a guest speaker has come, so that the meeting will be over by about 9 o'clock. The auction is where club members may bring some excess from their accumulation to auction off to other members present. The reason for the name "mini" is that members are asked to keep their auction lots to about three so that every member has an opportunity to sell their excess material. Maybe there are several members who do not wish to enter things into the auction, so it might be possible to stretch the number a little, but that cannot happen until I know whether we have enough items or not until the actual evening of the meeting. The club asks for a 10% commission from the sale of the items to help with the clubs' finances.

*I want to thank every member at the last meeting who purchased items from John. It was a successful evening for **John Cortan** and his company **Royaloak Stamps**. John has been helping many of us to obtain things to help in organizing our collections, so if anyone is looking for albums or pages or catalogues just feel free to contact John. John also operates a store in Ripley, ON and I am sure would appreciate a visit for those who wish to tour Bruce County.*

One aspect of our meetings I would like to see used a bit more is the "Show and Tell". Have you received an interesting letter, or read an interesting article about stamp collecting, well how about sharing it with the rest of the members? Nothing is

really too small to mention and perhaps it may also provide an answer to some questions others may have, but were afraid to ask. A club is a safe place where our interests in stamp collecting can be expanded. An expert is someone who has accumulated more information about our hobby than we may have as an individual. Hope to see you on the 20th at the Hillyer Hall in St Mary's High School.

Cheers,
Phil Visser
President OSSC

Don't forget... Dues are now Overdue!!!

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!
Thanks to all of the members who have already paid up!

Annual General Meeting Update...

The January meeting of the Owen Sound Stamp Club is the time when club members have an opportunity to elect the executive for 2013. As is customary, all positions of the executive are open to nomination so that the slate is clean. It seems that being an executive is not really something many people volunteer for, but yet it is the lifeblood of every organization. So, acclaimed to the position of President is yours truly, **Phil Visser**. The past vice president had indicated a desire to pass the torch to someone who lived in Owen Sound, and so **John Cortan** offered his resignation. Fortunately, **Larry Crane** agreed to serve as the new Vice President. Thank you very much Larry for accepting your new role in the operation of our stamp club.

The executive also consists of two other positions, that of Secretary Treasurer and Newsletter editor. Both of the people serving in those positions have agreed to continue in their capacities. Thanks go to **Bob Ford**, the secretary treasurer and **Marion Ace** who has agreed to continue on as the newsletter editor. I hope you all can take a moment to thank these individuals for keeping the club operational.

These little reports will appear in the newsletter as they are needed, for instance when the club has made a decision concerning the operation of the club so that if you missed a meeting, you can be kept informed on the club's activities.

Cheers, Phil Visser

President OSSC

In the Spotlight... Sir Sandford Fleming: Part II: The Railway Years

by Marion Ace

In Part I of the article about Sir Sandford Fleming we discussed his journey to Canada and his early years doing cartography, becoming an engineer and designing Canada's first postage stamp. He participated in the creation of the Royal Canadian Institute. His role in the betterment of communications in the British Empire through more efficiency and equality in postal services and the laying of the Trans-Pacific Telegraph cable from Canada to Australia and New Zealand was also discussed.



Sir Sandford Fleming with a view of a steel bridge on one of the Intercolonial Railway

So far in discussing Sir Sandford Fleming a huge chunk of his life has been omitted. These years are known as the railway years. He did his first railway surveying back in Scotland with John Sang. Now in 1852 with his Canadian certification as a surveyor and engineer he was hired as an assistant engineer on the Ontario, Simcoe, Huron Union Railroad, (later the Northern Railway), to build a rail line from Toronto to what was to become Collingwood. He worked under engineer Frederick William Cumberland who was a fellow founder of the (Royal) Canadian Institute. Fleming's relationship with Cumberland was very rocky and he was fired in 1855. Cumberland did not appreciate that Fleming's interests seemed to take him off in all directions. Fleming fought the dismissal and with a promise to stay focused on the railway, he ended up replacing Cumberland. By 1858 he did get permission to work on other projects. He went into private enterprise with Collingwood Schreiber who had recently joined the railway line also as an engineer. They worked together with steel, developing concepts such as pre-stressed steel. This concept changed construction with steel forever making it possible to build huge bridges with steel and of course led to the construction of the Eiffel Tower and glass sided skyscrapers. One of their projects was Toronto's first Palace of Industry, an exhibition hall made with much glass and steel based on the Crystal Palace in London, England. The building opened in 1858. In 1860 it was visited by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward the VII). The young Prince (not even twenty) on his first tour of North America was escorted by Sandford Fleming on the Northern Railway for a tour to Collingwood. As you can see Sandford did make friends in high places.

