

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. November 18th 2009 @ 7:00

From the President...



The month of November has passed by quickly and now I'm reminded to write another greeting and the hope that we will be seeing each other on the 18th. For this meeting we will be having **Gerd Fehler** who will be bringing his stock along for an opportunity to add to our respective collections. I hope that you can find that gem that will fill a "hole" in your collections.

Since our last meeting, I have been able to look at different aspects of my own collection. I connected with a collector in the old country who passed along some information on different types of cancellations. It seems there is quite a following over there to find the cancellations of the small towns. What was interesting is how a topical collection can be put together. Following those suggestions, a stamp collector will never become bored!

At the meeting of the Saugeen club at the start of this month, I was informed that **Bob Chapman** has been hospitalized. I hope that we can have some more information about his condition when we meet. We sure hope that he is feeling better.

The calendar year is coming to an end soon, which means I hope to see you at our December meeting. At the last meeting **Larry Crane** brought a large box of surplus material that will be auctioned off at the "President's Auction." If there are any other donations of surplus stamps etc, please bring them along on the 18th so I can give more information in the next newsletter. As was done last year, there is an opportunity to exchange gifts. The simple strategy was, bring a gift and exchange yours with another person who has also brought a gift.

Cheers, good health and happy stamp collecting till the 18th when we meet at the St. George's Anglican Church.

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Coming Events...

NOV. 28, Toronto, ON

Winter Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, club sale circuit, wheelchair access, refreshments available.

Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact Herb, telephone (416) 445-7720 (416) 445-7720 , email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca. Website: <http://www.NorthTorontoStampClub.tk>.

NOV. 21, Burlington, ON

Burloak Stamp Fair, Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St. Regular monthly show in our 15th year, held the third Saturday of every month year round. Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Six to nine dealers, always new material, active buyers. For more information, contact Michael Anderson, telephone (905) 632-6057 (905) 632-6057 , or email mpanderson@cogeco.ca.

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DEC. 19, St. Catharines, ON

Holiday Inn Stamp Show, Niagara Room, Holiday Inn, QEW at Lake St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Specializing in stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information, contact Roy Houtby, telephone: (905) 934-8377 (905) 934-8377 .

On the Cover... Lest We Forget

Being the capital of our fair country, Ottawa is a magnet for tourists with a historical bent. When you travel there you can visit the Houses of Parliament, the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian War Museum or head across the river to



the Museum of Civilization which also contains the Canadian Postal Museum (which is certainly a priority to us stamp collectors!). But while you are wandering around on Parliament Hill or the streets of Ottawa you will discover many monuments and statues. You can find statues of such famous people as Samuel de Champlain, Queen

Elizabeth II on horseback, Lester B. Pearson and Terry Fox or even a giant spider. There are also a number of monuments to those Canadians who have fought or worked for freedom. The most magnificent of this type of monument is the Canadian National War Memorial. It is at this site in Confederation Square that our national Remembrance Day services are televised.

It is perhaps apropos that a Brit designed the National War Memorial. Vernon

This cover with the three 'Royal Visit' stamps bears the Royal Train Flag cancellation. There were a few different cancels made including a couple of American ones. The Royal Train carried King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

March, the winner of the design competition of the memorial called his monumental design the Great Response of Canada in appreciation of the tremendous response of Canadians to Great Britain's peril in World

War I. His intention was to portray with dignity the very real sacrifice of many Canadians. In these changing times and after such a great and terrible war artists no longer wished to portray war as 'glorious'.

Within the first two months of the cry to arms 32,000 Canadians surged forth to enlist. Even though so many people volunteered to fight, by 1917 Canada was conscripting soldiers. With the war ending in 1918 many of the conscripted never had to go overseas. In total 600,000 people went help the Brits. Canada only had a population of around eight million at the time.

According to wikipedia 67,000 combatants died and another 173,000 were wounded.

The monument consists of a raised large stone triumphal arch topped by the winged allegories of Peace and Freedom to height of 70 ft. Flowing through the portal are the many and varied people that made up Canada's war effort.

A number of infantrymen lead the way including a kilted machine gunner. There is a mounted cavalryman, an artilleryman, a sailor, air men and in their wake come a nurse and stretcher bearers. The 22 bronze figures are all dressed and armed accurately for World War I.

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Vernon March had the responsibility of making the bronze figures. He started to work on the individual clay sculptures in 1926. Moulds were made of the clay sculptures which were then cast in bronze at the March Foundry. He was aided by his sister and six brothers. Unfortunately Vernon died in 1930 but his family carried the project on to completion in 1932. The figures were on display for some time at Hyde Park in London before they were finally shipped to Canada in 1937.

