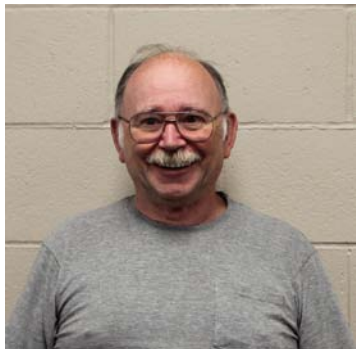


# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 7 PM**  
**St Mary's High School, Hillyer Hall, 555 15<sup>th</sup> Street East, Owen Sound**  
**Volume 6 Edition 12**

## From the President



Ho Ho Ho. It is my pleasure to invite each and everyone to our Christmas meeting, our night to have fun and totally relax. One to look back at the year that has just passed and what we gained and have learned from.

We will be honouring a fellow member on his accomplishments and the award he won this year at the GVPA Circuit Book Show in Brantford.

We will have regular meeting, have time to taste some of the goodies that some of the members brought with them, have our gift exchange, and our Funny Money Auction made up of items that the members have donated to the Auction, for a good laugh or two.

Hope to see you all at the meeting.

John C. Lemon  
President OSSC.

## From the Editor Phil Visser

It is time to wish all of the members a Merry Christmas. May this time of the year be filled with family gatherings, good memories and good health. Let us also remember those who are gathering without a loved one for the first time, or maybe more.

Completing this newsletter took a much longer time than usual. Future newsletters may be slimmer because of personal limitations. However, I hope this issue is interesting and encourages a search of our own collections for stamps relating to the topic of the first story.

Hopefully we can decide on a name for this newsletter. The idea of giving it a name arose from reading articles written in The Buffalo, the newsletter from the Winnipeg Stamp Club as well as

Maple Leaves, the publication of The Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. There are several names presented inside, so please be prepared to decide which name represents the club well.

Following the articles is a list of upcoming shows. This list goes into the month of April, and it gives everyone a chance to plan which shows are of interest to attend. The great philatelic boom time has arrived!

John has mentioned the Christmas meeting where we can taste the various delights coming from the different kitchens in our homes. I will be bringing along the apple cider drink again, but considering how quick it went last year, some other beverage would probably give everyone a chance to wash down the treats.

As has been my custom, the front page has a teaser scan. This scan has something to do with a story further in the newsletter. Can you tie in the scan with that story? It also serves as a hook to keep reading the remaining pages.

Here is the teaser scan:



Now, what story does this stamp apply to?

## The Red Kettle

By Phil Visser

With the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, the entering and leaving shops and grocery stores, a familiar sight may have been seen. That sight is the Red Kettle, perhaps with a person beside it, smiling and giving well wishes for the Christmas holidays. Alternatively, at the grocery stores, volunteers are standing with pre-packaged bags of goods which can be purchased and donated to foods banks. It seems like these sights are a traditional part of Christmas. But what about the volunteers, where or how have they become involved with these charitable requests?

Some familiar organizations that assist in the care for others can be the local firefighters accepting gifts for kids. Just recently a trip to the grocery store was greeted with local police officers and auxiliary members offering bags of pre-packaged groceries, which can be purchased and donated to the local food bank. At the time of writing, the Red Kettle hasn't been at the places regularly visited, but surely will be coming soon. These last two requests for help are the brain child of the Salvation Army.

As a church, the Salvation Army is an organization that offers hope and support to vulnerable people in local communities. This organization is in some four hundred communities across Canada and can be found world wide. Many other countries have issued stamps featuring the Salvation Army. A recent article in the local newspaper suggests that there are between two and three hundred homeless people living in and around Owen Sound.



From a philatelic sense, the Salvation Army has also appeared on Canadian Stamps. In 1982, Canada Post issued a stamp celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

founding of the Salvation Army in Canada. This stamp is listed as #954 in Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps. Unitrade details that 21 million stamps were printed and the stamp was designed by Theo Dimson. The stamp design shows two members wearing the distinctive uniforms with a background of city buildings and a church. The female is also holding a tambourine which is easy to connect with the musical element that also comes from this fellowship.

