

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. June 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 @ 7:00

## From the President...



Well it is time again to write a brief message and with it a call for the membership to accept new roles. I didn't realize the time and so missed sending off this message until I realized that our meeting was coming up on the 18th. Sadly, it looks like we are coming into a transition time and so I hope every one can graciously consider what part each individual can play in keeping our stamp club a vibrant one.

This month we will be hosting the stamp circuit books from the Cambridge Club. Mr. Ed Lewis has boldly claimed that the Cambridge Circuit books are the best in all of the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association. Only you can determine if that claim is correct or not! Either way, let's make the trip worth while for the visiting club

It appears that many of you will not receive this newsletter before the meeting and so I apologize for that. However, we will be having a club auction on the July meeting, and we will be meeting at the church for that month. In August we will be back in the school and I am trying to confirm a visit from either Bramalea or Woodstock.

Phil Visser  
President  
OSSC

## Coming Events...

- **JUNE 21, 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.
- **JUNE 21, Brighton, ON**  
2014 South - Central / Eastern Ontario Saturday Postage Stamp, Coin & Postcard Fairs, Brighton Community Centre / Hockey Rink Complex, 75 Elizabeth St. / Hwy 2 East. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free admission and parking. Our 38th year in business, with more than one million worldwide stamps, postcards, covers, coins and currency notes. Related hobby supplies also available, many at discounted prices. For more information send an email to dejackson8138@gmail.com.
- **JULY 26, Toronto, ON**  
Scarborough Stamp Club Show, Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. (near Lawrence-Markham). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. No admission charge, four to six dealers, club circuit books, free parking. For more information contact Rick Howard, telephone 416-778-4175.
- **AUG. 9, Kincardine, ON**  
Kinex 2014, Davidson Centre, Durham Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, exhibits, door prizes, lunch

booth and sales circuit. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kincardine Stamp Club. For more information contact John, telephone 519-395-5817, email jcortan@hurontel.on.ca.

- **AUG. 16, Bracebridge, ON**  
**MUSPEX 2014, Muskoka Riverside Inn, 300 Ecclestone Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking, 10 dealers with a varied stock of stamps and postcards. Sponsor/Affiliate: Muskoka Stamp Club. For more information contact Bruce Hughes, email brucestamper1@sympatico.ca.**

## GRVPA Executive Meeting

The executive met in Cambridge on Tuesday evening, June 10th. Elections for the various positions were held with some of the executive retiring. I really appreciated the work of Stuart Keeley who encouraged and supported me in my role of being President of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. Personally, being part of the GRVPA has helped me in the role of being President for you, the stamp club members. The new President will be Joe Servos and Bill Findlay has agreed to be Vice President – West. Other than those names, the only major change was the resignation of the long time treasurer who retires due to health reasons. Oscar Cormier has agreed to replace Ken Koch as the treasurer.

One of the key pieces of information shared at the meeting was the encouragement of all clubs to have a web site, which has been a key method of one club increasing its membership. A month or so ago, I met a person who searched for us but, the internet couldn't find us, and so I believe we need to get into developing a web site.

I also urge you, the members, to start searching the web and see what ideas you think should be part of our web site. Also, don't forget to see the GRVPA website at [www.grvpa.com](http://www.grvpa.com). This website is pretty simple, yet it gives you an idea on what the GRVPA is and how we are part of it. I would also like to point out the Club fair this year, which will be a joint venture with the GTAPA (Toronto Philatelic Association) on October 25th. Last year was the first time I attended one and it was a hugely successful day for me and my philatelic desires. Carpooling is definitely a great way to spend a day on our common hobby. Book that day now so no last minute things will distract you!

My last comment is that there are two awards available to be presented to members of a club. Look at the criteria and consider making a nomination.

Phil

## CANADA'S STALINGRAD

by Bob Graham



This article is concerned with two stamps from the 1930s, both showing the Quebec Citadel from a considerable distance. The first, a 12¢ stamp, is printed in black, part of the “Arch” issue. Issued on 4 January 1930, it would pay the rate for a registered first class letter weighing up to one ounce. The second is identical except for the denomination, now 13¢, and the colour, which is purple. It is the highest value in the “Medallion” issue, released 1 December 1932. The reason for the change was an increase in the domestic letter rate from two to three cents, while the portion for registration remained an additional ten cents. Both stamps were produced by the British American Bank Note Company, which finally regained the

Scott #174, block showing extra line of perforations in selvage at right.

government stamp-printing contract they lost in 1897, but only held it from 1930 to 1934. Like other BABN stamps of the period (excepting coils) they are perf 11 rather than the usual 12.



