

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club**
Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20, 2022
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 3, Edition 3, April 2022



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!
Well, the snow is mostly gone, again. Spring is teasing us with a show of her ankles but I for one would like to see her shining face! Even so a few stamp shows have occurred. You have heard of a flock of sea gulls, a herd of cattle, a gaggle of geese, and (weirdly) a murder of crows. How about a cluster of stamp collectors or a

flush of philatelists? Either way a carload of our members headed down to the Oxford Stamp Show in Woodstock recently. One of the crew, Capt. Phil came home with a gold level ribbon for his exhibit about Owen Sound postal history. Congratulations Phil!

I attended a show in London on April 2. I don't think the crowds were as big as was hoped, but I had a good time and I met a number of people who have been participating in our Zoom Auctions and sometimes in our Zoom meetings. I had a couple of chats with Mario Rapa, who is now a member of this club and also met Bob Bidner, John Hyland, Don Eaton and Starla Dassy-Mitchener. It was great to see these people in person and nice to have made some new stamp collecting associates during these crazy pandemic days. Afterwards I had a nice visit with Chris Tschirhart who used to take care of our circuit books.

I hope that everyone is excited about our upcoming live meeting at the New Life Centre on Wed. April 20th at 7:00. Phil Visser will be opening the building early to allow John Cortan to bring in his stamp stock for our perusal. Rick Lokos, Bill Findlay and myself will be there early too to help lug stamps in. Feel free to come a little early to check out John's wares. We will have plenty to talk about during the meeting including when to hold our meetings, live and Zoom. We may consider holding afternoon meetings. My question about afternoon meetings is whether this may discourage younger potential members who work normal hours from joining the club, or are there so many of us retired now that we shouldn't worry about it?

At our last Zoom meeting we had a couple of presentations, one by Rose van Sickle of the Saugeen Stamp Club and one about the Berlin Airlift by me. Rose had some unusual items with some good tales to go with them. Our intrepid Editor Phil will tell you all

about them. I will tell you about the Berlin Airlift somewhere on these pages too.

I hope that I will have just seen many of you at the Saugeen meeting on April 5th, or on our Zoom stamp auction on April 6th. Don't forget about The Saugeen Stamp Club Show on May 7th. It will be held at the Legion in Walkerton this year. Please take note of the new location!

Marion Ace

President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

It is a wrap. All the other pages are finished and welcome to the April Edition of Stamps on the Bay. The following pages provide a smorgasbord of topics to keep you interested in this hobby. But more excitedly, this month is the opportunity to meet each other again. There are no requirements from the New Life Centre for those planning on attending.

Last month, the teaser scan showed a copy of Canada Unitrade # 82. This scan could be tied with two of the stories on the following pages. The roller cancel is tied to the RPO story presented by Peter McCarthy, while the stamp itself is also tied with the story of Registered mail from Owen Sound. This month does not have a teaser scan, just a lack of suitable material to tie into the several stories coming. Thanks goes to Marion A. who has written a story about her favourite topic. A report is also provided about the Zoom meeting held in March. Two other short stories appear from this keyboard and finally a larger listing of upcoming shows. While the number of shows listed are not many, other shows will appear as the certainty of holding a show becomes a reality.

Following the March Zoom meeting, I had the pleasure of attending the Oxford Philatelic Society show in Woodstock. It was the first show to have judged competitive exhibits since the start of the pandemic. As Marion has already mentioned, my exhibit did very well, but it is also an eye opener on the amount of work an exhibit takes before being worthy of an exhibition. My thanks go to Ken Magee, Dave Pugh, Don Hedger and Gregg Redner for their guidance in preparing the exhibit.

Hopefully, we will have a good turn out on the 20th, and will be able to lighten John C's trip home, besides making his wallet bulge a little. It is sad to see John retiring from being a dealer, but the circumstances are understandable. Thanks for your support over all these years John!

