

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club**
Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7 P.M.
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 3, Edition 7, August 2022



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends! I was unable to attend our July meeting. We had another Covid scare and I was not well. I didn't test positive but that doesn't always mean much! Thank you to Bill Findlay and Bob Ford for taking care of the meeting. Looks like Bob won the One Page Challenge, congrats Bob! Our August meeting is on the 17th and will

be the last live meeting before the Circuit Book Fair and Auction on September 17th. I hope that everyone will be able to sign up for the various volunteer jobs for the show.

We will not be having an August Zoom meeting this year. We did have the online Owen Sound stamp auction on the 3rd and the next one will be August 31st instead of early September!! Thanks to Bill Findlay and Judy Galbraith for another great auction.

I have found some people who do laser woodwork and I purchased a couple of wooden Owen Sound postcards! I will be looking into getting some custom made cards for the club. How fun! I took one to the post office and confirmed that all they require is the oversize rate stamp, \$1.30 + tax. I'll bring the cards to the meeting.

Hope to see you there and see you in Kincardine on the 20th!

Marion Ace, President
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

Welcome to this month's edition of Stamps on the Bay. A mix of stories follow this front page. Planning and organizing a collection is pretty important. First it helps a person avoid multiple purchases of the same stamp. Secondly it will help family members dispose of a collection at the appropriate moment. It is possible that a fully organized collection is a dream, but what is organized will help at the time of disposal. This presupposes family members are not interested in continuing the collection.

As a confirmed eBay, I have seen many changes in how a collector interacts with the website. A recent change was applied, likely at the start of August. After receiving a purchase, buyers are asked to provide

feedback for other users to judge the trustworthiness of a seller. The seller in turn is also asked to rate the buyer. In theory these ratings are important. After using this system there are a few lessons learned. Most important is don't leave negative feedback. A seller will block the buyer from ever purchasing from them again, no recourse or change is possible. Rating a seller by the star system can be anonymous, but, eBay may ban the buyer for leaving negative ratings on their "star" system. A conclusion is that the rating system is really "fake news."

Now eBay has changed the rating system again. Attempting to leave feedback (positive) the first question is does the buyer rate this transaction as "Positive" or "Neutral" or "Negative?" Once "Positive" is clicked on, an automatic description is filled in by eBay! Changing the description of the transaction is not possible. The "Fake News" that eBay leaves was not acceptable, and so no feedback was left. Contacting the sellers and telling them that the item was received and informing them that the feedback was fake may or may not change what eBay does. However, a purchase yesterday arrived, and so I thought I would test the feedback system. First I wrote an appropriate feedback, rated the stars and then went to the top and left "Positive" to see whether the fake news would override my feedback. It did NOT!

All these changes in eBay makes it to be considered the "Wild West" of philatelic websites. Caveat Emptor is definitely the thing to consider from this platform. Mind you, dealing with other venues poses its own problems as well and so disappointment can come from anywhere a collector makes purchases. One noted member of the RPSC speaks regularly about the forgeries and counterfeits being offered for sale on eBay. While eBay has appeared several items in the last few paragraphs, a recent purchase from a European auction house netted me with a very lovely forgery of Nova Scotia #10 (see scan). Besides the forgery were a few other good copies of the same stamp, so there is only a slight disappointment but it will now join the several other forgeries I have accumulated in a labelled binder! Identifying your collection is important so that your knowledge is shared with others

A very wonderful thing about being part of a Stamp club is the freedom to share and assist fellow members with whatever knowledge one has gathered over time. Looking forward to gathering with everyone on the 17th.



Estate Planning and Advice for the Disposition of Collections

by: Joel Ruimy, a member of the North Toronto Stamp Club
Planning Ahead

Your stamp collection may mean the world to you and, if you're lucky, there's a child or grandchild in the family who will be happy to carry it on after your passing. But most of us know our heirs really aren't interested. Do we really want to saddle them with a burden they know or care little about? A little advance work now will help ensure your precious stamps don't fall into indifferent hands.



Here are 10 tips for sensible philatelic estate-planning:

1. Consider Selling Now

Nobody knows your collection, and what it's worth, better than you. Sadly, you also know that nobody in your family is interested in keeping it up after you're gone. Why not try to dispose of it while you're still around? You probably know best where to get a good price for those France semi-postals or Canada perfins.

2. Consider Donating Now

The RPSC Philatelic Research Foundation and the Vincent Graves Greene Foundation both accept donations, and each issues tax-deductible receipts. Even your local stamp club would be happy to receive a gift. Why not donate your stamps, now or in your will, so other collectors can enjoy them?

