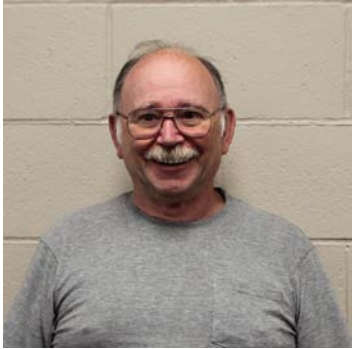


Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 18th, 2019 @ 7 PM
St Mary's High School, Hillyer Hall, 555 15th Street East, Owen Sound
Volume 6 Edition 9

From the President



Hello everyone, hope you're all enjoying a taste of our early fall weather.

The next meeting is back at the St. Mary's High School. 555 15th St. East Owen Sound. Same start time at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Bob Ford will tell us all about his meeting with the group from the School Board. Mostly the new rates, and what we are going to do to change it.

We will be asking about the one page challenge display and how many units we need to set up, and other items dealing with the show. The topics for the one page challenge are Queen Victoria and the World Wars.

We will be talking a little about the change in the GVPA and its news letter, and how they plan on getting the copy to the members.

Hope to see all of you out at the meeting.

John C. Lemon
President OSSC.

From the Editor Phil Visser

Greetings to the members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club with the arrival of this newsletter reminding you of the upcoming meeting. Perhaps this newsletter didn't arrive at an address and is being read on the Club website. If so, we extend a hearty welcome to you and would love to see new members join this club. The aim of the club members is to help others who would like to learn more about this hobby as well as filling in the holes that every collection seems to have.

Further in this newsletter are a couple of stories about the hobby of philately, the study of stamps,

cancellations and postal history. Also included is a short report about the August meeting and something about the Show and Tell portion of the evening

While checking for typos or other errors which only seem to be found out after printing, I noticed that this newsletter is shorter than usual, only five pages! I will need more planning for the next newsletter to use up the space of 6 pages.

Do check out the Upcoming Show section. That should give you some help in planning philatelic road trips. This section tries to list shows within a few hours drive of Owen Sound that will occur in between this newsletter and the next months printing. Further reference can be made at the Canadian Stamp News website under the "Events" tab to plan even further ahead.

Do make a plan to attend the club show on September 28th. Spread the word to other collectors that may not be part of the club. The executive has distributed cards with dealers and other clubs giving advance notice of our "BIG EVENT." Plans will be made to ensure that dealers are there to tempt you with something of interest for a collection, that exhibits will be present to challenge and inspire collecting interests. The final details will also include ways and means of keeping us in the hall with food and beverages available, no side trips necessary to Tim's or anywhere else.

And now for a teaser scan!



Can you spare a dime?

By Phil Visser

Mister, can you spare a dime? My memory bank says I've heard this question before. Was it from a beggar on the streets or was it from a movie? Either way, it is a fairly familiar cry from a person in need. This may even bring an image of a down and out person wearing shabby clothes, sitting on a sidewalk with an upturned hat looking for some change.

In the philatelic world, we actually see a similar request. This request is in the form of semi-postal stamps. Perhaps the term "semi postal" is new to you. Linn's World Stamp Almanac defines the term as "(A) Stamp sold at a surcharge over postal value, with the additional charge being earmarked for some special purpose. Usually recognized by the presence of two (often different) values, separated by a "+" sign, on a single stamp." Stanley Gibbons, in the book "Philatelic Terms Illustrated," defines semi-postal as an "American term for stamps bearing a premium in excess of regular postage, i.e. charity stamps."

The concept of semi-postal stamps has been in use for more than one hundred years. In an article printed in the Canadian Stamp News on August 23, 2016, the article titled "Semi-postal's serve to help communities", the author shares that the first semi postal was actually a post card issued by Great Britain in 1890. The five penny surcharge was used to help postal workers. In my specialty collecting area, the Netherlands, the first series of semi-postal's was issued in 1906. Only one third of the stamp printed was sold, and this concept was not used again until 1923. However, since 1925 the PTT have sold charity stamps every year up to and including this year. Usage of semi-postal stamps has spread world wide, examples of other countries being the countries of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, and New Zealand and likely many more outside of my philatelic knowledge.

Keeping a list of stamp issues can be challenging. To assist with doing so, The Scott Publishing Company print catalogues and lists semi-postal stamps with the prefix of "B" followed by a numeral. I suppose the rationale of doing this is because the stamp is used as postage, and so deserves a listing number, but the surtax for charity was extra, and so doesn't quite belong with the ordinary postage stamp listings. The American listing is not followed by the Netherlands and Belgium, which list the semi-postal stamps alongside the other issues of that particular year.

