

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 16th 2014 @ 7 PM

From the President...



In preparation for this month's message, I looked at last year's greetings and see that we will be following the same agenda, kind of. Yes, we will be having an auction and you the club members will have an opportunity to bring some excess philatelic material and have yours truly auction it off to some other person who sees a gem in the midst. However, considering the number of people who now attend the meetings, I ask that no one will bring more than five items.

At the last meeting some interesting points were brought to our attention, and so that has lead to a meeting of the club executive. The executive consists of yours truly; Larry Crane, Bob Ford, Marion Ace as well as two other club members, John Appleton and John Lemon were present by request. As we have become a larger group, these meetings will have to become more regular and of course any interested club member will be able to come. The discussion of the meeting will be summarized further in the newsletter. Please review the

information and be prepared to vote on the motions presented.

I have been forgetful in not informing the club about the upcoming show. Everyone's participation is gratefully accepted, and we hope to make this another positive day for the club. One change this year is that there will be judged competition for one page displays. Key to judging is having a common topic, and so I announce the topic is "Owen Sound/Grey County." You might remember earlier this year we participated in putting a frame of one page displays at the Edmonton show. The topic is similar, but the subject is as given above. So for instance, a page could be entered about horticulture, one of several famous people from Owen Sound/Grey County, or the Bruce Trail etc, as long as you indicate how the page ties into the topic. I am looking forward to seeing the results from this challenge.

As mentioned at the last meeting, I will be looking after the newsletter for the next two months. I am hoping that the newsletter will continue in the future and we have a plan in place, but it is not a complete plan. Please consider if you are able to contribute to this vital piece of communication. The newsletter needs people inspired to write and we will also need a person who will do the physical grunt work of printing, folding and stuffing the envelopes. When that is done, the envelopes can be mailed to the members.

As mentioned at the last meeting, we cannot have this months meeting in the High School; instead it will be held at the **Blue Water Curling Club at 651 19th Street East**. If you are familiar with Owen Sound, then it is near the Duncan McClelland ball diamonds. The August meeting will be back at St Mary's High School. I haven't been able to confirm which club will be coming to the August meeting, but I will have one club or another bringing their club circuit books. Since this is an early writing, I hope to be able to provide verbal information at the meeting itself on July 16th.

I hope that the summer is allowing you some stamping time, it has for me! See you on the 16th.

Phil Visser
President
OSSC

**Temporary Meeting Place is the Blue Water Curling Club at 651
19th St. East!**

Executive Report

The last club meeting brought forward some proposals for members to consider. The executive met on June 26th to discuss a vision of a club web site, the concept of having club circuit books and finally, the newsletter. Since this is being written the night after the executive meeting, details will be available at the meeting on the 16th. The executive provides the following motion:

That the Owen Sound Stamp Club establish a web site.

The executive visited many different stamp club web pages and saw several interesting things. We urge you as club members to do the same so that something you think is important can be included. We have received an offer to have a web site created for free by a student; the only cost to the club will be registering the domain name.

The second discussion point is whether to establish club circuit books. It is or will be a way for club members to offer excess stamps for sale to other club members and possibly at other club meetings as well, just like we invite other clubs to bring their circuit books here. Therefore, the executive presents the following motion:

That the Owen Sound Stamp Club should investigate how to establish Club Circuit books.

The most important task is to have a circuit book manager, a very time consuming job and most likely will need a second or third person to assist. The executive considered these points and that is what we need to have answers for before we fully proceed:

-The placement of safeguards for the club books manager and club members who place pages in the books.

-A careful look at the accounting practices as well as the time necessary to track the “ins and outs” for sales.

-A standard should be set for making a payout to those who have put pages into the circuit.

-Also discussed was the situation at Stratford about the “Club Premium” that was in dispute inside that club. It was felt by the executive that a 10% premium would be appropriate, similar to that of the club auction. This may vary if it is found that other clubs have different practices.

-Should consider having 5c and 10c books

-Recommend that the manager get in touch with other GRVPA Clubs to find answers to the above points.

Our final point of discussion was the Newsletter. It was with great regret, and something I feared would happen, that I announce that Marion Ace is stepping aside as the Newsletter editor. First and foremost I want to thank her for the OUTSTANDING job she has done the last several years. I hope you will all personally thank her for the job well done. But now we have to move on. The first thing I hope is that you appreciate the newsletter as an important piece of communication which keeps the club together.

When I made the announcement at the last meeting, Judy Galbraith spoke up hesitantly to say that she would do the editors job, but because she winters in the USA, we will need a local person to print, fold, stuff envelopes and then mail the newsletters. Already I am aware of some of the technical glitches that will raise it ugly head in this evolution of the newsletter. As such, the executive presents the following motion:

That Judy Galbraith be accepted as Newsletter Editor *provided* a person in the club accepts the mailing assignment.

This concludes the executives report and I ask the club members to carefully consider the above motions and step forward to keep this club operating.

A Stamp Collector, Eh?

By Phil Visser

It seems that whenever we talk with someone about our hobby, we say that we are stamp collectors. Once we get together, however, sometimes you will here the term philately, and a stamp collector as a philatelist. When I first started in this hobby, it was made very clear that we were collecting “postage stamps,” which separates the hobby from other forms of stamps that have been used. That then excludes things such as revenue stamps, bill stamps, law stamps, electricity stamps and employment insurance stamps. It seems that the formerly excluded stamps have now become collectables, but for the remainder of this article, the term stamp collector is referring to a person collecting postage stamps.



