

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18<sup>st</sup>, 2017 @ 7 PM**

**Hillyer Hall, St. Mary's High School, 1555 15<sup>th</sup> Street East, Owen Sound**

**From the President**



Hi everyone. The guest speaker I had asked for the October meeting can not make it. I am going to try again for May next year. I am writing this before our show, I hope to see you all there. For our October meeting we will have a member auction.

I hope you have some money left after the show. In November, I'm going to ask Jim Brett to bring up the Sauguen circuit books.

December's meeting will be our usual Christmas party with the President's "funny munny" auction. In January, I hope our resident dealer John Cortan will bring his stock. If anyone has any ideas about topics for our meetings, I would like to hear them.

Thanks.

Larry Crane  
 President  
 OSSC

newsletter is being mailed to all club members. The envelope bears the special stamp designed for the show cover, a picture of the SS Manitoba. There are also a number of show covers available if you missed the chance to buy one at the show.

There were a number of people who had expressed an interest in buying mint copies of the special picture postage. There are still stamps available for purchase at \$1.50 per stamp. Please let me know if you have any interest in getting some for yourself. Here is a scan of the show cover to tempt the reader.

Celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> & Owen Sound's 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Owen Sound Stamp Club Show Cover

**From the Editor**

Phil Visser

This month's newsletter is being finished on the Thanksgiving weekend, and also after our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show. I hope everyone has had a special time with their families and enjoyed the food preparations and possibly also the over indulgence of turkey!

The **Looking For...** section is slightly different in this edition, but certainly fits with the idea what club members can do to help each other. Please feel free to mention to me at the next meeting or by email how the club members may be able to help you.

There is another article that is tied in to the two scans on this page. If you can't guess the topic, just turn the page over and begin reading the article. This

And now the story teaser scans!



## When it gets dark (sort of)

By Phil Visser

After a long day of work and household chores, seeing the Sun set usually signals that it is time for a rest. There might even be time to sip a favourite beverage while sitting outside or on the beach watching the sun as it slides below the horizon. Even though those times were few this past summer, I did experience the approach of darkness one time in August.

There was a very public event on August 21<sup>st</sup> that only a North American hermit would not have heard about. I am referring to the total solar eclipse that crossed the continental United States. Media, both print and electronic, were filled with information about the dangers associated with this astronomical phenomenon.

Just like there are stamp collectors travelling long distances to see the National shows (the Royal or its partner in the US), there are also stargazers who travel long distances to witness this type of event. How many "Royals" have you been too? Well, in the group I was with in Nebraska, some had been to three, five or even seven eclipses. But instead of going to somewhere in Ontario, they have travelled all over the world to see an eclipse.

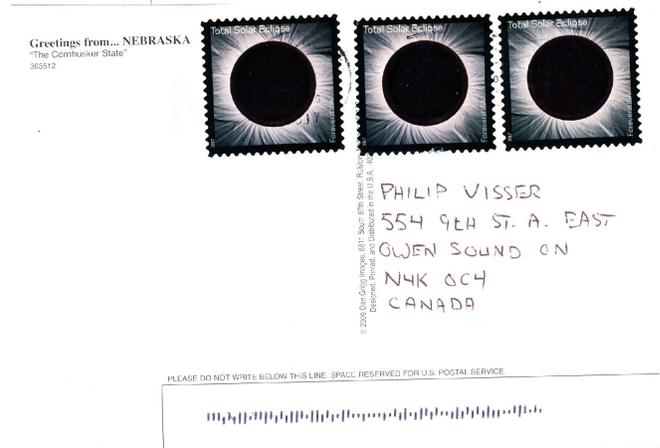
At this point, I have been debating to what level of information this article needs, so the science behind an eclipse is being left out. However, the rarity of experiencing this phenomenon should be considered. For instance, the total eclipse covers a band of about 100 kilometres in width, and the duration of the eclipse varies from 2 to 7 minutes.

Please consider that until recent times (about 100 years) the ability to travel was restricted and our lives were spent in one place or region. Then recognize that about 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by water, so the chance of seeing an eclipse in ones own lifetime in that homestead is rare. Indeed, after some sixty plus years, seeing this eclipse was a first for me. Simply AWESOME! But I had to travel some 1,700 kilometres to have the best chance of seeing it.

It is now time to bring this astronomical event into context with our hobby. The United States Post Office saw this natural event as a chance to market stamps that may not ever be used. From my vantage point, that marketing was successful! My co-traveller, an eclipse chaser, had purchased a few booklets of the

peel and stick eclipse stamps. The stamp itself is nothing spectacular as it is almost completely black. But the astronomers just loved the stamp because it shows the corona, the Sun's radiation being released into space.

Combining the trip to see the eclipse with my philatelic interest, I took the opportunity of mailing myself postcards with the eclipse stamps on it. The interesting part of this mailing expedition was that it took the postcards about a week to arrive here in Owen Sound from Nebraska. For the eagle eyes in the group, you may have noticed a partial cancel on the far left stamp and some wavy lines on the other two.



