

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. November 17th 2010 @ 7:00

From the President...



It is time again to extend a welcome to the club members for the meeting on November 17th. The plan for the previous meeting in October was changed due to a funeral. Perhaps you have already heard through the grapevine, but Howie Mason's wife passed away just before the meeting and the funeral service was the day of the meeting. The club members present signed a condolence card and it was sent to

Howie.

The quick change in meeting plans lead to a general discussion by club members about different methods of organizing a stamp collection. Thank you to Bob Ford, Marion Ace and Rick Lokos for sharing some of their ways of keeping a collection organized. If I have forgotten contributions to the last meeting, I'll apologize now, sorry I missed your name.

Now that it is fall weather and with it comes the threat of bad roads, the St Catharines Circuit books will likely be coming in April 2011. For this meeting we will have a club auction night. The plan for the next meetings include; the President's auction in December, Dave Don speaking on Canadian errors and his mostly completed catalogue in January, a club topic of #1s or simply the first stamp a country has issued (details to follow), March is open and April will hopefully have St Catharines sales books.

I mentioned the "President's Auction" coming up in December. If any one has excess material to participate in the event, I will be very grateful for a donation. One of the donations last year came from Larry Crane who donated a box of duplicates and the evening was enjoyed by all. I have several lots of excess stamps on paper but it only makes up ten or so lots (the sorting still has to be done).

Cheers, good health and happy stamp collecting 'til the 17th when we meet at the St. George's Anglican Church.

*Phil Visser
President OSSC*

One Page Challenge...

November – Royalty
December –

Well folks, we don't seem to be getting too far with our *One Page Challenge*. I made up a couple of pages on scouting but I was alone in that endeavour. I always feel a bit of pressure to participate since I encourage others to in this newsletter. Perhaps the challenge is going to fade away.

I found that creating these pages has been interesting and sometimes a challenge. It has forced me to look at some of my stamps in a completely different way. It is a great way to highlight articles that you find special. I have a page about Canadian Landscape Art. One of the items on the page is a cover celebrating 50 years of the Group of Seven signed by A. Y. Jackson. I am delighted to have some way to showcase what is to me a very precious item. It was good to see a number of our exhibits displayed at our show this September.

These single page exhibits were supposed to help build confidence, to encourage us to go on to create full exhibits and displays. I created my first exhibit this year and I have to admit that I'm proud of it.

So I'm glad that I've felt pressured to participate in the *One Page Challenge*. Thanks to John Cortan for encouraging us all and even providing prizes. We'll continue on with the challenge through to December and hopefully we will be revitalized for the new year. *the editor*

Coffee... Part II... by Ralph Wyndham

Coffee is a tropical evergreen tree or shrub growing between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Preferring moderate temperatures in the 20C range, it flourishes at higher elevations. The tree can handle severe pruning but does not survive cold temperatures. Left alone to grow, they may reach 18 meters tall. 'Working' coffee trees are kept pruned to about 2 meters in height. Trees this size provide the best yield and make picking easy.

Two main coffee varieties are used: Arabica and Robusta. Arabica produces more delicately flavoured coffees but is more particular about growing conditions. Robusta, as the name implies, is hardier. It matures more quickly and copes with a broader range of growing conditions but lacks the delicate flavours of its cousin and contains more caffeine.

Plants can be started from seed or from cuttings. Started from seed, plants start producing in about four years and reach peak production in years 6 to 10; started from cuttings, the plants will



Coffee flowers at the base of leaves near the stems and cherries at

mature earlier. Fragrant white flowers blossom from the base of the leaves. Depending on conditions, flowering will continue for 4 or 5 months and berries, called cherries, will take 6 to 8 months to ripen to a bright red colour. The flesh of the cherry is sweet and contains two seeds that we all know as beans.

Good coffee requires ripe berries. Since berries are formed over several months and take twice as long to ripen, two different harvesting methods are used that depend largely on terrain. On steep hillsides cherries are picked by hand so bushes must be revisited a number of times through the season to pick just the ripe cherries. On level ground with large plantations, especially in Brazil, harvest is delayed until about 75% of the cherries are ripe then all cherries are stripped from the plants by machine and the unripe ones are thrown away.

An African woman in



As with harvesting, there are two methods of separating the cherry flesh from the beans. Using the wet method, cherries are crushed by machine to remove pulp. The beans are soaked to loosen the parchment, the bean's outer skin. Beans are then dried and put through a huller that removes the parchment and another inner lining called the silver skin.