The Berlin Air Bridge – Luftbrücke Berlin

By Marion Ace

At our March Zoom meeting I showed a PowerPoint presentation about the Berlin Airlift of 1948-9 which occurred because of the Soviet Blockade of Berlin. Five years ago we had an article about this subject in our newsletter. Here is the article again but with different images and captions. My intention is to make a 2-frame exhibit on the subject. I find the story interesting and heart-warming. Collecting the items is interesting because there are cancellations and special covers used during the Airlift, commemorative stamps on special anniversaries from Berlin, Germany and the USA marking both the beginning and the end of the Airlift. There are also covers and cards giving tribute from Berlin and the 3 Western Allies who ran the operation. With our limited space in the 'Stamps on the Bay' I have tried to include items that contain the largest amounts of information on this topic.

As stamp collectors we can come across all sorts of interesting subjects on stamps, some familiar and some not. I acquired some stamps from Berlin that featured an odd-looking object with the word luftbrücke on them. After a while I figured out that luft means air and brücke is bridge, okay but what is this thing on the stamps...a vertical runway, a giant sling shot for airplanes? The object is a depiction of a concrete monument dedicated to the nearly yearlong train of cargo planes flown from West Germany into a blockaded West Berlin in 1948 – 1949.

After WWII Germany was divided into four sections to be temporarily run by the Allied Forces. Berlin, Germany's capital city laid fully in the Soviet section and Berlin was also lopped into four sections with the Soviets again taking the eastern quadrant. With the political ideals of the Soviets and the Western Allies so opposing it is not difficult to imagine that problems could arise.

In the initial bargaining between the Allies agreements were made and a guarantee of air access to West Berlin through three twenty-mile swaths of air space from West Germany was agreed upon but only the three allies British, French and American could use these flight paths. Believing the Soviets to be amenable to the survival of all of Berlin there was not a deal struck (on paper) regarding access to West Berlin along the roads and waterways, (an oversight that someone was probably kicking themselves about.)

The bulk of the Western Allied troops went home leaving a nominal number behind in West Germany and West Berlin. The Soviets maintained a million and a half troops in Eastern Germany. The Soviets wanted control of all of Berlin and believed that with a little pressure the Americans would leave Berlin and that Berliners would turn to the Soviets.

On April 1st, 1948, the Soviets began to restrict access out of Berlin by road and rail, calling for inspections of all vehicles. The Americans began to bring in supplies to their garrisons by air. The Little Air Lift went on for 75 days and the cargo planes continued to bring supplies in order to create a stockpile. After the introduction of the Deutsche Mark

on June 21 in the west the Soviets introduced their own currency in the east and began the Berlin Blockade in earnest on June 24, 1948, along with a multi-media propaganda campaign that bombarded West Berliners.

The events unfolding in Berlin were considered the first serious crises of the Cold War. Some participants on both sides wanted to attack but war would not have been good for anyone. No longer a Little Air Lift, the Berlin Air Lift (or Air Bridge) began on a much larger scale. The Berlin Blockade cut off all access by land and water. It was calculated that West Berliners required 1,534 tons of food and 3,475 tons of gas and coal daily, definitely a monumental task to be carried out by air only!

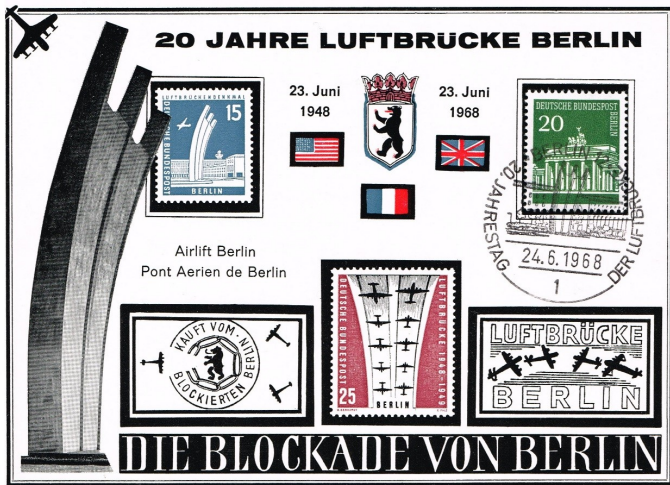
Many more aircraft were needed. The western allies started to work together more fully, except for France whose aircraft were already engaged in war efforts in south-east Asia with their colonies. Air traffic control had to be coordinated in great detail. Planes arrived every three minutes with air traffic coming in in layers 500 feet apart forming a ladder of air traffic. Air traffic was controlled through the Tempelhof Airport which was too small to handle the onslaught of cargo and air traffic. Here the French stepped up to the plate and built the Tegel airport in just 90 days. It was built mostly by women by hand and even the building supplies for the airport had to be flown in.

