

Stamps on the Bay

The Voice of The
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 15th 2020

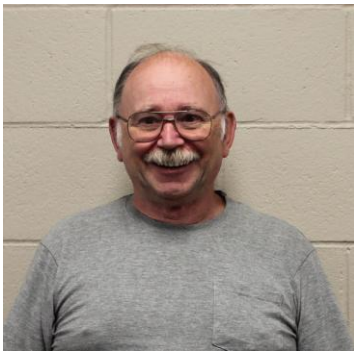
New Life Center, Christian Reformed Church
199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound

Volume 1 Edition 2



From the President

Hello Everyone, hope you're all getting your fill with Mother Nature and what type of weather she is giving each and everyone of us.



This is the first of three Silent Auction Nights that we will be doing this year. So what ever gem or goodies you do not need any more bring them and enter

them in our Silent Auction. And I hope everyone can find a gem or two to purchase.

A little change in location for our meeting because of Spring Break we will be meeting at our summer's location, The New Life Center, 199 4th Ave. West Owen Sound, Ontario.

Hope to see everyone out for our next meeting.

John C. Lemon
President OSSC.

From the Editor Phil Visser

Another issue is ready for printing and will soon be hot off the press. Please note the changed meeting place. It should be familiar to those members who have been at the New Life Centre before.

Format of this issue remains similar to last months.

Randy Rogers has provided another piece of information about useful links. I hope members have had a chance to visit last month's web site, Colnect.

A report about last months meeting is available for those who were unable to attend. Hopefully the opportunity and weather will allow us all to get together again this month.

This is also a reminder for everyone to bring something in for the Show and Tell component of the meeting. Following the club report are two other articles. The first is the continuation of Andrew

McGavin's theory on catalogue value. Anyone wish to express an opinion on these last two stamp tips? Budding writers are appreciated, with the hope that the story will be focused on our hobby of stamps and or philately.

Continuing on seems to be the theme this month. The last article takes a further look at Owen Sound postal history, at least what I have been able to gather and research.

As has been my custom, the front page has a teaser scan. This scan has something to do with a story further in the newsletter. Can you tie in the scan in with what story? It also serves as a hook to keep reading the remaining pages.

Here is the teaser scan:





Useful Links: StampWorld By Randy Rogers

The second of the two 'bookmarked' links you will find on the "Links - Reference" page of our club web site is StampWorld - The Most Complete Stamp Catalogue in the World.

StampWorld claims to offer the most extensive and complete online stamp catalogue in the world. I must say I use it regularly when working on my collection. I particularly like the photos of the stamps.

Use of the catalogue is 'free for now'. They have an annual VIP membership for \$29.95 USD. You can find pricing information, but not catalogue numbers, for more than 650,000 different stamps in their online catalogue which also provides some unique benefits:



You can create a personalised stamp catalogue with your entire stamp collection. It is relatively easy to create catalogues, by country for example, of the stamps in your collection. However, you can't get the value of your collection unless you have a VIP membership.

You can use advanced search functions to identify the stamps in your collection. This way you can quickly get an estimation of their values.

Generally I find it easier to search the COLNECT online catalogue. However, the StampWorld catalogue has catalogue value information and some images that

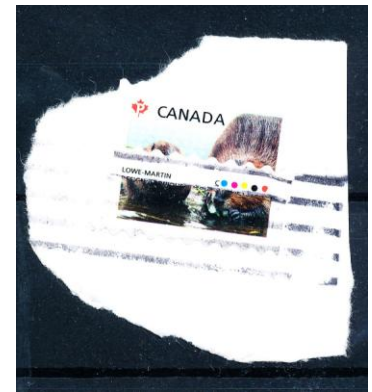
can't be found in the COLNECT catalogue. I use a combination of both online catalogues in conjunction with my hard copy catalogues to identify the stamps in my collection.

Sign Up, it's FREE FOR NOW
<https://StampWorld.com>

February Meeting Highlights

This meeting was opened by John Lemon, who returned from the "sick" list from January. There were fourteen members present and one guest, who we hope will join the club. Bob Ford reported that the club was financially solvent

Our Show and Tell portion of the meeting included a few new discoveries. Phil brought along a display card which showed the following scan. It is a beaver kit and mother which was issued in 2014. The top part of the stamp appears normal, but the bottom part shows the end strip of a roll. It would be an interesting question to ask the sender on why they added this strip on top of the stamp. It does remind everyone to look carefully at any stamp entering their possession to find some oddity.