3. Tell the Truth

We've all heard the story about the man who spent thousands on his collection but told his wife he spent very little; when he died, she gave his stamps to the church bazaar. Then there's the man who covered up his losses at the racetrack by saying the money went to stamps. He left a widow trying to turn a heap of worthless albums into a pension. Tell your heirs the truth. Then ...

4. Talk to Your Heirs

Let your heirs know what you've got. However, you must be realistic: \$30,000 catalogue value doesn't necessarily mean \$30,000 net worth. Let them know about the various options available for disposal, such as dealers, auction houses, eBay, etc. And tell them about the person below ...

5. Appoint an Adviser

We all have our "stamp buddies," fellow philatelists we like and trust and who really know our collection well. Designate one as a resource person that your heirs can consult about how to look after, or dispose of, your collection. But first, get the adviser's permission.

6. Stay Organized

This may be the hardest thing to do after a lifetime of shoeboxes and stock books and loose covers. However, your loose stamps will never fetch the same high price as a properly organized collection—especially if you've got award-winning exhibition material. Put some order in your stuff today. You know you've been meaning to.

7. Keep an Inventory

You may know every stamp and every cover in your collection, but unless you leave a proper inventory, nobody else can possibly know what you've got. A good detailed inventory can help your heirs and their adviser approach potential buyers more confidently. You probably have an old inventory kicking around from when you bought stamp insurance. Update it now!

8. Take out the Trash

There may be a great number of classics in your collection. But if you're like the rest of us, there is also plenty of packet material you acquired early and just can't bear to part with. Why not give that away to a local school or kids' stamp club? You'll be uncluttering your holdings and making it easier to pay better attention to the serious material.

9. By the Book

You've probably accumulated a lot of catalogues, books, and other specialized literature along the way to help you with your stamps. This material also has value; consider organizing and inventorying it, as you would your stamps, to ensure it can be appropriately sold or donated.

10. Take it with You

A non-collecting friend, on hearing of my passion for philately, suggested jokingly that I should put my stamps with me in the coffin. Quiet ... I'm still thinking about it.

Editor:

The above article can be found at any time on the Royal Philatelic Society Website <https://www.rpsc.org/> and look for the heading "Estate Planning."

Dawn and the Stamps

By Diane Jarvis

After mentioning at the July meeting that cellophane tape could be removed from stamps using Dawn blue dish soap, I decided to try those pesky US stamps using the same method. I tried exactly the way I did with the cellophane tape but it did not work as well as on the tape. So ... I decided to test the method with a scientific approach, by trying different amount of sap and changing the water temperature etc. using the same stamps.

For those foolish US Christmas stamps, I found COLD water and Dawn (3 drops per cup of water) worked best but you have to be quick. As soon as the paper on back is wet (2 or 3 minutes max), carefully start

peeling it off. Then gently rub with your thumb to get as much of the paper off as you can. There will be some paper and glue left in the centre, but this will have to stay. If you continue trying to get more off, the foil on the front will start to crack. I found the citrus air freshener I have worked the same way.



Figure 1 Scotts #4424

same water/soap mixture.

For other hard to soak US stamps I found HOT water, even boiled water with 1 drop of Dawn per cup of water made the paper come off well and

rubbing with thumb removed the remainder. In the end I found that hot water from boiling worked best. The glue really softens with the hotter water. Hot water from the tap just doesn't stay hot long enough.

But most curious of all was that stamps on card envelopes, rather than the usual business type envelope, consistently were harder to get off. I am assuming that this is because the paper used in these envelopes is thicker so needs to be soaked longer, the stamp is more likely to be damaged in the process.

I tried other Peel and Stick issues that I had had problems with in the past using just hot water. They came off the paper easily and fairly quickly with 1 cup of hot water and 1 drop of Dawn in a dish.

I guess what is happening is that Dawn is a surfactant which allows the water to penetrate the paper more quickly and also as a solvent for the glue. Thus, the paper can be removed more quickly and the result is less damage to the stamp.

Now of course, I have no way of testing if there is long term repercussions of using Dawn on stamps. That will be left for someone with more expertise than me. But I will be soaking those pecky stamps with Dawn in the future. Use your own discretion for yourself.

I have no experience with Bestine, so I can't offer any opinion on how it works.

Editors Remarks

Diane Jarvis is the Editor of The Bulletin for the Saugeen Stamp Club. This article was printed in the July 2022 newsletter and is reprinted with permission. Stamp images have been copied from Google Images.

