

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. June 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 @ 7:00

## From the President...



Greetings again to all the members of the Owen Sound stamp club. The light is still shining outside which makes me wonder what happened to the winter. Even though the days are getting longer, I am hoping to see you all at the meeting on the 15th. The meeting comes early this month because of the way the calendar falls and so I hope this reaches you before the meeting.

Our meeting this month will have John Cortan bringing along his stamp stock. Our regular items of the meeting will still happen so please don't forget to bring something along for the "show and tell" portion of the meeting. Since the last meeting I have been approached about having the meeting at a more accessible location. I believe we have another place for consideration so I will share that information when we get together. I am looking forward to seeing you at the St George's church on the 15th.

Phil Visser

President OSSC

## On the Cover...Parks Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



On May 19<sup>th</sup> Canada Post released a stamp honouring Parks Canada Agency's Centenary. The world's first national park service is made up of 42 national parks across Canada some are small and some stretch over hundreds of kilometres. It also runs 167 National Historic Sites, the graves of past Prime Ministers and 4 national marine Parks. The historic sites include such places as: a number of canal systems, national lighthouses, quite a few forts and battle sites and the home of Alexander Graham Bell in Baddeck Nova Scotia which we discussed in this column in connection to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first flight in Canada. This huge Agency employs 4500 people and has an annual budget of over 600 million dollars, with a couple of hundred million more thrown in this year for special centenary projects. While the Parks service is one hundred years old, Banff, the first national park turned 125 in 2010. The site was chosen because of its hot springs and its proximity to the CP Rail line to encourage tourism in the Canadian Rockies. In the first years of the Parks Canada's existence its emphasis was on exposing the public to the wilderness and while attendance at the Parks is still important the focus is much more on ecological preservation.



Formed in 1895, Waterton Lakes Park in Alberta has been on two stamps. The first is a high value definitive from the eighties and the second is from a joint issue with Ireland celebrating their respective UNESCO biosphere reserves.

definitive stamps over the years, as well as canals, forts and lighthouses.

The new stamp is designed to look like the travel posters of the twenties and thirties. It has the look of a linocut with its chunky blocks of colour and brightly highlighted areas. The stamp is available only in booklets of ten. It reminded me of another Canadian stamp that was part of the millennium collection. Also designed by Tim Nokes of Lethbridge Alberta, the millennium stamp honours Eric Lafferty Harvie; a lawyer who became a philanthropist after hitting oil on his property. He formed the Glenbow Foundation which collects the art and historical artifacts of the west.

National and Provincial Parks and Historical sites would be a good topic for thematic stamp collectors. A lot of the large National Parks have been featured on high value



Also designed by Tim Nokes.

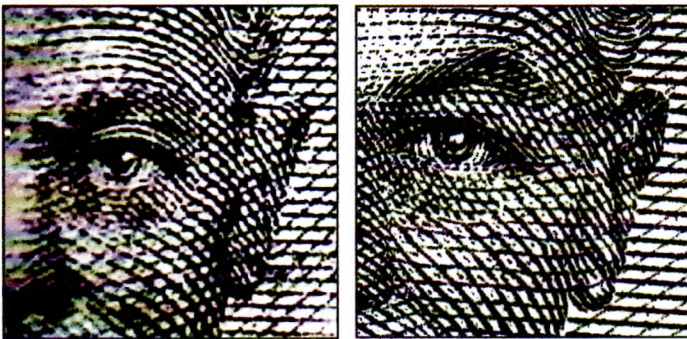
## The King's Ear...by Peter Kritz

A very popular movie making the rounds and recognized at the recent Academy Awards is the Oscar winning 'The King's Speech'. It draws attention to the constant stammer that King George the VI was fraught with. This reluctant King, who led the monarchy through the trials of WWII, ascended to the throne upon the abdication of his brother, Edward the VIII in 1936. In September of 1948, with the war over, the Post Office Department requested and received a new series of photos of the King in civilian clothes taken by the famous London studio of Dorothy Wilding to replace the war time issues. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, the Director of Financial Services of the Post Office Dept. directed the Vice-President of the Canadian Bank Note Co. to create a new series of five stamps depicting the King in civilian clothes.

Being thrust onto the throne and having a stammer were not the only challenges for this unfortunate King. It would appear that he also had a protruding left ear that caused the Post Office Dept. in Ottawa to request alterations to the die for the 2 cent denomination created originally from the Wilding photos. In the photo you can see the left ear standing out from the head somewhat and the strong shading on the left side.

The original die for the 2 cent stamp was engraved as XG878. The only example of this die known to exist is in the form of four Gelatine rubbings on transparency film. With the aid of a Lindner electronic microscope it was possible to lift a pretty good image so that we can all see what the fuss is about.

In creating the die, engraver John Hay faithfully reproduced the Wilding image. Upon seeing his work however, the Post Office Dept. did not believe that this was the representation of the King that they were looking for.



The original die XG878, left, compared to its replacement, XG886. In the new engraving the ear is less prominent and closer to the head and the shading on the face is lighter.

reduced shading is shown on the left. On the 11 of March 1949 Canadian Bank Note Company was authorized to begin the printing of the approved designs. On the 29 of April, 1949 the Postmaster General announced that the newly designed and manufactured postage stamps would go on sale to the public on the 6 of June.

