

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. April 17th 2013 @ 7:00

From the President...



You all may be wondering where spring is this year! Now that we have moved, I sit in my "cave" in the basement to do work and stamps and pay no attention to the weather until the morning arrives. I hope that everyone is patiently puttering around with their respective collections and may be able to ask questions from each other at the upcoming meeting or even have a suggestion for what we could do that would benefit other club members.

This month will feature a visit by **Mr. Peter Wood**. Peter is a member of the British North America Philatelic Society and has found a way to use a microscope to give a much better image of a stamp onto a computer screen. So, with the help of a projector and screen, he can show details of stamps that are difficult to discern using a simple magnifying glass. However, Peter has given an open invitation to members to bring stamps that may have varieties that are difficult to identify or with different printing techniques that are also difficult to see. My memory suggests that we had a discussion, possibly last fall some time, about the UK Machins with just different printing techniques. Please feel free to bring some stamps along for projection methods. Not to forget, but Peter will also be bringing a number of microscopes for sale. I purchased one from him last fall for \$60, so the price will likely be in that neighborhood should anyone want to purchase one on the evening of the meeting.

Following the demonstration by Peter, we will again feature a club auction whereby members can bring some articles for the auction and hopefully attract an interest of another club member. These sales are not a great money making endeavor for the seller but it is a way to have some fun bidding against each other as well as mocking the auctioneer.

For the meeting in May, we will have **Mr. Tom Griffith** who is bringing some of the circuit books from the Hamilton Stamp Club. I hope to have other clubs visit with their circuit books for the remainder of the summer months, but have no

commitments as of yet. I also extend a request out to you as members of make suggestions or topics for activities we can have at our club meetings. They will all be gratefully received.

I also extend a big thank you to the club members who helped out at the *Community Awareness Day* at the Library on April 13th. Huge thanks goes to *Larry Crane* who organized the event as well as those who took the time out of the day to promote our club. And so I hope to see you all out at the *St Mary's High School* on April 17th.

Cheers,
Phil Visser
President OSSC

In the Spotlight... Canda's Smallest Revenue Stamp by Bob Graham



A tiny green one cent stamp was printed for the Government of Alberta during the Great Depression. The smallest regular postage stamp ever issued in Canada, the dainty half cent *Small Queen*, towers over the Alberta revenue. In the picture, an ordinary little 2¢ definitive stamp of 1951 is noticeably larger than a block of four Alberta revenue stamps! A comparison with the \$8 *Grizzly Bear* or the recent \$10 *whale* would just be cruel.

Because of its puny size, the Alberta stamp has no picture at all, just the text ALBERTA / 1 / CENT. It is printed in green, probably by lithography, and is rouletted for separation. Now, you will be wondering, whatever was it used for? And thereby hangs a tale!

1951 2¢ compared with
Alberta 1¢ revenue block

During the Great Depression, traditional pre-Keynesian economic theories proved useless (or worse) at restarting the economy, and it seemed like anybody with an idea, no matter how strange, would find an audience. In Alberta a new political party, *Social Credit*, adopted economic notions advanced by Major Douglas and monetary theories of *Silvio Gesell*, and in 1935 they swept to power. The valid observation had been made that there was still money in the land, but it wasn't

circulating. Increasing the “velocity of circulation” was a priority of the new Social Credit administration of radio evangelist William Aberhart.



Alberta Prosperity Certificate, face. Aberhart's

Aberhart resolved to issue bills resembling bank notes, in a range of denominations from 25¢ to \$5.00, to which revenue stamps had to be attached weekly, and he proceeded to have the necessary legislation enacted. To avoid the expense of purchasing the revenue stamps, one had only to spend the money before the stamp was required, thereby stimulating the “velocity of circulation” and thus the economy generally. It all resembled a financial version of

musical chairs, except that when the music stopped, the holder of the note had to attach a stamp to continue its validity. In the event, only \$1.00 “prosperity certificates” were issued, in 1936. Every week a one cent stamp had to be attached to the back in the appropriate dated square, for a period of two years. During this time the government would receive the dollar back to pay for redemption of the note, with an additional four cents to cover the cost of administering the programme. The reason the stamps had to be so tiny, of course, was so that 104 of them would fit on the back of a normal sized \$1.00 note. The stamps were sold to the public in diminutive panes of 100. A few full panes still exist.



