

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. May 15th 2013 @ 7:00

From the President...



This past Saturday was the Saugeen Stamp Show and after plugging it shamelessly at the last meeting, I was very gratified to see the support from the Owen Sound club. I am proud for the efforts made to attend and I hope that those who attended enjoyed the day as much as I did. I was also happy to be reacquainted with several members of the GRVPA at the show. Sadly, the beautiful day seemed to hold back the crowd from attending.

While at the show, I saw a man using a computer and checking his want list. Since I am intrigued by computers, I just had to talk with this gentleman. In my chat, I discovered the man was from Huntsville and was visiting family in the area of Hanover. Without any qualms, I invited him to attend our show in September, and explained that we had a couple visit from Huntsville to our last two shows. Maybe we can expand our draw, one collector at a time.

I have become side tracked from the computer, but here goes back to my topic. Mr. Ross is a topical collector, and his topic is "Buildings on Stamps." Now that seems like a very broad topic, but he had compiled a list of stamps showing building of one form or another. He has done this by looking through Scott's catalogues at the local library, made a list and kept the list in a spreadsheet. He recognized that it would be easy to purchase stamps that he already had, so the spreadsheet allowed him to check his inventory. I must admit, making such an inventory list is very time consuming!

Our meeting this month comes early since the first Wednesday of the month fell on May 1st. This month we will have Mr. Tom Griffith coming with the club circuit books from the Cambridge club. I have invited the Saugeen club to bring their circuit books for the June meeting, but await confirmation that they will be coming. I'm not quite sure what the rest of the summer will bring, but if anyone has an idea for discussion etc, please let me know.

See you at the St Mary's High School on Wednesday, May 15th.

Cheers,

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Coming Events...

- **MAY 18 - 19, Chomedey, Laval, QC**
International Stamp show of Laval / Phila Laval, Place des Aînés de Laval, 435 Boul. Curé Labelle. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Buy, sell, exchange; more than 20 dealers, door prizes. Special Canada Post cover will be available only for this two-day show. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canada Post. For more information contact Patrick Chalifoux, 450-223-0082, email timbratheque@videotron.ca. Website: <http://www.timbratheque.com>.
- **MAY 18, Burlington, ON**
BURLOAK STAMP FAIR, Seniors' Centre, 2285 New St. (at Seneca). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 18th year of regular monthly shows on the third Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers and always something new. For more information contact Steve Simon, telephone 905-575-2950, email bas6@bell.net.
- **MAY 25, Brighton, ON**
2013 South-Central / Eastern Ontario Saturday Postage Stamp, Coin & Postcard Fairs, Brighton Community Centre/Hockey Rink Complex, 75 Elizabeth St. / Hwy. 2 East. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free admission and parking, 37th year in business, with more than one million worldwide stamps, postcards, coins and currency notes. Related supplies also available, many at discounted prices. For more information contact dejackson8138@gmail.com.
- **MAY 25, St. Catharines, ON**
Best Western Stamp Show, Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn), QEW at Lake Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and free admission, sponsored by Roy's Stamps, specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information contact Roy Houtby, telephone 905-934-8377.
- **JUNE 8, Toronto, ON**
Summer Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact Herb, telephone 416-445-7720, email NTSC.SalesCircuitChair@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.NorthTorontoStampClub.ca>.
- **JUNE 21 - 23, Winnipeg, MB**
Royal*2013*Royale, University Centre, University of Manitoba. Hours: Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Daily admission \$2, over 250 frames of exhibits, 10-15 dealers, Canada Post and youth table. Sponsor/Affiliate: Royal Philatelic

Society of Canada. For more information, contact Al Wingate, Show Chair, email al.wingate@shaw.ca. Website: <http://www.royal2013.royale.com>.

In the Spotlight...Spiders

by Ralph Wyndham

I find spiders terribly fascinating and though many of you may disagree, beautiful in their own way. If I have my camera handy, I'll try to snap an interesting portrait or two. However, I will certainly JUMP if I find one on me; the possibility of this being a sign of good fortune notwithstanding. Still, most spiders are completely harmless to people – even the larger more fearsome-looking ones.