Besides the odd beaver stamp, are three "personalized mail" pictures. The first two are printed on an envelope, but the last one is a stick on label. I'm not sure where anyone can get these stickers, but again it adds to the variety of philatelic material that passes through our hands. PS, the scan is on the front page as a "teaser."

Bill Findlay invited all the members to come to a new meeting time and idea which the Saugeen Stamp Club is trying. The usual Tuesday evening meeting has been changed to Saturday from 10 to 2 in the afternoon. The idea for that is during the winter months the weather can be nasty, so to hopefully avoid night driving in a snow storm. Membership of the Hanover club comes from Owen Sound in the north to Clinton in the south, Goderich to the west and Kitchener to the south east, with driving



times comes to almost one hour or more. It was felt that driving in the daylight is better than at night and a more likely time to get help if trouble arises. The meeting was also different in that members could "trade" stamps with other, a silent auction was also planned and that the club would provide a lunch for those that attended.



A final event was the honouring of Bob Ford. The award was presented at the GRVPA Circuit Book Club Fair in Brantford last November. Bob is at the left in the above picture and receives the award from John Lemon on the right. Bob has been the secretary treasurer of this club since its inception in 1985. For his long service, his name was nominated for the GRVPA Memorial Award. The Grand River Valley Philatelic Association (GRVPA) has two awards to recognize members for their participation with a club and the Executive of the GRVPA. The Memorial Award is given to a person who has made contributions to the hobby and was a member in the previous year. I am also very happy to say that Bob is still alive and with us, especially as you receive this newsletter through his hands!

Finally, Marion Gibson had nothing to share about Circuit Book sales, but Randy Rogers mentioned that 35-40 pages had been added to the binders. These pages were primarily from Canada, Great Britain and Topical section in the clubs binders.

Catalogue Value: Part 2

CATALOGUE VALUE v. REAL VALUE

Summary Tip #24: No money spent: little value

Dear Philip,

One of the problems of producing a catalogue is that without prices most people will not be interested in buying the catalogue! Even today we refer to 50 year old reference books such as Robson Lowe (Publisher: Billig) - a world famous philatelist and dealer/auctioneer whose name you will find on many expert committee certificates.

You would think that the prices / information in these 50 year old catalogues would be useless but how wrong you would be. Such specialist catalogues are

full of information that collectors who purchase SG catalogues today would find fascinating - such as premiums for multiples (always useful) and proofs, essays, forgeries and the like - surely an opportunity there for SG? Quantities printed / issued for example would shed so much light on catalogue values (Michel often includes this).

Prices from 50 year old Robson Lowe catalogues are easily related to catalogue values / prices today. Occasionally even now we come across unpriced specialist catalogues - they may be fine for purists but my experience of collectors is that part of the attraction to stamps is their relative rarity value. We all seek a 'find' and many who search diligently will make them ... but in practice so many collectors say to me "what is your best find?" ... and generally how disappointing the answer is. Full time 'philatelic professionals' do not have the time to turn each stamp and check for watermark / specialist varieties - anybody who collects / handles stamps knows how stamps 'suck' time and what a wonderful therapeutic hobby philately is for those who are incapacitated ...

But to return to the subject of catalogues requiring prices one must then examine the relationship of the catalogue producer to the actual market place. So often this is overlooked ... yet one only has to look at a Stanley Gibbons catalogue to see the 'caveat' that their minimum catalogue price does not necessarily reflect value - rather it is the price that the only(?) public listed Stamp Company on any stock exchange worldwide - in stamp terms a large company - is prepared to sell that stamp for. If your company has a market value of £77 million pounds and a yearly turnover of £35 million then you can not sell 1p stamps for 1p - you are forced to have a minimum catalogue price BECAUSE what many people do not realise is that Stanley Gibbons catalogue price is actually the price that they will supply/sell that stamp in high quality to you. In practise I believe their Strand shop has long had a minimum selling price per stamp/set of £1 regardless of the stamp's market value.

So, it follows that if you have dozens of the same stamp and then thousands of different stamps in varying quantity - all catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at say an average of 50p each ... making a theoretical total catalogue value of £10,000 you may have 20,000 assorted stamps but your stamp holding may literally be worth as little as £50 or £2.50 per 1,000 stamps !