Inspiration can come at any time, and it is only afterwards that the inspiration is recognized. While I intended to have the stamp cancelled on the date of the eclipse, August 21<sup>st</sup>, the idea failed because the mailing system has changed. However, one unintended thing did happen. Two postcards were mailed at the same time from the same mailbox at the camp we stayed at to witness the eclipse. Both of the cards received different cancels, but both were cancelled on the date of August 22<sup>nd</sup>.



My co-traveller (actually the driver) must be credited with the idea that is to follow. John purchased the stamps from the US post office a month before the eclipse actually happened. Travelling some 1,700 kilometres leaves lots of time to talk, and we did. It was during one of those many varied topics to while away the hours of travel, that John mentioned the idea of mailing letters with the eclipse stamp on the day of the eclipse. I naturally joined in with that idea and purchased the needed stamps to mail my postcards.



One of the special features of this stamp is that when heat is applied, the black on the face of the moon would change colour. The scan above shows what the face of the moon looks like, which then also reveals the date of the cancellation, 1PM on 22 Aug, 2017 in Omaha Nebraska.



This post card was also given the cancel date of 22 Aug, but had a different experience than the first one

received. Our mail is delivered to a “tower” and so here is a potential, and often frustrating fact about my experience with these towers. This post card was put in my neighbours box, and fortunately, later that day, he gave us the second post card. Going slightly off topic, this has happened several times, both where I have received the mail for someone else and they have received my mail.

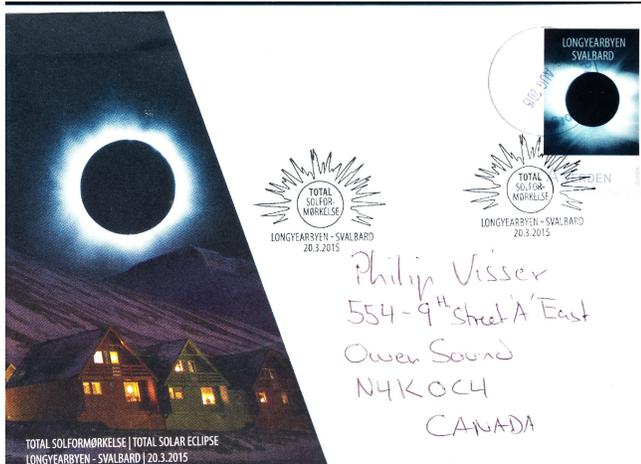
With similar intentions, John also mailed a number of letters from the same location. Here is where our experiences with the postal system differed. John mailed two letters to his home address. The first arrived some three weeks after it had been mailed, but still cancelled on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The second letter, however, had a very different experience. This letter took five weeks to arrive at his house, but it had received a very special post mark! This left my colleague with a great deal of anger.



Ironically, while driving to Nebraska, I had shared some philatelic mishaps I had experienced. Just look at the following cover! A graduate who knew my hobby and interest in stamp collecting mailed me a letter from the northern most post office in the world. The post office had a special cover with stamps about polar bears. While there is a cancel on the cover, the cancel missed the stamps and a very observant postal clerk somewhere between Svalbard and my home added the “special cancel.” If you use your imagination, please visualize the steam coming out of my ears and nose. This experience was shared with John while driving and we now both have special covers and can share the same sense of disappointment.



Returning to the topic of eclipses, the United States is not the only place to experience this solar event. In 2015, the island of Svalbard, a part of Norway, experienced a total solar eclipse on March the 20<sup>th</sup>. Again, my former student mailed me a special first day cover commemorating the event. You'll notice that the cancel is on the date of the event, but the stamp is also cancelled on the day of mailing, August 6<sup>th</sup>.



The special eclipse stamp again shows the dark face of the Sun during an eclipse and the corona visible around the edges. Another letter was posted from Svalbard that did escape the “mad post office canceller.” This letter was mailed with three different stamps, the eclipse one, a different polar bear stamp and one showing the Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis. Only the Northern lights stamp is cancelled with a special cancel about polar bears, and the other two escaped attention from my

favourite post office dude.

A quick search on Wikipedia reveals that other countries have issued stamps about eclipses. Indonesia has issued two stamps when the solar eclipse crossed the islands. The stamps were issued in 1983 and 2016. Alderney experienced an eclipse and issued stamps for that event in 1999. Besides Svalbard in 2015, the eclipse was visible on the Faroe Islands and they too issued stamps for the 2015 event. However, a search on eBay shows how commercialized things can get. The United States is a place of fantastic marketers. One person (stamp dealer?) issued 40 different covers commemorating the event as the eclipse crossed mainland United States. The set can be purchased for the mere sum of \$200 plus \$10 shipping (all US dollars).

