

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 18th, 2018 @ 7 PM

Hillyer Hall, St. Mary's High School, 1555 15th Street East, Owen Sound

Volume 5 Edition 4

From the President



Editors Note:

Larry is still in the medical recuperation mode, and so there is no invitation from the executive this month.

Meeting Plans

Larry provided the following verbal meeting plans for the April meeting. Several

different attempts have been made to keep the stamp addiction satisfied, so this month there will be a stamp auction as well as the chance to look through the latest additions to the Club Circuit Books, with hundreds of new pages entered in the first few months of this year. Then there is always the "Treasure Chest" for those wanting a true search.

The May meeting will have the guest speaker, Larry Davidson speaking about the American Topical Association as well as collecting topical stamps. This should be very interesting.

From the Editor

Phil Visser

I hope to see you on the evening of the 18th. Hopefully the snow we are presently having will have ended, but just a reminder to pay attention to the weather for that day to see if the ending will actually take place

Inside this edition is a story by Randy Rogers about the Circuit Book Explorer program on the club website. It really does work and helps to cut down the searching time at the meeting. But the early bird gets the worm, so, if you are really keen on a stamp, get there early so that the book is available for the pick that interests you.

We also have the return of the "Club News" section, followed by a report on last month's Show and Tell and then a little bit more about the Club Circuit

Books

As usual, there is the listing of upcoming shows in the area. I like to draw your attention to the show in Hanover on May 5th. A very reasonable drive from here, less than an hour! Of course there are more shows listed as well but they do require a longer drive. The list tries to keep shows that are within a three hours drive from Owen Sound.

A correction is necessary for the Stratford Stamp Show. The show for this year, 2018, has been cancelled due to the Stratford Festival closing the building unannounced and on very short notice. The show usually ran on the day after the Saugeen (Hanover) Show, the remainder of the weekend can be sorting through the purchasers made in Hanover.

On a final note, at the last meeting, someone mentioned the website www.stamps2go.com. I took the opportunity to visit the site and searched through the area of my collecting interests. I found the listing there were good, but about half of the listings had pictures/scans of the stamp for sale. Without scans of the stamp, any interest of buying it is gone for me, since the individual stamp is already filling a hole in the album. I believe the purchase prices to be higher than say either hipstamp or eBay, and possibly approaching the catalogue value. I have also been introduced to www.hippostcard.com. A 70% off sale was just too good to pass up! Maybe the cards will be here by the time of the meeting on the 18th.



The Circuit Book Explorer

By Randy Rogers

There are many reasons you might decide to join a stamp club. You might want to meet other collectors in your area, to learn more about the hobby, or simply to try and find someone to trade your duplicate stamps with. It is this last reason that will be the focus of this series.

To facilitate the orderly exchange of duplicates stamp clubs use 'circuit books'. These are typically three-ring binders filled with pages of stamps submitted by members for sale typically at 30% - 60% of catalogue value. The stamp club manages the sales accounting and periodically pays members the funds from their sales for the period.

There are generally three types of members as it relates to circuit books; members who put pages in the circuit books but don't purchase (sellers), members who don't put pages in the circuit books but make purchases (buyers), and members who submit pages and make purchases (traders).

Certainly it is possible, after you get to know your fellow members and their collecting habits, to trade or sell stamps outside of the circuit books. For example, you might give a want list to a member you know that potentially has duplicates and then arrange to trade or pay them at the next meeting. Perhaps you have tried selling your stamps on ebay or HipStamp, or, maybe even tried a booth at a stamp show. I have personally tried all of these, and more, without much success. So far, the club circuit books have shown the most promise.

Here are some tips and suggestions for making circuit book pages:

1. The pages will be handled many times over their lifespan so it is important to use good quality paper. 32 lb. premium paper with hole reinforcements works extremely well.
2. Select nice stamps. Don't put anything in the books that you would not put in your collection. Unless a stamp is particularly rare, no one will purchase a stamp that is thinned, torn, stained or otherwise damaged. If you do put a flawed stamp on your page, be sure to note the flaws on the page with the stamp.
3. Accurately catalogue the stamps you are

going to place in the book. This is particularly important when a stamp has many watermark and perforation varieties. Most collectors use want lists with catalogue numbers when looking for stamps. It is certainly frustrating to purchase a stamp from your want list only to find out later that it was not catalogued properly.