The dangerous black widow and the rather unique-looking spinybacked spider were

The oldest spider fossil is about 300 million years old and today there are about 40,000 different species identified. The smallest spider measures about 0.3 mm in body length, the largest, a tarantula, has a body length about equal to the width of this column of text. As for leg span, the Giant Huntsman, a new species recently discovered in a cave in Laos, from toe to toe, would reach beyond the height of this page. How about that, little Miss Muffet?

After mating, female spiders have a tendency to eat their male partners so males have developed courtship rituals to many species care for their young. carry them around with them on are highly social and build webs individuals. Most live no more 'domestic' tarantulas may reach 25



avoid this. Females of Some, like wolf spiders, their backs. A few species housing up to 50,000 than 2 years though years.

Spiders belong to a class of animals known as arthropods. They breathe air and have an external skeleton, segmented body and jointed appendages. Insects, arachnids and crustaceans are all arthropods. Ticks, mites, and scorpions are cousins of the spider; all four have a body consisting of a combined head and thorax called a cephalothorax and an abdomen, but spiders have only a very narrow pedicel connecting the two.

The scorpion is a relative of the

Depending on the species, spiders have between two and eight spinnerets at the end of the abdomen. As you may have guessed by the name, the spinnerets manipulate the silk as it is secreted from the silk glands spinning it into strong thread. Silk, for its weight, is stronger than steel and spiders can make different types of silk for different purposes from the familiar web for catching insects to shelters for themselves or their eggs.



Antennae are missing from the spider's anatomy but they do have 6 or eight eyes. Each is a single eye, unlike the compound eyes of insects. While many spiders detect their prey by sensing vibrations, hunting spiders that do not build webs, but rely more on speed and agility to

catch up to dinner, may have very good vision.

Speaking of spider dinner fare, the creatures are nearly all predators using a variety of strategies to capture their prey. Besides sticky webs, some spiders use a

thread of silk with a sticky end to 'lasso' victims, some use camouflage and patience, pouncing quickly from a burrow once a meal strays too close, others simply wait quietly then use surprise and speed to capture their target.

A giant tarantula is among the animals depicted in the Nazca

Only a single species, recently discovered in Mexico and Costa Rica, has a largely vegetarian diet but even this spider will take an occasional ant egg or the like. For the rest, it is mainly insects. Some semi-aquatic spiders will prey on tadpoles and small fish while some of the larger species, like tarantulas, will catch an occasional rodent, frog, lizard, snake, bat, or even bird.

Once caught, prey is quickly subdued by the spider's venom delivered via fangs located on the tips of the chelicera, the spider's jaws. The palps or pedipalps are the appendages, just below the spider's eyes and on either side of the chelicera, that look rather like arms. Like arms they can be used to hold and manipulate the meal while being eaten.



The narrow pedicel connecting the two body segments means that the spider must eat a liquid diet. There are two methods used, depending on the kind of spider, to obtain needed nourishment from their food. Spiders that have teeth on their chelicera, such as tarantulas, rip flesh into pieces and regurgitate digestive enzymes onto the food and draw digested food back in and those without teeth simply inject enzymes. In either case, solid particles are filtered out by hairs around the mouth.

This wolf spider, babies on board, emerged from some circumstances.

Anyway, enough with the grizzly stuff! This is beginning to read more like a horror story. The most famous of spider stories and the one that gave the arachnid family its name, comes from Greek mythology. Arachne, a Greek mortal, was one of goddess Athena's weaving students. The girl was a tremendous weaver with an ego to match. The girl denied Athena's tutelage, even declaring that she was a better weaver than the goddess.

Ultimately, the two engaged in a weaving contest that ended in a draw. However, Arachne chose to depict the flaws and follies of the gods in her work and thus angered Athena. The mortal girl, feeling utter shame at this, attempted to hang

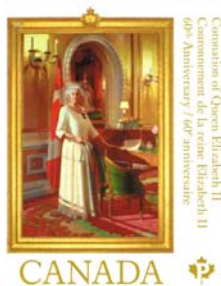
herself. Athena took pity on her and let her live as a spider, still destined to hang from the ceiling, but also to remain the consummate weaver that she was.

