

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. April 16th 2014 @ 7:00

From the President...



I was really pleased with last month's meeting for a couple of reasons. The main reason is that we had two new members join our club but secondly it was an opportunity for a couple of club members to become part time stamp dealers. Having new members joining has made me think about why people would join a club.

Having something in common is the primary reason for joining a club, and in our case, it is all about stamps. Something that has impressed me the greatest with being in a stamp club is the vast amount of knowledge about stamps and stamp collecting that we have "in house." Most of the collectors will focus on a particular area of collecting, whether that be a country(ies) or specialized things like varieties of stamps or a topic on stamps. This sharing of knowledge and resources is why being part of a stamp club can help one of us want to come back for the next meeting.

It also amazes me about the philatelic material there remains "hidden" in the community. One of the new club members (Chris Tschirhart) showed me a couple of documents with Canada #8 on it. It just happens to be that they appeared as a discussion about the quality of stamps was going on. These two #8s were very nicely cancelled with one that had three good margins and the other with all four good margins. Based on my limited stamp collecting experience, seeing these documents was a highlight of the evening for me. I wonder how many other gems are "out there."

Speaking of gems, stamps with a high catalogue value, I am reminded of the several contacts that come annually about someone finding a stamp collection from a deceased relative. The immediate thought is finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Alas, the catalogue gives us a basis for valuation, but not necessarily what we would receive should we ever decide to liquidate our collections. There is usually a look of disappointment when an offer is made to purchase a collection that doesn't equal the "pot of gold."

This month we will be having a guest speaker coming to discuss the process of authenticating stamps. Mr. Garfield Portch is involved with the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Foundation in Toronto. I have been told by several people that the presentation will be very interesting and well worth listening to. Because of the many positive reviews I have received, I have invited the Saugeen Stamp Club, the Kincardine Stamp Club and some collectors from Collingwood to come to the evening.

I hope to see many of you at our regular meeting place, Hillyer Hall in the St Mary's High School at 1555 15th Street East right here in Owen Sound. The meeting is schedule for the third Wednesday of the month which is April the 16th.

Cheers

Phil Visser

The Cabot Tower Stamps of Newfoundland

by Bob Graham



The Cabot Tower is a red sandstone building perched on the crest of Signal Hill, overlooking St. John's, Newfoundland, and its harbour. The two-storey building measures thirty feet square, and is attached to a three-storey, octagonal tower fifty feet high. It was constructed as a project to celebrate two special events occurring in 1897, Queen

Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and the 400th anniversary of John Cabot's voyage on which he discovered the "New Found Land".

Construction began in 1898 and was completed in 1900. The project was not well supported locally, being seen as an unnecessary expense.

The structure was used for flag signalling, to notify merchants when ships were

spotted approaching the harbour, and continued to serve this function until 1960. The tower is renowned for its role in a breakthrough in modern telecommunications. It is the place where Marconi received the first radio transmission from across the Atlantic Ocean, in 1901, when the letter S, in Morse Code, was transmitted from a point in Cornwall,

England. A wireless station was housed at Cabot Tower until being relocated to St. John's International Airport more recently.



Signal Hill is now a National Historic Site, with a visitor centre. From the late 1700s it was the strategically important site of a Citadel protecting St. John's and the harbour. The Citadel was staffed by troops at stressful times, including the Napoleonic Wars and the U. S. Civil War.

W. S. Boggs, in *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland* (1942) writes:

Cabot Tower post card

"The tower stands on Signal Hill which guards the eastern side of the entrance to St. John's Harbour. Remains of old French forts, and rusty cannon still lie below the Cabot Tower,

relics of the brief time when the French were rulers of the Capital. It was on this hill and the plains below that Col. Amherst and his forces compelled the French invaders to surrender their last little isles of St. Pierre and Marconi flew his kites, and the Atlantic. Twenty years later the first trans-Atlantic telephone press delegates on the R. M. S. Victorian."



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The Cabot Tower is shown on two stamps of the Newfoundland "Publicity" set of postage stamps issued on 3rd January 1928, the 9¢ "myrtle green" and the 14¢ red brown. The name of the series stems from the fact that the Newfoundland government was attempting to encourage tourism, and it was felt that a pictorial set of stamps depicting scenes from Newfoundland and Labrador would be useful for publicity purposes. The stamps were prepared by Whitehead, Morris & Co. The 14¢ stamp paid the foreign registration rate; I have not been able to find the specific application for the 9¢. Neither denomination was continued in the Perkins Bacon copies of the publicity stamps issued 1929 to 1931.

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Coming Events...

