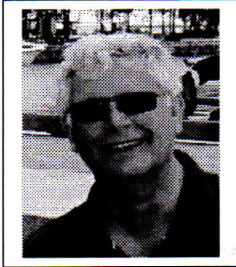


Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191 Royal Philatelic Society of Canada



Newsletter for October, 2014

Happy Birthday, Phil

From the President:

Next meeting: Wed. Oct. 15, 2014 at 7 PM in
the cafeteria of St. Mary's High School, 555
15th Street East

It is the Sunday evening following the 19th Annual Stamp Show. What a busy weekend! Those who were able to attend the show will know that I celebrated a significant birthday on the Saturday and so I want to thank all those who passed along well wishes and gave cards. My wish was to have the day pass by as just another one on the calendar, but alas that was not to be, still it was a great day for several personal reasons.

It was pleasing to see the attendance at the show. Many faces I recognized as being local stamp collectors from previous shows as well as those who travelled distances to visit us. I saw members from the Saugeen club, Kincardine club, Cambridge club as well as the President and Past President of the GRVPA attended. The hall was busy in the morning with collectors sitting at most, if not all, of the dealer's tables when the show opened.

This year we had a competition for the best one page exhibit about Owen Sound as expressed in stamps and other philatelic articles. Our judge for the competition was Ken Magee, who is a club member from a long distance, and so many of you don't get to meet him at meetings. Ken has been judging at stamp shows for many years and his experience is greatly appreciated. There were five pages entered in the one page challenge by four club members. A big thank you goes to Larry Crane, Bob Ford, John Lemon who entered pages, and, yes, I did as well. I am happy to announce that Bob Ford was the winner of the competition. Congratulations Bob! Ken spent a few minutes with us to explain the reasoning of his judging and I found it very helpful and encouraging for the future. None of us had a complete exhibit as was expected for a one page challenge but now that we have dipped our toes into the exhibiting world, next year can only be better.

We will discuss exhibiting at our next executive meeting and at future club meeting to see how we can increase the participation level. If you have attended other shows and seen the exhibiting being done, consider that some of those exhibits have been prepared by people with years of experience. The remainder of the frames that contained exhibits at our show this year were completed by Dave Pugh, another long distance member with years of experience in exhibiting. Thank you Dave! One very important benefit of exhibiting is learning about the stamps and the history those stamps are showing. I hope that more club members accept the challenge to prepare a one page exhibit for next year.

The feature for this months meeting will be a "Club Auction." Club members will be able to bring items (I suggest no more than five per person) to be auctioned off. Usually the prices earned are not very high, but if some members bring an item of significant value, we will try having a "reserve bid" for that item. I hope that some items will sell; however, there has to be at least one bidder for that item at the reserve price and if there are two bidders, an auction will continue. Bernd Duddeck will be coming to the November meeting with his stock. I will try to find out more about what stock he carries, but I do know he carries stamps with cancels covering the stamp. This should be a great night for the cancel collectors in our club and I am sure he will have stock of interest for most everyone to look at.

Because October 1st fell on a Wednesday, our club meeting will be on October 15th. I hope to see many of you attend.

Phil Visser
President

Getting Started in Stamp Collecting - Part 4

Organizing the Mixture: Continued

By Philip Visser

One thing I have discovered during the years of collecting is that organizing the collection changes over the years because another aspect of the collection changes the overall layout of it. However, the focus of these articles is to help a new collector by providing some information and help to organize the mixture. This article will be about stamp albums, which can be another vast topic.

Sorting through a mixture of stamps will produce stamps from across the world. By visiting a stamp store or dealer, it will be possible to get an album for a world wide collection. If this is your interest, then getting one may have some merit. A world wide album will provide spaces for stamps, but the printers will select stamps that are most likely to be used in general circulation. Besides providing some pictures of stamps issued, they will also leave blank spaces for stamps that may have come into your hands from various countries. Keeping a world wide collection however, will require lots of shelf space because a world wide collection will have several volumes and then time periods for each volume. I will continue this article about Canadian stamp albums, a country you will likely have more stamps from.

Some hobby stores may have a Canadian stamp album on the shelf just waiting to be purchased. If you are able to look inside the album before buying it, you should consider what you are collecting. Previous articles discussed the soaking of stamps off of paper/envelopes and so the collection will begin with "used" stamps. Typically, these stamps will be individual ones so look if the album provides space for single stamps. Some albums have spaces for pairs, blocks of four and mini sheets. These are difficult to obtain in the used condition and are aimed for the collectors of "mint" stamps, that is, stamps that are fresh from the post office.

There are several things to consider when choosing a stamp album for a beginning collection. One of the first things to consider is do you put the stamps on both sides of the page or only on one side. If the stamps are on both sides of the paper, there is a possibility of the stamps on opposite sides catching each other when leafing through the album, and then having the stamps tear off the page or themselves. There are some albums that still offer this option, but most of the albums have the stamps on one side of the page with the "back" side of the page being left blank.

