

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 16th 2016 @ 7 PM

From the President...



Greetings again and a reminder that our regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16th. This meeting will feature the Guelph Circuit Books making their first visit to the Owen Sound Club. It is a rather large number of binders so there should be something in the books for everybody.

I would also encourage members to bring an item for the Show and Tell portion of the meeting. This allows everyone to see how broad and interesting our hobby can be. A short business item will need discussion at the meeting since we are coming to the end of the calendar and fiscal year. The club dues have been kept at \$15 for the last number of years and we should discuss if the dues should be bumped up. Financial information will be available at the meeting so the discussion can be an informed one.

A few weeks ago the GRVPA Club Circuit Book Fair was held in Cambridge. The Owen Sound Circuit books were present and a nice sum of money was raised in the sales. At the moment there are only 12 binders to look through and many people who visited were unable to find stamps for the country they were interested in. So here is an opportunity to get some cash for surplus stamps. By making pages for the circuit books, the member should always consider if they would buy the stamp themselves with respect to being free of damage and a desirable cancellation on it before mounting them on the page. Stamps from the 2000's will sell simply because they are hard to find, even definitives!

The plan for the December meeting is the usual pre Christmas meeting. The Presidents Funny Munny is the only legal tender for the auction. Of course, surplus items that may be of interest to other club members would be gratefully included in the auction. A tradition that seems to have been going on for the last number of years is bringing Christmas goodies and refreshments so that we can all go home without needing a Tim's stopover after the meeting.

The busy time of work is approaching for me and so I extend a request for budding authors to try your skills at writing an article for the newsletter. This months article is a rather long one so the usual tips from the UK is taking a break until at least next month and possibly longer if anyone can write an article.

Hope to see you all on the 16th at the Hillyer Hall in the St. Mary's High School, 555 15th Street East.

Phil Visser
President
OSSC

In Remembrance

By Phil Visser

November is usually a grey month and almost the end of a year. One of the significant days of this month is the 11th, a day of remembrance. In wondering what to write about this month, I realized that since the stamp club meeting follows the 11th, as a club we don't do much for that day nor have I written any article about this topic and how it is represented in our hobby. This article intends to change that oversight.

Simply put, war is carnage and leaves many lives shattered. It is also something that seems always to be happening somewhere, which we are reminded of in the media regularly. Yet the origin of Remembrance Day started nearly one hundred years ago when the cease fire was proclaimed at 1100 hour on November 11th, 1918. As far as I know there are no more veterans living that participated in that conflict. Yet if we look closely, there are reminders of the sacrifices that this country made in almost all of the communities we live in.



Honouring those soldiers, sailors and flyers is something I personally feel strong about because the lives being lived now are a direct result of those sacrifices made in Belgium, France, Italy and the colonies. The sacrifices made on the front lines are remembered in many communities with Cenotaphs dotted throughout this country. The postcard shows a cenotaph in Pilot Mound, Manitoba, and is in my collection because that is where my in-laws immigrated to following the second war. The post card is really a photograph of the memorial, but the photo is backed by the official designation of a "Post Card" with space for a postage stamp.

If you look in many of the local churches there can be found "Honour Rolls" of congregation members who served in the armed forces as well as those who didn't return. This respect is also reflected by the stamps that Canada has issued over the years. Using the index in the 2016 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, the first

stamp listed under the topic of "War, Military" is #247. The stamp shows the National War Monument in Ottawa.

Issued on May 15th, 1939 the stamp that bears the image of the National War Monument was officially dedicated by King George VI on May 21st, 1939. In reading the history of the monument on Wikipedia, I am reminded of the struggles that many communities have had since World War I ended on how to honour the many who had given their lives so that we can live in freedom today. The National monument was designed by Vernon March and is very near the Parliament Building in Ottawa.





A number of different books have suggested that Canada became a nation when the Canadian Corp successfully captured Vimy Ridge in April of 1917. The attack was the first time the entire Canadian army worked as a unit. This battle has also been remembered by Canada Post when on October 15th, 1968 catalogue number 486 was issued to remember the 50th anniversary of the signing of the 1918 armistice. The stamp design shows the Canadian War Memorial near Arras, France. The land on which the memorial stands was ceded to Canada by France in honour of the sacrifice made there. The monument was dedicated on July 26th, 1936 by King Edward VIII. The Vimy memorial is one of two memorials outside of Canada, the other one also dedicated to those who lost their lives and are remembered at the Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial.

On the very same day that the Vimy Ridge stamp was issued, a second stamp was issued in memory of John McCrae, the author of the poem "In Flanders Fields." This poem is synonymous with Remembrance Day. It has been recited many times over the years at the ceremonies I have attended on this day. Lt. Colonel John McCrae was a surgeon serving in the Army in Belgium. He died of pneumonia on January 28th 1918. The poem was written in May of 1915 in memory of a friend who had been killed the previous day.



Philatelists have been searching for letters written during the war years by the soldiers. The military Mail Service began in 1911 and is commemorated by # 1094 on the 75th anniversary of the service. It features a cancel used by the service on the mail to and from Canadian Armed Forces mail. In the background the design shows soldiers in the trench reading their mail. The forces recognize the importance that news from home has on the morale of the members serving their country. The Canadian Military Post worked with and under the British mail service and is quite a field of study. I have conducted some research on a Dutch stamp cancelled by an English cancellation. In that research I have gone through books on the cancels issued by the Canadian Military Field Post Office during World War II.

