



# Owen Sound Stamp Club Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: January 17<sup>th</sup>

January 2001

## Membership Dues are Due!

Members are reminded that January is 'update-your-membership month' and your \$10.00 would be much appreciated at the January meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, just slip your \$10.00 in an envelope addressed to Bob Ford, 721 8th Ave E., Owen Sound, N4K 3A5 with a note saying something like "OSSC membership dues for 2001" and please include your mailing address. Your new card will be sent with the February Newsletter.

## Public Awareness Day

The Owen Sound Stamp Club will be co-hosting a "Public Awareness Day" on Saturday, January 13th, at the Heritage Mall in Owen Sound. We will have a small booth and a three frame display near the Food Court/Zellers. The object of this exercise is to talk about stamps with members of the general public, discuss their collections (and doubtless offer an opinion on how much it is worth), and maybe even recruit some new members. Our co-hosts will be the Kincardine and Saugeen Stamp Clubs. Three members have agreed to setup and takedown the display as well as to be available at the booth throughout the day.

**Assistance from any member who would like to help out would be much appreciated!**

We will have some reasonably up-to-date catalogues on hand but if you have your own (especially if it is a specialised one) that you could bring - great!

So, if you should be inclined to pass on some wisdom for an hour or two, just turn up any time next Saturday between 10:00am and 6:00pm - you will be most welcome. And, even if you can't stop long, just come by the stand and say Hello!

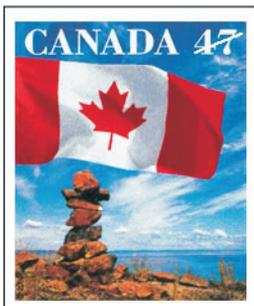
## What's New from Canada Post...

### Definitives, Definitives, Definitives, and so on and so on

Very late in the season Canada Post officially announced its roster of new definitives for 2001. The rate increase as announced in the August Newsletter required all these new stamps. Definitives are a bit misunderstood, but if we realize that since WWII, Canada has issued approximately 395 of them, they are certainly worth looking at.

Queen Elizabeth II proudly leads the way with a new 47¢ Karsh's portrait, first seen in 1987. The background colour is blue to replace the red on the 1998 one. Sorry, no more booklets or coils.

The Flag (over Canadian scenes), started in 1989 with 39¢ (Scott #1166) is now followed by a 47¢, only in booklets and flying over an Inukshuk, a Nunavut Landmark. The flag in the past had many



varieties, panes, booklets, perforated, die-cuts large and small. The ones issued now are of the small variety, self sticking, diecut, straight edge. CBN printed the 10 pcs. and Ashton Potter the 30 purchase. booklets.

Just an afterthought, our Red Fox on the new US 60¢ stamp looks very much like the USA one on their recently issued \$1 stamp. Let's see how we can scan and reproduce this one.



The Owen Sound Stamp Club will be holding its 5th Show in May next year. Every member is encouraged to consider putting together an exhibit in the show and further details will be announced in due course. For those of you who would like to give it a try but are uncertain about exactly what is involved in putting a display together, Ken Magee has written an excellent guide to exhibiting at the local level. We are pleased to reproduce this (with Ken Magee's permission) as a three (or maybe four) part series. — Ed.

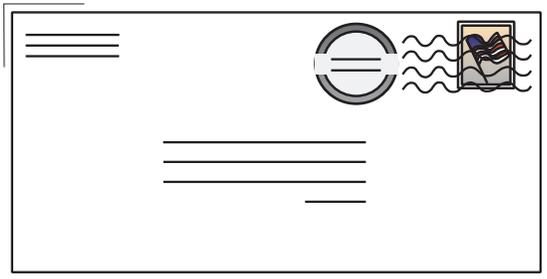
## Getting Started in Exhibiting – Part 2: Layout

Your pages should combine balance and symmetry. Good page balance is grouping your material and write-ups to be pleasing to the eye. Symmetry is the grouping of elements so that the left side is the same as the right side. You can maintain balance by never allowing one column to contain more elements than any other column. True page symmetry should work in two dimensions—horizontally and vertically. Using the layout grid (see *Page Layout* below), there should be elements in the bottom boxes to balance items in the top boxes. Also elements within the upper left box (for example) should be balanced by elements in the lower right box..

