

O.S.S.C.

Owen Sound

# Owen Sound Stamp Club Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: January 16<sup>th</sup>

January 2002

At about this time last year we held our first Public Awareness Day in the Heritage Place Mall. The idea was to tell any stamp collectors out there that there was a club they could join in Owen Sound where they could meet others of a similar mind. We also had some displays that were aimed at attracting young people and, hopefully, introducing them to the hobby.

The Day was a great success and there was seldom a moment when the club members manning the booth were idle. This year the same space has been made available to us on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are free that day, please drop by and give a hand. We will have some handouts to help answer such questions as "How much is my collection worth?", "How do I sell my stamp collection?", and so on.

By tradition, the first meeting of the year is the Annual General Meeting at which Officers are elected to serve for the coming year. Whilst comments and opinions on the operation of the OSSC are always welcome at any time, the AGM is an especially good time to air your views, suggest new directions, policies, or whatever. If you can possibly make it, please come to select the committee for next year – and tell them what they should be doing!

One of the items on the agenda will be the establishment of a Youth Program. Exactly what this would be and how it would work is to be decided, but I am pleased to say that Kim Scarrow has some ideas on this. Hopefully she will expand on these at the meeting.

An essential component of any Youth Program is to be able to provide a supply of free stamps to help kids get a start without too much commitment. So, using John Cortan's "Stamps for Kids" box as an inspiration, look through your heaps of unsorted minimum value material, fill a plastic bag (or two), and bring them along to the next meeting where they will be directed to the philatelists of tomorrow.

*Bob Watson*

## Membership Dues Due!

So, it's that time of year again when all our members think to themselves, "What jolly good value I get for my OSSC \$, I must be sure to get my dues in to the treasurer right now – or the next Club meeting, whichever comes sooner!"

If you can make it to the January meeting, please update your membership then. If that is not possible, you can always mail an appropriate cheque to Bob Ford (Sec./Treas.), 721 8th Ave E., Owen Sound, N4K 3A5 and I will send a new membership card(s) with the next Newsletter.

Members are reminded that at our February 2001 meeting it was resolved that dues for 2001 would be as follows and these remain unchanged for 2002:

Full Membership:	Annual fee: \$10
Family Membership:	Annual fee: \$15
Junior Membership:	Annual fee: Free

A "Full" member is entitled to propose motions, stand for

office, and vote at Club meetings, receives a copy of the Newsletter each month, and the Club's commission on selling stamps at the auctions is waived.

"Family Membership" is for people living at the same address. Each member of the "family" has all the rights and obligations of a full member except that only one copy of the Newsletter and other Club notices will be sent.

"Junior Membership" is for those under 16 on Jan.1st. Each "Junior" member has all the rights and obligations of a full member except that if a Junior member shares an address with a Full/Family member, only one copy of the Newsletter and other Club notices will be sent. If a Junior member does not share an address with a Full/Family member, then the Club will bear the cost of sending the Newsletter.

Apart from the above membership fees, all Club members and visitors are asked to continue contributing (presently 75¢) each meeting. This is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

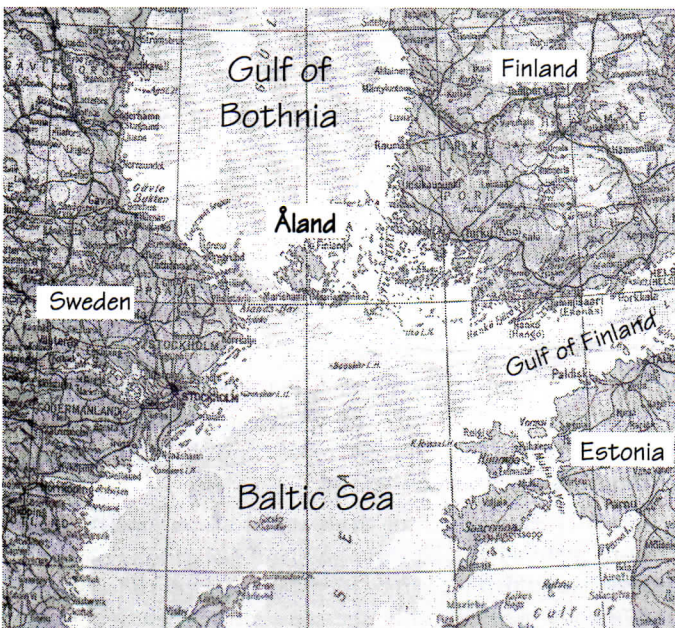
## International News from our Northern Friends...