Here is an opportunity for anyone inspired into a new collecting topic, solar eclipses! Inspiration keeps the hobby alive and percolating in our minds and accumulations.

### Club News

The September meeting was a time for organizing the show, but we also had a guest visit us from Toronto. Kathy Hartley from the Harold Sutherland Philatelic Library of the Vincent Graves Green Philatelic Foundation spoke briefly about what the Library can offer local collectors. She explained the loaning process and willingness to assist in research on a topic a member may have. About eighteen members were present and had the opportunity to go through the Club Circuit books that Chris Tschirhart manages, with the assistance of Randy Rogers, for our club members.

The show and Tell portion of the meeting had several things brought to our attention. Randy Rogers shared three things, the first was the new Precancel

catalogue. The second item was a special stamp gauge to measure the small Queens accurately. This gauge is put out by Kiusalas. While perforations are measuring the number or holes or teeth in a 2 centimeter space, this gauge shows the number of teeth in the wheel that perforated these stamps. The third thing Randy mentioned was the new US eclipse stamp, which the previous article has discussed and now readers should be familiar with this topic.

Larry Crane brought along a completed one page challenge about the moose topic that Larry had made for another club. The hook was to encourage all members to prepare a page for entry in the show on October 7th.

This meeting was also the first time in a while that Mike Crans and Stan Wichens were able to join the meeting. After the business and speaker were finished, Stan came along and showed me a 1917 edition of "The Boys Own Annual" with a story about Winnie the Pooh. What a surprise! Thanks Stans.

#### **Looking For...**

At the last meeting, Mike Raynsford requested some help in identifying the plate numbers on the Great Britain Scott #33. I believe there may have been a volunteer to help Mike, but just call and check to see if his request had been responded to.

#### **Upcoming Shows**

##### **OCT 21 56th Annual Barrie Stamp Exhibit and Dealer's Bourse**

Allandale Recreation Centre, 190 Bayview Dr., Barrie, ON, L4N 4Y8

Hosted by the Barrie District Stamp Club (BDSC), Chapter 73 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the show will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be approximately 12 dealers present as well as a Children's Table and the Sales Circuit binders of the BDSC. Admission and parking are free. Refreshments available through the Rec Centre. For more information contact Bourse Chairman, Bruce Walter Phone: 705-735-6009 Email: b.walter@rogers.com Web: <http://www.barriedistrictstampclub.ca>

##### **OCT 28 National Postage Stamp and Coin Show**

October 28, 2017 to October 29, 2017

Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Rd., Mississauga, ON, L5N 2L3

Presented by Canadian Stamp News and Canadian Coin News, the fall edition of the National Postage

Stamp & Coin Show will be held at a new venue for 2017. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring stamp and coin dealers from across Canada, who are selling, buying and appraising all kinds of philatelic and numismatic materials. Admission is only \$3 on Saturday and FREE on Sunday. Parking is also free. Special room rate available at the hotel. Check out our website for show updates and list of dealers.

Phone: 800-408-0352 Ext 228

Email: [info@trajan.ca](mailto:info@trajan.ca)

Web: <http://www.stampandcoinshow.com>

##### **NOV 3 Hamilton 2017 Fall Stamp Show**

St. Jean de Brebeuf Secondary School, 200 Acadia Drive, Hamilton, ON, L8W 1B8

Large silent and voice auctions Friday evening with viewing starting at 5 p.m. Saturday is a 20-dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies, plus youth booth and silent auction from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. GRVPA clubs circuit sales books Friday and Saturday. Light food and refreshments available with ample free parking. Sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club.

Email: [southont@cogeco.ca](mailto:southont@cogeco.ca)

Web: <http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com>

##### **NOV 10 Ukrainepex 2017**

November 10, 2017 to November 11, 2017

The Old Mill (Brule Room), 21 Old Mill Rd., Toronto, ON, M8X 1G5

The Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society's international exhibit Ukrainepex 2017 is being hosted by the Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto). In addition to comprehensive philatelic and numismatic material, the exhibit will include medals, postcards, sport cards, ex libris, etc. The show hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days and there is no admission. During the show, two "Picture Postage" stamps will be released – one to honour Victoria Cross winner Filip Konowal while the second to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ukrainian World Congress.

Email: [admin@upns.org](mailto:admin@upns.org)

##### **NOV 18 GRVPA Club Fair**

United Kingdom Club, 35 International Dr., Cambridge, ON, L2V 4S1

23rd Annual Club Fair hosted by the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 15 Clubs, 450+ circuit Books, 2 silents auctions, free parking, snack bar.

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When you have a chance, why not visit the club web site at [www.owensoundstampclub.org](http://www.owensoundstampclub.org). Feedback is always important to keeping this means of connecting up to date. To end this edition of the newsletter, here is a scan of a mystery stamp. It came with an item I purchaed of French number cancels. What is it? Please share your ideas at the next meeting.