Later, you might try asymmetrical page layouts – it will take experimenting. In a typical asymmetrical layout you arrange the elements in a group so that the combination of shapes and white space around them looks balanced. Then this “whole mess” is placed on the page so IT looks centred and balanced as a unit in relation to the edges of the page.)

### “To frame or not to frame, that is the question.”

Some people think that frames are a throwback to printed pages. Never frame material in black mounts! To frame a cover consider using a pair of L-shaped lines on a pair of opposite corners (about 1/4" out):



Try your framing, first, on a non-exhibit page to see if you like the effect.

Use a thin black line. If you use black ink, be **certain** that it is waterproof. Try a horizontal line between 5/8" and 1" in length; with a vertical line of about 1/2".

You might consider using mats to highlight **SOME** of your “better” items, but preferably not on your first effort — they are a lot of work! If you do decide to use them, use a light, neutral tone. Never use black mats, especially for covers!

### Suggested Page Layout

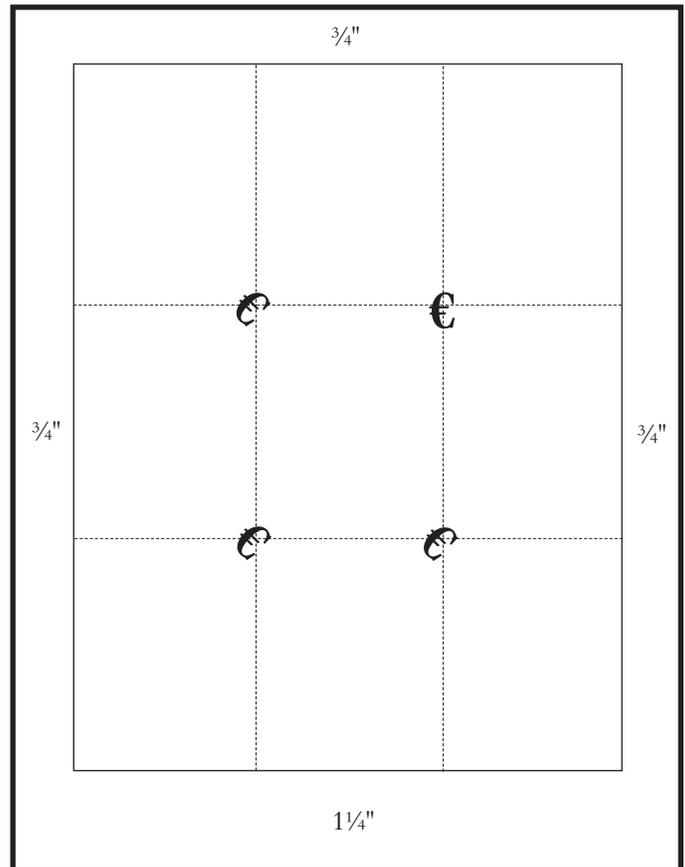
The scale drawing (opposite) represents a standard, unpunched 8 1/2" x 11" page. These suggested dimensions provide a regular mounting area of 7" x 9". Try ruling a page with these dimensions, heavily, then hold it up behind your exhibit pages to see the “fit”; or rule it onto a plastic sheet and use it as an overlay to check the fit.

The interior dashed lines divide the mounting area into thirds, both ways. The resulting nine boxes are what you use to achieve page balance and there are four focal points where the

lines cross. If you really want to draw the viewers’ attention to an item, place it at (or as close as possible to) your main focal point. (Also, leave a bit more “white space” around it to attract the viewers’ attention...)

Note: some exhibit frames have folded paper strips to hold the pages. These strips can cover up to 1" of the bottom of the page, so always leave the specified bottom margin empty.

With punched pages, make your top and right margins equal (3/4"); and make your left margin equal to the bottom one (1 1/4"), to give a mounting area of 6 1/2" x 9". With bordered pages—keep your material away from the borders – at least 1/4". (Don’t even think about having a cover overlap a printed border!). With quadrilled pages, mount your material to within one square from the edges of the printed quadrille – but stay within the designated mounting area.



- € Main Focal Point
- € Secondary Focal Points

Note: Most experienced exhibitors prefer plain, unpunched pages to be able to have the largest possible mounting area. Punched pages take away up to 3/4" from the width available for mounting, and shift the optical centre to the right. Printed borders or (heavy) printed quadrilled ruling on exhibit pages further limit your working area.