As promised in the December Newsletter, here are a few facts, figures and postal news from our friends who live on the 60<sup>th</sup> parallel at 20°E – Åland. Åland is politically a province of Finland, but has a very considerable degree of autonomy. It is an area in the Gulf of Bothnia, part of the Baltic Sea between Finland and Sweden. It consists of 6,500 islands, of which the smallest inhabited is Sottunga, with 130 people, a post office and a bank (but no banking machine). Mariehamn is the capital and seat of the government. The population speaks Swedish, but almost anybody is bilingual (sound familiar)? Since 1984 they have had their own postal services and maintain 21 post offices over the islands employing about 200 associates. History has not always been very kind since their location in this strategic area has made them a football of neighbouring nations..

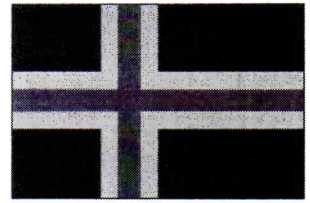
In the past they have issued between 12 and 15 new stamps each year with a face value of about Finnish Marks (FM) 79.00 (C\$ 20.00). The schedule for the year 2002 is again along the same lines, with the exception that the FM has been replaced by the Euro. On January 2nd 2002 they issued four new stamps. [Please note the quoted numbers are the official Åland reference numbers and have no relation to Scott].

# 162 "Transition to the Euro", shows a woman pushing a shopping card with a bright shiny Euro coin in it. The value is €0.60. For this occasion they also issued just 10,000 copies of a FDC with a numismatic first for them: a €1.00 coin included in the cover.

Also on the same date were two stamps released under the



series title of "Secretive Batrachians and Reptiles on Åland". #163 shows the Smooth Snake valued at €0.05 while the €0.70 #164 has a Great Crested Newt on the front. Both these animals are endangered species and a necessity for topical collectors of this genre.



*The Åland flag is based on the Swedish one (gold cross on blue ground) with an additional red cross.*

St Canute's Day is a special day in Åland and Sweden where children go around to the doors of neighbours and others and are spoiled with sweets as they "tidy up after Christmas". This all goes back to a Danish King Knut who decreed that Christmas time was from December 13 (St. Lucia) till January 13 (Tjugondag Knut - St. Knut's Day). On January 2<sup>nd</sup> #165 valued at €2.00 was released portraying this children's event.

Close to the Mariehamn Airport, Åland Posten is building a brand new Post Terminal which will open at the end of February. To commemorate this event a stamp is planned for February 28 showing an artist's drawing of these new facilities. This €1.00 stamp is #166.

Issue No. 167 is a booklet of 2 x 4 stamps depicting typical Åland dishes. The booklet is called Bon Appetit and shows salmon, Baltic herring, beetroots, black bread and pancakes and has a total face value of appr. €8.80 (not exactly known since they carry a value only marked as 1st Klass and no denomination).

Nordic Contemporary Art, together with the Europa Circus common issue, will see the light of day on May 3rd followed by four more issues on August 12, September 2, and October 9.

The last one is number 15 of a continuing series which started in 1988 and shows Churches of Åland. I will try to get them all as a Topical display for the show. For topical collectors here is some food for thought: endangered species, folklore, euro, architecture and gourmet dishes.

For the mathematically inclined a small footnote. The Finnish Mark was pegged to the Euro on January 1999 as €1.00 equals FM 5.94573, That is why an old stamp showing FM 2.70 also showed €0.45 (2.70 divided by 5.94573).

Keep on watching our International News from the above 60 countries. For February we will focus on a community of app. 45,000 people living on 18 rocky islands in the middle of the North Atlantic. A country called the Faroe Islands, partially Danish but with a rich heritage in surviving on these islands. Also a rich variety in philatelic experience.

*Charles van Rompu*

## Survey Response

Last month I asked for some input from members to help us in getting circuit books relevant to your interests (and budgets). So far 12 response have been received and hopefully more will come yet.

The preliminary results indicate that almost all members do

like looking through circuit books at our monthly meetings and most also said they would like to use the circuits to sell stamps as well as buy them.