A stamp from the new country of Estonia

This article is a personal opinion on the terms stamp collector and philatelist, and so I welcome feedback on whether the way I describe the terms is a reasonable explanation of our hobby. By itself, the term stamp collector is simple and can describe any person who accumulates postage stamps, when and as they are able to come across them. So, for instance, a person who purchases a lot in a club auction can say proudly “I am a stamp collector.” The question to ask then is, “What do you do with those stamps?” Most collectors will sort through the purchase and divide the stamps into sub groups of separate nations. Collecting by nations was how stamp collecting became a hobby for me. The joy of acquiring/trading for stamps from some exotic locale was very fulfilling.

Since postage stamps have been in service since 1840, every country in the world has followed suit. The United Nations lists 193 different member states.¹ I am sure there are other regions of the world seeking membership, so the number of countries that issue postage stamps is enormous. When politics is spoken about, the situation is ever changing. With the failure of communism, countries that used to exist now come back into existence. For instance, with the reappearance of the Baltic States, we can now see the stamps from Estonia and Latvia again. Likewise, when Yugoslavia separated into its separate states again, we can see stamps from Croatia again and Slovenia etc.



A recent stamp from Latvia



A stamp from the former Czechoslovakia

Over the last one hundred years, politics played a huge part on the European Continent. Let's look at a country formerly called Czechoslovakia. Following the end of the 1st World War, Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918 with the splintering of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As history records, it changed in 1939 to Bohemia and Moravia when Hitler annexed it, then returned to almost itself following the conclusion of the 2nd World War and at this point in time, it split into two separate countries in 1991, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Now you can see the history of that region in stamps. A brave person could try to compile the complete history in of postage stamps with one or more stamp from every country that ever produced stamps since 1840 and then put that into a display.



Bohemia and Moravia

A stamp collector may start by gathering a world wide collection of stamps, but somehow, somewhere in time, a notion has entered the hobby that a focus is important and maybe even to be concentrated on. My early entry into a stamp club as a teenager certainly made me change my collecting ways from being a generalist to a collector with a focus. Focus was urged to be on a country or countries as the resources and completeness of the collection warranted it. Having attended many stamp shows and exhibitions through

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/members/>

the years, focus has become very specialized. And that is my definition of what a philatelist is, a stamp collector who has searched and found differences between copies of the same stamp. The origin of the term philatelist is from the Greek language. *Philo* is defined as “lover of” and *ateleia* is “freedom from payment of tax.” So the receiver of a letter affixed with a postage stamp is freed from paying the tax for the service received.² The Free Dictionary further defines philately as “the collection and study of postage stamps, postmarks, and related materials.”



Scot Catalogue # 35. Look at the centering of the design and neat cancellation.



Thick C variety

As an example, the scan shows a common stamp from a part of my personal collection. This common 1 cent stamp has four varieties, the first variety is where the letter “L” from Nederland has an enlarged foot, the second variety is when the “C” from Cent is enlarged, and thirdly where the inner ring is broken, which can be seen just below the number 8 from the cancellation. Alas the last variety is still on my search list, and even though the stamp catalogues for mere cents, finding the last variety drives the search engines onwards. However, the reality is that my collection will never be complete since there are nearly a thousand plate faults and the list expands as more are found each year. Even though a stamp was issued and used fifty or sixty years ago, does not mean that every plate fault has been discovered. Arguments will continue about whether a particular feature is a plate fault or simply a random occurrence. That is one of the reasons why collectors purchase specialized catalogues every year.



Thick L variety



Broken ring variety

Although plate faults is something to search for, philately is much more than just the previous paragraph. The definition of philately also mentions “postmarks.” When this aspect of the hobby is followed, finding the ideally lightly cancelled stamp not obscuring the design is completely turned on its head. Compare the 1 cent stamp above with this scan. Looking for postmarks means that the ideal cancel will be “socked on the nose” and all aspects of the cancel are visible. For the particular cancel shown, the cancel shows the town name, date of mailing and the time of day the letter mailed. The bonus is that the cancel is perfectly upright! Alas, even the postmark category is difficult to complete. For this particular cancel, in use for some twenty years, there are about 1,700 different postmarks, never mind the other postmarks used in the history of philately in the Netherlands.



When referring to related material, the definition leaves a vast category of material that a collector may be looking for. A recent find was a plate proof from one of the early stamps issued, but I am still searching to complete an exhibition on Netherlands #1. This search is for finding #1 on cover. Simple it may seem, until the philatelist says that there were six different plates used in printing the stamps. Then additional factors include the paper thickness and finally, since the early collectors soaked most of the stamps off of the cover, finding one still affixed to the cover is challenging. This is not to be considered as a downer, but more as the continuation of the hunt for something unique.

The interesting thing about our hobby is the integration of stamps with geography and history. Both topics I find very interesting and is the fuel to keep me going. When you realize that there are and have been

² <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/philatelist>

millions of different stamps printed since the start of the use of stamps, our hobby is one to simply enjoy for whatever personal satisfaction can be found from collecting postage stamps. This article's title asked "Stamp Collector, eh?" Well I hope that the article will show that probably all of us are "stamp collectors" and probably most of us are also philatelists.

Coming Events...

- JULY 19, 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.

From the Editor...

This is my first attempt ever to be an editor. Thankfully the editor's job will only be temporary summer job. I hope that the information is correct and the grammatical errors will be overlooked. Time pressures from family get-togethers, weddings and club activities really reinforces the need to have a newsletter editor. Marion did an absolutely wonderful job and I hope you will all take a moment to thank her for seven plus years of doing a first class job. I hope to see you on the 16th at the Blue Water Curling Club, 651 19th Street East, Owen Sound.

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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 Street East. The meeting in the month of July will be held at the Blue Water Curling Club, 651 19th Street East. Meetings will vary between having visiting club circuit books, speakers and an auction. Guests and new members are always welcome. Annual membership fees: \$15.00

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