It is so easy to obtain thousands of stamps for so little money. For example our Avon Mixtures business will sell you a packet of over 2,000 assorted stamps - all off paper - for as little as £15 or less than this to pick through. Just consider how much catalogue value there must be in this packet and how small an

amount of money we are charging, and what a small price is asked for so much fun to sort through them. http://www.upastampauctions.co.uk/contents/en-uk/d3_Mixtures.html

Now, let's turn our attention to the status of other catalogue publishers. It follows that if you see a recent stamp catalogue with minimum catalogue values of literally a few pence/cents for the most common stamps then this is likely to be a more independent catalogue publisher pricing stamps by scarcity rather than by a minimum commercial price at which one could theoretically (but not really in practice) handle the sale of such a stamp. Such catalogue producers are unlikely to be able to supply such stamps to you at these prices or indeed may not sell stamps at all.... but typically low unit prices are what you may expect to pay for common stamps when purchased in mixtures.

The conclusion to draw is that 'catalogue value' depends upon the commercial status of the catalogue publisher and price for cheaper stamps may be totally unrelated to catalogue value.

An interesting question to pose might be "at what catalogue price level does a stamp actually have real value?"so that say for example you are offering a collection of stamps to my company UPA for us to consider purchasing or handling upon a commission basis....

We'll discuss this in my next article....

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

PS. If you find this 'tip' interesting please forward it to a philatelic friend.

Andrew McGavin

Owen Sound Postmark Cancellations

By Phil Visser

One of my favourite cancellations that have been used in the Post Office is this one. The examples in my collection are large and clear. The previous article mentioned that it is found in the book "*The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*" written by W.S. Boggs. The copy in my library was printed in 1974 by Quarterman Publications Inc. On page 569 is found



this cancel, and list this as "Circular Town Post Marks." This particular cancel is known as Type IIa. Boggs mentions that the letters are serifed solid and is known as being used in 1856. Looking at the font, the letters follow the "Times New Roman" style. The double outer circle is very clear in this image which suggests that this particular date may be the proof cancel.

Also of note with this cancel is the letter "C" above the date. Boggs does not offer much credence to the letter, suggesting that postal clerks would use the nearest

hammer to cancel a letter. Originally, when I came across the various different letters, my thought was that each letter represented a different postal clerk. Human nature may have had some clerks using a particular letter to represent for themselves to indicate that the letter passed through their hands. In today's terminology, that kind of practice would be called "OCD" or "obsessive compulsive disorder."

Up to this time, only the letters from "A" to "D" have been found. What follows is a review through the period of time that this cancellation takes in my accumulation. This first letter coincidentally is an exact copy of the one from the Boggs book! The cancellation is on the back of the envelope which means that Owen Sound was a post office stop between its dispatch and destination. The



letter was mailed from Saugeen to the Commissioner of Crown Lands in Toronto. The mailing month is August, but the date is missing and

year is 185?. It passed through Owen Sound on the 19th and arrived in Toronto on August 21st. Note that the hammer is not of double outer circle as shown above, but if you look at the 4 or 5 o'clock position of the cancel, parts of a double circle can be seen.

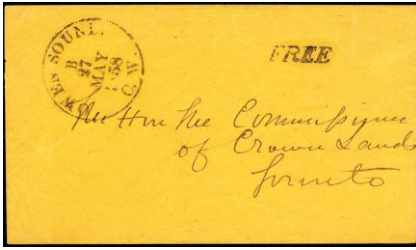
Following chronological order, the next letter was mailed from Owen Sound, also addressed to the Commissioner of Crown Lands. It was mailed on November 25th, 1856. On this letter the letter used is "D." It is a printed sheet from the Warden of Grey County and addressed to Warden of York and Peel with a Petition to be addressed and forwarded onto both branches of the Legislature. The folded letter is actually a printed form, printed by Mr P.G. Laurie and printed for the Warden of Grey County who was Mr. W.G. Flesher. It makes you wonder if Mr Flesher

had some connecti on with the town of Flesher on! A



last piece of information from this particular letter is the stamp in the upper right corner saying "Paid." A change from the earlier hand scripted cancels (fees) written about in the last article.

Our next letter shows the letter "B." It is also an envelope and is addressed to the Commissioner of Crown Lands in Toronto. There are no contents in this envelope, but most likely had to deal with the registration of land developed and bought in Owen



Sound. Notice the “Free” marking in the upper right corner, which is a change from previous letters to the Commissioner. Another interesting thing is the hand

scripted Commissioner; the two letters “S” appear as a single letter “F.” Somewhere in a previous research, this method of writing the two letters “S” as an “F” is credited to a practice from Europe, possibly Germany.