Most stamp albums will have single sided pages, but more factors need to be considered. When looking at albums from various suppliers, most include the picture of the stamp in the order they were issued, usually by date but there may be some exceptions to this. Having pictures in each stamp location makes it easier to put the stamps into the album. Some albums will have the pictures printed in black and white as well as the rest of the page. There are a few albums that use colour ink and pictures.

A feature that needs a little more consideration is the quality of the paper used to print the album on. Generally speaking, the lighter the weight of the paper, the cheaper the price of purchasing the album will be. If the entire history of Canadian stamps is desired, then it will take a couple of volumes to hold the collection. Now, if thicker, heavier paper is used, the entire collection will be housed in three or four albums at a significantly higher price per volume.

Some album suppliers mention that the pages are not made from processed wood, thus avoiding the chance of paper production by-products that stay in the final product in your album. This feature also has a price premium which needs consideration when starting the collection.

Lower end stamp albums will generally be printed on standard sized paper and put in a 3 ring binder. As the quality of the album goes up, the quality of the binder is increased with padded covers and maybe even a slip case to hold the album. When considering higher end albums, the page size increases as does the paper thickness. It does make for a nice album to leaf through, but how many people are interested in looking at your collection? A funny quirk I've observed is that most stamp collectors don't show their collections to other collectors, perhaps out of fear of that someone you know has a better collection than you do! No matter what, this is your hobby and dream, so have fun with it.

Also with the higher end stamp albums comes the option of hingeless pages. Instead of using hinges to keep the stamp on the page, the page will have stamp mounts in the place for each stamp. By and large, this is a handy feature, but again, it comes with a price premium. All this mention of price offers an opinion shared by a fellow collector who said "I'd rather put my money into the collection of stamps, not stamp albums." Again, the ugly reality is brought forward in that many times, our eyes are bigger than our wallets! Still keeping that in mind, most collectors have great pride in their collections, and when stamps clubs have variety nights, it is amazing what others collectors have found in their travels.

There is one sad provision that needs to be mentioned. When I started stamp collecting, the album I used to house the Canadian stamps was discontinued making me chose another brand. In researching this article, I have noticed that even that second brand has been discontinued. This wasn't important for me now because several years ago I switched to a premium brand with hingeless album pages. However, I do need to mention that there is one album that has a separate see through plastic page for mounting the stamp, which is acid free and is above the paper page with the illustration of the stamp. This album is about 3 to 4 times more expensive than the price I paid for the current album I use to house my Canadian stamps.

A final option to consider when looking at housing the stamps accumulated to date is the internet. Using any search engine, type in "print you own stamp album" and look at the number of hits the request brings on to the screen. The search engine mentions 1,880,000 hits, but this includes many of the brand names that have been described above. One site offers "free print your own page to your own design". A few members in this club do use that service, but please consider the paper quality used. Heavier paper will have the pages last longer when leafing through the 3 ring binder. Check your printer for the paper weight it will print on. There are also a couple of individuals who have made preprinted pages based on a major catalogue. These pages cover various time periods and so it is possible to focus on a given range of stamps, for example Queen Elizabeth. I have used this method myself to print pages for a new country I have started to collect.

Whatever options that are mentioned above that are important for you, keep in contact with the local stamp club to receive advice and find out other details from club members. The next article will be on the relationship every collector has with stamp catalogues.

Coming events

- Oct 18 St Catharines – Best Western Stamp Show, Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel, QEW at Lake Street 10 AM to 4 PM Free parking, free admission and free appraisals. Specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. Sponsor-affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information contact Roy Houtby 905-934-8377
- Oct 18 Guelph – Stampex 2014 Stamp Show, Evergreen Seniors Centre, 683 Woolwich Street 10 AM to 3PM. Free parking, free admission, lots of dealers, circuit books, refreshments available, free Children's table. Sponsor-affiliate Guelph Stamp Club For more information, contact George Shepherd 519-242-8022, or email ngshepherd@rplroyalty.com
- **Oct 25 Brampton – GRVPA Club Fair, Terry Miller Centre, 1295 Williams Parkway 10 AM to 4:30 PM GRVPA and GTAPA clubs with their circuit books (700+), two silent auctions, exhibits, youth table, snack bar, free parking and admission. Sponsor-Affiliate GRVPA. For more information contact Stuart Keeley, email stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca**

From the Editor:

I have one request sent in by Jim Molineux. He is looking for early Canadian issues (Scott 65 and lower), Newfoundland (100 and lower) as well as provincials. His preference is for used stamps with circular date cancels.

Email me your collecting wants and I will pass them on to the rest of the club via this newsletter. I am still fighting with my computer, but I am winning the battle.

About Us

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of every 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. There are presently about 30 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels, from beginner to expert. Guests and new members are most welcome. Annual membership fees are \$15; juniors are free.

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