A recent website search found this new (to me) site, <https://postagestampguide.com> which provided even more information than Unitrade has about this stamp. In the section titled "About Stamp" Jacob refers to some of the work done by the church. What came to special attention to me was the following statement "*The Salvationists' war work, especially during the Second World War, brought comfort to thousands of service personnel and civilians.*" This ties in very nicely with Unitrade #1506.

A former neighbour served in the army during World War II, and was so thankful to the Salvation Army people who



staffed the tent behind the front lines. There the volunteers provided hot coffee, soup and sandwiches for the soldiers coming from the front. This free service was so very welcome; Gordon left his estate to the local citadel after his passing. Gordon served on the Italian front from 1943-4 which is the subject matter of #1506.

Looking at the stamp, the designer, Pierre-Yves Pelletier, based the scenes on illustrations drawn by Jean-Pierre Armanville. The scene shows the infantry assaulting an unnamed village over a railroad line. Note that the postage rate is about half of what it is today, forty cents versus eighty five cents now. With the colour brown as the base of the stamp, it is probably referring to a ground campaign. The participation of the Canadian 1<sup>st</sup> Division is really the first major active part of the Canadian forces in World War II, not forgetting the smaller contingent of soldiers at Hong Kong and the raid at Dieppe in 1942.

Like the previous stamp, Unitrade #'s 2745, 2746i and 2747, the connection to the Salvation Army is not obvious. These three stamps are issued to remember the sinking of the *RMS Empress of Ireland*. While sinking ships are personally very distasteful subject, the sinking did occur on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1914. Similar to other stamps, there is a lot



to this story hidden in the background. The designation

“RMS” is short form for “Royal Mail Ship” which means that this ship was hired to carry the Royal mail from the United Kingdom to Canada. On a regular run between the ports of Liverpool and Quebec City, the ship also served as the means for many people to immigrate to Canada from Europe.

Number 2746i is a high denomination stamp, with a face value of \$2.50. This rate was the charge for mailing a letter to an international destination. This particular stamp gives an overview of what happened on that fateful day. The Empress of Ireland is in the middle of the stamp with some mist/fog in the background, and almost hidden from view is the SS *Storstad* which collided with the Empress.

For many sailors, the idea of meeting another ship on the starboard (right) side of the ship is considered to be bad etiquette and something to be avoided. While coming into and falling out of visibility, neither ship could estimate the risk of collision until the *Storstad* came out of the fog and smashed into the Empress’s starboard side. Since it was a smaller ship than the Empress, the damage from the collision occurred below the waterline and in the middle of the ship. The damage was catastrophic and the Empress sank in about fifteen minutes. This very quick time lead to the deaths of over 1,000 people. This total is comprised of both passengers and crew and there was not very much time to launch lifeboats since the ship listed to starboard and the port lifeboats were therefore useless to save lives.

Part of the passengers on the Empress this trip was about one hundred and seventy members of the Salvation Army going to England for a conference. Different sources provide varying numbers of the members who died in the sinking, but almost the entire group died with the ship. About eight people of the Salvation Army survived the sinking. This tragedy affected this church immensely, but obviously, it is still and active part of our community.

Some details about the stamps are worthy to note. Unitrade #2746i was designed by Isabelle Toussaint. There were two hundred thousand stamps printed by Lowe-Martin and a further five thousand uncut press sheets. Unitrade #2745 and 2747 were also printed by Lowe-Martin and are marked as “P” postage, which was eighty five cents at the time, and is still the same today. Two different numbers are associated with this stamp as they were printed in different formats. Unitrade #2745 was printed as perforated singles with 1.2

million stamps printed. Unitrade #2747 was printed as peel and stick booklets of ten stamps. Two million of these stamps were printed. The designer of these two stamps is Susan Scott.

In the remaining days before the arrival of Christmas, please remember the “Red Kettle” and what it represents to our community. There are many people visiting the food banks and food distribution agencies like O Share and Safe and Sound.

### **November Meeting Highlights**

A good number of members arrived to enjoy the evening of meeting fellow collectors. About seventeen members were present. A financial report was given indicating the club was in sound financial position. Following that report there was a brief overview of the Circuit Books.

Our Circuit Book managers reported that they had attended the GRVPA Circuit Book Club Fair in Brantford. Attendance was good and a pleasant day was had by all who attended. There was a payout of the sales already accounted for. I hope there is a sense of accomplishment now that the duplicates file has been weeded down somewhat.