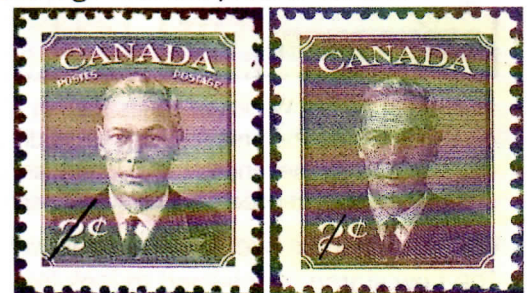
In a strange irony that was typical of his reign things just did not seem to go in the King's favour. From the 'Cabinet Conclusions', dated May 27, 1949 Prime Minister St. Laurent mentioned that the proposal for a new issue of postage stamps to be printed in only one language had aroused criticism in some quarters and enquired what were the considerations that prompted this change in policy. The Post Master General, Mr. Bertrand, explained that, by international agreement, excess wording was being eliminated (*The King's Ear is continued on the next page*)



A close up of the Wilding portrait. Note how the heavy shadow accentuates the ear.

In a letter to American Bank Note on Dec. 22, 1948, from P.J. Wood of Canadian Bank Note, the following was stated, "The officials of the Post Office Dept. have rejected the proof as quite unsatisfactory and call our attention to the ugly appearance of the left ear and made the further comment that they think the entire left side of the face is too dark, although the portrait shows it as such. In fact, you will see that the engraver actually caused the ear to stand out slightly more than in the photo.

The Engravers went to work to make the King look more regal and a new die XG886 was approved by The Post Office Department on January 16, 1949. The finished design with the prettier ear and



The two versions of the final design. The original, on the right, was withdrawn prior to release in 1949 and replaced with the one inscribed 'Postes/ Postage'. It was then released for sale anyway in 1950 to 'recover the costs of production'.

(The King's Ear continued from the last page)

from stamps. The departmental decision to dispense with both 'postage' and 'postes' was taken pursuant to this agreement. It followed similar action being taken in other countries.



The 2¢ and the 4¢ 'Postes/Postage' stamps were released again in 1951 in new colours in panes and coils. Here is the new olive green 2¢ KGV in a jump strip of four stamps.

words Postes-Postage and was eventually released to the public in November of 1949. Canada's only ever issue to be announced and then subsequently withdrawn was released for sale in January of 1950 to save the Post Office department from loss for the costs of printing.

One final note of irony: the King had been told that smoking cigarettes would help control his stammer. He died at the young age of 56 of lung cancer.

*Thanks to Peter Kritz for this interesting article. Peter is one of the Past-Presidents and cofounders of the Saugeen Stamp Club.*

### From the Editor...

Thank you to Ed Lewis and company from the **St. Catharines Stamp Club** for bringing the club's circuit books to our meeting. Everyone had fun sorting through them. I found a bunch of stamps from Danzig to keep me occupied.



Tickets are now on sale for our 2011 Stamp Show Raffle. They are 4 tickets for \$5.00 or 1 for \$2.00. If you can't make it to the meetings, send me five bucks and I'll include your tickets with your newsletter.

**John Cortan** will be bringing his wares to the June meeting. It would be helpful if a few members showed up early to give John a hand bringing things in. Please email or phone John if you are looking for anything in particular. He will not be bringing covers and post cards unless requested. John's info is in the club officer's listing.

See you on Wednesday! *The Editor*

### Coming Events...

- JUNE 18, Burlington, ON  
BurlOak Stamp Fair, Burlington Senior's Centre, 2285 New St. Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Between six and nine dealers who are active buyers and have new material every month. For more information contact Michael P. Anderson, telephone 905-632-6057, email mpanderson@cogeco.ca.

- **AUG. 6, Fenelon Falls, ON**  
FENPEX 27, Fenelon Seniors' Club Hall, 58 Murray St. Hours: 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Door prizes, free stuff for kids, silent auctions, dealers, lunch available, bright new air-conditioned building, free admission, lots of free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Fenelon Stamp Club. For information contact Lloyd McEwan, club president, telephone 705-324-7577, email [lmcewan@sympatico.ca](mailto:lmcewan@sympatico.ca).
- **AUG. 13, Kincardine, ON**  
KINEX 2011, Davidson Centre, 601 Durham St. Seniors Room. Note this is a new location. The Davidson Centre is just off Hwy. 21 on Durham St. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking, eight to 10 dealers, youth table, door prizes, lunch booth. For more information contact John, telephone 519-395-5817, email [jcortan@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:jcortan@hurontel.on.ca).
- **SEPT. 2 - 4, North Bay, ON**  
BNAPEX 2011, Clarion Resort Pinewood Park Hotel, 201 Pinewood Park Dr. Exhibits, bourse, study group meetings, seminars, area tours, awards banquet. Sponsor/Affiliate: British North America Philatelic Society. For more information contact John Beddows, email: [jlw@onlink.net](mailto:jlw@onlink.net), PO Box 21077, North Bay, ON P1B 9N8. Website: <http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex2011>.
- **SEPT. 17, Toronto, ON**  
Fall Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Free admission, club sale circuit, wheelchair access, refreshments available. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Herb, telephone 416-445-7720, email [ntstampclub@yahoo.ca](mailto:ntstampclub@yahoo.ca). Website: <http://www.NorthTorontoStampClub.tk>.
- **SEPT. 17, Owen Sound, ON**  
Owen Sound 16th Annual Stamp Show and Sale, Royal Canadian Legion, 1450 2nd Ave. W. NOTE: New location. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., eight dealers, door prizes, free parking and admission, exhibits and free stamps for kids. Sponsor/Affiliate: Owen Sound Stamp Club. For more information contact Marion Ace, telephone 519-934-1998, email [marionace@bmts.com](mailto:marionace@bmts.com).

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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 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 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

### Club Officers:

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