Scott #201a, imperforate pair - I had to show this off; it cost me more than any other item in my collection. thinly veiled threats, was motivated by a land-grab attempt such as was already taking place in the Ohio Valley, still theoretically part of the former New France.

The Quebec Citadel holds a pivotal place in Canadian history, for without it, there would never have been a Dominion of Canada. During the second half of the eighteenth century it was besieged three times. Wolfe's successful Conquest of Quebec in 1759 is well known. Less well known are the failed counterattacks by the French in 1760, and the American siege of 1775-1776. It is this final episode that engages our attention at present.

The Quebec Act was passed in 1774, guaranteeing French civil law and religious freedom to the inhabitants. This was surprisingly enlightened and lenient legislation for the times, but very wise and seemingly prescient in the light of events that were soon to follow. In the Thirteen Colonies, already ripe for rebellion, disapproval was bombastic and intolerant. Merchants from the colonies to the south had moved into Quebec after the Conquest, hoping to profit by the oppression of the inhabitants. Governor Murray described them as "the most cruel, Ignorant, rapacious Fanatics who ever existed." Predictably, the merchants campaigned for Governor Murray to be recalled, but his replacement, Guy Carleton, was just as sympathetic toward the Quebec people.

Soon the American Revolution was under way. Quebec did not respond to a call to attend the Continental Congress, suspecting the invitation, reinforced with

George Washington sent 1,200 seasoned troops into Canada by way of Maine, under Col. Benedict Arnold, and a larger force under Gen. Richard Montgomery through New York. Their mission was to make Canada the fourteenth colony, and the people of Canada were to be allowed no say in the matter — all in the name of "Liberty", of course.

Montreal was not considered defensible, but there were strongholds along the route from the border that the invaders would need to subdue. To their credit, French Canadians and Indians crowded into the area to assist in defence, but Governor Carleton was too timid at this point, reluctant to engage the enemy and many of the discouraged volunteers returned to their homes to harvest their crops. The fort at Saint-Jean was given up too easily to the invaders, and Montreal lay ahead, undefended.

Traitors such as Montreal merchant Thomas Walker had been busy aiding the enemy with information and encouragement, and welcomed the invaders to the city, where they set up occupation headquarters at the Château de Ramezay. After Montgomery had gone on ahead with most of his troops, the occupation force and sympathizers mistreated the Canadians, giving them a clear understanding of the stakes in the conflict.

A strong enemy force was sent on to Sorel to intercept the retreating Carleton and his men. The Governor, disguised as a peasant, slipped silently past them in a small boat at night, but the soldiers travelling with him were surrendered by his frightened second in command, Brig-Gen. Prescott. The fate of Canada now hung by one last thread, but a very impressive thread, and that was the Citadel at Quebec.

Guy Carleton reached Quebec on 19 November 1775, three days after his escape at Sorel. But Benedict Arnold had arrived there before him, after a wretched march overland. Many of his men were sick, and all were starving and exhausted. He was in no position to mount an immediate attack on the Citadel. Fortunately for Canada, a fearless and resolute commanding officer, Allan Maclean, had just arrived with 100 volunteers from Newfoundland, bringing the garrison strength up to 1,126 men. When Arnold's invading army recovered sufficiently to commence operations, he optimistically thought a show of force might persuade the British that resistance was futile, and that they might like to surrender without any unnecessary unpleasantness. Maclean, like Count Frontenac over eighty years earlier, answered from the mouths of his cannon.



Arnold recognized the wisdom of retiring to a safe spot to await the arrival of Montgomery. This was the moment when Guy Carleton arrived at the Citadel. Although far from confident of a successful outcome, Carleton now became the man of action, and proceeded to do his duty. To rid the city of spies and enemy sympathizers, Carleton gave them three options: they could join the militia, get out of town, or go directly to jail and forfeit their assets. They left, confident of making a triumphant return following the anticipated American victory.

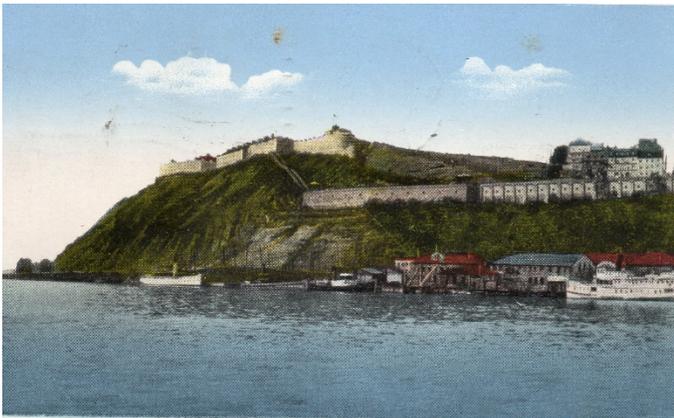
No longer having to watch his back; Carleton now prepared for the siege to come. Montgomery made repeated calls for the surrender of Quebec without bloodshed, which were contemptuously ignored. Not yet ready to risk a frontal attack, the Americans confined themselves to sniper activity, causing many casualties among the defending population.