Randy also shared that the website has attracted over 43,000 visitors since the website was revamped. Quite impressive! I believe the Circuit Book listings greatly help the number of visitors, and hopefully help in finding the stamps wanted/needed for a collection. Randy also requested for members to see if they had any photos of the show from this past September so that they could be added to the web page.

Planning was done for the Christmas meeting. Please bring along some goodies and refreshments for everyone at the meeting to enjoy. There will also be a Gift Exchange, which is very simple in format, bring a gift, draw a number and when that number is called you are able to draw from the assortments of presents other have brought.

As a last item, the editor has suggested that the newsletter be given a name. The idea was prompted by some of the names mentioned in the last newsletter and so suggestions were requested from the members. The following is a list made at the meeting:

- Stamps on the Bay
- The Sounder
- Bay Philatelist
- The Reminder
- Sound Off
- Owen Sounder



- The Admirals Messenger
- P.O.S.T. (Philatelic Owen Sound Times)

Since the meeting, a few other suggestions have arrived in the inbox. They are:

- The Sound Philatelist
- Stamp News from Around the Sound
- The Owen Sound Stamp Hound
- The Owen Sound Mint and Used News

We will vote at this meeting. Because of the large number of name choices, each member will have the chance to select three names. The top three names chosen will then be presented for final selection at some time before the end of the meeting.

As a suggested new name for this newsletter, "The Admirals Messenger," is based on the history of this region. William Fitzwilliam charted this area in 1815 and named the bay in honour of his brother Admiral Edward Owen. The messenger part refers to how the Admiral communicates with the officers and crew, so this name reflects the how we as members are kept up to date and informed about our hobby.

This meeting was also the third and last Silent Auction for this year for club members. I was able to sell one item and in return I also bought another item. This helped me fill in some holes in a particular country collection. There were other people successful in making sales, but the over all result is on an individual basis. While the Silent Auction was open for bids, other members started to go through the Sales Circuit Books.

The meeting ended at nine PM and chairs and tables were returned to their original position ready for the school use the next day.

### Mad Marker Returns

By Phil Visser

Several philatelic magazines have opined and complained about the marking of stamps with pen cancellations, rendering them useless for collectors as well as removing the possibility of reusing the same stamp again on another letter. I have seen mention of pen cancellations in the Stamp Magazine from the UK and The Canadian Philatelist, from the RPSC.

It puts to wonder just how much mail is passing through the mail centres uncancelled. One person ventured a guess in The Canadian Philatelist that probably 30% of the mail was passing through these facilities unfranked. I would support that guess and it could be possibly even higher. It

seems that if the volume of mail overwhelms the machines, a quick sort sends the mail unfranked to its destination. It is at that point where the local postal clerks dig out the pen, marker, china pencils etc to obliterate the stamps missed by the mechanization of the post office.

Considering the morale in that workplace, it is surprising that the clerks would deface the stamps, and not just Canadian stamps, but any stamp from any country! Over the last year or so, I have been receiving mail without cancellations, a frustrating, but not an impossible problem to solve. It just requires a road trip so some friendlier post offices.

Over a year ago my mail was arriving with pen cancellations done by an over zealous postal clerk. All was quiet on that front and so the hope was the person had been educated on not doing so, or had perhaps retired. Last week my mail was again graced with hand cancellations, this time with a black china pencil. The following two scans show the diligent efforts of another clerk here in the Owen Sound Post Office. Has anyone else had the pleasure of receiving such wonderful artistic renderings?



### Upcoming Shows

<b>JAN</b>
<b>11</b>
<b>'20</b>

**Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show & Bourse**  
**Branly Community Centre,**

238 Brantwood Park Rd., Brantford, ON, N3P 1N9  
The Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse features a 15-dealer bourse, silent auctions, club circuit books, door prizes, stamp exhibits and a lunch counter with refreshments. With free admission and parking, the show is also wheelchair accessible.

**Phone:** 519-751-3513

**Email:** pamjames1027@gmail.com

**Web:** <http://www.brantfordstampclub.com>

**JAN**

**25**

**'20**

**71st Annual Cathex Stamp Show**

**Grantham Lions Club,**

732 Niagara St., St Catharines, ON, L2M 3P3

The 71st Cathex show, sponsored by the St.