1989 saw the 75th Anniversary of the formation of two Canadian Regiments formed in 1914. These regiments still exist today and serve our country honourably when they are called upon to do so. The Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and the Royal 22e Regiment are featured on #1249-50 in a se-tenant pair. The Royal 22e is more famously called the Van Doos, the anglicized way of saying Vingt Deux (French for 22). The background scenery of the Royal 22e stamp shows soldiers leaving the trenches, presumably for an attack on the opposing army.



Remembering World War I would not be complete without some reference to our local hero, Billy Bishop. William Avery Bishop was born and



educated in Owen Sound. A controversial person, he was still acclaimed as an ace pilot in the Royal Air Force during the first war. On August 12th 1994, Canada Post issued two stamps honouring the 100th anniversaries of the birth of Bishop and Mary Travers. The se-tenant pair is listed in the Unitrade Catalogue as “Great Canadians.” Billy is remembered in other ways than on postage stamps. There are two airports that carry his name, one here in Owen Sound and the other on Toronto Island. The second airport to carry his name did raise some controversy locally because the Owen Sound airport was already called that, but it is a reality.

A final stamp that reminds us Remembrance Day was issued just a year ago. It is a reminder of the poem written about above, “In Flanders Fields.” The design shows the poppy with a silhouette of a soldier, rows of crosses and larks flying. Of all the illustrations in this article, this is the only one that has been copied and downloaded from Google Images, the remainder of the images are from my personal collection. The poppy is a common flower in the area and I include the following from Wikipedia to conclude this article.



“In 1855, British historian Lord Macaulay, writing about the site of the Battle of Landen (in modern Belgium, 100 miles from Ypres) in 1693, wrote "The next summer the soil, fertilised by twenty thousand corpses, broke forth into millions of poppies. The traveller who, on the road from Saint Tron to Tirlemont, saw that vast sheet of rich scarlet spreading from Landen to Neerwinden, could hardly help fancying that the figurative prediction of the Hebrew prophet was literally accomplished, that the earth was disclosing her blood,^[16] and refusing to cover the slain."^[citation needed]



A final philatelic item that refers to the topic of this article is the image of this slogan cancel. It may seem unusual to include with this article, but it is just another example of the research by a philatelist. The cancel is part of a cover issued in 1967 by another philatelist living in Woodstock ON. This person is unknown to me,

but the slogan is again a reminder for people to honour the service of the armed forces in preserving freedom. This cover will be at the meeting for those interested in this topic.

Coming Events...

- NOV 19 Burloak Stamp Fair
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nineteen years 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.
- NOV 19 North Toronto Stamp Club – Winter Postage Stamp Bourse
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, M4T1Z9
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Easy subway access at St. Clair subway station. Free admission. 22 dealers, over 100 sales circuit books including recent issues, over 100 ten cents books, members table, door prizes, snack bar, wheelchair access, parking at the Church and on nearby streets, families and children welcome.
Phone: 647-990-4073 Email: NTSC.ProgramChair@gmail.com Web:
<http://www.NorthTorontoStampClub.ca>
- NOV 26 Waterloo Region Stamp Club Annual Stamp Show
Royal Canadian Legion, 316 Marsland Drive, Waterloo, ON, N2J 3Z1
The Waterloo Region Stamp Club hosts STAMPFUN, our Annual Stamp Show. Join us between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. We feature 10 dealers, a silent auction, door prizes and free admission. Light morning refreshments are available and lunches will be sold by the Legion kitchen staff. For more information contact Oscar
Phone: 519-742-5892 Web: <http://www.waterlooregionstampclub.weebly.com>
- JAN 13 2017 UNIPEX STAMP & COIN SHOW
January 13, 2017 to January 15, 2017
Montecassino Hotel, 3710 Chesswood Dr., Downsview, ON, M6L C4
Come by and visit a large range of stamp and coin dealers under one event. Great for those who are buying, trading or selling in stamps, postcards, precancels, coins, foreign currency and more!
Phone: 416-242-5900 Email: susancartini@rogers.com
- JAN 14 2017 Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show & Bourse
Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St. , Brantford, ON, N3S 7L7
Free admission & parking, 15+ dealer bourse, silent auctions, Club circuit books, door prizes, stamp exhibits (special categories for Junior and Novice exhibitors), lunch counter with refreshments, wheelchair accessible. Phone: 519-751-3513 Email: pjames@execulink.com Web: <http://www.brantfordstamp.org>
- JAN 21 2017 68th Cathex
Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2M 7W7
68th Cathex sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Exhibits, 12 dealers, youth area, club circuit books. Free admission and parking. Wheelchair accessible. A lunch counter is available. For more information contact David Hillier Phone: (905) 641-2318
Email: fancycancelhillier@gmail.com Web: <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca>

From the Editor...

Comments are always welcome with the intent of improving this way of communicating with you. We had about 15 members present at the October meeting and hopefully the same number or more will be interested in coming this month. The weather seems promising at this time but as always, keep a weather eye open and make the decision if you are able to make the meeting safely. Some shows that are in the New Year are advertised and perhaps car pooling can work out to visit the shows.

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During the school year, 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. Meeting agendas will vary between having visiting club circuit books, speakers and an auction. Guests and new members are always welcome. Annual membership fees: \$15.00

Club Officers:

President: Phil Visser (519) -376-6760
554 9th St. A East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 0C4
visserps@bell.net

Vice Pres.: Larry Crane (519) 371-7054
2633 8th Ave. East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 6T4
larrynmarycrane@gmail.com

Sec./Treas: Bob Ford (519) 376-4788
721 8th Ave East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 3A5
rob.darford@rogers.com