Winter that year was difficult and coal rations which were calculated for the summer months had to be greatly increased. The early months of 1949 found most of Europe blanketed in fog, greatly impeding the progress of the Air Bridge. An extra push was put on by all for Easter Sunday, 1949. 12,941 tons of coal were delivered to Berlin that day. The very next day there was talk of the ending of the Berlin Blockade. Official talks began and the blockade was lifted May 12, 1949. The Air Bridge continued for another three months to ensure a decent stockpile of goods for Berliners.

The monument depicted on the stamps was erected in 1951 on the grounds of the Tempelhof Airport. The base of the monument is inscribed, "They lost their lives for the freedom of Berlin in service for the Berlin Airlift 1948/49," along with the names of 39 British and 31 American pilots who died in the effort. It should be noted that once the Berlin Blockade began pilots from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France and South Africa also assisted. The monument at Tempelhof is considered 'the' monument however two replicas were erected later, one at Wietzenbruch near the RAF Celle military airport and the other Rhein-Main Air Base.

The Berlin Airlift went on for 322 days, not including the 75-day Little Airlift beforehand or the 3 months that it continued afterwards as a precaution.

It should be noted that while these events were the beginning of the Cold War between East and West, the Airlift was also the balm that began the healing between Germany and the Western Allies after WWII.



Marking 20 yrs. from the start of the Air Bridge this 1968 card depicts the 2 cancels used during the Airlift, 2 stamps depicting the Air lift Monument, the flags of the Allies, an image of the monument and a special cancel on a Brandenburg Gate stamp.

This cover marks 50 yrs. Since the end of the Blockade. It has a special Machin sheet from Britain and a German stamp from 1999. Both items have special cancels. The stamp shows the flags of the 3 Western Allies and a small part of a famous photo of the crowds standing on the rubble of Berlin watching the planes come in.

These stamps were issued in 1989 not long before the re-unification of Germany in 1990. We see the Airlift Monument and the flags of the 3 Allies in the shape of a plane.



Deutsche Bundespost

March Zoom Meeting

The evening of March 16th saw sixteen individuals and members gather for the monthly Zoom meeting. Bob F. reported that a few bills had been paid and reminds those to send in their membership dues for this year. It looks like we will be able to have a live in person meeting in April. Look at the upcoming newsletter to see what the plan is.

With the changing health situation, the question was asked if we should have two meetings per month, one in person and one via Zoom? No concrete plan was made, but those present did appreciate the opportunity to travel long distance from their computer rooms. The membership roles have several people that are members from inside Ontario to outside the province. It is also an opportunity for our Southern sojourners to maintain contact during the winter months. More on this topic in the future.

Bill F. and Randy R. will be bringing donated collections to the May and June meetings for auction. Since Bill F will be away in May, that collection will appear in the June meeting. It will also be a chance for club members to bring items along that are excess to their collections.

Show and Tell

We received some sad news that John A. will be moving to Alberta later this summer. Marion A. shared the news of an upcoming show in Kawartha on April 23rd in Peterborough. She also shared the news that Canada has issued its first Machin head celebrating the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign. She also had a new pane of the Calla Lily stamps. These panes have the Capex symbol on them, the second pane issued to support the upcoming Capex show in June. Bill F. received some "placemats" from the Post Office showing new issues which have no further use in the Post Office. These are available to the person that is interested in using them at their own home.