## Mounting

In mounting your material try to keep the same spacing both vertically and horizontally between stamps, on every page. Plan to mount your longest line of stamps about one-third of the way down the mounting area. Also, mount your stamps in straight horizontal rows – then it is SO much easier to do your write-ups! In a set with values of different sizes, opt for balance and symmetry over strict value order. Large format stamps should generally follow smaller ones in a set.

Use simple page arrangements, but try for some variety in your layouts, especially between consecutive pages. A series of “cookie cutter” pages is extremely boring! Keep your material “up” on your page, since the optical (perceived) centre is always higher than the true centre.

If you use black mounts for your stamps keep equal narrow borders on every one. With either black or clear mounts keep the ends “square” – use a guillotine-type cutter, since you usually can’t cut them square with scissors. Some exhibitors use hinges to mount the stamp mounts to the pages. That way they can transfer them easily to “new” pages at a later date.

Use clear stamp corners to mount covers, booklets, panes and souvenir sheets. The larger sizes provide better support for

heavier covers. Consider using a maximum of three corners to mount covers – omit the one on the top right one to avoid the stamps.

If you plan to mount two covers on several pages in a row, vary some of the heights to avoid the appearance of “railroad tracks” (when mounted in the frames). If you have several longer covers (say no.10s), mount them all vertically, or all at the same angle on the pages. With two covers of different sizes, try to put your smaller cover above the larger one—otherwise the larger tends to overwhelm the smaller one. Multiple covers on a page can be windowed or slitted, depending on the visual impact as well as their philatelic significance. The better philatelic items are usually shown in full, or with little loss due to one of the above methods. (By the way, two covers with the same features are as bad as two sentences saying the same thing). If two covers, or very occasionally more than two, are mounted on a page, one or the other of them can—if necessary, be allowed to extend over the edge of the mounting area. Only in very exceptional circumstances should stamps be placed outside the mounting area.

*Getting Started in Exhibiting will continue in the next issue and cover the details of writing-up your exhibit.*

*What's New... cont. from P1.*

It gets interesting if we go to the following: the US rate goes to 60¢ hence a booklet of six stamps plus a coil of 50 pieces does the job. The Red Fox is shown on this stamp.

A 75¢, depicting the Grey Wolf will only be issued in coils of 50 stamps each. I read in the Canada Stamp News that employees at the Service counters are allowed to break up coils and sell stamps in smaller quantities.

The rest of the world requires a \$1.05 stamp. It shows a **White Tailed Deer** (on the stamp the tail is not shown) These come in booklets of 6 and also in coils of 50. All three have simulated perforations (horizontal) and are in size equal to the Queen and the Flag (i.e.20×24 mm).

When the rates change, every definitive has to change, this includes the **greeting stamps picture frames**. Beautiful opportunity to create three more, a Silver, a Mahogany and a Love scene are added. Christmas was already available and Gold, which was only horizontal, is now “bi-sided”. Booklets of five 47¢ frames plus five stickers were issued December 28, 2000 in a Post office near you.

The last of the new definitives is a new stylized **Maple Leaf**. A horizontal stamp measuring 24×20 mm, self sticking with simulated perforation was issued. Unfortunately only in rolls of 100 for \$ 47.00.



The idea of the stylized Maple Leaf goes back to 1981 when the first “A” stamp was released. Again according to the CSN, Service counters can break up rolls and sell individual stamps. Don't forget they are on a liner and obtaining a single copy may be difficult, if not impossible.

All First Day Covers for the above new stamps were cancelled in Ottawa on December 28, 2000

The size and the colouring of the Lunar New Year stamp, or the **Year of the Snake** stamp, will certainly lure lot of collectors to this issue. The Green and Gold combination on the 47¢ and the \$1.05 souvenir sheet makes it a must. Don't forget that of the 10 million 47¢ and the 4 million souvenir sheets, over 80% will be ending up in Chinese collectors albums, if you miss the chance to obtain them regularly, a trip to the many stamp dealers in the Pacific Mall on the corner of Steeles and Kennedy in Markham may have to be made. A visit to this mall may still be an eyeopener if you are in the neighbourhood. January 5, was the day they went on sale.

Hockey fans and stamp collectors will welcome the new NHL souvenir sheet with six 47¢ stamps: perf. 13×13; lithographed in 8 colours. Available from Monday January 18th.