4. Group your stamps by shape and then select a page format that best suits the stamps that will be placed upon it. You have 24 different formats to choose from.
5. Make sure the box numbers on your printed form are legible. These numbers are critical to our sales accounting process.
6. Only place two or three stamps of the same type on a page. No one is going to spend much time looking at, or making a purchase from, a page of twenty 14¢ Canadian Christmas stamps from the 70's. There are exceptions of course, a bunch of stamps with interesting postmarks, or, a page of plated penny reds, for example.
7. Use half-hinges. For most stamps a half-hinge will suffice for securing the stamp to the page. There is less chance for damage to the stamp on removal and your hinges will go a lot further.
8. Check your mounts. As a last step it is a good idea to run your tongs underneath the stamps and slide them to the top of the hinge to make sure they have not accidentally become stuck to the page. It should be possible for purchasers to check the back of a stamp without difficulty.

Do you use a Microsoft Windows based computer to manage your stamp collection, get email, perform Google searches, or perhaps word processing? If so, then you have available a unique program, *Circuit Book Explorer*, that can assist you in your interaction with the circuit books. The program contains copies of all the available circuit book forms for easy printing, item search capabilities, automatic updates, and context sensitive help screens.

Installing Circuit Book Explorer

For instructions on how to download and install the Circuit Book Explorer program visit this link:

<http://www.owensoundstampclub.org/download/CB>

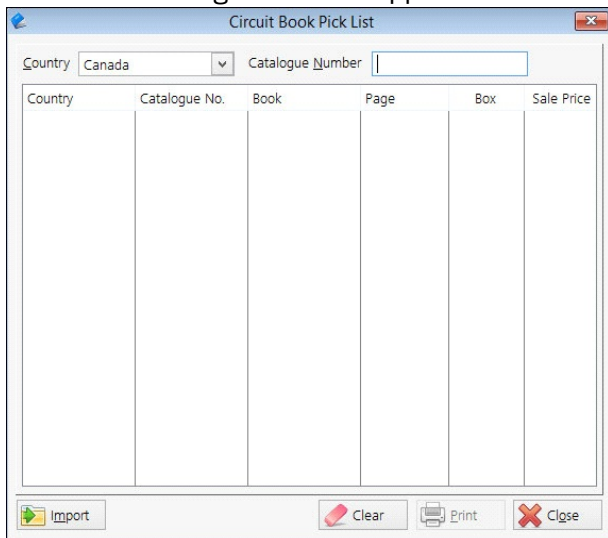
[E_Installation.pdf](#)

At first look, club meetings are typically two hours long with the first half hour or so devoted to business reports and show and tell. Needless to say time with the circuit books is limited. As the volume of pages continues to grow it becomes more and more difficult to find the stamps you might be looking for. One of the goals of the Circuit Book Explorer program is to help minimize the time spent searching for items of interest.

With that in mind and now that you have the Circuit Book Explorer program installed let's have a first look. Double click on the desktop icon to run the program. At any time, if you get stuck or are unsure of what to do, press the F1 Key to access the context sensitive help screens.

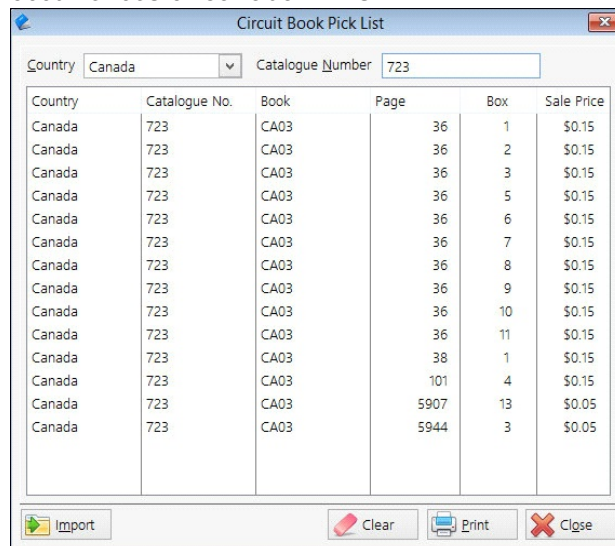


Future articles will examine all the features of this unique program. But, first let me show you how you can take immediate advantage of the program prior to our next club meeting. From the main menu, select the 'Pick List' option. A screen will appear briefly that shows the progress of the item indexing then the following screen will appear:



