

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. May 20th 2009 @ 7:00

From the President...

I begin this message with greetings to all members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club and fellow stamp enthusiasts. With the recent warm weather, some may think that spring is in the air. Needless to say, our hobby continues and I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on May 20th.

Thanks to Howie and Ella who brought the Stratford Stamp Club circuit books to our last meeting. This meeting will feature a discussion by **Joe Reichenbach** about revenue stamps of Canada. As usual, we will have an opportunity for a "show and tell" of something discovered recently and we will follow that with a club mini auction. The meeting in February highlighted the need to improve how the club handles the auction portion of the evening. We had a large number of lots for that auction which made the evening a little longer than intended. We decided at the last meeting in March to try some reorganization, and so we are asking for a little help in future meetings. It has been decided that a person should not bring more than three lots for sale at any one meeting. However, if the number of items for sale at the auction is low, there may be room to add other items. I ask you appreciate the executives' decision to add them on the night of the meeting.

In the interest for keeping the records and helping out the clubs finances, we have also decided that a seller's commission of 10% should be applied to all sales. The club is paying to hold the meetings at the church, so the little extra from the sales will help our club continue. As a final matter about the auctions, it would really help Bob and I if we knew ahead of time who was interested in selling what. Please provide Bob or I a description of the items for sale. It would be really helpful if this information was emailed to either of us so we could have this ready before the evening begins. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Bob's email address is robford@log.on.ca and my email address is pssvisser@hurontel.on.ca

As a final matter, this is a reminder that the next show for the Owen Sound Stamp Club will be held on Saturday, September 19th at the West Hill Secondary School in Owen Sound. In the planning of this show, I've visited a number of other shows over the last few months. I have seen different ways that the shows

have been organized and I hope we can continue the preparations for September. Looking forward to seeing at the meeting

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Coming Events...

MAY 24, Markham, ON

2009 Postcard and Paper Show, Thornhill Community Centre, South & Centre Hall, 7755 Bayview Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$2, free parking, snack bar on site, more than 45 dealer tables of old postcards, postal history, ephemera, historical photographs, books, posters, newspapers and stock certificates. Sponsor/Affiliate: www.Postcard-Directory.com. For more information, contact Janet Dalton, telephone (705)792-0672, email: shows@postcard-directory.com. Website: <http://www.Postcard-Directory.com/SHOWS>.

JUNE 12 - 14, St. Catharines, ON

Royal 2009 Royale, Parkway Convention Centre, 327 Ontario St. (exit 47 off QEW). Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking, admission \$2 per day or \$5 for all three days, 40+ international dealers, 200+ frames of exhibits, seminars, youth area. Sunday afternoon auction. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Catharines Stamp Club and RPSC. See the website <http://royal2009.ca> for contacts.

JUNE 20, Toronto, ON

Summer Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Club sales circuit, exhibition and bourse, refreshments available, free parking and admission, wheelchair access. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact Herb 416-445-7720, e-mail: ntstampclub@yahoo.ca.

JUNE 20, Burlington, ON

Burloak Stamp Fair, Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St. Regular monthly show in our 15th year, held the third Saturday of every month year round. Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Six to nine dealers, always new material, active buyers. For more information, contact Michael Anderson, telephone (905) 632-6057, or email mpanderson@cogeco.ca.

AUG. 8, Fenelon Falls, ON

FENPEX 25, 123 Colborne St. United Church. Hours: 9:30a.m. to 3:30 p.m., eight dealers, silent auction, prizes. Sponsor/Affiliate: Fenelon Stamp Club. For more information, contact Margaret Allen, telephone: (705) 887-5386.

AUG. 15, Kincardine, ON.

KINEX 2009, Royal Canadian Legion Hall 219 Lambton St. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eight to 10 tables of dealers, displays, door prizes, youth table, food available.

Sponsor/Affiliate: Kincardine Stamp Club. For more information, contact John Cortan (519) 395-5817 or email jcortan@hurontel.on.ca.

The Monarch Butterfly

By Ralph Wyndham



To us humans, migration is one of the more amazing feats of the natural world. Perhaps the most amazing migratory feat of all is that of a "mere" insect, the monarch butterfly. On April 22, 2009, Canada Post added a 2-cent denomination to its 'Beneficial Insect' series of low value definitives. Gracing this stamp is the beautiful caterpillar of the amazing monarch.

