

Owen Sound Stamp Club  
Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 @ 7 PM

From the President...



Hectic and frantic actions are taking place in preparing this newsletter. If all goes according to plan, we will be meeting again in the Hillyer Hall of the St Mary's High School on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting will focus on preparing for the show on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Be prepared to volunteer to help make this event successful. Help includes preparing a one page exhibit for the club competition for the best one page exhibit on the topic of fauna from one eco-region (country). The winner will have their name engraved on the Vander Heyden Memorial Award along with the year of success. This year's judge would like to know how many exhibits that will be in the frame to be judged. A member may submit more than one exhibit.

Planning for the show also includes being prepared to donate/provide supplies for the lunch table. Consider such things as muffins, sandwiches, refreshments. These sales contribute to keeping the club running for another year. At the time of writing, there are seven dealers coming to the show, and if another one can be found we might have eight dealers. Other forms of support include bringing items for door prizes as well as volunteering to greet visitors coming to the show, club circuit book table, selling tickets for the door prizes and just be cheerful.

Last weekend a fellow club member and I traveled to Toronto to the North Toronto Stamp Show and then a few blocks down the street to the Greene Foundation and Harry Sutherland Library. Again the trip went reasonably well, excellent company and discussions while traveling and alas also lighter pockets on the way home. Found some interesting postcards and cancels as well as stamps to fill holes in my collection. At the Sutherland Library, I ran across a recent article in *The Stamp Magazine* that applies to my collecting interests. It was a six page article about the first series of stamps issued by the Netherlands. I learned a few more things!

Further in this newsletter is an article that may be interesting to you as well as another Stamp Tip from Andrew McGavin. It would be greatly appreciated if someone could at least attempt to write an article for the newsletter. Those contributions would help lighten the load of this newsletter and keep it going later in the fall when work demands more of my time. A few more members have switched over to receiving this newsletter electronically. Thank you. This very same matter is being planned by the Royal Philatelic Society with the publishing of the *Canadian Philatelist*. Many other organization and philatelic outlets are going electronically. For instance the *ATA Topical Times*, the *Stamp Magazine*, *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and more.

Despite the reduction in mail, each person should ask themselves if they are really getting the service from the mail system that they would like. For instance how many letters arrive without a cancellation, or stamps scratched out with pen or marker. There may even be a sense that the Post Office is not concerned about stamp collectors. These comments are just food for thought.

I hope good health and conditions will allow you to attend the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Phil Visser  
President  
OSSC

Summary Tip #13: Buying at Auction Part III - Learn about the pitfalls and benefits of buying at stamp auctions - INTERNET AUCTION BUYING

Dear Philip,

In our last two 'Stamp Tips of the Trade' we have discussed the advantages and pitfalls of buying stamps at Public Auctions and Postal Auctions. In our 13th (quite appropriate #13) 'Stamp Tips of the Trade' - we are focussing upon Internet Auction Buying. Some people are fearful of number 13 - and they can also be fearful of bidding on line. Obviously there are different types of on-line bidding and buying - so let's separate them into 'LIVE' and 'STATIC'.

LIVE INTERNET AUCTIONS: Let's define 'live' as you can bid till the very last second that bidding closes upon a lot. Ebay dominates this space. Delcampe (a European 'ebay' competitor is developing). I could write a book about selling on-line, buying is theoretically simpler but also fraught with potential problem. No matter all the reassurances you are given internet bidding at live internet auctions is very much a case and place of Caveat Emptor - buyer beware.

The main 'protection' for buyers is theoretically the feedback system. Yet I have seen internet vendors with 1,000 + positive feedbacks from buyers - not a negative in sight - and the stamps/items they are selling are obviously not what they state them to be. Sometimes it is a case of 'naive' vendor and 'naive' buyer - but others it is deliberately setting out to deceive.

Beware when all you see is a picture - and next to no description - live internet bidding is like the 'Wild West' - theoretically regulated, practically unregulated. Punishment for bona-fide vendors breaking the rules can be draconian - but crooks don't care - they just open up new accounts. We know because we block some from bidding - and months later they bid again using a new account.

A few years ago - we sold a wonderful reprint of a Great Britain Queen Victoria 10 shilling correctly described for what it was - a reprint. Within 2 weeks we found our stamp offered on-line - our photo and the on-line photo were identical, being offered as the original printing which is far rarer. We notified potential bidders who were bidding on that stamp. You can't do that today - bidders identities and e-mail addresses are hidden to all except the vendor. You can notify the vendor and service providers - but don't always expect a fast response. The item can be sold and paid for before / if anything positive actually happens, and often nothing positive happens. Internet crooks are fleet of foot than service providers and authorities.

Bidding with reputable long established philatelic companies that sell in other ways apart from the internet - may provide additional reassurance. Despite all safeguards it is not always possible to be sure that you are bidding with a reliable vendor ... but most transactions go through ok - it may be more a question of getting your money back when things go wrong.