Using the second method, the entire cherry is dried first then put through the huller to remove the dry flesh, parchment and silver skin. I find it amazing but I did read that good coffee tasters can tell the difference between the two processes!

Mechanical coffee cultivation, coffee cherries and beans, a cherry dryer and a

Hulled, dried beans have a very similar colour to the white blanched almonds you will see in the grocery store. These beans have very little flavour as they are. That is where roasting comes in. Roasting will take from 3 to 30 minutes

and gives them the brown colour we are familiar with. The longer they are roasted, the darker they become. Light roasting reveals flavours that are determined by seasonal growing and soil conditions just like wine. Darker roasting loses these flavours (plus some less desirable ones) replacing them with flavours created by the roasting itself.



Roasted beans do not keep as long as green ones. This is why real coffee connoisseurs may buy their beans green and roast them at home for a brew that is just what they are looking for. For all of us, connoisseur or not, that 'great coffee' is as unique we are. Find what you like and go with it. Doesn't that sound like our hobby?

A traditional coffee pot from Sudan and a hand decorated

In the Spotlight...

Album Pages web-sites...by Rick Lokos

As Phil Visser mentioned in his remarks, our plans for the October meeting changed rather suddenly. We used the evening to talk about and show each other some various ways of organizing our stamps. Rick Lokos mentioned some websites that have album pages available and some sites with good advice.

<http://www.stampalbums.com/>

Bill Steiner does an excellent job on the album pages he creates. I found this site about 10 years ago so he's been at it for quite awhile. A lot of the pages are only a year or two behind for the issues. It just depends on how quickly he has access to the new stamps so he can create the pages to correspond. His fee is \$30.00US for complete access to the website for one year and unlimited downloading of any and all pages that are available. If internet access is a problem he also sells a CD version of all the pages available up to that point for the same amount. With the prices of pre-printed album supplements easily reaching \$20-\$30.00 just for one country for one year of issues, his fee is more than fair.

I've used his pages before and was quite happy with them and wouldn't hesitate to recommend them.

<http://www.precancels.com/>

The Precancel Stamp Society's website offers free album page downloads for both US Town & Type collectors as well as Printed Dated Type collectors. You can download the files and then print only the pages you need as you acquire new stamps. It doesn't get much better than free.

The Precancel Stamp Society also produces catalogs for both the Bureau precancels and the Town & Type precancels and both catalogs are now available as computer programs which also give you the ability to keep track of your collection as you can enter in the stamps from your own collection into inventory. The inventory portion is nice as it allows you to keep track of what you have and what you need and also allows you to print lists of either as well. And...the programs also allow you to print albums pages. Nice....

<http://album.dweeb.org/albumguide.html>

This is a personal website that a gentleman put up to show his collection and the custom album pages he made. The pages look great and the details and advice he

offers for creating your own album pages I thought was excellent. Although one might not want to use exactly the same equipment, software programs or paper stock he has, his guidelines are good food for thought if you contemplating doing your own pages.

<http://www.adminware.ca/admphil.htm>

This is the webpage for Robin Harris, editor of the Unitrade Catalog. There is a lot of free information on this site, not just for Canadian stamps but also for GB Machins and for the US Flag Over Porch stamps. This is also the goto place for updates and error corrections for the Unitrade catalog.

For Cdn. stamps there are extensive checklists for the different definitive series. If you are interested in or collect tagging on Canadian stamps there is an online Canadian Tagging Database here showing all of the tagging possibilities as well as all of the tagging errors.

For collectors of GB Machins Robin is in the process of putting together and making available album pages. For the basic set of Machins the album pages are free. For more advanced Machin collectors there are a couple of other choices for album pages but there will be a fee for them. At this time I don't think the more advanced pages

I hope that everyone will participate in this column. The 'spotlight' can be focused on anything philatelic. Whether you love it, hate it or you just have a story to tell, drop us a

are quite complete but he expects to have them finished very shortly. They may even be available now.