The Monarch butterfly caterpillar is the newest addition to Canada

With a wingspan of 9 to 10 cm, it is a fairly large butterfly. In the summertime, the familiar orange and black insect with two rows of white dots in the black fringes of its wings can be found from southern British Columbia to Newfoundland and as far north as



James Bay though it is most common where milkweed grows, especially Southern Ontario. Male monarchs can be distinguished from females by a black dot in about the middle of the underwing. The viceroy butterfly may fool the casual observer. It mimics the monarch's colour pattern but is a bit smaller and has a black line through the middle of the underwing.

One of four stamps issued by Mexico in 1988 depicting the

While the monarch is one of North America's best-known butterflies, its range is not limited to this continent. It can also be found in New Zealand, Australia, the Canary, Azores and Madeira Islands in the Atlantic Ocean off the European coast, as well as South America, the Caribbean and various South Pacific islands and Hawaii.

There are two species of monarch in North America. *Danaus plexippus plexippus*, our familiar migratory monarch, is most common but there is a non-migratory sub species, *D.p. megalippe*, which can be found in Florida,

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Georgia, the Caribbean and Central America. There is also another sub-species found south of the Amazon River in Brazil.



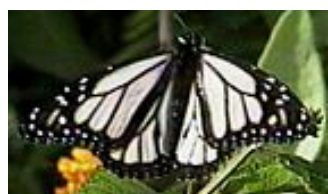
An adult butterfly was depicted in a four-stamp set issued by

As for the migratory monarch, *Danaus p. plexippus*, there are several distinct populations. There is a small population in Central America, a larger group west of the Rocky Mountains that winters along the Pacific Coast of California, and a very

large population east of the Rocky Mountains. It is this large eastern monarch population that makes the famous 3000+ kilometer migration each fall from Canada to a handful of roosting sites in central Mexico. During August and early September, adult butterflies enter a non-reproductive phase called diapause and take to the air for the trip to their wintering sites reaching central Mexico by October. In diapause, instead of a lifespan of just a few weeks, these adults will live from seven to nine months allowing them to survive long enough to start the northbound migration.

In February and March, those butterflies that have survived bad weather, predation and old age leave the winter roosts and begin the return journey towards their northern summer territory. Once underway, the monarchs come out of diapause and begin to reproduce once more. The winter generation may live long enough to reach southern Texas but it will take up to 4 summer generations of monarchs to reach their northernmost summer homes.

The female monarch will lay a single egg on the underside of a leaf of a milkweed plant. The various species of the milkweed plant are the only food for the milkweed caterpillar that will hatch from the egg in about four days. The white, black and yellow caterpillar will dine on milkweed for two weeks, going through 4 instars (stages of growth) and growing to about 5 cm long.



Not all milkweed contains the glycosides that make the monarch taste bitter. In Hawaii, where this is the

Milkweed is an important part of the butterfly's defenses. If you have ever picked milkweed and gotten some of the sap on your hands you may have accidentally tasted it and noticed that it is very bitter: the bitterness is caused by a poison called cardiac glycoside. Having eaten the plant, the caterpillar also contains this poison (and the bitter taste). When it changes into a butterfly, chemical stays in the butterfly too, making it taste bitter as well. It does not take a bird very long to learn that those brightly coloured, but terrible-tasting, caterpillars and butterflies do not make a very good meal!

Now it is time for the wonder of metamorphosis. The caterpillar will suspend itself by its hindmost legs from a twig or the underside of a leaf and shed its skin one last time. This time, though, instead of emerging as an even larger caterpillar, the insect will now be inside a beautiful light green chrysalis. After another two weeks, the chrysalis will turn clear to reveal the butterfly still folded up inside.

Most often, the new adult monarch will emerge from the chrysalis the following morning. At this point, the butterfly's wings are small, thick, and leathery. The insect expands its wings by pumping fluid into them from its body. Once its wings have dried out and stiffened, the new monarch will be ready to start the next generation, or start the flight back to its winter home in Mexico.