This stamp (Figure 1) was the hardest to work with of the foil ones, and this (Figure 2) was the easiest so don't be discouraged if you destroy a few in the trying. I also found that not all the stamps separate from the backing paper in the same way. Not just the different stamps but even the same stamp in the



Figure 2 Scott #4570

July Zoom Meeting

By Phil Visser

On the evening of July 14th, 17 members and guests gathered online to participate in the Zoom Meeting. A period of general greetings and sharing opened the evening. High spirits were noticed at the start.

Once it certain that everyone who was planning of joining the meeting had arrived, the meeting began. Marion introduced Randy R with a prelude saying his presentation was about a "want list" of stamps to demonstrate the usefulness of the Circuit Book Explorer (CBE) as a tool to enhance a collection.

A key item from this is that anyone with a computer can open the CBE with a want list of stamps from home. Randy suggested that would help the searching of stamps from a binder at a meeting. For instance, a common example is finding a stamp, and since it may or may not be the only one in the binder a person picks that stamp. Frustration arrives when another copy is found, and it is nicer or cheaper than the one already picked.

Fortunately, using the computer a person can do a search for "Canada #406" and find three or more copies in two binders. Using the CBE, a person can choose which copy is preferred and find out the binder number and page number and pick that stamp at the meeting. It is even possible to create a "pick list" on the computer and order the want list online. That makes it possible to search the books if attending a meeting is not possible (holidays etc.).

Most of the pages have been scanned. This provides an advantage when doing an online search. Most collectors want a stamp that is nicely centred and with a nice cancellation. Viewing the stamps ahead of time provides this option for a discriminating collector.

A guest queried Randy about the program if other clubs could use the program. Randy will make the program freely available to any club that wishes to use system. There is an initial load of work to input "old" stock, but if only inputting new listings, over time the circuit books will become fully transitioned into the CBE program. This is entirely up to the managers of the circuit books. Hopefully there is interest from other clubs which would make circuit books much more useful in plugging holes in a collection.

After Randy completed his presentation, I followed up with a PowerPoint presentation on auction house in Canada that I have had transactions with. Starting on the East coast, mention was made of Eastern Auctions. They are in Bathurst, New Brunswick and hold several auctions per year. They are usually high-quality collections with many top valued items listed. Gary Lyon is the owner and is very approachable. His auctions accept online bids but usually close in a public setting. More will be said about this topic below.

Moving to Central Canada, several auction houses are present. They will be discussed in alphabetical order. Close to home is Bill Longley Auctions. Bill is in Waterdown, Ont. My dealings with Bill have been mainly postal history related and done over the last

couple of years. He does have a website form which I have purchased a few covers. Once he knew my collecting interests, he contacted me about a collection of Owen Sound postal history. Fortunately, he accepted payment over a period. Another collection was purchased at auction recently which enhanced that collection. Apparently, Bill feels that this collection is now a "better" collection.

Another well known name for some members is John Sheffield Auctions. John lives in Lambeth Ont. He did a combined auction like Eastern Auctions, accepting online bids and closing in a public setting. With the pandemic, Joh has switched to entirely online auction. John's offering is full spectrum, from stamps to postal history to collections to publications and philatelic accessories. He does not send out a printed copy of his listings. An online search and request will put a collector on his email list announcing upcoming auctions.

A different type of auction that is not a business is Oxfam Auctions. The name Oxfam is probably familiar because it is a charity. As a charity it has received many philatelic donations and so a few times a year a philatelic auction takes place. Several members of our club have made purchases from this Auction. Each auction lists a few hundred into to several hundred lots. Listings are as varied as donations received. A popular item is a bag of bulk stamps from envelopes, sorted into countries or regions. They can also include collections and occasionally higher end stamps. To find this program, go to the Oxfam website and do a search in their search engine for "stamp program."

Sparks Auction is in Ottawa and is a premier auction house with high quality items collections etc. It is a corporation with its manager is Peter Macdonald. Peter was at Capex and is very personable. A conversation turned into a hint on how to prepare my collection for dispersal some time in the future. Sparks also supports the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada by sponsoring the "Stamp Talks" and Stamp Panels" online discussions. Their auctions are online and are not difficult to find. Alas, my binds there haven't added to my collection.