The Fifth and last issue of the well liked **Bird Series** will come on February 1. They beat Warton Willie by one day. The Golden Eagle, the Rock Ptarmigan, the Lapland Longspur and the Arctic Tern are portrayed. They come in panes as well as in booklets. Panes are perforated 13+, while booklet ones are diecut and not perforated, one is pressure sensitive, the other is not, you figure it out. The First Day Cover (with the pane ones) will be cancelled in Thktoyaktuk, NT.

Next time the **IV Games of La Francophonie** Febr. 28, Ottawa/Hull, and the **2001 World Figure Skating Championships** Vancouver March 19th.

*Charles van Rompu.*

## At the last meeting:

John Cortan reminded everyone of the upcoming “Public Awareness Day” at the Heritage Mall, Owen Sound, on January 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be three double-sided 16-page exhibit frames and anyone prepared to supply material for these should contact John.

It was announced that Bob Ford had agreed to be the Show Chair for the 2001 Annual Show and Bourse. It was generally agreed that the theme for the Show would be “Topical Collections”. Anyone interested in helping out with the organising of the event should contact Bob Ford – all assistance would be much appreciated!

Fritz Seidel brought the members attention to the new series of definitives to be released by Canada Post in association with the rate increases to be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> January. It was pointed out that some of the series were only to be available as coils and/or self-adhesives and that the designs were particularly dull. Fritz felt that Canada Post was not paying sufficient attention to the needs and interests of the collector and asked that a letter of complaint be sent to the corporation. This matter was deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.

The Owen Sound Stamp Club was very pleased to welcome two new members: Bob Chapman and Sheila Gunby. A big “Hi! Come on in” to both of you!

Following the business part of the meeting, books from the Peninsula Philatelic Circuit were distributed. Several members also brought their surplus material for sale/trade.

## Next Meeting: January 17<sup>th</sup>

The next meeting of the Owen Sound Stamp Club will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, **January 17<sup>th</sup>**, in St. George’s Church, Owen Sound (as usual).

Matters to be discussed will include:

- The new Canadian definitives

After business, John Cortan (Royal Oak Stamps) will make his stamps available to members and books from the Peninsula Philatelic Circuit will also be circulated.

## Upcoming Events

The Public Awareness Day will be held at Heritage Place Mall in Owen Sound on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

For financial reasons, we will only be mailing the Newsletter to paid up members from February onwards. (If you should decide not to renew your membership, but do wish to be kept informed of philatelic events in the Owen Sound area, I do plan on producing the Newsletter in electronic form for free distribution via the Internet. If interested, please email me at [rhwatson@sympatico.ca](mailto:rhwatson@sympatico.ca))

# OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

## Chapter 191

### Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

[www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub](http://www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub)

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George’s Anglican Church (on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> St. E. and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to check out the stamps in circuit books from the North Bay Philatelic Society, the Royal Philatelic Society and/or the Peninsula Philatelic Circuit. Members also trade stamps and covers between themselves.

There are presently about 40 members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

For further information, see us on the Web or contact any of the following Club officers:

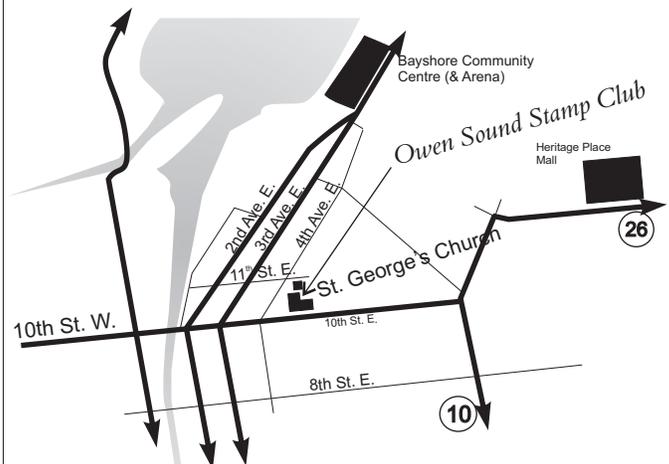
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## The OSSC Newsletter

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The OSSC Newsletter is distributed to members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club on an irregular basis (but hopefully several times a year).

Opinions expressed by contributors to this newsletter are those of the named author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Owen Sound Stamp Club (nor of the editor).

Contributions are always most welcome. If any reader has news, information, opinions, or announcements that might be of interest to the OSSC membership, please contact the editor.