

O.S.S.C.



# Owen Sound Stamp Club

## P hilatelic O wen S ound T imes

Next Club Meeting: February 15<sup>th</sup>
February 2006

As Alan Charlesworth says on p.2, the theme of this year's Annual Show will be the Caribbean and we all look forward to seeing just how this will develop. If any of you have been thinking of putting together something for the exhibition but need a little inspiration, then try looking through what you have from that part of the world and maybe a display will leap out at you!

On the matter of exhibitions and displays, remember that you don't need a Mauritius #1 to make a good exhibit for our show. Talking of which ...

I was reading an interesting little piece about the die used for making the first Mauritius stamps. The story is that this was engraved by Joseph Barnard, a jeweller of Port Louis (capital of Mauritius) on the orders of Lady Gomm, the governor's wife. Apparently, the die was used to print a single 1d and 2d as was needed and a total of some 500 of each denomination were printed before a new die was introduced the following year. Of those thousand stamps only one unused copy of the 1d remains in private hands.

The original die disappeared for a while until resurfacing in 1912 among the effects of the long-deceased governor at which point it was acquired by a London dealer who sold it to an English collector.

Now, according to my 2002 Scott, forging an unused 1d or 2d is unlikely to get too far – there being just the one in private hands. But, if you had the original die, forging a used example shouldn't be out of the question, should it? And at \$500,000 (US) it would be worth a bit of trouble getting the paper right.

I suppose the point is that I'm surprised that original dies and plates are allowed to pass into private hands. Does the Mint sell off its old dies when they are no longer needed?



Shortly after copies of the 2006 Club Calendar were distributed at last month's meeting, certain sharp eyed members took pleasure in pointing out that more months than usual had 31 days. For those finicky enough to be concerned about matching days with dates, corrected sheets will be available next meeting. (Sorry about that).

*Bob Watson*

Stamp of the Month...


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Seeing as how the theme for this year's Stamp Show has been chosen to be "The Caribbean" (see p.2), I thought that it was time to remind myself of just what I had in my collection from that part of the world.

Looking through the stamps of Dominica, I noticed one with the caption "Boiling Lake" which obviously merited further attention as the snow piled ever deeper in the driveway.

Now, just to remind you, Dominica is a small island in the Windward Island group of the Lesser Antilles which is the chain of islands stretching from Venezuela to Puerto Rico. (Although Dominica is now a republic, it should not to be confused with Dominican Republic which shares the island of



*Scott # 100: 1938*

Hispaniola with Haiti to the north and is an entirely different kettle of wax altogether).

Dominica has mountainous terrain and there are several active volcanic regions – including one known as "The Valley of Desolation" which leads to the actual "Boiling Lake".

Boiling Lake is kind of like a giant hot spring where water seeps through porous rock to be heated by hot lava not too far down. When full, it measures about 250 ft. across and is some 50 ft. deep but, as is the way with these things, it can stop boiling and

drain in a matter of months for no apparent reason. Fortunately for the many visitors to the site, it has always refilled and begun to boil again a few months later.

From the President ...

Alan Charlesworth

Storm Alert 2006 ! Spring in January to Winter in February what a wonderful life we all have here in Canada!

Well, we are tough and can take it, so on to the more pleasant pastime of Philatelics.

We had our first meeting in January in regards to our annual Stamp Show and I am happy to announce the theme for this years show will be warm, sunny, and fun filled Caribbean cruise.

Well, we are going to explore the Caribbean countries and their contributions to philately. Any one who would like to make up a show exhibit and has not as yet found a subject to work on this may help you out. Our next show meeting will be held on February 28, 2006 at 7:30 PM at my house, 1521 7th Avenue West in Owen Sound, and any one who would like to assist at the show is welcome to attend.

Any one who ordered a new Unitrade catalogue and has not yet picked it up: they will be at this meeting , the cost is 35.00 tax incl.

John Cortan will be bringing his stock to this month's meeting so bring your want list and cash. There will also be a mini auction so if you have some material you would like to sell please bring it along.

Any one who has not as yet renewed their membership, please do so as soon as possible.

On that note, I am looking for some one to help out in promoting membership in our stamp club. If any one would like to help out, please see me at the meeting or call me and we can get together for coffee and see what we can do.

Alan M Charlesworth

Stamp(s) of the Month #2...

Looking at some new issues from around the world, I came across this rather striking series from Israel.

At first glance I presumed they were another series marking Jewish suffering and it was only on reading further that I realized that this was only partly right – they were actually about children suffering and the sentiments expressed could be applied the world over.

These designs are based on posters prepared by school children in response to a national competition with the theme: "From School to Educational Institution from the Child's Viewpoint".