The ground had to be prepared for such a huge sculpture. Steel columns set into bedrock support a huge footing of reinforced concrete.



The King & Queen greet Canadians from



Then the huge pedestal and arch had to be constructed. The project was completed in October of 1938 with the exception of landscaping to the entire area.

The colour of the War Memorial figures has been dramatically softened to form the background of

The Great Response of Canada had its official unveiling on May 21st, 1939 sadly only mere months before the onset of World War II. It was unveiled by King George VI himself on the first ever Royal visit of our

reigning monarch to Canada before a massive crowd of 100,000. Three stamps were issued to honour the Royal visit and the unveiling of Canada's new National War Memorial. These were the first of Canada's stamps to be made from two separate engraving plates. The subjects were shown in black ink and the fancy borders and lettering were done with a second coloured plate.

Later it was decided that this magnificent monument should be dedicated to those who sacrificed their lives in World War II and the Korean War as well as those from the First World War. So the dates of the two wars were inscribed on the huge pedestal and the memorial was rededicated in May 1982.

After the rededication of the National War Memorial in 1982 people eventually began thinking that a tribute needed to be made to all of the people who have died in the service of Canada and to those of the future as well. A granite sarcophagus was built, 12 ft. long, 8 ft. wide and 3ft. high was placed in front of the Response. In it has been placed the bones of an unknown soldier taken from one of the many graves of unknown soldiers near our Vimy Ridge Memorial in France. The tomb is simply inscribed with 'the Unknown Soldier' in both English and French. The top of the sarcophagus is tastefully adorned with a bronze overlay of a sword with a WWI helmet and a cluster of maple leaves near the hilt and a branch of laurel leaves near the tip. Sculptor Mary-Ann Liu of Mission B.C. had the honour of creating the overlay. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was unveiled May 28 2000.



The new 'Lest We Forget'

Now 70 years later, the grandson of George VI, Prince Charles was present at the monument for this year's Remembrance Day services and Canada has issued a new stamp called 'Lest we forget' that features a more intimate glimpse of the National War Memorial. We appear to be looking up into the faces of two of the lead infantrymen. Lionel Gadoury, the Creative Director of Context

Creative hoped to restate the intent of the original sculptor to show the strength of commitment, pride and hope of the Canadian soldiers. The foreground shows a portion of a red poppy and the background has a delicately coloured victory 'V' that has a sheen. It is a 'P' rate stamp available in a peel'n'stick booklet of ten. It also comes gummed as a pair on a souvenir sheet. The cover of the booklet, the souvenir sheet and the first day cover all show more of the bronze figures that appear to have come through the arch.

The first day cancellation, issued from Ottawa on October 19th 2009, is a simple drawing of a view of the whole War Memorial. The lucky recipients of the Owen Sound Stamp Club newsletter have the whole souvenir sheet on the cover.

Other War memorials in Ottawa

The Korean War Monument has the names of the 516 who died of the 32,000 Canadians who served in the Korean conflict in the 1950s. The monument shows a Canadian soldier with two Korean children. They face their identical counterpart which stands over the graves of Canadian soldiers in Busan, Korea.

Queen Elizabeth herself unveiled the **Commonwealth Air forces Memorial** in 1959. It bears the names (*Other War memorials in Ottawa continues on page 4*)

(Other War memorials in Ottawa continued from page 3)

of 800 people who lost their lives in training or while serving out of air bases in Canada, the U.S. and the Caribbean in World War II. The monument is an open framework globe with attached continents and has a spread winged eagle atop.

1,500 Canadians went to Spain to fight fascism in the 1930s. As part of a world wide volunteer force they were organized into the Mackenzie- Papineau battalion named after the leaders of the Upper and Lower Canada rebellions in 1837. Although the volunteers were cheered by the public on their return, they had no official recognition. Unveiled in 2001, the **Mackenzie- Papineau Monument** is a low wall with plaques listing all the volunteers, (fighters, medical, etc.). At one end of the wall a sheet of weathered steel juts upwards and has the shape of a male with his fist raised to the sun cut out of it.



Also unveiled in 2001 was the **National Aboriginal Veterans Monument**. Located in Confederation Park, is a bronze sculpture of four natives surrounded by their four spirit guides in the bodies of a wolf, a grizzly bear, a buffalo and a caribou. Above them reigns a spread-eagled thunderbird. The whole thing is mounted on a stone dais. 7,000 Canadian aboriginal people fought in WWI & II and Korea along with many Métis, Inuit and non-status Indians.