Furthermore, half the respondents said that they would be prepared to pay more than \$5 for a single stamp and would not

*cont. on p3*

Survey – continued from p. 2

feel uncomfortable spending over \$10 in an evening. No-one said they felt limited to less than \$1 for a stamp or \$5 in total.

As far as interests go, all but one person collected Canada and most had other interests – which pretty well covered the rest of the world.

As it happens, Bob Pike was able to attend our December meeting and brought a selection of his Peninsula Circuit books. He would like to encourage people to use his circuit to sell stamps but pointed out that, in general, using a circuit to sell common stamps is really not worthwhile – if you have lots of domestic rate Canadian stamps or foreign rate foreign stamps, then it is probable that everyone looking at the circuit books has

them too. However, used US/foreign rate Canadian stamps could be worth putting in a circuit book (and could be a good place to find them too). Whilst Bob Pike would not suggest a minimum value for individual stamps or a completed book, it does make sense to leave out anything with a catalogue value of less than, say, 50¢. If you have material valued at less than that, maybe just offer it within the club, and for “base value” stamps, consider donating these to our “Stamps for Kids” box (p.1).

I do believe that with just the responses received so far we can select our books to better meet members requirements. However, if you haven't filled in a survey form yet, please do! I will have some at the next meeting for anyone who forgets.

Bob Watson

## Auction

The following lots will be presented for auction at the December 19<sup>th</sup> club meeting at 8:00pm.

Note: all prices/values in C\$ unless marked otherwise.

See p4. for (provisional) auction rules.

**Lot 1** Åland (1997) #130-133  
Maximum Cards start bid:\$1.00 val: \$?  
Four Maximum cards (Åland # 20/23). Scott's value for used stamps is U\$1.00 ea. The set is no longer available from Posten. Dealer in Germany asks €8.00 (c. \$11.20) for set.

[All proceeds to the OSSC – bid generously!]

**Lot 2** Portugal (1996/7) #  
FDCs start bid:\$1.00 val: \$8.00 (at least!)  
Four official First Day Covers featuring #2087– “The Hand”; #2093–“100th ann. death of João de Deus”); #2109-2114 – “The Cinema”; and #? (six stamps) – “Town Arms”

[All proceeds to the OSSC – bid generously!]

**Lot 3** Åland (1994/6/7) #  
FDCs start bid:\$1.00 val:  
Three official First Day Covers: Sunds church (7/10/94) – stamp #89 (val.: \$1.10); Fossils (9/10/96) – stamp #87, 104; FDC offered by dealer in Germany for €2.10; Mariehamn church (9/10/97); stamp #? – FDC offered by dealer in Germany for €0.50.

[All proceeds to the OSSC – bid generously!]

**Lot 4** Jersey/Alderney (1998/9) #  
FDCs start bid: \$1.00 val: \$?  
Ten different official First Day Covers from the Channel Islands (9 Jersey & 1 Alderney). Very nicely presented including series of : sea birds; parks (Europa); lifeboats; orchids, royal wedding; and 125th ann. of UPU.

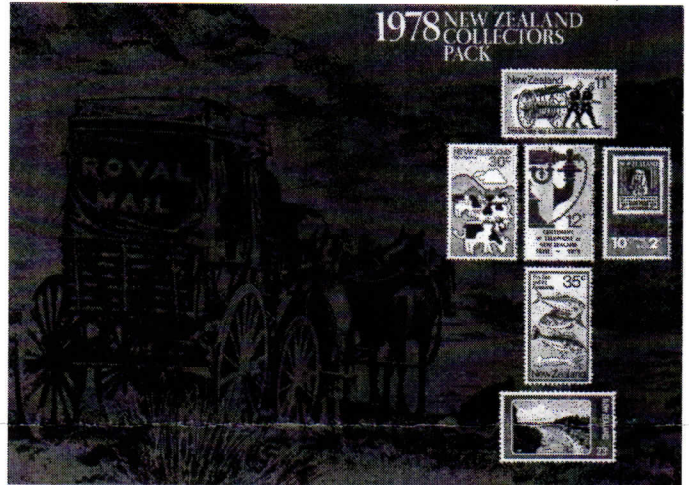
[All proceeds to the OSSC – bid generously!]

