

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 15th 2015 @ 7 PM

From the President...



It has been some time since the last newsletter was published last fall. However, now that I am holidays, I have the time to write and compile the newsletter again. I really do believe that a newsletter is a critical tool of keeping the club members connected with what is going on in the club and in our hobby. This is also a friendly reminder to send in your club dues (\$15 for 2015) either at this next meeting or by mail to Bob Ford if you haven't already done so.

The meeting this will be held in the **Bluewater Curling Club** which is located at 651 19th Street East Owen Sound. The curling club is right beside the Duncan McLellan baseball diamond. If you travel to the East hill, stay on 9th Ave East until just before the ball diamonds start. Make a left turn onto 18th Street East. Turn right at 7th Ave East and the curling club parking lot will be on your left side.

This months meeting will feature a club auction. I ask that you have no more than five items for sale and please give Bob and I time to register your items for the auction. Equally important is to bring cash along to buy what others will be selling! It would be appreciated if smaller bills or coins would be used to pay for your purchases. Also during the period when Bob and I will be listing the items for sale; there will be two set of circuit books to look through, the Owen Sound club circuit books as well as from someone in the Niagara Peninsula. The second set of books was brought to us by Tom Griffiths at the Saugeen Stamp Club meeting on July 7th.

The August meeting has not been established yet since we were just informed that the St. Mary's High School will not be available for the August meeting. The next newsletter will confirm where the meeting will be held and the planned activities. I have been trying to get other club circuit books for the August meeting, but most of them are shut down to do inventory, so nothing definite is possible at this time.

Further in the newsletter will be a summary of decisions and discussions at the last number of meeting. Please read and consider carefully the proposals currently under consideration. Also, Chris Tschirhart has provided a piece or opinion on the philatelic world. This article is included to try to stimulate discussion/debate on how the postal services and their products are evolving. Feel free to write a response to Chris's article and send it along to be included in a future newsletter.

I hope that the summer is allowing you some serious time for philately; it has for me so far! See you on the 15th.

Phil Visser
President
OSSC

**Temporary Meeting Place is the Blue Water Curling Club at 651
19th St. East!**

Club Update

There are several things to bring to everyone's attention. The newsletter serves as an important communications device, but since the retiring of our last editor, it has been difficult to keep this tool going. The original hope was that the Owen Sound website would be available to help with communication and reduce the mailing cost of the newsletter. This consideration was necessary with the massive increase in postage for an ordinary letter, and as a reminder that the cost of postage increased from \$0.63 to \$0.85 per letter on March 31st, 2014. The website project has been less than what was expected, but the free creation convinced us to proceed. The website is up and running, but contains errors which the creators haven't fixed. A recent email from the creators has given me some hope to have the website redesigned and free of errors.

The Owen Sound Club Circuit books are now in operation. Chris Tschirhart has several binders full of pages submitted by club members (see Chris's update on the circuit books further in the newsletter). There are many pages of Canadian stamps and more pages are coming from worldwide countries. The number of books/binders is small for the moment, but it is a beginning. Please take some time to submit pages of your extra stock of stamps that are just lying around gathering dust. Please remember that the stamps you put on pages are the same quality that you would like to see in your own collection. It is planned that the Owen Sound books will be attending the GRVPA Club Circuit Book Fair in Cambridge later this October.

At the recent RPSC Royal convention held in London, I had the opportunity to meet with Vera Felts, the person who is the administrator of the American Topical Association (ATA). I am already a member of the Association and it was an also a chance for a few other club members to join when we travelled there a couple of months ago. Vera shared with me that the ATA has a library of DVD's on topical stamp collecting. These DVD are available for clubs or members to purchase. If a club was to purchase several different subjects, there was a discount available for doing so. If we were to buy about 15 different DVD topics, the price for purchase is \$5 (US) per DVD plus shipping. This price is half of what a single purchase would be, so it is a significant saving for a club and it may stimulate a new collecting sideline at a later date when you run into a wall with your main collection. A motion was passed at the last meeting in June that I seek a joint purchase with the Saugeen Club and Kincardine Club for this library. The Saugeen Stamp Club met on July 7th and has approved in principal the participation of this purchase. The details are to be worked out between the three Presidents.