By 1862 Cumberland managed to get on the board of the Northern Railroad and began to squeeze Fleming out. They fought for a few years over wages and this time Fleming lost. In the meantime Fleming's mind had gone on to bigger and better railroads. He presented the first well thought out proposal for a transcontinental railway to the Governor General Viscount Monck. Hearing of his work the people of the Red River Settlement (future Winnipeg) wrote him a letter. They were desperate for a link to the east, road, rail or telegraph. They wanted 'responsible government' not administration by the Hudson's Bay Co. Of course, Sandford came up with a plan. In May of 1863 he travelled to Britain to petition the Duke of Newcastle, Henry Pelham Clinton, the Colonial Secretary of State whom he met on the train ride with the Prince of Wales. But it was all to no avail. (By 1869 the Settlement was rebelling under Louis Riel. Riel soon had to flee the land but even so it was his list of rights that were enacted under the Manitoba Act in May 1870. Manitoba was the first province to join Canada after confederation; it was known as the 'postage stamp province' because it was so small at the time.)



In 1812 Lord Selkirk bought the area that became the Red River Settlement from the HBC and he brought Scottish settlers with him. The HBC neglected to tell him

This era was the time of the American Civil War (1861-1865). Security was of the utmost importance. Canada was forming its own regiments and events were heading toward Confederation in 1867. It was important to unite the country and



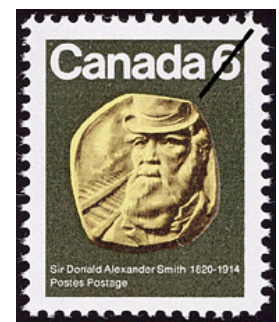
have communication and railway lines that did not cross over into the States. While it would have been nice to build the railroad westward, the fact is there was no continuity in the east. The Maritimes had a number of railroad lines, none of them very long and none of them connected. Furthermore, none of the lines connected with Quebec.

The Intercolonial Railway was formed to connect the Provinces of Canada to the Maritimes. It was to be headed by three engineers to be chosen by the interested parties. Sandford

Fleming managed to get himself nominated by all three parties so he could run the whole show. Many parts of the new line he surveyed himself, even by dogsled team in winter. One of the largest projects was to build the bridge

over the Miramichi River. The company wanted to build the bridge from timber. Fleming insisted that all of the bridges be built of steel and stone. Although this

The Hudson's Bay Co. seemed to have its fingers in every Canadian pie. Fleming became



method was much more expensive, Fleming claimed that they would be much sturdier and they would last for years to come. People were not yet used such massive constructs to be made from steel. Many people feared that the steel would shatter under the weight and vibration from the trains. But Fleming got his way and it took three years to build it.

When it was completed he held an elaborate picnic with all of the local bigwigs and naysayers in attendance when the first train traversed across the bridge right over their heads. The cheek of the man!

He served as Chief Engineer of the Intercolonial Railway until 1876 even though he was appointed by Canadian Pacific Railway as Chief



Engineer to look for a route right to the Pacific in 1871. This was no simple task; even so Sandford Fleming decided to make an epic journey of it. He and his team intended to be the first to traverse the entire width of Canada without stepping in to U.S. territory. They started off on July 16th 1872. The first part of the journey was easy since they could now ride the rails from Halifax through Quebec and on to Toronto then switch to the Northern Railway up to Collingwood. They took a ship up Lake Huron to the Canal at Sault Ste. Marie. The trip through the Canal was the one mile of the voyage that was on American 'soil'.