**Lot 5** Canada (1976) #684-686  
MNH start bid: \$3.00 val.:\$7.00  
Set of 3 stamps marking the Montréal Olympics.

**Lot 6** Netherlands (1970)  
#B457-B461 MNH  
start bid: \$3.00 val: \$20 (1981)  
Series of 5 semi-postals depicting isometric projections from Circle to Square.



**Lot 7** New Zealand (1978) #\*  
MNH start bid: \$4.00 val.: c.\$15  
1978 Year Collection – 24 stamps with face value of NZ\$3.88 in presentation folder. (\*#635-638; 656-673; B101-102).



**Lot 8** New Zealand (1974) #:552  
FDC start bid: \$1.00 val.: \$?  
New Zealand Day official first day cover incorporating the 1974 New Zealand Day commemorative mini-sheet of five 4¢ commemorative stamps.

**Lot 9** Hong Kong (1979) #: 358-360  
FDC start bid: \$1.00 val.: \$?  
First Day Cover issued on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1979 using the three stamps issued to mark the opening of the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway. (Nicely positioned stamps but cover a bit worn).

## At the last meeting...

Don Nicol kindly presented a copy of the 2002 Unitrade catalogue to the Library.

Bob Pike presented a selection of his Peninsula Philatelic Circuit books for members to look through.

## Next Meeting: January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Annual General Meeting

- election of officers
- general discussion of Club affairs
- Distribution of calendars

Although there will be no circuit books at this meeting, members are invited (as always) to bring stamps to trade or sell amongst themselves. There will be an Auction at 8:00pm.

## Upcoming Events

The OSSC will be hosting a “**Public Awareness Day**” to be held at the Heritage Place Mall on Saturday, **9<sup>th</sup> February**.

The OSSC’s **Annual Show and Bourse** will be at the Bayshore Community Centre on **2<sup>nd</sup> June**. The theme of the exhibition will be “Canada and our Northern Friends”.

The **Oxford Philatelic Society** is hosting its 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Exhibition (OXPEX 2001) and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ontario Topical Exhibition (OTEX 2001). The event takes place on Saturday, **16<sup>th</sup> March** at the John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, Ontario, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The show will include a 160 frame competitive exhibition as well as 16 dealers.

**Harry Carbert** is interested in Canadian postal stationary and would be pleased to hear from anyone with such material for sale. 986-2936.

## Auction rules (provisional):

Lots will be on display at the club meeting at 7:00 pm.

The auction will take place at (or around) 8:00 pm

Vendors may not bid on their own lots, though they may set a starting (minimum) bid.

### Submitting items for auction:

Any member who would like to submit items for auction should provide a description to the Newsletter editor at least two weeks prior to the next meeting. The lots themselves should be available for display at the meeting at 7:00 pm.

A commission of 10% of selling price is payable to the OSSC by the vendor. The commission is waived if the vendor is a member of the OSSC.

The auctioneer reserves the right to limit the number of lots accepted for any particular auction.

# OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

## Chapter 191

### Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

[www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub](http://www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub)

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> St. E. and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to trade, buy, and sell stamps and philatelic material. An auction is held at 8:00pm.

There are presently about 30 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute 75¢ each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

For further information, contact any Club officer:

President: **Bob Watson** (519) 376-1270  
327 11th St. W., Owen Sound, N4K 3S9  
email: [rhwatson@sympatico.ca](mailto:rhwatson@sympatico.ca)

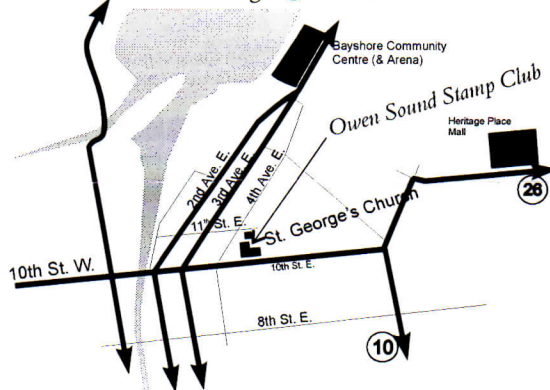
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## The OSSC Newsletter

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The OSSC Newsletter is distributed monthly to members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club.

Opinions expressed by contributors to this newsletter are those of the named author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Owen Sound Stamp Club (nor of the editor).

Contributions are always most welcome. If any reader has news, information, opinions, or announcements that might be of interest to the OSSC membership, please contact the editor.