As mentioned earlier in the President's message, the newsletter is without a full time editor. At our meeting last month, Bill Findlay suggested that the three area clubs do a joint newsletter. The Saugeen club has approved the concept but a further study is needed for how each club will participate in the newsletter as well as the splitting of costs. Basically, the current Saugeen newsletter can be mailed for the common postage of a single letter, but with additional pages for the other two clubs (Owen Sound and Kincardine), the ordinary postage is not enough and so oversized envelopes and additional postage eats into the cost effectiveness of this communications. My personal opinion is that the newsletter is a communication device about our hobby, a tool to help each individual learn more about stamp collecting and the fascinating world revealed to us through stamps. In its current format, the Saugeen newsletter has slipped from my expectations of a newsletter and so I would like to see more discussion at our next meeting concerning the role of a newsletter and if we should proceed with a common newsletter with the two other clubs.

Phil Visser
President

A Nephric Ode to the Souvenir Sheet

By Chris Tschirhart

As a more recent returnee to the hobby of collecting Canadian Stamps after an absence of twenty eight years, I had a lot of catching up to do. I was pleased at some of the art work of many of the stamps I had missed over the years. One of the things that blew me away was how the souvenir sheet had grown in volume and prevalence over the years. When I last collected stamps, the only Souvenir Sheets issued were associated with the CAPEX exhibitions. I, being a bit old fashioned, feel that there are now too many of these sheets being produced with no rhyme or reason as to the criteria to have a sheet.

To be a bit honest I have left the sheets to the end of my catch up in trying to update my collection because, in many ways I don't like them, and find a lot of them unnecessary! I also find it unnecessary to have a duplicate souvenir sheet of stamps that are issued as singles also. To give an example of a sheet that seems so out of place to me is the Circus Clown Souvenir Sheet (Unitrade #1760b) issued in 1998. This is perhaps a blatant example of Canada Post trying to line its pockets by firmly putting a fish hook in the collectors' mouths.

I agree with the CAPEX original example for a souvenir sheet, but Clowns! Stamps often are about a nation's Sovereigns, leaders, achievements, accomplishments, and history. As a lifelong student of Canadian history I can recall no clowns being present in Newfoundland with Jacques Cartier, Champlain entering Huronia, Vancouver sailing up our West Coast, Martin Frobisher sailing into his Bay, or Alexander McKenzie trekking across Canada. I may defer from time to time regarding certain Parliamentarian's however! On the other hand I am in agreement with the sheet of all the Maple trees across Canada. To me such parts of the fabric of Canada make sense to me.

I would make the case that there should be a set of criteria to have these sheets considered by Canada Post. My suggestion for a list of criteria for sheets area as follows:

- 1 Capex Sheets;
- 2 A co-issue of stamps issued by Canada and another Country to mark an event in both our Histories;
- 3 Hundred Year Anniversaries of events in our History;
- 4 Heraldry, Symbols, emblems, and representative animals and fauna in Canada;
- 5 Technological Accomplishments;
- 6 Important Historical Figures.

Even with this list the opportunity to pummel us the collector with Souvenir sheets still presents ample opportunity to reach deeply into the collectors pockets. I offer these opinions to garner the thoughts of other club members. Thank you

Another stamp error?

By Phil Visser

On Friday, July 3rd, Canada Post released a series of five stamps featuring five UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Canada. This new release is a continuation of the series released last year about UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Canada. There were five stamps released last year for personal letters on March 31st and on May 16th a further set of five stamps to be used on mail destined for the United States and International addresses. The series this year consists of three stamps with a face value of \$1.20 and two stamps with a face value of \$2.50. These values would be used for mail heading to the United States (\$1.20) and International mail (\$2.50). As is the new policy, the stamps were released in the form of a mini-sheet with all five stamps on the sheet, and two booklets of six stamps each, one booklet for the US and the other for International mail. Undoubtedly there were also First Day Covers for each mail service as well as the mini-sheet.