The next company listed is Vance Auctions. Vance is in Smithville Ont, on the Niagara Peninsula. It is a massive auction and there is a very large warehouse of material that is awaiting listing and sale. Strictly speaking, this is not an auction, but instead Vance purchases collections and then sells the higher priced items at "auction" listed close to catalogue value. Bids les than 80% of the Estimated Bid doesn't sell. Some debate arose on whether Vance is a true auction house, but I have made many purchases from him over many years.

Moving westward brings Bow City Auctions into my path. Located in Calgary, Alberta, Bow City has provided a few local postal history items back in this direction. Running about three auctions per year, Bow City covers postal history, port cards and higher end stamps. Listings will vary with each auction, but I have seen dollar Jubilee stamps for sale in this auction.

Another auction that accepts online bids but closes in a public setting is FVH Auctions. Located in Vancouver,

B.C. the listings are made each week. Typically, there are about 300 lots, a mix of all philatelic items, books, stamps collections etc.

By chance I discovered Ocean Park Auctions. I submitted online bids and have had a success a couple of times. They are also located in Vancouver. My interest was primarily postal history, so I am not aware of the full listings from this firm. A last person I have had some success with is Ron Leith Auctions. Again, postal history is the only focus of connecting with this firm. It also closes auctions at public settings.

A trend should be obvious by now, that online bidding is my main connections with many of these firms. That was made possible by connecting with Stamp Auction Network (SAN). This is a service to Auction houses to share their listing with the search engine of SAN. With several search topics, I am regularly informed of what I am searching for. SAN is a free service but does have paid services, which seem to be aimed at auction houses to establish pricing guidelines.

Previously mentioned were the Auction Houses that accept online bids but close in public settigns. While having confined my bids to online one, they have many times been unsuccessful. Stories abound that at a public closing, the auctioneer will suggest to a bidder in the audience "one more bid will be successful." They second rate treatment of online bidders is disappointing. Alternatively, telephone bids can be used but it requires a person to be on the telephone at the time of closing. A last piece of advice is that the Estimated Price is usually a low bid and will not be successful. I usually count on bidding a multiple of the estimated price and even then many times the bids are unsuccessful.

A guest suggested two other reputable firms, both located in B.C. The first is All Nations Stamp and Coin. They hold weekly auctions and seems to deal fairly with its customers. The second is Weeda Stamps. I have dealt with them through eBay. The original owners have just sold to Firmin Wyndalls. I have had dealing with him also via eBay.

When bidding with auction houses, it is highly recommended to read the terms of sale. Some auctions add on "hammer fees" which is a percentage of the sale fee, plus HST and shipping and the price quickly rises. However, should something go wrong, they will generally stand by their product. For instance, should someone buy a high catalogue value stamp, and upon later testing discover that the stamp is a forgery, the certificate will help resolve the disappointment.

To obtain these listings, many of these auction firms will have space of items on consignment. Rick L suggested that if a person is looking at disposing of a collection or a part of it, read the terms and conditions carefully. For instance, not everything will be sold and so there will be shipping charges involved to receive those items back.

Sorry for the long-winded story, but it seems there may be some things to consider for the readers. A final consideration is donating your collection to a Stamp Club to be sold for the benefit of the Club or family.

The auctions held over the last couple of years are just an example. One thing for sure, is that there are a lot of collectors across the country and there is a marketplace for good stamps and collections.

July 20, 2022 Meeting Highlights

The meeting was chaired by Bill Findlay, who filled in as President Marion had been exposed to Covid and was not feeling well. The meeting started at 7:10 PM with thirteen members present. Usual club business reports were made, and all found in order.

Our club has been the recipient of several donations but also a collection was sold on behalf of a couple living in Williamsford who were downsizing. Bill reported that the collection realized a very good return for this family. Randy also mentioned that the website was up to date and was wondering what should be done with the recorded Zoom meetings. No decision was made but it is a question for members to consider for the future.

Time was spent on planning the upcoming Circuit Book Fair on September 17th at the New Life Centre. During the day there will be an auction for some of the donated material. Proceeds of the auction will go to the club.

A question was raised about if the RPSC Circuit Books could be brought to the club meeting. This was done in the past with varying results. There is a significant cost to returning them to the RPSC as well as some of the books were well picked over before they arrived at our meeting. No decision was made, but it may be discussed further at this upcoming meeting.