In native North American legend, spider was both good and bad. In Hopi and Navajo mythology Spider Woman or Grandmother Spider is a creative or helpful force in the creation of the Earth. In Sioux, Arapaho and Cheyenne tradition, Spider is a trickster of varying degrees. English folklore says that finding a spider on your clothes is a sign that money is coming your way, or at least it is a sign that you are going to have a good day.

The particular little spiders inspiring this saying are known as 'money spiders'. They are rather small and use a behaviour known as ballooning. Anchoring itself by attaching a single thread of silk to a solid object, the little creature sets sail on the wind, letting air currents take it where they will. I don't know if they are money spiders in particular, but spiderlings have been found, attached to their silk line, 200 miles out to sea and 10,000 feet above the earth; another testament to the strength of spider silk.

As voracious predators, spiders have a very important role to play in insect control. We can't do without them. One estimate I read calculates that the spiders living in just one hectare of forest may eat as many as 47,500 kilograms of insects per year. Try to remember that the next time you are tempted to kill one ...

On the Cover ... The 60th Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation



After a year of Diamond Jubilee stamps for Queen Elizabeth II here we are again celebrating a 60th anniversary of the Queen this time; her coronation. Princess Elizabeth assumed the office of Queen on February 6, 1952 but it was sixteen months later on June 2, 1953 when she was crowned.

The new stamp features a portrait of the Queen commissioned for her Diamond Jubilee. Portfolios of five renowned Canadian artists were presented to the Queen. Torontonians portrait artist Philip James Richards had the honour of being handpicked by the Queen herself to paint the new official portrait for Rideau Hall. The portrait depicts Her Majesty in her role as Queen of Canada. Her hand rests near a copy of the *British North America Act of 1867*. She is wearing her Canadian colours and the *Order of Canada* medal as she stands before a Canadian flag.

Many stamp collectors enjoy discovering 'stamps on stamps' issues; how about paintings on paintings issues? Over the Queen's shoulder and through an archway is painted an image of a copy of the painting of Queen Victoria in her coronation dress. The copy currently hangs in the residence of the Governor General. Since Queen Victoria was the reigning



monarch at the time of Canadian Confederation her image helps to convey a sense of the history of the role of the monarchy in Canada.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the artist were present as the Queen unveiled the portrait in London at Buckingham Palace on June 6, 2012. The Queen appeared to be pleased with the portrait, a great relief to Phil Richards I'm

The solid gold St. Edward's Crown was placed upon the Queen's head during her

sure. In the documentary made about the process of creating the portrait the painter mentions that the queen the differences between the final product she had seen during the production of Richards was impressed with just how Queen took interest in the project. The



commented on and the images the painting. much the documentary

'The Portrait' filmed by Hubert Davis can be seen online at <http://www.nfb.ca/film/portrait>.

I am writing this on May 8th 2013 just hours after the unveiling of the portrait stamp at Rideau hall by Governor General David wife and Deepak Chopra the President and CEO The stamp is available in a booklet of ten stamps cancelled in Ottawa. There is no fancy souvenir issue however there is a philatelic numismatic for \$26.95. The cover shows the young Queen in on coronation day.

The coin zooms in on Queen Elizabeth II and her

Johnston, his of Canada Post. and the OFDC is sheet for this cover available the gold coach

Philip James Richards' portrait of Queen Elizabeth II can be seen in the ballroom at Rideau Hall on regularly scheduled tours and at special events.

In Memoriam...



Long time Owen Sound Stamp Club member Alfred Steinke died early in April this year at the Grand River Hospital. He was 91 years old and though he hasn't been to a meeting for some time he has been faithfully renewing his membership and reading his newsletters. I hope that those of us who knew him will take a moment to think of him.

From the Editor...

Well that is just too many memorials lately; the rest of you are going to have to stop that and just carry on living. Got it!

Thank you to Ralph Wyndam for a creepy crawly story with flair!

I enjoyed myself at the Saugeen Stamp Show on Saturday May 4th and I hope you did too. If anybody went to the Ottawa show tell us all about it.

It is the May meeting and once again I will do my best to bring homemade rhubarb muffins.

I hope that Tom Griffith will bring lots of interesting circuit books.

See you on Wednesday!

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

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The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of St. Mary's High School, 555 15th St. East. Please park behind the school. The 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 30 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: \$15; Junior- Free

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