The five sites featured on this year's series of stamps are the Dinosaur Provincial Park, Red Bay Basque Whaling



DINOZAUER PROVINCIAL PARK, LE PARC PROVINCIAL DINOZAUER, LA VILLE TOUJOURS PHOTO © FRANK SCHUBELER
 WOODS BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK, LE PARC NATIONAL WOODS BUFFALO, LA VILLE
 DONT L'ALTIITUDE, LE PARC CANADIEN, LE CANADA
 RED BAY BRIDGE, WATERTON GLACIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK, LE RED BAY BRIDGE
 LE PARC INTERNATIONAL WATERTON GLACIER, LE RED BAY BRIDGE
 COMPTON PHOTO © LA PHOTOGRAPHIE ESTIMATION/STAGION.COM
 DESIGN: LARA KWAN, LAKE BERRY INC.

Station, Wood Buffalo National Park, Waterton Glacier International Peace Park and Kluane Glacier. The first three mentioned are on the stamps carrying the US mail postage rate while the last two mentioned are on the stamps carrying the International postage rate. The scan shows the booklet of the US postage rate. If anyone wants to purchase new stamps from Canada Post, the Canada Post website provides a phone number which will connect the caller to Antigonish N.S. distribution centre.

Although the series of stamps are artistically attractive, an error has occurred and so the subject of this short article. A search of the internet will provide pictures illustrated on the stamps. Canada Post discovered that the picture used for the Dinosaur Provincial Park **IS NOT** of the park itself. Consequently, the series of products containing the Dinosaur Provincial Park stamp has been withdrawn from the public. Is this another Seaway invert type of error? The US postage booklets and mini-sheets have been withdrawn from public sale. On checking the Canada Post website today (July 8th) only the booklet of the six stamps for International mail is available, no mini-sheet or US booklet are displayed as a product to be purchased.

I learned of this error when I visited the retail postal outlet on July 7th to mail some letters. The clerk excitedly shared the news that the UNESCO series of stamps had been withdrawn from public sale. Canada Post had sent an email that morning advising all post offices and retail outlets to withdraw the offending stamps from sale because the picture used on the stamp was not actually inside the park! Here arises the big question for all stamp collectors, how many booklets, mini-sheets and first day covers were sent out to customers of the philatelic service or purchased across the counter at the various outlets selling stamps? Is this series of stamps a collectable item? Will Canada Post redesign the offending stamp and put out another release later? Finally, will this error be recognized by the Unitrade catalogue?

Canada has tried very hard to limit errors in the philatelic material distributed to the public. Of course the Seaway invert is the most notorious and is an elusive stamp to find with a modest budget for stamp collecting, but reading through the Unitrade catalogue, there is a stamp company that will buy Canadian errors, mostly dealing with printing errors such as folded paper, missing colours, misperforated stamps etc. These are available for sale to collectors, probably trying to put together a display for the RPSC Royal show or simply to have the item in their collection.

The wrong picture error reminds me of another recent error made by the Post Office of Egypt, also this year. Due to my knowledge and interest in marine matters, there has been lots of news about the expansion of the Panama Canal but to a much lesser extent, news about the digging of a second Suez Canal. 2015 marks the opening of the second Suez Canal and so the Egyptian Post Office proudly issued a series of stamps to mark the event. Unfortunately for Egypt, one of the stamps shows the Miraflores locks from the Panama Canal as the entrance of the new Suez Canal! When this information became public, a search on eBay revealed people trying the sell a sheet of the incorrect stamp for \$500.

As a stamp collector, the Canada Post error means trying to get a copy of the Dinosaur National Park stamp for a collection. Now that the booklet has been withdrawn, it is going to be difficult to get a copy, never mind finding a used copy, which is most likely going somewhere in the United States. As a "purist" stamp collector, the used copy would be my interest in getting a copy of this error. And to the club members who now also know about the error, happy hunting!