The 150th
birthday of
Donald
Alexander
Smith, who
invested a

From there they headed to the Red River Colony (which was now Manitoba) and beyond. In some stretches they travelled by canoe with the help from First Nations people. Sandford's eldest son Frank was one of the group. Another participant, a friend of his from Halifax, the Rev. George Monro Grant wrote the bestseller 'Ocean to Ocean' about their voyage. The book helped to popularize the building of the CPR line. Sandford also took many notes and also sketched some areas. He always took notes so there are actually volumes of information available about his surveying trips, ideas, communications and experiments.

Fleming chose a more northerly route through the Rockies to Edmonton. The CPR chose to use a more southerly route that led to Calgary. (Fleming's route was later used by the Canadian National Railway.) There was, of course, political turmoil and Fleming was fired in 1880. His buddy Collingwood Schreiber took over as chief engineer. Fleming bought a lot of shares in the Hudson Bay Company which owned massive amount of land across Canada so were quite involved with the developing railway lines. He was appointed the position of resident Canadian

Director of the HBC and in a couple of years he managed to become a Director of the now privately syndicated CPR as well. He still did some consulting for the CPR.

A cropped version of the famous 'Last Spike' photo shows Sir Donald Alexander Smith bent over nailing the spike by Donald Alexander Smith, a bigwig with the CPR and the HBC when he nailed home the last spike at Craigellachie, British Columbia. It was the promise of the railway line that encouraged the British Columbians to join Canada. The start of work was late, they encountered financial crises and natural disasters but in the

Sir Sandford Fleming had so many accomplishments that we need a Part III. end it was

actually finished five years ahead of schedule. It must have been a moment of great pride for Sandford Fleming and many others as Canada became joined from sea to sea.

Coming Events...

- FEB. 23, Scarborough, ON
Scarborough Stamp Club Show, 91 Eastpark Blvd. (Markham and Lawrence). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free parking, club sales circuit, plus four to eight dealers. Sponsor/Affiliate: GTAPA. For more information contact Rick Howard, telephone 416-778-4175
- FEB. 23, St. Thomas, ON
St. Thomas Stamp Club Annual Philatelic Exhibition, Community of Christ Church, 105 Fairview Ave. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thirteen-dealer bourse tables, buy-sell-trade, door prizes, trophies, draw tickets available at the door for a Great Britain No. 109 Queen Victoria 10 shilling. Cat. \$500. Tickets \$1 each. Free admission and free parking, proceeds to St. Thomas Stamp Club. For more information contact Martin DeKeyzer, mail 438 High St., London, ON, N6C 4L5.
- 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>.
- MARCH 2 - 3, Mississauga, ON
X Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2013, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403). Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

Sun. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Many tables of stamps, coins, medals, paper money and militaria; stamp Exhibit on John Paul II; coins and banknotes of Danzig (Gdańsk); exhibit of POW camp stamps of WWII; exhibit of Upper Silesia's collectibles; special guests from the Mint of Poland / Mennica Polska; free stamps for kids. Sat. \$2 adult admission, Sunday free admission, free parking, refreshments available. Sponsor/Affiliate: Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club (Troyak). For more information contact Tom Malicki, telephone 905-281-0000 or Wieslaw Grzesicki, 416-258-1651 or email info@troyakclub.com. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>.

- MARCH 9, Windsor, ON
Winpex 2013, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fourteen dealers, free parking, free admission, free door prizes, free youth program. Sponsor/Affiliate: Essex County Stamp Club. For more information contact Brian Cutler, email cutler@mnsi.net, telephone 519-974-4221.
- MARCH 16, Woodstock, ON
The Oxford Philatelic Society OXPEX/OTEX 2013, John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To exhibit go to website for entry forms and rules/regulations. No charge to exhibit, 16 dealers, more than 100 frames exhibited, youth gift bags, prize draws, Canada Post booth, club circuit books, show cover, lunch and snack counter, free parking, free admittance. For more information contact show chair, email ward2221@rogers.com, write to P.O. Box 20113, Woodstock, ON N4S 8X3. Website: <http://www.oxfordphilsoc.com>.
- MARCH 17, Kitchener, ON
Postcard Memories Show & Sale, Bingemans Embassy Room, 425 Bingeman Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$5 per person, children under 12 free with adult, south-central Ontario's largest postcard expo with thousands of cards pre-1900 to post-2000s. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Post Card Club. For more information contact Dave, telephone 519-885-3499, email postcardshow.blogspot.com or stamphogg@hotmail.com.
- MARCH 23, Peterborough, ON
KAPEX 2013, The Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission and parking free, juried exhibits, 15 dealers, Canada Post, door prizes, raffles, wheelchair access and snack bar. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kawartha Stamp Club. For more information contact Rick Stankiewicz, telephone 705-295-6158, email stankiewiczr@nexicom.net. Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/kawartha>.