Catharines Stamp Club, will be held from 10 a.m.-5

p.m., with exhibits, 12 dealers, a youth area and

club circuit books. Free admission and parking.

Wheelchair accessible. A lunch counter is available.

**Phone:** 905-641-2318

**Email:** fancycancelhillier@gmail.com

**Web:** <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca>

**FEB**

**1**

**'20**

**Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse**

**Judith Nyman Secondary School,**

1305 William's Pkwy., Brampton, ON, L6S 3J8

The Bramalea Stamp Club's annual show and bourse is open from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., with 10 dealers, exhibits, a youth table, silent auctions, club sales' books and refreshments. Admission and parking are free, and the venue is wheelchair accessible.

**Phone:** 905-792-3526

**Email:** bobthorne70@gmail.com

**Web:** <http://bramaleastampclub.org>

**FEB**

**15**

**'20**

**Burlpex 2020**

**Burlington Seniors' Centre,**

2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4

The Burlington Stamp Club's annual show, Burlpex, returns in 2020 with 12 dealers, silent auctions, club circuit books, free parking and a food vendor. The venue is also wheelchair accessible. The Burlington Stamp Club was formed in 1979 and began hosting shows on the second Saturday in February in 1982. This year's Burlpex runs from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

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**Email:** tomw1901@gmail.com

**FEB**

**23**

**'20**

**Toronto Postcard Club 39th Annual Sale**

**Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre,**

6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5

Canada's largest vintage postcard show. 40 tables

with 1,000's of postcards for sale from many

countries covering many topics. Japanese Canadian

Cultural Centre Toronto (Don Mills & Eglinton) 10

a.m. 5 p.m. Admission \$5. Free parking. TTC

accessible.

**Email:** info@torontopostcardclub.com

**Web:** <https://torontopostcardclub.com/toronto-postcard-show/>

**MAR**

**21**

**'20**

**69th Annual Oxpex/40th Annual Otex**

**Woodstock Christian School,**

800 Juliana Dr., Woodstock, ON, N4S 0A8

The 69th Annual Oxford Philatelic Society Exhibition

(Oxpex 2019) and the 40th Annual All-Ontario

Topical Exhibition (Otex 2019) will be open from

9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Show-goers can expect 15 dealers

plus club circuit books, competitive exhibits,

lunch/snack counter, youth gift bags and free

parking and admission.

**Phone:** 519-485-2886

**Email:** countryowl@rogers.com

**Web:** <http://www.oxfordphilsoc.com>

**APR**

**4**

**'20**

**Spring 2020 National Postage Stamp & Coin Show**

**April 4, 2020 to April 5, 2020**

**Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale hotel, 6750**

Mississauga Rd., Mississauga, ON, L5N 2L3

Presented by *Canadian Stamp News* and *Canadian*

*Coin News*, the National Postage Stamp and Coin

Show features 50-plus professional coin and stamp

dealers from across Canada. Highlights include a

two-day live auction by Colonial Acres; various

seminars; the Young Collectors discounted sales

table and popular free youth auction on Sunday.

Admission is \$4 on Saturday and free on Sunday.

The show is open on Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Parking is free. For

show updates, visit [stampandcoinshow.com](http://stampandcoinshow.com).

**Phone:** 1-800-408-0352

**Email:** info@trajan.ca

**Web:** <http://www.stampandcoinshow.com>

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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. On a side note, why not visit our web page and see if you can find stamps needed in your collection. Happy hunting.

## Soapbox

### By Phil Visser

All is quiet on this front again. As we come to the end of this calendar year, why not take a moment to consider the value of being members of a stamp club. Mr George Pepall left several reasons why being a member of a stamp club is good for the individual but also the community. Whatever the level of interest in this hobby, the club serves as a way to learn and have camaraderie with fellow collectors. No matter the level of experience in the hobby, I can guarantee that learning will never end; it only takes the willingness to participate. So take an opportunity to have other collectors join by inviting them to the meetings.

The following scans tie into the first story in this newsletter. These are just four countries that have represented the Salvation Army in their postal releases. Why not check to see which other ones are in your collection that doesn't appear here! The first two stamps from Great Britain and Belgium are musical in nature, while the other two are from Australia and the Netherlands, that refer to the humanitarian efforts of this church.