[How anyone can interpret this theme as anything but a vortex leading to a black hole is beyond me – but I digress].

It would appear that the purpose of the exercise was to have adults (especially teachers and parents) and young people discuss their attitudes to each other and establish some bases of mutual respect. Indeed, the official stamp announcement says that:

*The pictures constitute an appeal by the children to adult society: "Protect us, involve us, take us into consideration... tell us about our rights... we too are citizens."*

Which reminds me of Benjamin Franklin's thesis (I think) that school should concentrate on three goals:

- To teach a person his/her rights;
- To teach a person how to enforce his/her rights;
- To teach reading, writing, etc. if time permits.



From the Israel Post Office brochure for these stamps...

*"A Warm Home" by Menahem Albo. Albo was a pupil of the Ofer School for Autistic Children. The picture shows warmth and love in one's own private hothouse.*

*"Indifference Hurts", by Irina Rogozinsky. The picture reflects the feeling of children who are ignored, and misunderstood.*

*"Childhood is Happiness" by Lya Kasif. The picture shows a sad boy who has been deprived of the right to be happy, surrounded by broken, solitary childhood objects. The red handprint of a child screaming, "Enough!" overlays the picture.*

Interesting idea – but I digress, again.

Returning to the stamp designs, I do not know if these are based on winners in the original competition or were selected because of their suitability to be reproduced in stamp format. In either case, full credit must be given to Ben Hador, the designer, for producing three thought provoking stamps that certainly caught my attention.



## In Case You Were Wondering ...

We are all familiar with the Canadian Post Codes and how they are used by Canada Post to help sort the mail and ensure prompt delivery. For any of you who were sure those were not just a random assortment of alternating letters and numbers but couldn't work out any logic behind them, maybe the following notes will help explain:

First of all, the postcode is divided into two parts:

the first part is called the "Forward Sortation Area"

the second part is referred to as the "Local Delivery Unit"

The **first letter** of the Forward Sortation Area refers to a region of Canada generally corresponding to the provinces – except that both Ontario and Quebec are subdivided.

The map is not too clear, but Grey, Bruce, and south-west Ontario are in region "N", while "L" covers the Golden Horseshoe including Barrie and Orillia. "M" is just Toronto.



The **second character** divides the geographic regions into postal regions. The numbers 1 to 9 are generally reserved for urban centres in the geographical regions while 0 is used for rural communities. Exactly how the numbers were originally assigned is not obvious and looking at the "N" region we have:

- N0 Rural areas
- N1 Cambridge; Guelph
- N2 Kitchener-Waterloo; Kincardine
- N3 Brantford; Paris
- N4 Various small towns (Owen Sound, Meaford, Hanover)
- N5 Stratford; St. Thomas; London
- N6 London
- N7 Sarnia; Chatham
- N8 Wallaceburg
- N9 ?

The **third character** (a letter) is used to subdivide these postal regions into postal districts. Larger cities will use all possible third characters while each of the small towns in the N4 group will have a single letter to itself (eg. Delhi: N4B; Hanover: N4N and Owen Sound N4K)

As far as I have been able to determine, the Local Delivery Unit (the second group of characters), is assigned by the sorting offices in the postal districts so as to help the letter carriers prepare for their daily round. Typically, an individual code will apply to one side of a street between two intersections, or even a single apartment block.

Using the current postcode format there is the potential for a total of around 14 million codes – which should be enough to keep Canada going for while.

## Odds & Sods ...

Azerbaijan introduced a new currency effective January 1, 2006. 1 Manat (new) (AZN) = 5000 Manats (old) (AZM).

Also on Jan. 1st, Mozambique re-denominated the metecal a thousand to one: 1metecal (new) = 1000 metecal (old).

A new currency from Zimbabwe could be on the cards sometime this year. Things are not quite as bad as Germany in 1923 but it is getting there. Inflation was 385% in 2003, 624% in 2004 and 502% in 2005. Depreciation of the Zim \$ over the last three years was 99.935%. £5 bought you Z\$10 at independence, in 1980. It now buys you about one million Zimbabwean Dollars. It's no wonder that their postage rates rise almost daily.

### Interesting Slogan Cancel...



It has often been said that stamps are a great way for young collectors to painlessly learn about world geography and history. In 1971, Nicaragua issued a series of stamps designed to extend the syllabus to include mathematics. Each of the ten stamps included an expression that might be considered fundamental to our present understanding of the world in which we live.

The equations range from  $1 + 1 = 2$  (the basis of arithmetic), through Newton's Law of Gravity ( $F = G \times m_1 \times m_2 / r^2$ ) and Einstein's  $E = mc^2$  to the fundamental laws of statistical thermodynamics ( $PV = kT$ ) as developed by Ludwig Boltzmann.