Alberta Prosperity Certificate (Van Dam AP1a), back, with three 1¢ revenue stamps

Poor Aberhart got nothing but grief for what must have seemed to him to be an absolutely brilliant idea. The Government of Canada were not amused, not in the least. The Bank of Canada, and, at that time, the chartered banks, were the only authorized issuers of paper money. Aberhart's action was clearly illegal, although Prime Minister King was reluctant to press him too hard on that particular issue. Naturally enough, ordinary Albertans weren't much in favour either. A cent was a cent in those hard up days, long before the arrival of oil wealth, and nobody wanted to have to pay for stamps to keep their money current. The merchants were adamantly opposed since they were often the ones stuck with the notes when stamps fell due, and they couldn't deposit them because banks wouldn't take them. In addition, the news media were not in the least supportive and got up a campaign to boycott the notes. Worst of all, the stamps wouldn't adhere to the prosperity certificates properly, and insisted on falling off!

Aberhart's response was an attempt to legislate control of the banks and newspapers, a chilling reminder of another 1930s phenomenon, but the Lieutenant-Governor resolutely refused Royal Assent.

In the face of such widespread opposition, the only way the government could get their "funny money" into circulation was to force provincial civil servants to accept the notes as part of their wages. In the early days of the programme, prosperity certificates were used to finance "workfare" employment – road maintenance and such – and probably did bring some measure of relief.

Aberhart and his administration finally yielded after about one year, and called in the prosperity certificates for redemption. Of 250,000 issued, some 19,000 remain outstanding, whether lost through fire or decay or retained as souvenirs and collectors' items. The stamps were not cancelled as used, so those attached to prosperity certificates are technically "unused", while those with their original gum are fully mint.



Coming Events...

- APRIL 19 - 21, 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. 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. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association. For more information telephone 519-681-3420, or email director@csgaonline.com. Website: <http://www.csgaonline.com/shows>.
- APRIL 21, Pickering, ON
Ajax / Pickering Stamp & Coin Show, Pickering Recreation Complex, East & West Salon, 1867 Valley Farm Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, free parking, lunch available, stamp and coin dealers, club and youth table. This is a new location and date. Sponsor/Affiliate: Ajax Philatelic Society. For more information email donaldbeaumont@yahoo.com.
- APRIL 23, Burlington, ON
BURLOAK STAMP FAIR, Seniors' Centre, 2285 New St. (at Seneca). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 18th year of regular monthly shows on the third Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers and always something new. For more information contact Steve Simon, telephone 905-575-2950, email bas6@bell.net.
- APRIL 26 - 27, Hamilton, ON
SPRINGPEX, Bishop Ryan Secondary School; Quigley Rd. at Albright. Fri. is auction night with a large silent auction closing at 7:30 p.m., followed by a large voice auction starting

at 8 p.m. GRVPA sales circuit in attendance, light refreshments available. Sat. features 20-dealer bourse with Hamilton sales circuit, silent auction, Canada Post, youth booth, and light refreshments. Sponsor/Affiliate: Hamilton Stamp Club. For more information, contact Michael Anderson, email mpanderson@cogeco.ca, telephone 905-632-6057 Website: <http://hamiltonstampclub.com>.

- MAY 4, Hanover, ON

Saugeen Stamp Club Annual Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, Highway 4, west of Hanover. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking, free admission, exhibits, 10 dealers, door prizes, club sales circuit, lunch counter, free stamps for kids. Sponsor/Affiliate: Saugeen Stamp Club. For more information contact Bill Findlay, president, telephone 519-369-5689, email billfindlay@bell.net. Website: <http://saugeenstampclub.webplus.net/index.html>.