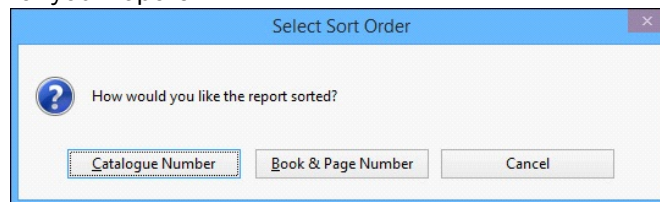
You can use this screen to search the circuit book database for stamps on your want lists. Use the Country drop-down list to select the country you are interested in. Canada is the default so it will be used

for this example. Let's say that Canada #723 is on your want list. Type 723 into the Catalogue Number field and press Enter. The list is filled with all occurrences of Canada #723.



The list shows which Book, Page, and Box contains the stamp of interest. Additionally the Sale Price is shown so you can do comparative shopping. You can see in the image a couple of different prices for the same stamp.

You can continue to enter Country/Catalogue Numbers as much as you like. When you have completed your entries, select the Print button to print your pick list. You will be offered two choices for your report:



Select which way you would like your report sorted and then it will be printed on your default printer. You may find it helpful to print the report twice, once in each of the sort orders.

Circuit Book

Pick List by Book and Page Number

Country	Catalogue No.	Book	Page	Box	Sale Price
Canada	723	CA03	36	1	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	36	2	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	36	3	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	36	5	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	36	6	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	36	7	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	36	8	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	36	9	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	36	10	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	36	11	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	38	1	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	101	4	\$0.15
Canada	723	CA03	5907	13	\$0.05
Canada	723	CA03	5944	3	\$0.05

Bring your pick list to the next club meeting and you will be better able to make use of the limited time you have with the circuit books to locate the items on your want list and make your purchases.

Club News

The March meeting was a rousing success! There was either 19 or 20 members present with one guest who then joined the club before the end of the evening. Please take a moment at the next meeting to welcome Jill Carroll. Now that she has retired, the hobby has come off the back burner and she was actively going through the circuit books to fill in the holes to her collection.

We were all pleased to see Al Roos join us for the evening. Getting around is a bit difficult for Al, so while leaving the meeting we had a chance to chat and he shared that in a weeks time he would be 96 years old! Wow, amazing to see him come to a meeting with that many years of life experience. Looking at the membership list, he is member #7, and so most likely he was a founding member of this club when it was reformed in the 1980's.

A discussion was held about the meeting cancellation that interrupted the February meeting. John Lemon spoke with the Vice Principal and basically, if the school buses are cancelled, the school will close at 4:30. John indicated that the Executive would confirm on the day of the meeting if the school will be open and if there is a cancellation, that a notice would be put on the website about the

closure by 12 noon on the day of the meeting. Besides the website notice, a telephone chain will be activated to connect to those members without computers. Therefore, the key thing is to make sure the executive knows how best to contact you in the event that a meeting needs to be rescheduled, or held at a different meeting place (for instance during the summer months).

Due to Larry's illness, a weakness was discovered in the management of the clubs finances. At present, there are two people who sign cheques, the President and the Secretary-Treasurer. This poses a potential problem, so a motion was passed that another member would become an alternate co-signer of cheques should one of the other two not be able to look after the clubs business.

Show and Tell

Chris T. shared that he had received an email about payment of a bill. It looked very professional and legitimate, but checking with Bob revealed it to be bogus. Beware of scam emails!

Stan Wichens brought a cover along that had a slogan cancel celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Penny Black. Just look at what Roland Hill has done to us one hundred and seventy plus years later.

Phil V. brought along a new reference book from the Netherlands. The Specialized Catalogue is a very useful reference item, but the book has reached its limit in size and so is now published in one volume for the stamps and another smaller booklet showing the plate faults from Dutch stamps. Besides the catalogue he also brought along a stamp cancelled in Bothwell ON. Alas, Bothwell is not outside of Owen Sound, but is in eastern Ontario. The local Post Office was called "Bothwell Corners." Fortunately (or not) the bubble of excitement was burst by a more knowledgeable club member.