From the Editor...

Hello folks. I finally got around to writing part 2 about Sir Sandford Fleming only to realize that we need a part 3. But do not despair – no nail biting is necessary as part 3 is already written!

We have just a short on the cover article. There are two stamps for black history month, Joe Fortes is on one and Oliver Jones the jazz great who still alive and kicking in Montreal. If you're wondering why there are two people on the stamp, they are images of Oliver in his youth and his more current self. What I wonder is why Canada Post made no attempt to visually tie these stamps together as they have done in previous years.

Thank you to **John Cortan** for bringing his goods to our January meeting and for holding the position of vice-president for numerous years.

Welcome to **Larry Crane** who will now be our vice-president.

Make sure that you bring some interesting stuff for me to bid for on Wednesday.

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

On the Cover ... Seraphim (Joe) Fortes



Seraphim Fortes or 'Joe' as he was known, was the first Vancouver lifeguard. The odd thing about that is that he just decided to take on the role.

He was born in Trinidad in 1863 and left to see the wide world as a young teenager. In Britain he worked in a bath house and gave swimming lessons. He boarded

the ship the 'Robert Kerr' which sailed around Cape Horn and up the Pacific coast to Burrard Inlet to land in Vancouver in 1885.

At first he worked as a shoeshine and a bartender. But Joe loved the water. He quit his jobs and pitched a tent on the beach at English Bay. He took on odd jobs but other than that he walked or swam up and down the beach. He taught so many children how to swim that it was said that every child from the 1890s and 1900s knew 'Ol' Black Joe'. Adults called him 'English Bay Joe' and mothers had no qualms about leaving their young children as long as Joe was around.

The City of Vancouver finally started paying Joe as a lifeguard in 1900. It is said that he saved up to one hundred people during his years on the beach although the official count is twenty-nine. People started building small cottages along the beach and Joe ended up with one too. When the City decided to clear the cottages out of there, Joe's was moved off of the



In 1927 this children's water fountain was erected in Joe Fortes' honour.

beach but it was the only one they saved. The people were so fond of him that the community presented him with a gold watch and locket and a cheque.

When Joe died of pneumonia in 1922 the people of Vancouver were in shock. Joe was such a fixture of English Bay. His hospital room overflowed with flowers. The City paid for his funeral. It was a record breaking funeral procession with hundreds of people crowding the Holy Rosary Cathedral and thousands more lining the streets. People came from all walks of life of course; because it was Joe who taught people from all walks of life how to swim!

Owen Sound Stamp Club

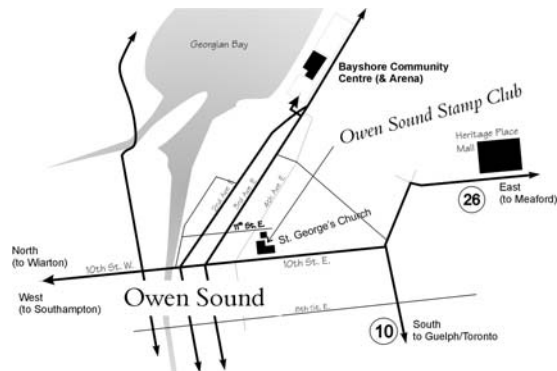
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of St. Mary's High School, 555 15th 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 30 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
554 9th St. 'A' East, Owen Sound ON N4K 0C4
visserps@bell.net
- Vice-Pres.: Larry Crane (519) 371-7054
2633 8th Ave. 'A' East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 6T4
larry.crane@sympatico.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



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

P
le