

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. June 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 @ 7:00

## From the President...



Since our last meeting, I was able to spend a week in Nova Scotia for a class reunion. We experienced lots of Nova Scotian “sun” something we would call fog and rain around here! The company was excellent and we had a hilarious time. We did make a day trip to Halifax in which we visited maritime museums, but alas, no philatelic moments occurred on this visit. On another day we visited Lunenburg and stumbled upon a repurposed building called “The Ironworks.” My friend and I enjoyed the wares and discovered that the smooth liquids consumed changed a straight path into a crooked one! Not really, but I wonder how many comments the previous sentence will raise at our next meeting.

We returned home late on the evening of May 25<sup>th</sup>. Our dear editor had left a message to call immediately and when I returned her call, I found out that a member has passed away quite suddenly. Marion has written a memoriam for Pat Vander Heyden further in this newsletter, but I would like to share some things I learned about Pat. Pat joined our club in the summer of 2012 after moving here from the Toronto area. Her grandson Eli brought her to the meeting in St George’s and from that point on I volunteered to pick up and return Pat to her place at Kelso Villa. She was so proud of her grandsons and would often mention that Eli had biked from Owen Sound to Thunder Bay and that her other grandson was attending the Coast Guard college in Nova Scotia. Sadly, her husband passed away late last year and she didn’t return to any further meetings. The stamp collection she had assembled has been very graciously donated by her family to the Stamp Club and asked that we do something appropriate with the collection in memory of Pat. We will spend some time on this topic at the upcoming meeting. Any suggestions will be given proper consideration until we decide how best to honour Pat.

It would be nice if club members were able to share some philatelic items that may have crossed their paths with members in the “Show and Tell” portion of our regular meetings. Of course there will be some club business to discuss and then you we will have the chance to look through the Saugeen Club’s circuit books. Mr. Jim Brett is coming from Walkerton and I understand that new material has been added

into the books, so I am sure everyone will find some items to add into their collections. I hope to see you on the 19th. It looks like the July meeting will be an auction evening and that the August meeting will feature the club circuit books from Stratford.

Cheers,  
Phil Visser  
President OSSC

### Coming Events...

- JUNE 21 - 23, Winnipeg, MB  
Royal\*2013\*Royale, University Centre, University of Manitoba. Hours: Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Daily admission \$2, over 250 frames of exhibits, 10-15 dealers, Canada Post and youth table. Sponsor/Affiliate: Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. For more information, contact Al Wingate, Show Chair, email [al.wingate@shaw.ca](mailto:al.wingate@shaw.ca). Website: <http://www.royal2013.royale.com>.
- JUNE 22, Brighton, ON  
2013 South-Central / Eastern Ontario Saturday Postage Stamp, Coin & Postcard Fairs, Brighton Community Centre, 75 Elizabeth St. / Hwy. #2 East. Hours 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free admission and parking, 37th year in business, with more than one million worldwide stamps, postcards, coins and currency notes. Related supplies also available, many at discounted prices. For more information contact [dejackson8138@gmail.com](mailto:dejackson8138@gmail.com).
- JUNE 22, 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
- JULY 13, Toronto, ON  
Stamp & Coin Show, St Bonaventure Church, 1300 Leslie St. Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lots of free parking, eight to 12 dealers. For more information contact Mike, telephone 416-512-1108.
- JULY 20, 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](mailto:bas6@bell.net).
- AUG. 10, Kincardine, ON  
Kinex 2013, Davidson Centre, 601 Durham St. Eight to nine dealers, exhibits, youth

table, door prizes. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kincardine Stamp Club. For more information contact John Cortan, email [kincstampclub@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:kincstampclub@hurontel.on.ca), telephone 519-395-5817

- AUG. 10, Fenelon Falls, ON

Fenpex 29, Fenelon Seniors Hall, 58 Murray St. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Our 29th annual stamp show and bourse, accessible, air conditioned, bright new building, free parking, free admittance, door prizes, hourly draws, silent auctions, displays, 12 dealers, freebies for junior collectors, lunch available. Sponsor/Affiliate: Fenelon Stamp Club. For more information contact Maureen McEwan, telephone 705-324-7577, or Lloyd McEwan, cellphone 705-324-7577, email [lmceewan@sympatico.ca](mailto:lmceewan@sympatico.ca).