Finally, a copy of "The Canadian Philatelist" was passed around containing articles from two club members. Joseph Perrone does a regular column about Youth Philately, and an article from 2017 was re-written and appeared in the March/April magazine of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

(RPSC). The Owen Sound Club is a member of the RPSC for over 50 years. We'll try to get some information about the history of membership. Don't forget to join the larger organization and learn about our hobby as well as access to specialized insurance for our collections. The bonus is six copies of The Canadian Philatelist during a year. The store price equals one years membership!

Circuit Book Update

Since the last meeting, Randy has spent a lot of time updating the binders of the Club Circuit Books. Besides organizing the binders, he has kept a computerized record of entries and sales. See the article about Circuit Book Explorer program above.

From the Circuit Book Explorer, Randy was able to share that there are now about 1,600 pages of stamps, with about 26,000 stamps on them. Not bad for just a few years of operation.

Even with the donations of binders, there is still a need for more binders for future expansion. Chris T. suggested that the club purchase about \$20-\$35 worth of binders. This was approved

Upcoming Shows

APR 14 K-W Stampfest 2018

ST John's Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall, 22 Willow St., Waterloo, ON, N2J 1V5
Annual stamp show and bourse - Kitchener
Waterloo Philatelic Society
Phone: 1-800-361-6631
Email: kwpskw@gmail.com
Web: <http://www.kwstampclub.org>

APR 21 Scarborough Stamp Show

Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. (Lawrence-Markham), Scarborough, ON, M1H 1C6
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. No admission charge, free parking. Club circuit books, 10 cents a stamp table. As many as 4 dealers per show, new inquiries welcomed.
Phone: 416-460-3970 Email: jmerelaid@gmail.com

APR 27 Springpex

April 27, 2018 to April 28, 2018
Bishop Ryan Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Rd. E, Hamilton, ON, L0R 1P0

Large silent and voice auctions Friday evening with viewing starting at 5 p.m. Saturday is a 20-dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies, plus youth booth and silent auction from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. GRVPA clubs circuit sales books Friday and Saturday. Light food and refreshments available with ample free parking. Sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club.

Email: southont@cogeco.ca

Web: <http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com>

MAY 5 Annual Saugeen Stamp Club Show and Exhibition

Hanover Knights of Columbus Hall, 963 Bruce rd. 4, Hanover, ON, N0G 2V0
Hours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free parking and admission. 12 dealers, judged exhibits, lunch counter. Free stamps for kids. If you would like to try the exhibit for the first time this is the spot. We use 16 page frames and encourage new exhibitors. Contact us if you wish to exhibit.

Phone: 519-574-6536

Email: pkritz@mortgagealliance.com

MAY 12 LAMPEX 2018

Great Lakes Secondary School, 275 Wellington St., Sarnia, ON, N7T 1H1
Sarnia Stamp Club Lampex 2017 Bourse. We've Moved the SHOW to a NEW DATE. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free admission, free parking, everyone welcome. Dealers, displays, snacks.
Phone: 519-464-2688
Email: sarniastampclub@cogeco.ca
Web: <http://www.sarniastampclub.ca/newLAMPEXshowlocation.htm>

JUN 22 Royal*2018*Royale

June 22, 2018 to June 24, 2018
Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Convention Centre, 327 Ontario St., St. Catharines, ON, L2R 5L3
The St. Catharines Stamp Club hosts the 90th Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
Fri. & Sat.: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nominal admission fee.
Sun.: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - free admission. Free Parking, 30+ dealer tables, exhibits, RPSC meetings, seminars.
Phone: 905-227-9251
Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca
Web: <http://www.rpsc.org>

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When you have a chance, why not visit the club web site at www.owensoundstampclub.org. Another edition of the OSSC Newsletter is available for your stamp collecting interests. The club has received a copy of the "Penny black" from Mr Martin DeKeyser for a fund raiser. The scan below is of the stamp that the winner of the draw will receive. We are in the process of making draw tickets, so they should be available to buy shortly. The stamp catalogues for over \$300, so this is a chance to win one by buying a ticket to the draw. A much cheaper process than buying one from a dealer as well as helping the club out financially.