In one of my discussions with fellow club members, I wondered why the concept of semi-postal stamps

was not widely accepted. Rick L. considered this for some time and then suggested that many people look at the surcharge as a "tax" and therefore not one willingly accepted by the consumer. There was a famous "tea party" in Boston Harbour a few hundred years ago all about taxation which gives validity to that idea, but perhaps the concept should be challenged.

In the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, in the back pages is the section showing the semi-postal stamps issued by Canada Post. The first experiment with this method of revenue generation was fund raising for the Montreal Olympics. A series of twelve semi-postal stamps were issued between 1974 and 1976. How much revenue was generated is unknown, but no further semi-postal stamps were issued until 1996. The first series issued in 1974 was of three stamps with the predominant colours being of the three medals, the lowest value was bronze, the middle value was silver and the highest value was gold. An ambitious and perhaps optimistic number of stamps were printed, over one hundred million!



Twenty years later the next semi-postal stamp was issued in 1996. Listed as # B13, this stamp was printed to support ABC Canada in an effort to improve family literacy. This particular stamp had a 5 cent surcharge for the agency. Unitrade reports that 10 million stamps were printed. There is one unique feature of this stamp; in the centre of the design is a blank space in the shape of a missing puzzle piece.



A further twelve years passed by before Canada Post Foundation issued a series of three stamps from 2008 to 2010 to support mental health. These stamps were printed with the "P" postage rate and a 10 cent surcharge to help mental health programs in Canada. An interesting observation is that each of these three stamps was printed by different companies as well as the design work lists different designers. To further point to differences, B14 had 10 million stamps printed, while 3.75 million copies



of B15 were printed and finally there were 4 million stamps were printed for B16. These were all produced and printed as serpentine die cut stamps in peel and stick booklets. If modern postage is a collecting area, than from about 2004 onwards many issues of commemorative stamps

have been printed both as sheet stamps and serpentine die cut booklets.

What was a welcome reprieve from the Canada Post marketing techniques came to an end in 2011. That was the year where the post office released two versions for the same semi-postal stamp. Now I am looking for the sheet version of # B17. Fortunately, 2011 was the only year where this occurred. The issues that have come out after 2011 are only printed in the peel and stick booklet format.



There may be some question on how the title of this article ties in with the topic of the story. It really is simple, because since 2008, the charity surcharge has been 10 cents. Tied to that title is a question that applies to our hobby. Do you collect semi-postal stamps? Next, have you ever bought and used semi-postal stamps on letters you have mailed? There is one difficulty I have run across, and that is buying the stamps at the retail outlets. Neither of the Shopper Drug Marts post offices in Owen Sound has them in stock, perhaps the main post office does.

After 2012, the beneficiary of the charity surcharge became the Canada Post Community Foundation. A question may be “where does the money go?” A Canada Post website report dated Sept 24 2018 reported that Community Foundation supports “breakfast, anti-bullying, special education, camps for children fighting illness, early literacy and other programs.” Finding out how much revenue was generated has run into a wall of silence. However, the Canada Post announcement mentioned earlier mentions that the sale from 2017 semi-postal’s raised \$1.1 million.

I hope this article may inspire others to consider using this form of charity. And now it is time to repeat that famous line, “mister, can you spare a dime?”

Fake News (Canadian style)

By Phil Visser

I have to thank John Appleton for the idea of this title! We were discussing a recent discovery, and

mentioned the need to print a correction in the newsletter. With a burst of inspiration, John suggested the above title. I rather liked it, and so here it is. This title is a bit of a slap in the face to our southern neighbour, but they also complain that Canadians are too polite and are constantly apologizing. Either way, a correction is needed for a story published in the June edition of the club newsletter.

In the story “A month of Anniversaries,” I mentioned the over printing of Belgian stamps for the regions of Eupen and Malmedy. Towards the end of the article I wrote “This area of philately seems to have escaped the Scott catalogue, but the overprints are found on Scott numbers 108-122.” A correction is needed; these stamps **are** listed in the Scott catalogue, but under the country of Germany.



These stamps can be found in the section titled “German Occupation Stamps” and are numbered 1N* where * represents the catalogue number from 1 to 58 and then the postage due stamps are listed as 1NJ* (* is for numbers 1-10).



It does seem strange to my sensibilities, because Belgian stamps overprinted for use in German territory are listed under Germany. However, during World War 1, German stamps were overprinted with “Belgian” and are listed by Scott under Belgium.

I apologize for the error and hope this helps correct any misconceptions inadvertently created.

August Meeting Highlights

Approximately thirteen members came to the summer venue. It was nice to welcome back our summer visitor, Leslie Ann, who normally lives in Pennsylvania but summers in Ontario.