## On the Cover ... 250 Years of Canadian Postal History



This new Canadian stamp was issued on June 10<sup>th</sup>; the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hugh Finlay becoming postmaster general in Quebec in 1763. That makes sense, doesn't it? So, is Canada Post just trying to kiss some American butt or are they trying to confuse us? The very recognizable face of Benjamin Franklin is featured on the stamp. As the joint deputy postmaster general for the British colonies who opened the first Canadian post office in Halifax, perhaps Ben deserves to be highlighted on a Canadian postal history stamp... but that happened 260 years ago in 1753. So we have to ask – why isn't this stamp called 260 years of postal history or why isn't Hugh Finlay on the stamp???

You may also want to know when postal history began in our great country now known as Canada. Was it 250 or 260 years ago? Some people suggest that it was in 1527 when John Rut passed a letter to another captain to be delivered to King Henry VIII from St. John's Newfoundland. John Rut sent word of his progress in searching for a northwest passage to the orient for the British monarch. This was not the establishment of a postal service though.

The first postal service with any regularity in New France was run by couriers. Pedro Da Silva was named the 'first courier' by Jacques Raudot, Intendant of New France in 1705. Da Silva was known as punctual, reliable and diligent. As 'first courier' he was entitled to deliver messages and private letters for the public and even the Governor General of New France. Even so, this was still not a postal system.

A road was finally established between Montreal and Quebec City in 1734. Post houses were built every 14 kilometers along the route and ferry crossings created. Mail began to be moved more often between the two cities so now we have a small postal system, but still it was not regular nor regulated.

As previously mentioned Benjamin Franklin established a post office in Halifax in 1753. They shipped packets to Falmouth England eight months of the year and had local postal service. The next year they also shipped mail to New York.

New France was a massive territory at this time. The British controlled the area around Hudson Bay (Rupert's Land), Nova Scotia (Island part), Newfoundland and the thirteen colonies down the east coast. The Spanish held the midsouth North America and France held everything in between. That area includes land from New Orleans, the entire Mississippi and Missouri River Basins up to the south half of Manitoba, the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, Maine and Labrador. The British took Montreal in 1760. By 1763 France had ceded land to the Spanish up to the west side of the Mississippi and the British owned all the land from the east Coast to the Mississippi River. A large chunk of the British land west of the thirteen colonies across to the Great Lakes and south of the Ohio River and over to the lower Mississippi was also named as Indian Reserve land.



Pedro Da Silva, 'Le Portugais' was named the



Benjamin Franklin and William Foxcroft were now postmasters general of these enlarged British colonies in 1763. They surveyed a route from Albany, New York up to Quebec and contracted out the postmaster general of Quebec position. They discovered the existing post road and enlisted the people already using the road.

Hugh Finlay came to Canada from Scotland with the promise of the postmaster general position awaiting his arrival. He could speak French and was an entrepreneur and businessman. Soon after his arrival he became a Justice of the Peace and then a member of the Council of Quebec. As postmaster he soon had a monthly courier route for mail to go from Quebec City to Montreal to New York to be shipped to Falmouth, Britain. Finlay collected a fifth of the gross receipts which may have spurred him on to establish a year round weekly service between Montreal and Quebec City and two trips to New York each month by 1771. As a member of the Council of Quebec he fought for the betterment of the postal service and its employees. Post houses with post keepers were set up along mail routes and he fought for the right of post riders to stay at the post houses and to get fresh horses for half the going rate to the public. Finlay also made agreements with ferrymen to usher the couriers across rivers quickly with fees to be paid later. He did a fine job and the postal service was solvent.

Canada celebrated the bicentenary of the first

Franklin introduced the idea of cancellations to Finlay and he adopted the idea in 1764. Canada's first cancels were the names of towns in a straight line.

The postal routes south of Quebec were another story. The service ran a deficit. The people moved their mail surreptitiously in order to avoid high postal fees. Hugh Finlay became the Surveyor of the Post Offices and Post Roads of North America in 1772. He began his journey in 1773, keeping a journal of all of his findings. It is said that he was very perceptive in his observations and that he made many several useful suggestions. Many people avoided the postal fees because they considered the high fees an undeclared tax by the British.