- APRIL 25 - 26, Montreal, QC
EXUP 36 / International stamp show of Montreal, Centre Saint-Mathieu, 7110, 8e avenue, (near Jean-Talon and boul. St-Michel). Hours: Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission and parking, hourly stamps draw prizes and much more. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canada Post. For more information contact Patrick Chalifoux, email timbratheque@hotmail.com.
- APRIL 25 - 26, Hamilton, ON
SPRINGPEX ~ 2014, The NEW Bishop Ryan Secondary School; 1824 Rymer Rd.W. (at Dakota Blvd). Hours: Fri. 5 to 10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday is auction night with

G.R.V.P.A. clubs' Sales Circuits. Silent Auction closes at 7 p.m., plus a fun-filled voice auction starting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday features a 20-dealer bourse with Canada Post, youth booth, silent auction and sales circuit. Light refreshments available. New location; visit the website for map. Sponsor/Affiliate: Hamilton Stamp Club. For more information contact Michael P. Anderson, telephone 905-632-6057, before 9 p.m., email mpanderson@cogeco.ca. Website: <http://hamiltonstampclub.com>.

- APRIL 26 - 27, Sudbury, ON
Sudbury Stamp Show, Tom Davies Square Foyer, 200 Brady St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Free admission, free underground parking, dealers, exhibits, silent auctions, lunch counter, hourly draws and show door prize. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canada Post and Sudbury Stamp Club. For more information contact Biff Pilon, telephone 705-560-1274, email stampless1@hotmail.com.
- APRIL 26, Brighton, ON
South - Central / Eastern Ontario Stamp, Postcard & Coin Fair, 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. Our 38th year in business, with more than one million worldwide stamps, postcards, covers, coins and currency notes. Related hobby supplies also available, many at discounted prices. For more information email dejackson8138@gmail.com.
- APRIL 27, Pickering, ON
APEX 2014 Stamp and Coin Show, Pickering Recreation Complex 1867 Valley Farm Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Twenty-six stamp and coin dealers. Free parking, club sales tables, youth table and canteen. Sponsor/Affiliate: Ajax-Pickering Stamp Club. For more information send an email to dougmoon@yorku.ca. Website: <http://www.ajax-pickering-stamp-club.com>.
- MAY 3 - 4, Ottawa, ON
ORAPEX 2014, RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr. Sponsor/Affiliate: RA Stamp Club. For more information contact Peter MacDonald, email publicity@orapex.ca. Website: <http://www.orapex.ca>.
- MAY 3, Hanover, ON
Saugeen Stamp Club 16th Annual Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, Highway #4 between Hanover and Walkerton. Door prizes, exhibits, 10 dealers, circuit books, lunch counter, free admission and parking. For more information contact Bill Findlay online billfindlay@bell.net.
- MAY 4, Stratford, ON
Mayday Stamp Show, Main Hall, Kiwanis Community Centre, 111 Lakeside Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bourse, Mayday covers and exhibits. Free Admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: The Stratford Stamp Club. For more information contact Lutzen Riedstra, telephone 519-271-6761, email lhrriedstra@rogers.com.

- **MAY 24, St. Catharines, ON**
Best Western Stamp Show, Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel, QEW at Lake Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking, free admission and appraisals. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information contact Roy Houtby, telephone 905-934-8377.

From the Editor...

I am not writing an 'On the Cover' article again this month, but I will mention a few things about the stamps. On your cover is one of five definitive stamps in a new series depicting UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Canada. These amazing sites from across Canada display different aspects of the world's geological development. They are also available as a very handsome set of post cards. Your stamp has come from the souvenir sheet.

A few days from now a souvenir sheet of two stamps is being released honouring the Royal Ontario Museum. I do love the Museum and I hope that I'll have time to write about the new stamps.

I am doing my best to refrain from commenting about the new postal rates. Let's just say that as a stamp collector I somehow feel betrayed. That's it, no ranting and raving!

Thank you to **Rick Lokos** and **Gerd Fehler** for bringing their wares to the March meeting. I had no difficulty at all making my money disappear! Let's do it again some time.

Welcome to our latest new members, **Trevor Ham**, who has a bunch of Tara covers to show me, **Chris Tschirhart** whom I harass at work on a regular basis, **Gerd Fehler** has rejoined the club after a brief hiatus and **Andrew Woudstra** who joined in February I believe. I hope that you'll enjoy the meetings and make some new acquaintances.

I met **Garfield Portch** at the Peterborough stamp show last year. He was kind enough to take some time to answer some exhibiting questions for me. I did not know of his connection to the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Foundation in Toronto and I really look forward to his talk.

Thank you to **Bob Graham** from the Saugeen Stamp Club for another article about some of Canada's engraved stamps that he so loves!

Please note that the Saugeen's stamp show is on Saturday May 3rd as mentioned in the coming events. The show is not listed in some of the usual listings. Since half of us belong to that club too I'm sure a lot of us will turn up there!

See you on Wednesday.

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

Owen Sound Stamp Club

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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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