On the Cover... Preserving the Poles

I have been the Editor for the Owen Sound Stamp Club for a couple of years now. The first issue that I published in February 2007 featured the stamps issued to commemorate International Polar Year (IPY) which stretched from March 2007 to March 2008*. The Canadian IPY stamps featured the odd looking but colourful king eider duck and a life-size image of a bright red jellyfish, both set on a black background. The importance of IPY was the development of a number of international collaborating research projects. With the onset of global warming there is world-wide concern about the ecological role that the Polar Regions play currently and how that will change as the ice caps continue to melt. With the expected rise of sea levels and world-wide flooding of coastlines, obviously one year of scientific study can only be the tip of the iceberg!

Research continues as Environment Canada in cooperation with France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the USA formed a research program to study the movement of chemicals through Ocean, Atmosphere, Sea Ice and the Snow pack – OASIS. More specifically, OASIS Canada will be studying the activity of mercury and ozone in the Canadian Arctic.



In a continuing effort to prod public awareness of the aforementioned issues, Canada Post has teamed up with thirty or forty countries that are all producing some eye-catching stamps with the theme of 'Preserving Polar Regions and

Glaciers'**. Canada Post's contribution is a very handsome pair of stamps featuring a polar bear swimming among chunks of melting ice on one stamp and an arctic tern in a classic pose coasting in mid air with a backdrop of a sharp very deep cerulean blue on the other stamp. The designer; Tiit Telmet chose to depict some of the animals that are immediately affected by the temperature changes to the Polar Regions. On the souvenir sheet the stamps are arranged diagonally to each other with corners touching at the center. The top half has the polar bear stamp and an image of the arctic fox as a background. The bottom half has the tern stamp on the right with penguins of the Antarctic on the left. The nesting grounds of masses of penguins have been drastically affected by the breaking off of huge shelves of ice in the Antarctic. The Arctic tern is shown on the 'south' part of the souvenir sheet since it actually migrates between both poles.



The international stamp campaign was initiated by Chile and Finland. The group is using the protected crystal insignia designed by

Saku Heinanen of Finland to mark the participating stamp products. I say 'stamp products' because the symbol is not actually on the individual stamps. This is unfortunate since bearing the symbol would make finding all the foreign stamps a lot easier. The Canadian souvenir sheet bears the mark in the upper right corner, while the pane of sixteen has the crystal insignia in the selvages at each corner.

The first day covers for these arctic stamps are cancelled at Eureka, Nunavit, our most northerly post office, on April the ninth this year. Don't miss out on these lovely stamps. I hear that the souvenir sheet is in short supply.

* Some web sites state that the IPY runs through to March 2009 and this stamp program is part of the final wind down of the campaign.

** I am trying to get a complete list of the postal authorities that have issued 'Preserving Polar Regions and Glaciers' stamps and will publish this at a later date.

When I read that there are scientists collaborating on various research projects I can't help but wonder what research projects? The following is some of the information about the OASIS research program taken from a PDF found on Environment Canada's website www.ec.gc.ca. This program is part of the International Polar Year activities. Marion Ace

OASIS – Ocean, Atmosphere, Sea Ice and the Snow pack.

Every year when the sun comes up in the Arctic spring, the potent greenhouse gas OZONE and the toxic chemical MERCURY disappear from the air near the ground along the coast of the frozen ocean. It is thought that this is caused by a combination of sunlight, snow and ice, and the low temperature over the frozen ocean. With this project we hope to learn what truly causes the "disappearing act" of these two polluting chemicals, and whether the disappearing mercury ends up in the animals living in the marine world. Moreover, we hear yearly that the ice cover over the Arctic Ocean is decreasing, and we

(OASIS continued on the next page)

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don't know what this will mean for this disappearing act. We can not answer that question until we know how it happens. Until now all studies were taking place at the coast by the Ocean. The project will take these studies over the ocean onto the ice.



Circumpolar Flaw Lead Study (CFL)

We are participating in the CFL study on board the Canadian Amundsen

ice breaker so we can collect air samples to measure mercury and ozone

right on the Beaufort Sea. There will be many scientists on this ship collecting other types of samples and we will work with them to meet our common objectives.

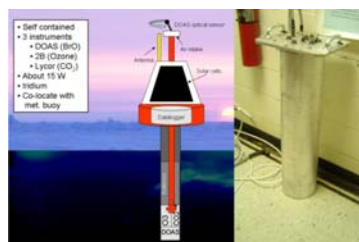
OOTI (Out On The Ice)

tech equipment to



An Arctic sled has been outfitted with sophisticated hi-

measure how fast chemicals move between the air, and the snow and ice. This sled will sit right on the ice and samples will be collected and analyzed on the spot. To make this possible all the instruments on the OOTI sled are battery operated and samples can be taken when nobody is present. To help us keeping an eye out on what is going on, the instruments are supervised via a Web camera. These pictures, and the analysis results are sent directly by long range radio contact to a building at the coast, or to the icebreaker. The sled will be moved from one spot to the next close to open water and measure for a day or two at a time.