Guest Speaker



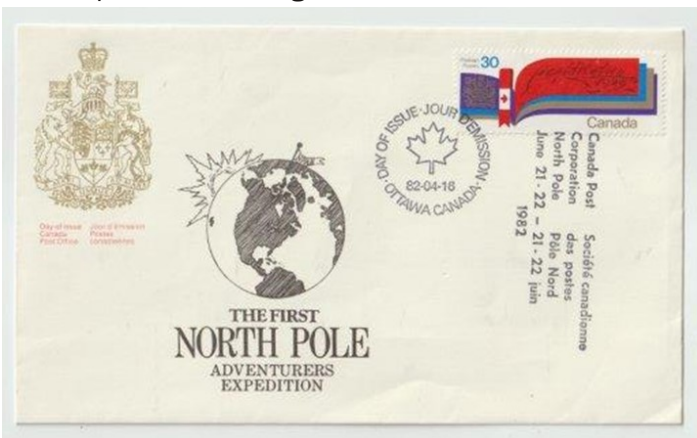
The cachet on this cover depicts US General Lucius D. Clay who was responsible for the entire airlift operation. You can also see the 3 flight paths, 2 used to carry goods into Berlin and the central path for the emptied planes to leave. It has a Berlin cancel showing the crowds watching the planes come in and a Frankfurt cancel where many of the flights originated.



We were honoured by the presentation provided by a frequent guest and member of the Saugeen Stamp Club, Rose V.S. She shared two topics of interest with interesting historical ties. The first was a letter addressed to her mother written by Paul Martin Sr., the Member of Parliament (MP) for Windsor, Essex, and Kent. Paul Martin was first elected in 1935 and joined the Cabinet in 1945 and served as the Minister of Health and Welfare from 1946 to 1957. As a victim of polio, he was deeply interested in the inoculation of the polio vaccine. Rose's cousin received the first Salk vaccine administered in 1958 in the Windsor area. Mr. Martin worked very hard for the health care of the nation.

Rose is an adventuresome person with many interests. One of her adventures was brought to light in this second part of her presentation. She made a trip to the North Pole! This was a trip by an airplane, a charter flight on a Boeing 707 jet. This was the first trip of its sort which occurred on June 21st, 1982. There were 191 people on the flight. The flight departed Toronto at 4 PM stopped for fuel at Iqaluit, Nunavut. There wasn't much to see in Iqaluit, but she did get off the airplane for a brief tour.

After departing Iqaluit, the flight went to the North Pole and did three circles around the pole. One of the interesting vagaries is that every time the International Date Line is crossed at longitude 180 degrees, the day automatically jumps to the next day, so the flight crossed the date line from the 21st to the 22nd and back again. Unbeknownst to anyone before the flight, a temporary Postmaster of the North Pole was appointed and was on the flight. Each person on board the flight received a cover commemorating the flight. See the scan of the cover for details. When the announcement was made about the presence of the temporary Postmaster, the passengers gave the Bronx cheers, because of the labour problems that Canada Post experienced during the 1970's and 1980's.



With the end of the presentation by Rose, Marion provided her presentation about the Berlin Airlift. See the article above. The meeting wrapped up at about 9:30.

RPO Correction

Last month's meeting report mentioned that the Victoria Bridge crossed the St Lawrence River from La Prairie to Montreal. It should be corrected saying that the bridge crosses the river from St Lambert to

Montreal. La Prairie is a few kilometres south of St Lambert. Neither the St Johns to La Prairie railroad nor the St Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad (later Grand Trunk Railroad) connected directly to the bridge crossing the river, however mail would travel via other railroads to cross the bridge. This was likely connected through the Intercontinental Railway.

Bulk mail receipts were also discussed. The receipt was not attached to the mail bag, but instead was given to the person who delivered the bulk mail bag to the station or post office after paying the fee for mailing the bulk mail.