*The National
Aboriginal
Veterans
Monument was*

A very unique monument was unveiled in October 1992. This monument was designed to honour Canadian Peacekeepers, both the living and the dead. It has bronze figures of two males and one female peacekeeper that have surmounted a stone wall of conflict to find peaceful resolution at the apex. The **Canadian Peacekeepers Monument** is the first memorial to peacekeepers in the world.

The Spotlight...by Larry Crane



This air letter was issued in 1979 to commemorate Sir Rowland Hill. Hill's innovation was the uniform penny postage for the British Isles and more importantly for us stamp collectors, the idea of a small label be affixed to the letter to show that postage had been paid.

The air letter has three parts. The place where the sender's name and address is to be placed has a portrait of Rowland Hill, looking rather grumpy, in my opinion. Perhaps because postage had risen from 1 penny to 10 pence by the time this air letter sheet was



issued, assuming it was issued at the same time as the commemorative stamps (Aug. 22, 1979.) The place for the receiver's name and address shows a picture of the First postage stamp, the penny black. This is probably as close as I will ever get to owning one of these. The third pictorial area shows the origin of the Queen's image on a medal presumably commemorating Victoria's ascension in 1837, which was used for the stamp. This image of the Queen was used on all the Victorian issues of postage stamps. It also shows the Mulready envelope issued at the same time as the stamps. The red Maltese Cross was used to cancel the stamps so that they could not be reused. This had to be changed in 1841 to a black cancel when the stamp colour

was changed to red.

I think this air letter sheet is a much better commemoration of Rowland Hill than the stamps issued in 1979; and a much better commemoration of the penny post than the stamps issued in 1990. This will have an honoured place in my collection.

Larry Crane's Air Letter was post marked thirty years ago on Nov: 8 1979. The other side is

Thank you Larry Crane for sharing this aerogram with us all.

I hope that everyone will participate in this column. The 'spotlight' can be on something unusual or something that you are just fond of. You can write a paragraph or two or a page or two. I will need a good scan or photo of the item or you can leave it

The Spotlight...Reflection

Last month we had our first Spotlight column and to my great pleasure, not only do we have a 'Spotlight' participant but we also have a response to the 'Spotlight' on the #184 Provisional Admiral Issue. I wondered why it was issued later than the rest of the Admirals and why it has such an odd number of perforations. Bob Ford's curiosity was aroused; so he did some research and here is what he discovered. the Ed.



The Scott #184 3 cent carmine Admiral perforated 12 x 8 is indeed a coil sheet reperfornated by the Canadian Bank Note Company, the manufacturer. The reason this issue exists is that there was a decrease in the letter postage rate in 1926 to 2 cents. For the next few years a limited amount of the 3 cent value were required.

In 1928 the 'Scroll' series was issued. This series had a 3 cent denomination but only three plates were made and a limited amount of 3 cent stamps were issued. (11,000,000) Marler

In 1930 the stamp printing contract was awarded to the British American Bank Note Company which issued the 'Arch' series. This issue did not have a 3 cent denomination.

An increase in the postal rate in June 1931 to 3 cents caused a great demand for the three cent value and pending the preparation of the new 3 cent die, (July 13, 1931) the Canadian Bank Note Company arranged to supply sheets of one hundred stamps of the three cent Admiral coil which were then reperfornated 12 horizontally.

By Bob Ford

From the Editor...

Hello everybody! Well, I've researched, I've remembered and I've written and I've had about enough of war stuff now, so I'll be looking forward to riffling through Gerd's goodies.

I hope that Bob Chapman is reading this. **Get better Bob!**

One Page Challenge Alert

Its official we're going to start it again! It's the down and dirty edition! No holds barred and no rules!

(Okay, one rule- it's one page...that's it. However, you can enter more than once as long as they are separate items...confused yet?)

This month's topic is open. Do it on whatever subject you want. I'll expect at least 46 entries!!!

Go team go!

P.S. I believe John Cortan will still be awarding a prize to the winner.

See you on Wednesday,
Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

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The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (corner of 10th St. E. and 4th Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to trade, buy and sell stamps and philatelic material. An Auction is often held at 8:00 pm. There are presently about 20 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels, from beginner to expert. Guests or new members are always most welcome.

Annual membership fees: Full-\$10; Family-\$15; Junior- Free

Members and guests contribute \$1 at each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for use of their room.

The OSSC Newsletter is distributed to all members. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are expressly those of the individual author.

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. Please submit any news, information, opinions or announcements to the editor.

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