- MAY 4 - 5, Ottawa, ON

ORAPEX 2013, RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking, theme: "The 250th Anniversary of Formalized Postal Service in Canada (1763-2013)." Distinguished Canadian philatelist to be honoured: Doug Lingard, who has served on the ORAPEX committee for 35 years and has chaired it for the past 15. Over 40 stamp dealers, youth booth with free stamps for young collectors, philatelic seminars, over 150 frames of exhibits, which can be judged either as national or regional entries by accredited judges. The Grand Award winner of this Canadian national level stamp show will be eligible to compete in the American Philatelic Society's "World Series of Philately" championship exhibition in 2013. Collectors interested in exhibiting can obtain a copy of the entry form and rules at orapex.ca, or by contacting Brian Watson, exhibits co-ordinator, email brian150@sympatico.ca. Sponsor/Affiliate: RA Stamp Club, Ottawa Philatelic Society, L'Amicale des Philatélistes de l'Outaouais. For more information contact Robert Pinet, telephone 613-745-2788 email pinet.robert@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.orapex.ca>.

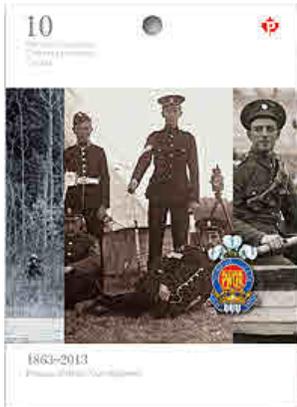
- MAY 5, Stratford, ON

Mayday Stamp Show, Kiwanis Community Centre, 111 Lakeside Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Featuring a show cachet cover highlighting historical Stratford, a dealers' bourse, stamp exhibits, the club's sales circuit, free admission and parking, wheelchair accessibility and a lunch counter. Sponsor/Affiliate: Stratford Stamp Club. For more information contact Richard Blackburn, telephone 519-273-0429, email richard.blackburn@utoronto.ca.

- MAY 11, Toronto, ON

Edithvale Hobby Show, Banquet Room, Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. W. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., free admission, free parking, all sorts of collectibles and featuring coins, paper money, stamps, etc. Sponsor/Affiliate: Mississauga-Etobicoke Coin Stamp & Collectibles Club & North York Coin Club. For more information contact Paul Petch, telephone 416-303-4417, email p.petch@rogers.com. Website: <http://www.GTA-Collects.ca>.

On the Cover ... The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment



Canada Post is continuing the 'Regiment' series of stamps with Kingston's Princess of Wales' Own Regiment. The Regiment was formed from seven separate rifle militias in Kingston in January of 1863.

The Regiment was first called the 14th Battalion Volunteer Militia Rifles, Canada. The enthusiastic new regiment wanted to become the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment when just seven weeks after their formation Albert the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII) married HRH Princess Alexandra of Denmark. The Princess was impressed with the participation of the Regiment in defending Niagara, Kingston and Cornwall during the Fenian raids from 1864 to 1866. She granted her Royal Patronage in 1868.

Celebrations for the Regiment's 150th anniversary include an Information Day and a regimental Ball held in early April. The Canadian War Museum in Ottawa has an exhibition of photographs and stories about members of the Regiment in the lobby until May 13th. The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment has their own Military Museum in the Kingston Armouries which was officially opened in October of 1991 by HRH Diana, Princess of Wales.

One of the stories told in the museum is about showing Jarret's newspaper article. In WWI the Sergeant had left the trenches and was hit by shrapnel in his head and right arm and leg and took a bullet to the chest. The bullet struck the roll call book which was a small thick leather covered pad with a thin sheet of steel in the middle of it that he had in his left chest pocket. The bullet looks like one of the 'o's in the word 'book'. His wounds were cause to be removed from the front lines but thanks to the small book he lived to tell the tale!



about members of the Princess of Wales' Own in the Kingston October of 1991 by museum is about showing Jarret's newspaper article.

This is a special logo for the PWOR's 150th. It is based on their cap pin

The stamps are available only in a booklet of ten or on a First Day Cover. Like the previous 'Regiments' stamps they show soldiers in uniforms from four eras. The new stamps were likely released on April 9th because the Regiment honours their fallen fellows from Easter Monday April 9th 1917 at Vimy Ridge with a parade and a calling of their names. The OFDC will of course be cancelled in Kingston. The city is proud to say that nine of its Mayors served in the Regiment. The PWOR holds an annual fundraising event for the Ontario March of Dimes.