The unwelcome southern visitors were emphatically not enjoying the pleasures of a Quebec winter and finally determined to take the city by direct assault. As an incentive, Montgomery told his men they would be free to loot and pillage to their hearts' content following a successful attack. Dark and early on the final day of 1775 the assault came. The attackers were seen in good time by an alert captain and the defenders were well prepared to receive them — warmly. Very warmly!

The Americans marched into a cauldron of cannon and musket fire and death on Quebec's narrow streets. The city shook as cannon thundered. "The city was one ring of fire, one crater of tumult ... in the midst of it all, Governor Carleton, calm, alert, fearless." Scaling ladders were used in the hope of enabling the invaders to pour over the walls, but Charles Charland, an immensely powerful French Canadian, yanked up the ladders from the hands of the enemy.

Arnold stopped an errant bullet with his left leg and had to relinquish command for a time; Montgomery was killed. Half of the invasion force was now dead, wounded or taken prisoner. News of their calamitous defeat was sent to the rebelling colonies, and the shocked politicians' response was to order an overwhelming reinforcement of six thousand Americans to proceed northward. Meanwhile Benedict Arnold maintained a desultory siege of Quebec as he nursed his wound. Congress was disappointed by the unfriendly attitude of the French Canadians and Benjamin Franklin arrived in Montreal with a printing press, hoping to stir up sedition by means of French language propaganda. But it was now far too late.

On 6 May 1776 British ships arrived at Quebec with supplies and reinforcements, causing tumultuous joy and celebration in the city, but for the battered Americans the jig was up. Carleton marched a force onto the Plains of Abraham to clear out the invaders and easily swept them from the field in minutes, the Americans taking to their heels. Some threw away their weapons so they might run unhindered, but hundreds were taken prisoner. Benedict Arnold graciously attempted to burn Montreal to the ground during the hasty retreat. Fresh American troops made equally unsuccessful attempts to conquer Canada. The loyalty of the French Canadians to their homes and communities, if not exactly to the British cause, was of critical importance. Not for the last time, "Canada remained British because it was French."



THE CITADEL, LA CITADELLE, QUEBEC, CANADA

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I hesitated to use the World War II Battle of Stalingrad as an analogy, because it was conducted on such a massive scale, with casualties over a thousand times greater than those of the 1775-6 invasion of Canada. In terms of the intensity and desperation of the conflict, recognition of the outcome as a turning point, and even the contribution of winter weather to the victory, the comparison seems entirely apt.

Until I stumbled across this story, well told by David Orchard in his tirade against the free trade agreement, I had only the most meager awareness of this brilliant episode in our history, and I wonder if it hasn't been suppressed out of deference to the Americans. Bob Graham

From the Editor...

Hello folks. I am sure many of you are grumbling as this newsletter is either late or just on time. I am finding it very difficult to find the time and the inclination to get the newsletter done. I have concluded that it is time to give up this endeavour and pass the reins to someone else. I hope that someone will step up.

I have been writing, printing, packaging and posting the newsletter since February 2007. It has been a rewarding, enriching and highly educational experience and I don't regret a minute of it. (Except some of those times when I really had to refrain from throwing the computer through the window!)

Thank you to Phil Visser for all of his president's missives and some articles. Also to Alan Charlesworth who was president when I started this. (Alan is still a member from his spot down in Windsor.)

Thank you to John Cortan for much anonymous help. Many thanks to Ralph Wyndham for his wide range of articles and his support. Also to Bob Graham for his lovely articles about some of his favourite engraved Canadian stamps and to Dave Pugh, Jim Measures, Peter Kritz, Walt Berry, Ken Magee and Deiter Albrecht who are all members of the Saugeen Stamp Club who have contributed to the Owen Sound Stamp Club newsletter.

Thanks to Pat Vander Heyden who is unfortunately deceased, Rick Lokos, Rob Armstrong and to Bob Watson when I started out. I hope that I haven't forgotten anybody but it's quite possible so please accept my thanks for any contributions to this newsletter.

I am proud to have written for our stamp club and I hope that you have enjoyed the newsletters and found them informative. I never did find time to write the article about the Royal Ontario Museum, but we're going to go out with a bang and have the whole souvenir sheet on the cover.

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

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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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