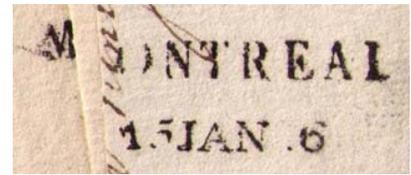
Benjamin Franklin was removed from his Postmaster General position in 1774. He was accused of being too close to the American Revolutionaries. Some suggest that there is mystery surrounding his dismissal as questions arose about him abusing his franking privileges as well. Upon Franklin's dismissal Hugh Finlay was called to become the postmaster general of the northern British colonies. Finlay had to cut his surveying journey short and head back to Quebec. By this time travelling on the post roads was becoming very dangerous as rebellion was fomenting to the point of war the following year.



This scene is familiar because it is the painting by Charles William Jefferys that was used for the purple Halifax bicentenary stamp in 1949.

The War of Independence led to the closure of the British colonial postal system for all time in the newly formed United States of America. This greatly affected the postal service in Upper and Lower Canada but led to the creation of roads to the Maritime Provinces after the War. In 1784 Finlay was promoted to Deputy postmaster general of Canada and it was he who ordered the new route to be surveyed. Mail travelling the new overland route from Quebec City to Halifax through a thousand miles of forest took more than seven weeks to arrive. Another result of the American Revolution was the influx of British Empire Loyalists to Canada and demand for more postal services. In 1792, at an American postal conference the US post office agreed to carry mail from Canada to England for the four months of the year that roads to Halifax were impassable.

Hugh Finlay retained the position of Deputy postmaster general of Canada until almost the end of his life. He lost the position in 1799, was replaced by George Heriot in 1800 and then died at the end of 1801. He had difficulties in business and real estate. His postmaster position did not earn him enough money. He



Straight line town post marks were put into usage

remained involved in politics and held several positions of trust. Many of these positions were not paid ones. Even though he died in debt he was well respected and referred to as 'the father of the Canadian postal service'.

The painting on Da Silva's stamp is "a General View of Quebec from Point Levy" painted in 1761 by Richard Short. A similar view of Quebec City is on the booklet cover of the new stamps with a portion of the harbour on the new stamp itself. An even longer view of the city is across the bottom of the first Day Cover. Presumably it is Point Levy shown in the foreground. The stamps are available in a booklet of ten. The OFDC is cancelled in Quebec City.



I was unable to find any images of Hugh Finlay which may be why it is Benjamin Franklin's visage on this new postal history stamp. Although you could say that it was Franklin who established the regular overland route from Quebec to Montreal and southwards, it was Hugh Finlay who ran it and someone else who built it in the first place. Finlay's contribution is recognized by Canada Post in a small way. Look at the top half of the First Day Cover and you will see a delicate image from a map. This is a slice of the map that Hugh Findlay included with his journal of the post road survey in 1773. His journal is still held in high regard today for his incites into the attitudes of the colonials towards the ruling British just before the American War of Independence.

Franklin is celebrated on a joint issue for Canada and the USA on the American bicentennial. It shows

I still cannot say with any confidence what year postal history began in Canada. I guess you'd choose 1763 if the fine print suggested that our postal history began when we had the first regular and regulated overland route through more than two post offices. This postal history stuff is complicated, eh!

### In Memoriam...

Pat van der Heyden was a newer member of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. Pat died due to some complications from surgery on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Pat and her husband Carel were members of the North Toronto Stamp Club. They moved to the Owen Sound area to be near their daughter Karin Thomas. Pat lost Carel, her husband of 62 years just before Christmas and now she is gone as well. A service was held for Pat at St. Mary's Church in Owen Sound.

I am sorry that I do not have a photo to offer you. Pat was kind and fun loving. She shared an article with us that she wrote about the Hutt River Principality. She was an avid collector of Pope John Paul II stamps. Here we shall reprint the article in honour of Pat van der Heyden-Peers.

## 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-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.



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

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

### From the Editor...

Most of the members partook of the homemade rhubarb muffins and banana bread that I brought to the last meeting. I hope that you all enjoyed them. If you missed them then get your butt out to a meeting!!

Thanks to Tom Griffith for bringing the circuit books. It is hard to keep track of whose circuit books he has, but thanks Tom!

Let's welcome Jim Brett to this meeting. He'll be bringing the Saugeen Stamp Club's circuit books. I never have time to look at them when I'm at a Saugeen meeting so here's my chance!

It is sad to hear once again of the demise of another club member. I hope that you all enjoy Pat van der Heyden's article.

See you on Wednesday!

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

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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 15th St. East. Please park behind the school. The 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

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