Five entries were made in the One Page Challenge. Thanks to everyone who participated. Bob F was the winner of this month's edition on the topic of an athlete or sport team. This month's topic is astronomy, stars or eclipses.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

The subjects for the next few months for the one page challenge are as follows

August 17: astronomy, stars or eclipses

September 21: Oceanic creatures

October 19: Bicycles

Upcoming Shows

AUG 20, KINEX 22

Kincardine Davidson Center, 601 Durham st., Kincardine, ON, N2Z 1L6

Kincardine stamp clubs annual show is back there will be door prizes, 10 dealers, lunch booth

Phone: 519-395-5817

Email: jcortan1@gmail.com

SEP 9-11; Fall 2022 National Postage Stamp & Coin Show

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

The National Postage Stamp & Coin Show is Canada's largest show featuring top philatelic and numismatic

dealers from across Canada. The show starts Friday with Colonial Acres' Premier Auction, with daytime viewing and the auction going live at 5 p.m. For auction details, visit Colonial's website, colonialacres.com. The two-day coin and stamp bourse opens at 10 a.m. and runs until 5 p.m. on Saturday and to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission on Saturday is \$5 and only \$2 on Sunday. Children under 16 are free. The popular Young Collectors Table will be open both days, and the Young Collectors Auction will be held on Sunday starting at 1 p.m. For full details on dealers, seminars and more, check the show website at stampandcoinshow.com.

Phone: 905-646-4820

Email: mwalsh@trajan.ca

Web: <http://stampandcoinshow.com>

SEP 17, Owen Sound Stamp Club Circuit Book Fair and Auction

New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave. W., Owen Sound, ON, N4K 4V1

Circuit book fair from 10:00 to 3:00 with a large live auction at 1:00. Free admission and parking. Lunch counter. Great door prizes! See our website for a map to the New Life Centre.

Phone: 519 934-1998

Email: marionace@bmts.com

Web: <http://www.owensoundstampclub.org>

OCT 15, 59th Annual Barrie Stamp Show and Exhibition

Innisfil-Stroud Community Centre - Upper Hall, 7883 Yonge Street, Innisfil, ON, L9S 1K8

59th Annual Barrie Stamp Show and Exhibition. 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Dealers from across Ontario. Philatelic exhibits by members of the Barrie District Stamp Club. Admission is free. LOTS of Parking. Refreshments available at Rec Centre Canteen on lower level. Handicap accessible. Elevator access.

Phone: 1-705-735-6009

Email: b.walter@rogers.com

Web: <http://www.barriedistrictstampclub.ca>

OCT 15, CANPEX 2022

October 15, 2022 to October 16, 2022

The Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Rd West, London, ON, N6J 2J2

National Philatelic Exhibition hosted by The Middlesex Stamp Club and sanctioned by The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. An American Philatelic Society "World Series" exhibition featuring leading dealers, over 100 frames of exhibits, free parking and lunch counter. Hours are Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. October is Stamp Collecting Month so plan on attending to help celebrate!

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Did you see a theme in this months edition? Upon my return home , there was wonder what this edition will be about. While on vacation, I attended a Zoom meeting one evening and discovered the article by Joel Ruimy, and so the lead story was in place. Joel's article does fall into the theme of keeping your collection organized. This reminder was emphasized at Capex by a number of dealers and auction houses I spoke with. If we do a final tally on the donations received over the last year, I think we would be surprised on what value may lie in a collection.

Helping other collectors is always something deep in my heart, so when Diane Jarvis printed her story on using Dawn and hot water to soak the "unsoakable" stamps from the US, another story fell into place. Little did I realize the length of the Zoom meeting recap, but it did drop the need for writing another story this month. You may notice in the Upcoming Show section that October 15th has two show opportunities to visit. However, do notice that the London show is also on Sunday, so attending both shows is possible.

With the meeting on the 17th, I will be able to attend. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Blast from the Past**Stories in Stamps by I.S. Klein****The Magic Ring of Gold**

Alberich, disappointed in love, and dazzled by the gleam of the "Rhine Gold" in the depths of the earth, sought power over the universe by ownership of this fortune, especially the gold ring that meant renunciation of love.

But Wotan, ruling Walhalla, abode of the gods, was jealous of this power. Two giants were dispatched to capture Alberich and obtain the ring for Wotan. By guile and strength, they brought the unfortunate prince of the Nibelungs, dwarfs of the nether regions, to Wotan. But for pay the giants demanded the ring. Wotan had to yield, then one giant killed the other to gain possession of the fatal circlet.

This is the introduction to the famous "trilogy" of music dramas for which the great German composer, Richard Wagner, is famous. It is called "Das Rheingold," and is pictured on one of the stamps which Germany issued in 1933, depicting Wagner's great operas.