The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment has been granted the Freedom of the City
in
this

From Dr. Phil A. Telly...

Stamps got you licked? Feeling stamped out?



special year.

Dear Dr. Phil,

Please help me, I am getting dizzy. I've been around and around catalogue pages but I can't find these stamps. Between East Germany, West Germany and occupations; including Berlin, each of these having their own section for semi-postals, air mail, official stamps, overprints of further occupations and more....I cannot find these darn stamps!!! Deutsche Bundespost, DDR, Deutsches Reich, Deutsche Post, Flug Post, Dienstmarke, Reich Post, Deutschland and Deutsche Demokratische Republik are all names used on German stamps. That list does not include the various German States and Provinces and overprints on states and occupations. Whew! Collecting German stamps is not a simple task.

For now though, perhaps you could help me with this type of stamp. What is AM Post? It sounds like the morning paper. I have a couple of them. As you can see, they also come in different sizes. Please help before I spin out of control, Dizzy Stamper

Dear Dizzy,

In the Scott catalogue these stamps are listed under the heading of; A.M.G. Issue in the German Occupation Stamps section. Allied Military Government postage stamps were issued after WW II during 1945 and '46. These were done in three printings. The whole range of values was printed in Brunswick Germany and a smaller range of values came from Washington and London. These can be differentiated by perforations and small differences in the design. The Brunswick and the Washington issues are lithographed while London's are photogravure. They do not have watermarks but there are many paper types (Scott lists three). Michel's has pages of varieties and plate flaws listed in their specialized catalogue, but knowing German would be a great help. There are many more occupation stamps besides the military ones which are also listed in Scott's Stamp Catalogue right after the AM post stamps, which follow the Airmail and Official stamps.

This is a great collecting area and would keep a collector busy just trying to find all the varieties. I hope this answers your question and prevents you from going into

A number of differences can be spotted in these stamps. The Brunswick printing seems to have more white dots in the curlicue pattern. The tip of the strokes in the central 'M' come to a soft point in the left hand stamp and is squared off on the right. The 'white' lines and lettering are thinner on the left. The London printing of the 6 AM

a tail spin. Dr. Phil



From the Editor...

Thank you to **Bob Graham** from the Saugeen Stamp Club for the article about the smallest Revenue stamp. The

whole concept about the revenue stamp is so bizarre it is hard to believe they got away with issuing it at all!

I am looking forward to learning about the microscope that Peter Woods is bringing. I have included a reprint of a Dr. Phil article from 2008. A microscope might be handy to look at the AMG stamps. The Dr. Phil articles were written in cahoots by me and an anonymous club member and some of the readers. They are meant to be fun and informative. I may reprint more of them in the future. Please feel free to put forth a question or to expand upon a response.

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

If you get this newsletter early enough, give **Larry Crane** a call to see if he needs any assistance at the **Owen Sound Library on Saturday April 13th**. He may need some display items.

Owen Sound Stamp Club

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The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of St. Mary's High School, 555 15th St. East. Please park behind the school. The 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 30 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

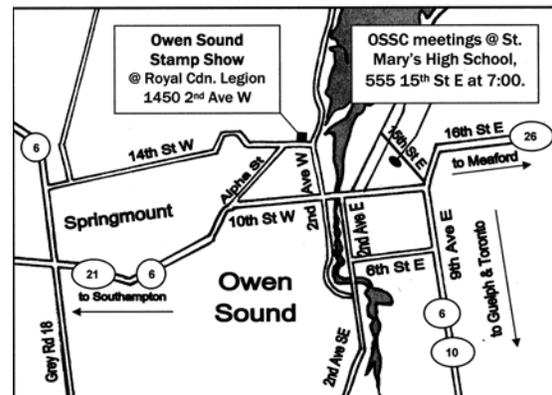
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Obituary...

(Reprinted from The Times, of London)

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, *Common Sense*, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: * Knowing when to come in out of the rain * Why the early bird gets the worm * Life isn't always fair * Maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student, but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home, and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Honesty, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and his son, Reason. He is survived by his four stepbrothers: I Know my, Rights, I Want it Now, Someone Else is to Blame, and I'm a Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.