As mentioned in the July newsletter, Bill Findlay brought bags of stamps collected by a neighbour and following a rather circuitous route, ended up at the meeting. Members took a number of bags of stamps and made a donation to the club. This raised about \$50

The Owen Sound Stamp Club website must be a place to visit. The web counter shows a total of 40,000 + visits up to the time of the meeting. Randy and Marion will be travelling to Hanover with the Club Circuit Books for their meeting in early September. There is always the encouragement ot add more pages to the binders. Who knows what secret collecting areas other club members have of what other stamp collectors are interested in.

Show and Tell

At a recent auction, Bill Findlay bought a collection of commemorative pages with special cancellation and a stamp issued by Germany. They passed around and admired by the members present.



Recent mailing arriving at my house showed some interesting and strange cancellation. The first one was a post card

mailed from the self proclaimed underground post office, the bottom of a mine in Sudbury Ontario, called Dynamic Earth.

Another letter from a recent eBay purchase arrived from Quebec. The cancel is a circle of about 19 mm in size with the letters SH inside of it (barely visible). I contacted the seller to see if the cancel had been applied by him, but no, it entered the postal system without a cancel. It is my hope that a local postal clerk got the message that the dreaded pen cancel is detested by stamp collectors.



While on the topic of eBay purchases, this seller mails so many letters, that he local post office in Victoria BC allows the stamp



company to cancel their own letters. See the scan and note that several stamps were put over each other to bring the postage up to the postage rate.

Finally, a cancel on a business envelope mailed from Toronto. My wife received it at work and kindly brought it home. Here is the hope that our hobby will not be killed by the post office.



Upcoming Shows

SEP
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Cambridge Stamp Show

Armenian Centre, 35 International Village Dr., Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 7M5
Cambridge Stamp Club Annual Show, Armenian Centre, 35 International Village Dr. between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Visit with 10 dealers, circuit books, and a silent auction. A lunch counter is available for your convenience. Free admission and parking. Everyone welcome! For more details contact Oscar Cormier, email jocstamp@rogers.com, telephone 519-742-5892. Website: www.cambridgestampclub.weebly.com
Phone: 519- 742 - 5892
Email: jocstamp@rogers.com
Web: <http://www.cambridgestampclub.weebly.com>

SEP

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Owen Sound Stamp Club Show

St Mary's High School,
1555 15 St. E., Owen Sound, ON, N4K 0E2
The Owen Sound Club hosts its annual stamp show on Sept. 28 with dealers, exhibits and ongoing draws.
Phone: 519-376-7161
Email: lembudd@yahoo.com
Web: <http://www.owensoundstampclub.org>

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Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show

John Paul II Polish Cultural Center
4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, Ontario, L4Z 1V8
Sponsored by the Troyak Club. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 30 dealers & 60 dealer tables. Canadian and world coins, banknotes, stamps and supplies. Buy, sell, trade, appraise.
Phone: 416-5057999
Email: leszekp@rogers.com
Web: <http://www.troyakclub.com>

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CANPEX 2019

October 19, 2019 to October 20, 2019
Hellenic Community Centre
133 Southdale Rd. W., London, ON, N6J 2J2
A two-day national philatelic exhibition and bourse hosted by The Middlesex Stamp Club. This is an APS World Series Show. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and free parking.
Phone: 519-871-7637
Email: info@canpex.ca
Web: <http://www.canpex.ca>

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It would be a welcome addition to these monthly pages if the writing skills of club members could be shared with readers. Give it a try! As long as what you are writing is about our philatelic interests, it should be published. Hopefully the story will be about 500 to 1000 words. The only thing I ask as the editor is to get it to me before the first of the month, this gives me a chance to edit and get approval of changes if any are needed.

Soapbox

By Phil Visser

Another month without an opinion to share or talk about. Perhaps some encouragement will help. Do you speak about your hobby interests? Over the last few months I have mentioned that I was a stamp collector several times and have been surprised by “oh, I have my (insert mom, dad, uncle, aunt, cousin here) and don’t know what to do with it.” You may be surprised if this collection just drops into your lap, or some compensation changes hands, but there is a lot of collections “out there.” What a way to talk about our hobby and mine the attics and basements of the neighbourhoods.

Do make an effort to attract collectors to attend shows. There is a two fold benefit to the hobby, first it may perk an interest in resuming the hobby, or get those collections out into the philatelic market place. I feel comfortable in saying that the vast majority of stamps are common, but it is better to have them circulating than to end up in landfill sites.

On the first page is a teaser scan. Does anyone recognize those stamps? There will be a gift for the first person who can correctly identify these stamps.

To fill the page up, here are a few more scans.