Previous letters mentioned above were fairly plentiful to find, but the search for the letter “A” in this cancel took some time to find. It is also one of the latest letters dated by the double circle hammer. Mailed on Jan 26th, 1865, the letter “A” is fairly distinct. The letter is mailed to Mr. Isaac Preston in Lot 19, Concession 9, Brunswick Post Office. Google assisted in finding where Brunswick, Ontario is. It is a few miles (kilometres) west of Peterborough

and is basically a small corner intersection of roads and may be like Rockford or Mennonite Corners



locally to Owen Sound. Another interesting item is that the letter is addressed to the Post Office, which means that Mr Preston would pick it up on his next visit to the Post Office.

An opportunity came to look at the early newspaper from Owen Sound, *The Comet*, and the various post offices would publish a list of letters being held at the Post Office for various individuals. This is much different than the postal service we receive today. Also on this letter is Unitrade # 15, the 5 Cent Beaver. Issued In 1859, this letter also happens to be the earliest letter that uses postage stamps in my collection. And so the eternal search continues to see if an earlier dated letter can be found. Also, the Public Library did not have a complete collection of “*The Comet*” and therefore no mention has been found yet as to when postage stamps were used for mailing from Owen Sound.

A last letter with the double circle cancel was mailed on the 14th of February, 1865. It becomes a favourite because the date on the hammer is the 13th, but the postal clerk



hand corrected the date to the 14th. As can be seen, the latter was mailed to Mr Bogart living in Newmarket Ont. The arrival date in Newmarket is the 15th of February! A remarkable improvement in the transportation and delivery time of the mail over these few short years that is covered in this article.

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Spring 2020 National Postage Stamp & Coin Show
April 4, 2020 to April 5, 2020
Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale hotel, 6750 Mississauga Rd., Mississauga, ON, L5N 2L3
 Presented by *Canadian Stamp News* and *Canadian Coin News*, the National Postage Stamp and Coin Show features 50-plus professional coin and stamp dealers from across Canada. Highlights include a two-day live auction by Colonial Acres; various seminars; the Young Collectors discounted sales table and popular free youth auction on Sunday. Admission is \$4 on Saturday and free on Sunday. The show is open on Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Parking is free. For show updates, visit stampandcoinshow.com.
Phone: 1-800-408-0352
Email: info@trajan.ca
Web: <http://www.stampandcoinshow.com>

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K-W Stampfest 2020
Trillium Lutheran Church Gym, 22 Willow St., Waterloo, ON, N2J 1V5
 The Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society’s annual stamp exhibition and bourse, Stampfest, will be open from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The show boasts free admission and parking, judged exhibits and for new, returning and junior collectors, a special “Sea of Stamps” booth. Refreshments are available, and door prizes will be drawn each hour.
Phone: 519-744-3020
Email: info@kwstampclub.org
Web: <http://www.kwstampclub.org>

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Hamilton Springpex
April 24, 2020 to April 25, 2020
St. John de Brebeuf Secondary School, 200 Acadia Dr., Hamilton, ON, L8W 1B8
 Sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club, Springpex features large silent and voice auctions on Friday evening, with viewing starting at 5 p.m. Saturday is a 20-dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies plus a youth booth and silent auction from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. GRVPA club circuit sales books will be available both days. Light food and refreshments available with ample free parking.
Email: southont@cogeco.ca
Web: <http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com>

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Have you visited the web page of the club? Check it out, you might find a lot of help for a project you might be working on. Are you planning on entering an exhibit for the show in September? It is amazing how fast the calendar flies by. By the way, what is the topic for the one page challenge?

Soapbox

All is quiet on this part of the newsletter. I did review Mr McGavin's writing on catalogue value and note that he didn't mention the discount many people apply to catalogue value when selling philatelic items. For instance, it is quite common to see items priced at 20-30% of catalogue value in the Club Circuit books, although there are others at higher prices if the material warrants it. Happy collecting everyone.

To end this newsletter, here is a favourite cancel of Owen Sound. Thanks to John Cortan who discovered it and knew there would be a home for it in this city. The cancel is dated December 25th, 1897. Note that the use of letters above the date has continued this one with the letter "C."