Ozone-buoys or (O-buoys)

We will design and construct ocean buoys that house instruments to

measure year-long concentrations of ozone, carbon dioxide and other

chemicals. These O-buoys will be released into the ocean at several spots and left to collect air samples as they travel with the sea ice and ocean currents. The data will be retrieved via satellites and the instruments will be powered with solar panels and batteries.

COBRA (Combined iodine and bromine release on the arctic atmosphere)



COBRA is a research project led by British scientists at Kuujjuarapik/ Whapmagoostui, Quebec and we will join them on this study. The goal of this project is to

understand how chemicals in sea salts (iodine and bromine) from the water in the Hudson Bay affect the disappearance of chemicals like ozone and mercury from the air. Moreover, scientists from Montreal plan to determine what happens with mercury once it has disappeared from the air.

TARA



We are sampling ozone in the air from the French sailboat TARA, which has been drifting in the frozen Arctic Ocean since September 2006.

We will also collaborate with many other OASIS scientists in a study called

“OASIS-09” which will take place at Barrow Alaska, and the nearby US Navy Ice camp. Other venues in the planning stage include participation on the cruise of the Swedish Icebreaker Oden (summer 2008), and the North Pole Environmental Observatory (NPEO - spring 2009).

From the Editor...

Hello you lucky ducks! I'm sure that the first thing that you noticed about this month's OSSC newsletter was the very sharp 'Preserving the Poles' souvenir sheet on the cover. If you read the On the Cover article you may be aware that these sheets are in short supply. My local Post Office was unable to order more of them and they only received 8! You really are lucky ducks because you could call this cover a free sample. In my role as your Editor, I always try to put interesting stamps on the cover and I usually discuss the stamp as well. Last month I put one half of the Int. Year of Astronomy souvenir sheet on the envelope. This drives me crazy because I'd much rather put the whole sheet on. So I mentioned this problem at our April meeting and proposed that we raise our annual dues by \$5.00 so that we can afford the additional costs accrued by using more postage. As it is right now our dues don't even cover the cost of our regular monthly mailing so the increase is really important if I am to use souvenir sheets and se-tenant stamps when possible. Most members present were excited by the idea but we decided to delay voting until the May meeting to give other members a chance to discuss and vote on this issue. Whether you like the proposed idea or not, this meeting is your chance to voice your opinion. If you cannot attend the meeting you can email your suggestions to any one of the Executive committee.

Don't forget that **Joe Reichenbach** of Walkerton is coming to the meeting as well. Joe will be discussing revenue stamps. His special interest is Ontario Law Stamps. I personally know absolutely nothing on this subject so it will all be fascinating to me.

The Saugeen Stamp Club held their annual show on Saturday May the 2nd. They had a number of interesting displays and exhibits. Take heart all of you that have never exhibited; a first-timer won the Best in Show and the People's Choice award! Congratulations Peta! Our Vice-president **John Cortan** had a table at the show. (Boy, he is everywhere isn't he?) It was good to see our smiling Past-president **Alan Charlesworth** showing his goods at the very next table. I bumped into a few of our members doing some shopping. Our President, **Phil Visser** was there and **Bob Ford**, **Rick Lokos**, **Bob Chapman** and **Roseanne Evans**. Roseanne has moved down to Mount Pleasant so we haven't seen much of her lately. If I missed anybody I do apologize.

Hey, see you Wednesday evening!

Marion Ace
Editor OSSC

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (corner of 10th St. E. and 4th Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to trade, buy and sell stamps and philatelic material. An Auction is often held at 8:00 pm. There are presently about 20 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels, from beginner to expert.

Guests or new members are always most welcome.

Annual membership fees: Full-\$10; Family-\$15; Junior- Free

Members and guests contribute \$1 at each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for use of their room.

The OSSC Newsletter is distributed to all members. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are expressly those of the individual author.

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. Please submit any news, information, opinions or announcements to the editor.

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