On the Cover ...Beneficial Insects...the sequel

In October of 2007 Canada Post released five new stamps featuring beneficial insects as low value definitives. In April of 2009 the 2¢ monarch caterpillar was added to the swarm. The five new denominations released this October make it so that there is a stamp available for any amount from 1¢ to 10¢ plus one for a quarter. Once again the black edge has been used to frame the brightly coloured stamps. Keith Martin of Signals Design Group of Vancouver claims to have had great fun designing the series of stamps and I believe it! The colourful bugs go this way and that way with a very close up view even cropping the wings of some. They certainly don't have the sterile look of a bug collection nicely labelled and pinned to cardboard. Being an artist's representation they are probably shown more colourfully than one might be able to catch on camera.

The stamps are available on a souvenir sheet which matches the souvenir sheet of the earlier issues. All of the stamps have a water activated gum and can be purchased singly or in panes of fifty. The first day cover has five piles of wandering insects spread across it. Canada Post has also put together a special pack of corner

blocks from all five stamps from the corner of your choice. An uncut press sheet is also available in limited quantities for thirty dollars. The press sheet appears to contain three sheets of the 9¢ dogbane beetle, two sheets of the 8¢ margined leatherwing and one pane each of the other stamps.

The beneficial insect series has been very popular which is probably what prompted Canada Post to have the set broadened. Hopefully the series has also been educational. In this new set especially I see some bugs that I have spotted in my garden and wondered whether I should be concerned or delighted. Now I see that there are a few more kinds that I can put on the do not squish list!



4¢ - the paper wasp There are many kinds of paper wasps. This new stamp illustrates the *Polistes fuscatus* which is a variety found only in southeast Alberta. In general paper wasps are not terribly aggressive but will certainly sting if they or their nest is attacked. If you do get stung a female wasp is the one responsible.

Her stinger is actually an ovipositor and she'll sting you again so you'd better leave her alone! The nest is essentially wasp made paper. It is made up of a single layer of cells which dangle from one strand in some protective location. The nest is started by a queen who lays an egg in each cell. After the egg hatches the cell remains open to feed the legless larva. The cell is then closed while the young wasp is pupate and emerges as an adult. The males fertilize the queens and workers help to feed and raise more young. A mature nest may only have twenty to thirty adults. The fertilized daughters of the queen wasp over winter in nooks and crannies and the rest of the colony dies off. The wasps are considered beneficial because of their diet of flies, larvae and caterpillars.



6¢ - the assassin bug They may be beneficial but I wouldn't want to meet one of these bugs in a back alley. There are about 150 varieties of assassin bugs north of Mexico. They have a narrow little head with a segmented long narrow tube called a rostrum that they can fold underneath themselves. They use the rostrum to inject their

prey with saliva that kills and then liquefies the affected area and then suck out their insides. They can effectively kill a creature a few times larger than themselves or cause serious pain for creatures such as ourselves. They have sticky hairs on their legs to hold onto the prey. When they are in the nymph stages they rely a lot on their stickiness, sometimes making their whole body sticky with a substance from glands in their legs and camouflaging themselves with the dead bodies of their previous victims. Pretty gruesome sounding but hey - they eat leafcutters, aphids, caterpillars and other eggs and larvae. The variety on the stamp is called *Zelus luridus*. Some varieties of assassin bugs eat ants and termites, while other are bred as pets to eat cockroaches and bed bugs. Make sure you breed the right kind because

the variety known as the kissing bug will hunt in your bed and suck the blood from your lips and eyelids.



7♣ - the large milkweed bug When we think of milkweed many of us will immediately think of the lovely monarch butterfly. It seems that the toxins of the milkweed plant show up as orange and black colouring in these bugs as well as the monarchs. Like the assassin bug, the large milkweed bug has a long rostrum. Knowing that their rostrum or beak is used mostly to suck the juices from the milkweed plant somehow makes the large milkweed bug seem a lot less sinister than the assassin bug. If necessary, they will resort to becoming a predator when there is a shortage of milkweed.

The eggs of the large milkweed bug are laid on the milkweed in May and June once the milkweed plants are fairly developed. The eggs hatch in a week and the insect goes through five instars (stages of development) to become winged and fully grown. Groups of large milkweed bugs or *Oncopeltus fasciatus* can be found congregating on the underside of milkweed leaves. The groups may include younger bugs in different stages. They suck the juice out from the milkweed seeds right through the pod shell. It is by doing this damage to the seeds that they help to control the spread of milkweed plants.



