

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club**
Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 7 P.M.
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 4, Edition 4, May 2023



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!

My heart was singing this morning when I stepped outside and heard my first oriole of the year. We've had lots of rainy days but the nice days have been really nice. One of those nice days happened on the day of the Saugeen stamp show. There was a pretty good crowd and lots of hustle and bustle! It was

great to see many of our members in attendance.

Marion G. and I took our circuit books to Wasaga Beach for the Georgian Bay Coin and Stamp Club Fair in April. They had a few dealers, a few circuit books, silent auctions, door prizes and a game where you could purchase an FDC for \$2.00 and when removed from the board there were some prizes that were revealed. It was another rainy day but cleared up later in the afternoon. Thank you to our members who joined us there.

In April we had our first Wednesday night meeting this year. All went well. I did a small presentation about the 'Berlin Blockade/Airlift of 1948-49'. It is a heartwarming topic that I really enjoy researching, collecting and talking about.

Randy R and I received the same number of votes for the Queen Elizabeth II one page challenge. Randy has chosen the topic of 'Canadian History' for July in honour of Canada Day. This month is our 'Birds' stamp scavenger hunt. Please bring your entry even if you haven't managed to fill every square.

Thank you to Randy R for filling in as Zoom host for Bill F. Poor Bill is off having a great time in Spain! Phil is running our Zoom meeting this month. Thanks Phil.

I hope you get out to some stamp shows soon and make sure you get to enjoy those few exquisite days when we get them!

See you on Wednesday evening of May 17th at 7:00. Feel free to bring some auction items.

Marion Ace

President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

Last month the teaser scan showed a three cent small

queen. It is one of the longest running definitive series of stamps issued by Canada. Since the postage rate was three cents, about 1.3 billion of them were printed. It would be very easy to fill an entire album with copies of this stamp alone. But the tie in to the newsletter was the Restoration Project. Thus a very common stamp to experiment with.

Following this page is a shortened version of the newsletter. Reports of the Zoom and in person meetings are provided plus one more story. Maybe it will provide an inspiration to members and readers alike. A list of upcoming shows is also provided. Summer time is usually a slow time for shows so they extend into August and a greater distance away for those holiday travellers.

A situation has developed which makes a trip to Alberta necessary. We will likely be gone for three weeks. One of the fall-outs for this trip is the possibility of no newsletter next month. I will be back in time for the meeting on June 21st. Following the trip is the challenge of completing an expanded exhibit on Owen Sound Fancy Cancels. Life is getting very busy, so I extend a reminder that a new editor is needed for this newsletter.

Last months Zoom meeting was a miss on my calendar, simply because I was so engrossed in organizing my accumulation that the meeting passed by. Thanks for the efforts to get me to join late, but that too, was missed. Having other collectors from other clubs joining in would be an idea as well as keeping the meeting fresh for the "regulars."

Happy reading and searching for the tie in to this teaser scan:



April 13, 2023 Zoom Meeting

by Bill Findlay

A small turnout – seven participants – did not lessen the conversation or variety of topics at the Owen Sound Stamp Club zoom meeting of April 13. Those topics included the weather – summer temperatures and winter snows; sales circuit – members taking books home really boosts sales; revenue stamps – Randy has acquired even more! collection appraisals and acquisitions – more are coming the way of the club due to recent publicity; Henrich von Stephan – yes, Marion has acquired some new von Stephan material; and so on. Special mention was made of the recent appointment of Phil (absent for this meeting!) to the position of secretary of the RPSC – great news for Phil and for the club!

Belated Happy Birthday

By Phil Visser

Have you ever forgotten a birthday? Was it a friend, significant other, a parent? Whomever was forgotten, there is a feeling of embarrassment and perhaps even a determination to avoid that oversight in the future. These personal situations can also occur in the philatelic world.

April provided not one, but two belated birthdays that were overlooked. Scanning the first page of this newsletter should show you one birthday that was overlooked. April 3rd represented the 38th birthday of this club. No mention was made of this significant date anywhere in the April edition.

A second birthday also escaped the attention of almost every Canadian philatelist, except Randy Rogers. April 23rd represents the one hundred and seventy second birthday of the three penny Beaver. I now have a second reason to memorize this date.

Those of the stamp club that have a presence on Facebook would have seen Randy's post on the Owen Sound Stamp Club Facebook page.



While Facebook may have negative connotations in many people's minds, it is one way of connecting with younger people. This connection may plant seeds that lead to future collectors.

Sir Sandford Fleming is an early Canadian that has personal admiration for me. As a teen I was thoroughly engrossed and filled with the author writings of Pierre Berton. His two books "The National Dream" and "The Last Spike." Two individuals stand out in those books, Sir William Van Horne and Sir Sandford Fleming.

It was only later that I discovered the connection between Fleming and philately. Fleming was the designer of the three-penny beaver. It was this

creature that pulled many people from the United Kingdom to come to Canada. Fur trapping and trading served to meet the fashion demands of Europe with Beaver skinned top hats.