Owen Sound Stock Books

By Chris Tschirhart

I am pleased to update the club members on the status of the new Owen Sound Circuit Books. Over the past months, since just before Christmas, a number of members set out a set of rules to administrate a set of circuit books for the Owen Sound Stamp Club. As more stamps are contributed, binders and categories will increase. The basic premise of having our own books is to share our surplus stamps with other members of the club for purchase and the betterment of the Club. I have been a member of the Club for only a short time, and I have been grateful to the other Clubs who have attended our meetings to make their stock books available. What struck me was that we were all spending money and that it was leaving our Club to go to other clubs. I remember thinking that if possible my money should be going to other members of my club instead of leaving Owen Sound. In just a few months we have seven stock books of stamps for all the members of the Club. Members have contributed both used and mint stamps. As of the end of June we now have the following binders.

Canadian (two volumes), which containing stamps from the small queens to stamps just months old.

Great Britain and the Commonwealth Binder including: England, Australia, Ceylon, South Africa (and Republic of), New Zealand, Hong Kong.

The Americas including: United States, Argentina, Brazil

'Topical' including Trains and Ships

Asia including: Japan, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Thailand

Europe (our largest Binder) including: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Erie, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Russia, Switzerland, and Sweden.

I would like to thank the five members of the Club who have contributed pages to the books so far. I am sure that other members have stock books of spares that would contribute to other member's collections if made available. So if you want to make a bit of money off your spares and help out your fellow Club members and the Club consider putting together pages for our stock books. If you need copies of the pages emailed to you please talk to me at the next meeting. Thank you.

Coming Events...

- July 18, 2015, Brighton ON
2015 South-Central / Eastern Ontario Postage Stamp, Coin & Postcard Fair King Edward Community Centre, 75 Elizabeth Street , Brighton, ON, K0K 1H0 Show hours 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Our 39th year in business, with over 1 million Worldwide Stamps, Postcards, Covers, Coins and Currency Notes. Related hobby supplies also available, many at discounted prices. Free admission and parking. Email: dejackson8138@gmail.com
- Aug. 8, Kincardine, ON
30th Annual Kincardine Show ,Saturday August 8, 2015, 10 am to 4 pm. Location: Seniors Room, Davidson Centre, 601 Durham St., Kincardine, Ontario. Please come out and help us make it our best ever. Displays, Door prizes, Lunch booth. Free admission. For more information contact John, telephone 519-395-5817, email jcortan@hurontel.on.ca.
- Aug 8, Fenelon Falls
Fenpex 31. Fenelon Seniors Club, 58 Murray Street, Fenelon Falls, ON. Fenelon Stamp Show. 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Dealers, silent auctions, door prizes, freebies for junior collectors, displays and exhibits, lunch available. Free admittance and parking, wheelchair accessible, air conditioned. Phone: 705-324-7577 Email: lmccewan@sympatico.ca

- AUG 15, Bracebridge
MUSPEX 2015. Riverside Inn, 300 Ecclestone Dr., Bracebridge, ON, P1L 1G4. Annual show sponsored by the Muskoka Stamp Club. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nine dealers, member stamp exhibit, and club sales table. Free parking and admission. For more information contact Larry Matthews. Email: muskokapost@gmail.com

From the Editor...

This edition of the newsletter has been produced in a very short time, so please excuse grammar and typographical errors. Don't forget to come to the Bluewater Curling Club for this months meeting.



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 Street East. The meeting in the month of July will be held at the Blue Water Curling Club, 651 19th Street East. Meetings will vary between having visiting club circuit books, speakers and an auction. Guests and new members are always welcome. Annual membership fees: \$15.00

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. East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 6T4
larrymarycrane@gmail.com

Sec./Treas: Bob Ford (519) 376-4788
721 8th Ave East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 3A5
rob.darford@rogers.com