Capex '22 Update

By Phil Visser

As the calendar flips to another month, the Capex '22 show is quickly approaching. At the show on June 9th to 12th will take place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. A new announcement was made that the David Piercey book "Lets talk Exhibiting" was be launched at the show. The normal purchase price is \$60 per book. RPSC members will receive a \$15 discount if purchased during the show period. The books will be available at the Trajan booth. For RPSC members who cannot make it to the show, the discounted price will still be available by contacting Trajan Press during the show period.

David Piercey has been writing columns in The Canadian Philatelist for several years. These articles have been collated and are now in book form. Exhibiting stamps and postal history is rewarding by learning more about what has been accumulated in a collection. From a personal perspective, doing the exhibit on the fancy cancels of Owen Sound I learned more than the simple mailing dates of the letters, but also that the use of the different cancels overlapped each other.

People who are not members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada can join the society at Capex. By joining the RPSC at the show, the first year of membership will be half price. There will be a Membership Table at the entrance of the show where volunteers will help answers questions about joining the society.

What Gives?

By Phil Visser

Receiving uncanceled letters is really upsetting for a stamp collector. In my estimation, at least 25% of the mail passing through the Gateway Terminal in Mississauga escapes a cancellation. Sometimes if the letter isn't important, I re-mail the letter to have it cancelled. That has never worked!

The frustration of receiving these letters is annoying. Fortunately, there are still some Post Offices that use a



hammer cancel to cancel letters and stamps. In saving up the uncanceled letters, I have noticed that some stamps never seem to get cancelled. My attention was drawn to this when I had four or five letters with the Vancouver Asahi baseball team stamp on it. But recently, I

have received some mail that had other stamps uncanceled.

The first recent stamp I noticed was the Hanukah stamp issued last December. Following the Hanukah stamp I also received a couple of letters with the new calla lily stamp which has also escaped the cancelling machine. Just now I have received a letter with the new Queen Elizabeth stamp issued in January that has also arrived uncanceled. This raised some questions.

Through the Club Auctions and visits to the West Toronto Stamp Club Zoom meetings, I have connected with Don Hedger. We share the same frustration

about uncanceled mail, but he knows a few things about the Gateway Terminal. For one thing, the machines use Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to cancel letters. It seems that the computer will store up to five hundred characters and cancel those it recognises. Should anyone receive a letter of those recent stamps cancelled, please let me know.

To really be frustrated, I made a purchase from a dealer in the Maritimes who used two Millennial stamps to mail the letter and they were cancelled! It makes me wonder how long our hobby will last when we just give up collecting?

Editors Note:

This article was written in March, but since then I have received letters with the Calla Lily which have passed through the Gateway Terminal and were cancelled.

Looking for a New Home

A fully functional used CanoScan5600F scanner is looking for a new home. It scans up to 600 DPI and comes with the original software and has the ability to take photoslides or pictures. All power and connecting cables come with it. Available at a very nominal sum. Contact Phil V if you are interested.

UPCOMING SHOWS

APR 30, K-W Stampfest 2022

Trillium Lutheran Church, 22 Willow St., Waterloo, ON, N2J 1V5

One day only, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., the Kitchener-Waterloo Stampfest will feature 14 dealers, judged exhibits plus free admission and parking. The show will also feature a new/returning collector and youth area featuring the "Sea of Stamps," and the wheelchair-accessible venue includes a lunchroom.

Phone: 518-744-3020

Email: leighh@belmontvillagefinancial.com

MAY 7, Saugeen Stamp Club Annual Show and Exhibition

Walkerton Legion Hall, 505 Scott St., Walkerton, ON, NOG 2V0



Saugeen Stamp Club show and Exhibition will be held between the hours of 10 and 3 pm. Exhibits, 10 dealers, the club circuit books, free stamps for kids, door prizes and lunch counter. Free Admission. Stamp Collecting in Bruce and Grey counties is alive and well.