Fur trapping is not in fashion in this age. Certain elements of society are very vociferous about the sanctity of life of animals. Others may not be as concerned about striking a balance between need and waste. Fur trapping did lead to the great exploration and settlement of this huge country.

Mr. Fleming does hold a particular respect in my experience. While considering the efficient operation of the railroad across the vast expanse of Canada, Fleming came up with the concept of time zones. Of course, it is elementary now, but revolutionary at the time it was adopted in the late 1800's.

Zone time versus solar time took some getting used to. With rail transportation travelling north and south, it didn't need to much concern about being a few minutes out on arrival and departure times. Thus, railroads in the United Kingdom didn't concern themselves about east west time errors because they were only a few minutes in either direction or not critical to efficiency.

Since Canada was geographically an east west corridor, time was very important. Efficient transportation of goods and passengers across the continent required the accuracy of time. Who of us would tolerate a fifteen- or twenty-minute delay in the arrival or departure times of transportation? This would be especially inconvenient if one missed the only scheduled transportation for the day or week.

We normally say that noon is when the sun crosses our meridian or is due south or north of a particular place. But this even isn't constant during the year when the invention of the clock was made. All told, the time variations of the sun crossing the meridian varies about twenty some minutes over a year.

So long as a person lived in one place and didn't travel, the variation in noon wouldn't be that important. Time variations became critical once travel became convenient. Thanks to Sandford Fleming efficient schedules could be calculated and a step forward towards what we experience everyday.

One last tie must be made with Mr. Fleming. Fleming had a cottage/residence in or near Craighleith, just a few kilometers from Owen Sound. The Fleming family settled there, and Sandford's early years were spent there. Craighleith eventually had a post office and the railroad arrival in 1872 helped ship oil and stone out. This rail line was extended to Meaford. While early plans had been made to continue to Owen Sound, the arrival of the Toronto Grey Bruce Railroad in Owen Sound ended those ideas.

So, a belated happy birthday to the 3-penny beaver and our stamp club. Now to create a new type of calendar, a philatelic one. It is not too late to mention the birthday of philately with a "best wishes" sent out to the Penny Black, May 6th, 1840. Even this date is open to debate, the stamp was issued on May 1st but not valid until the 6th. Complicated eh!

April 19th In Person Meeting

A great turn out for this meeting. A bright evening sun made the trip in to the NLC easy for the group. There was lots of discussion between members to start the evening. President Marion called the meeting to order, and some club business was brought forward. No major change to the finances, just the payment of regular expenses.

The one-page challenge garnered several entries. As Marion A. mentioned above, there was a tie between the pages submitted by her and Randy. It was good to see the effort made by members to provide an entry.

Some discussions were brought up. One question that seems to linger is on why club members may not be members of the RPSC. It's also interesting to note that there are collectors in our community who are not members of our stamp club. Sadly, my cousin has not returned just because he prefers to collect on his own. Others view membership as an expense that hinders collection additions. It seems the individualism versus communalism struggle continues from historical times. In some ways our hobby is a collection of individuals.

For those who are members of the Royal, they will have seen the announcement that yours truly has been nominated to be the Secretary of the Royal. I appreciate the well wishes and the side effect of bringing Owen Sound into the consciousness of the greater hobby. It seems that the challenges our club is facing are being mirrored on a national level. Instead of focusing in on the downside of things, I prefer to appreciate all the people involved in our club as well as at the Royal. Let the sweetness of what an organization brings permeate through the hobby.

Marion shared a new arrival to her collection. She discussed the Berlin airlift. That event showed the tremendous cooperation and planning that made the airlift successful in breaking the Soviet blockade of the city. The blockade was an attempt to strangle the remaining parts of Berlin so that the Soviets could occupy the entire city.

There was time to peruse the club circuit books. The evening ended with a lively auction. There was some spirited bidding, some horse trading and some items that didn't attract any attention. Many hands made light the work of bringing the circuit books back to Marion G's car. Our meeting concluded at around 9 PM.

Show and Tell

It seems that nothing exciting happened since the previous meeting. However, I did show a new arrival to my library. It is the 2016 issued Perfin Catalogue of Dutch Stamps. It has the positive feature where the stamp can be overlaid on the image in the catalogue and the holes match up to assure that the perfin is the one shown.

One Page Challenge

May Bird Scavenger Hunt
June Dogs (woof woof here and there)
July Canadian History

Upcoming Shows

MAY 12 Hamilton Springpex 2023

Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, ON

The Hamilton Stamp Club Springpex 2023 Show. Show hours are Friday, May 12, 5 pm – 10 pm and Saturday, May 13, 10 am – 4 pm. Friday evening will have a large voice auction at 7 pm with viewing 5 – 7 pm. Four guest clubs will present their Sales Circuit on Friday evening 5 – 10 pm. Saturday includes a 15 dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies plus Silent Auctions, Club Sales Circuit and Youth Booth. Free admission, free parking, building is accessible friendly and light food / refreshments will be available.