8♣ - the margined leatherwing This bug is a member of the soldier beetle family. Its outer wings (elytra) are not as hard as most beetles hence the name leatherwing. They spend the whole summer as wrinkly black larvae in moist areas close to the soil eating various small insects, aphids, grasshopper eggs, slugs and snails. In the fall they pupate and re-emerge in May and June as adults. The adult margined leatherwings or *Chauliognathus marginatus* are quite harmless. They spend their time dining on nectar and pollen, mating and laying eggs and then their life cycle is done. If you see one in the fall, you are likely seeing a goldenrod soldier beetle. The two kinds of bug look very similar. Take note of the black stripe that runs down the center of the margined leatherwings' head and pronotum (the first section of the carapace). On the goldenrod soldier beetle the black on the pronotum appears as a blotch rather than a broad stripe. The black stripes on the wings of both of the beetles can be short or long.



9♣ - the Dogbane beetle The second beetle in the set is a leaf beetle with the latin name *Chrysochus auratus*. It is a large very rounded beetle that fascinates people with its highly iridescent colouring. Native North Americans have used the colourful beetles' wings in jewellery. They are considered beneficial because they eat the roots of the milkweed and dogbane plants when in their larval stage. Dogbane has a milky juice similar to milkweed and farmers consider it to be a pesky weed.

Like the other insects that dine on milkweed, they have become toxic to their predators. When harassed they will drop to the ground and emit a foul odour. As adults they are leaf eaters, a large category of beetles. The dogbane beetle can be found almost anywhere east of the Rockies.



About milkweed There are fourteen kinds of milkweed that grow in Canada. The milk of the Common milkweed is toxic. Some of the other varieties are not nearly as toxic. The toxicity of the plant protects those few insects that tolerate the plant from other predators. Milkweed was listed as a noxious plant in Ontario.

Because of its nasty taste most livestock will avoid it. There was a case once where a dozen sheep died from ingesting large amounts of milkweed in Maryland. It should be noted that this happened during a season of drought and the only plant left in abundance was milkweed.

As awareness grew about the monarch butterflies' reliance on the milkweed plant, the designation of milkweed as a noxious plant came under scrutiny. Now in Ontario it is only Common milkweed that is listed as noxious because of its toxicity and its weed-like behaviour. It prefers open fields of disturbed land and so is suited perfectly for pasture land. It spreads easily and is hard to control.

If you wish to grow milkweed to attract monarchs and maybe even large milkweed bugs, be sure to grow one of the rarer varieties and do not let the seeds take to the wind. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs recommend that you speak to your local weed inspector before planting any milkweed.

From the Editor...

Well, I won't keep you long. I hope that you found your newsletter informative, interesting and fun. That's what I try to bring to you each month.

See if you can get a one page challenge ready. The topic is Royalty and I'm sure we all have oodles of stuff with kings and queens plastered on it. Some of you probably have some very nice stuff.

Bring lots of items for the auction and maybe some items to trade or wheel and deal with!

See you on Wednesday!

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

Coming Events...

- NOV. 12 - 14, Toronto, ON
National Postage Stamp Show, Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. Show hours: Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association National Postage Stamp Show with dealers from across Canada, the

United Kingdom, and the United States, Canada Post, society and club information, stamps for kids, hourly draw prizes and much more. Free limited edition set of 10 commemorative postcards plus poster celebrating the Year of The Tiger. Offer good while supplies last. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association. For information contact director@csdaonline.com. Website: <http://www.csdaonline.com>.

- NOV. 13, Cambridge, ON
Cambridge Stamp Show and Bourse, United Kingdom Club, International Village Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Display exhibits, 10 dealers, free parking, lunch counter. Sponsor/Affiliate: Cambridge Stamp Club. For more information contact Godfrey Fearn, telephone 519-623-4911
- NOV. 20, Burlington, ON
Burloak Stamp Fair, Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St. Regular monthly show in our 16th year, held on the third Saturday of every month year round. Hours 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., between six and nine dealers, always new material, active buyers. For more information contact Michael P. Anderson, telephone 905-632-6057 email mpanderson@cogeco.ca.
- NOV. 27, 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, email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca. Website: <http://www.NorthTorontoStampClub.tk>.
- DEC. 11, Toronto, ON
Postage Stamp Show, St. Bonaventure Church Parish Centre, 1300 Leslie St. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission and parking. For more information contact 705-799-2008

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

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 25 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: \$15; Junior- Free

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