Phone: 519 574 6536

Email: pkritz54@gmail.com

MAY 13-14, Hamilton Springpex 2022

Salvation Army Citadel, 835 Stone Church Road East, Hamilton, ON, L8W 1R8

Large voice auction 7 pm Friday with viewing starting at 5 pm. Guest Sales Circuit Friday evening beginning at 5 pm. Saturday hours are 10 am – 4 pm that include a 12 dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies plus Silent Auctions during the day and Youth Booth. New location, free admission, ample free parking and building is accessible friendly with no stairs to manoeuvre. Light food and refreshments may be available if Covid restrictions allow. Sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club.

Phone: 289-925-5343

Email: gsimon61@gmail.com

JUN 9-12, CAPEX 22

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Toronto, ON, M5V 2W6

Canada's fifth international philatelic exhibition, CAPEX 22 is coming to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in the heart of downtown Toronto from June 9-12!

It will be Canada's first international show in 26 years and just the fourth North American international exhibition since 1996. In addition to having an 86-booth bourse with dealers, auctioneers and postal services from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and Australia, the show will also be the world's first International One-Frame Stamp Championship Exhibition. Four hundred single-frame exhibits are set to compete for international honours in the largest showing of single-frame exhibits the world has ever seen. The exhibition will also include an international literature competition.

More than 25 national and international groups will participate in CAPEX 22 with seminars, presentations, book launches, exhibit tours, society tables and booths, member meet and greets, annual general meetings, board meetings and social events.

CAPEX 22 has the patronage of the Federation Inter-Americana de Filatelia (FIAF) and recognition from the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie. The international exhibition is also supported by several sponsors, including major trade organizations such as CSN, Eastern Auctions, Gary J. Lyon (Philatelist), R. Maresch & Son Auctions, Sparks Auctions, Stanley Gibbons, Stamp Auction Network and major societies such as the British North America Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Society. The Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation has also participated in developing the first-of-its-kind International One-Frame Stamp Championship Exhibition.

Web: <http://capex22.org/contact/>

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Conclusion

Should a reader tire from these musings, there is plenty of other philatelic material to read. Membership in the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) brings four print copies and two e-copies of "The Canadian Philatelist." Other groups also provide philatelic information, for instance the "BNA Topics" arrives three times a year as part of membership in the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS). Not to be outdone, the Postal History Society of Canada (PHSC) publishes in the "PHSC Journal" its material once or twice a year, depending on the contributions of members sharing their knowledge with others. If membership is not wanted, there is always subscribing to the "Canadian Stamp News." This newspaper arrives twenty six times a year. It has faithfully kept me and the readers of **Stamps on the Bay** with show updates.

Keeping in touch is a key element for a group to remain in operation. It is good to be able to have a live in person meeting again, yet the benefits of Zoom cannot be left out of the picture. Through Zoom I have met many collectors and helped expand my philatelic knowledge. Last night, Charles Verge shared a brief history of the CAPEX term and how it all got started in 1947 leading up to the first CAPEX in 1951. It will be exciting to attend my first CAPEX, and I hope many other readers will make an effort to attend the show from June 9th to 12th at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto.

Blast from the Past

Editors Note:

Rick Lokos came across a set of clippings of philatelic information and shared them with myself. The following article is one of those clippings that appeared in some publication in 1935. I am trying to determine where it was published and give credit to the publication and author. Until such time, here is a little tidbit of interest.

Union of the German States

Germany as it is today had been divided into a northern group of states, and a southern group antagonistic to Prussian dominance, when war with France in 1870 brought these two factions together. The clever machinations of Count Otto von Bismarck had brought about a double victory by this war - the submission of a threatening France and the union of north and south Germany into a powerful nation.

As far back as 1815, under the Congress of Vienna, the various German states had begun to feel the importance of uniting. But it took 55 years, and the ingenuity of a Bismarck, to bring this about.

In 1900, on the 30th anniversary of this event, Germany issued a series of stamps, one of which is shown below. This illustrates two allegorical figures shaking hands before a winged statue of liberty, above the German legend, "Remain united, united, united."