Phone: 289-925-5343

Email: hscshows@gmail.com

JUN 17 NORTH TORONTO SUMMER BOURSE

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON

North Toronto Stamp Club Summer Bourse. 16 Dealers – Sales Circuit – Members Table – Lucky Draw – Door Prizes. Saturday, 10 am – 4:00 PM.

Phone: 416-742-2347

Email: cjrobertson@rogers.com

AUG 12 Gananoque Stamp Show

Gananoque Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92, 55 King Street East, Gananoque, ON, K7G1V8

The third annual one-day Gananoque Stamp Show will be held between 10 am and 4 pm. Entrance: Free parking and ground level entrance to the show is off Pine Street at the rear of the Legion Hall. Gananoque is a great destination for a weekend family trip with a show in the middle.

Phone: 613-572-1464

Email: beddowsjohn@hotmail.com

AUG 19 KINEX 23

Kincardine Davidson center, 601 Durham St., Kincardine, ON

8-10 dealers, sales circuit, lunch booth, kids table, displays

Phone: 519-395-5817

Email: JCORTAN1@GMAIL.COM

SEP 15-17 BNAPEX 2023 Halifax

Best Western Dartmouth, 15 Spectacle Lake Drive, Dartmouth, NS

It's time to head to Halifax! for the Annual Convention of the British North America Philatelic Society, hosted by the BNAPS Atlantic Regional Group and the Nova Scotia Stamp Club. BNAPS Board Meeting; Frame setup and mounting of exhibits (Sept 14); Bourse, Exhibits, Study Group meetings, and Seminars (Sept 15-17).

Phone: 902-864-3976

Email: gwsteele57@gmail.com

President**Marion Ace****(519)934-1998**

marionace@bmts.com

Vice President**Phil Visser****(519)387-0271**

pmvisser54@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer**Bob Ford****(519)376-4788**

rob.darford@rogers.com

Newsletter Editor**Phil Visser****(519)387-0271**

pmvisser54@gmail.com

Other Contacts**Circuit Book Manager****Marion Gibson****(519)371-9234**

mamabear54@rogers.com

Website Coordinator**Randy Rogers****(519)373-9732**

rrogers@devuna.com

Zoom Host/Auction Co-Host**Bill Findlay****(519)369-5689**

billfindlay74@gmail.com

Auction Co-Host**Judy Galbraith****(519)379-5891**

jgal472001@yahoo.com

Wrap Up

There were two shows that I attended over the past few weeks. The National Coin and Stamp Show in Mississauga and the Saugeen Stamp Show. It was good to meet Zoom acquaintances as well as those many others from previous years and shows. Temptations always seem to appear! One successful purchase was a series of Owen Sound covers cancelled with the Ruggles cancellation device. There was a hidden gem in that purchase! Another story for another day. Being a member in a few different clubs brought me to the show in Walkerton held by the Saugeen Club. More holes filled in and many pleasant conversations. It was especially gratifying to see Ralph Wyndham. Ralph is a long distance member of the OSSC as well as the Saugeen Club. The long trek from New Brunswick to Ontario passed pleasantly and we hope the return trip was just as easy. Thanks for coming Ralph and hopefully we will see you again on the Zoom meetings.

Keep on collecting and organizing because time flies while doing so.

Blast from the Past**Stories in Stamps by I.S. Klein****Andorra-A Political Curiosity (1937)**

Hidden away in the Pyrenees Mountains between France and Spain lies a tiny, medieval country, about one fifth of the area of Rhode Island, that would probably never be heard of by the rest of the world if it were not for its occasional issues of postage stamps.

Four new stamps from Andorra have recently made their appearance and the old feudal coat-of-arms that forms the central design reminds us that there is at least one nation in Europe today whose inhabitants, undisturbed by such clashing political movements as fascism and communism, still cling to the customs and institutions of the past.

For hundreds of years the valleys of Andorra have been the home of a sturdy race of mountaineers speaking the harsh language and wearing the picturesque scarlet caps of the Spanish Catalans. Their exact origin is a mystery, but it is possible that the ancestors of these interesting people were Spaniards who fled before the fanatical Moslem invaders during the ninth century and sought refuge in the inaccessible peaks of the Pyrenees.

Cut off by the lofty mountains from the rest of Europe, the Andorrans still live the hardy, primitive life of their fathers, pasturing sheep and cattle on the stony hillsides, and occasionally on dark nights driving a few mules loaded with contraband tobacco over the tortuous mountain paths into France.

Only once has their independence been seriously threatened and that was at the beginning of the last century when Napoleon paused for a moment in his victorious march into Spain to consider the annexation of Andorra to his swelling empire. When he saw the bleak and forbidding nature of the little mountain state, however, the great conqueror only laughed and said: "Andorra is a political curiosity; it must be preserved!"