For those whose education was/is lacking in these areas, Nicaragua Post kindly included an explanatory paragraph on the back of the stamp.

Unfortunately, I don't have any of this series myself, but if any reader should have any examples they could bring to a meeting, I would be most interested to see them.

They are Scott # 877 to 881 and C761-5.

Next Meeting ... Wed. Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

John Cortan (Royal Oak Stamps) will be bringing a varied selection of stamps, postcards, and covers as well as stock sheets, mounts and other supplies.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Feb. 19 (Sun.):** The Toronto Postcard Club is hosting their 25th Annual Postcard Show at the Humber College Gym, Entrance "D", 203 Humber College Blvd., **Toronto**. Admission \$5. Hours: 9:30 – 5. Web site: [www.torontopostcardclub.com](http://www.torontopostcardclub.com).

**March 5 (Sun.):** The Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club "Troyak" are hosting a Polish-Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show at the Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403), **Toronto**. Many tables of stamps, coins, medals, paper money, military medals & decorations and antique papers. Polonica & historical souvenirs. Exhibit of sport pins, medals & collectibles. Free admission and parking. Hours: 9–6. Web site: [www.troyakclub.com](http://www.troyakclub.com)

Stamp on the Envelope ...

Canada Post has issued a pair of stamps to mark the 20th Winter Olympic Games – which are in progress as this is being written.

The first stamp depicts speed skating – or to be more precise, the "team pursuit" event in which three skaters work together to go round a circuit as fast as possible. Typically, each team member takes the lead and acts as a windbreak for half a lap giving the other two members a chance to take a breather (relatively speaking).

The second stamp is devoted to the skeleton – which is the headfirst version of the luge. I notice that skeleton racers wear crash helmets (which lugers eschew), presumably to prevent injury if they don't quite make a turn and fly head first at 130 km/hr into whatever happens to be in their way.

As is typical these days, the stamps have been cunningly thought out in an attempt to provide an overall general impression as well as some fine detail for those who wish to study the stamps closely. In this case, the "fine detail" includes line drawings depicting aspects of each sport's technique.

According to the official write-up in *Details*, the background comprises a "dynamic shape ... that is featured in a reflected composition from one stamp to the other, rather than as identical, to further enhance the graphic tension".

Hmm. Look pretty close to identical to me!

Series:	Winter Olympics - Turin	Printer:	Lowe-Martin
Title:	Speed Skating Skeleton	Paper:	Tullis Russell Coatings
Issue date:	3rd Feb. 2006	Process:	Lithography (7 colours)
Denom:	51¢	Gum:	PVA
Layout:	Sheet of 16 stamps	Tagging:	General, 4 sides
Des.:	Metaform Communications	Size:	40 mm × 26 mm
Artists:	Mark Heine Chi-Ming Yeung	Perf.:	12½ × 13¼
		Prod.:	4,000,000

# OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

## Chapter 191

### Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

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 trade, buy, and sell stamps and philatelic material. An auction is held at 8:00pm.

There are presently about 20 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

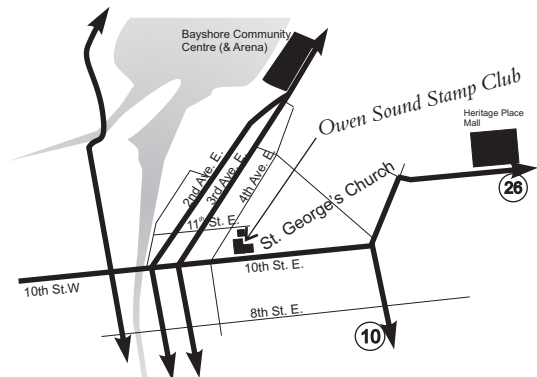
Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

The OSSC Newsletter is distributed monthly to members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. 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.

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**OSSC Library:**

Books in the OSSC Library are available for loan to any member (but please return at the next meeting).

Present holdings include:

- Postage Stamp Catalogue* - Scott (2000)
- Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* - Unitrade (2000)
- Concise Catalogue of Great Britain Stamps* - Stanley Gibbons (2004)
- Catalogue of Canadian Stamps & Supplies* - CWS (2005)
- Canadian Errors, Freaks, and Oddities* - Darnel
- The Edward VII Issue of Canada* by G.C. Marler (Nat. Postal Mus., 1975)
- The Admiral Issue of Canada* by C.C. Marler
- Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century*
- Numerous journals (still only partly sorted) including:  
*The Canadian Philatelist* (RPS); *Scott's Monthly*; *Topical Times* (J. of the American Topical Association); and *Details* (Canada Post).