Bidding on line:

When you are actually bidding on line and the last few seconds to closing time are counting down - many vendors, understandably, are rather keen to see how much their item sells for ... so like bidders - they may be constantly clicking their 'refresh' button to see the action. This gives us an insight into what happens. 'Refresh' speeds can be fast or slow - so often it is possible to lose that lot that you have been bidding on by just a few seconds and a few pence or pounds more than you were prepared to pay.

Don't take it for granted that if you bid £50 and it sold to somebody else for the next bid step of say £52 - that that is all the winner was prepared to pay. If you are kicking yourself ... take our advice - live on-line bidding at eBay is secure so that you can place a £100 bid on that £50 item and you can be the £52 bidder/winner. Of course you really need to be prepared to pay that amount as somebody else may think similarly.

Evolve a 'live' internet bidding strategy. 'Register' your interest in one of two ways - either elect to 'watch' the lot - or bid the minimum upon it if you know you want it anyway. You will receive outbid notices ... and can, if you wish, increase your bids further as closing time approaches.

Many lots that have lots of 'watchers' (and only the vendor can see how many potential bidders are watching his lots) - have mini-bidding battles taking place in the dying few moments of the auction closing. Bidding at this stage in small increments is the best way to lose the lot. You have two choices - either place your maximum bid earlier - and watch what happens ... or use one of the on-line 'sniping' services that have sprung up to improve your chances of winning.

We think the best 'snipe' services work ... but even then - there is no guarantee of success and if you read the 'small print' of such services there are various reasons why. Our recommendation if you are really keen to win - is register a low on-line bid personally - if the system accepts your bid - you know that there are no reasons why the vendor will not accept your business - for example the vendors settings may forbid sale and delivery to your country, or if you do not have a PayPal account - or you may be 'blocked' for some other reason.

Then during the days before the auction closes - monitor what happens - finally register higher/highest bids shortly before the auction closes ... This has the disadvantage of revealing your hand earlier - but your highest bid is all you can ever pay. Using a 'snipe' system - keeps your cards closer to your chest ... and does not let another bidder gradually increase his bids against yours. Your 'snipe' comes in the dying few seconds or even second - the full force of your bid is employed only then - so that there is a chance that you save against the maximum you are prepared to pay.

The plain truth is that no auction system is perfect. Your best answer is to experiment on lots that are less important to you - so you know what to do when it really matters.

In our next 'stamp tips of the trade' we'll discuss static internet bidding.

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

PS. If you find this 'tip' interesting please forward it to a philatelic friend.

Andrew McGavin

## Soaking in the Summer

By Phil Visser

With the heat of summer still around us but with a hint of some cooler weather coming, perhaps a few words to remember what the title may have meant to the readers. In the early years, "soaking in the summer" surely had something to do with enjoying the beach. Remember the carefree feeling of running down the beach and into the water and the transition from being very warm to much cooler and relief from the temperature? After splashing about in the water by diving or swimming, it sure felt good to lie on the beach towel and admire the scenery.

With added life experience, "soaking in the summer" took on the meaning of sweating while working outside, be it in construction or some other labour intensive job in Mother Natures workshop. While engaged in work, daydreaming of that movie scene of a hound dog stretched out in the shade on the porch. Wistfully thinking of how great it would be to sit on the swing on the porch and watch other action. Perhaps there would be some admiration for the hound dog who spies the neighbours' cat trespassing on the property but casually closing the eye thinking "nah, not worth the chase today."

In philatelic terms, the summer heat definitely is not a time to soak stamps because of the heat involved. With the advent of air conditioning, the activity of soaking in the summer is now possible without too much hardship, or at least until the hydro bill arrives. Summer is for me an opportunity to catch up on this mundane philatelic task, followed by sorting and organizing the fruits of this activity. This year has been somewhat of a revelation for me and now an opportunity to share with the readers.

Purist collectors have coined the phrase "not in period" thus minimizing the simple joy of filling in the holes in the collection. This phrase may be a little unfair and consider the following information. Besides the above phrase, collectors have also lifted the nose upwards to collecting mint hinged stamps. With the reduction of people in the hobby, those left are hoping to find those early Mint Never Hinged (MNH) stamps for their personal collections. So what is there to do with all those stamps that are mint hinged? Obviously it is to use those old hinged stamps as postage on today's mail.

This practice is becoming very evident when soaking stamps off the paper because paper and hinge remnants

are left over after the stamps have been removed from the water. There are some more notions found in the minds of collectors and that is “what do we do with the stamps that have slipped through the postal system without any cancellations?” Strictly speaking it is illegal to reuse stamps which have already been used once. I think most every collector has come across stamps that have been reused in the postal system.



Common Postage Due with a Surprise on the back

Inventive ways have been in use to use a stamp more than once for many years, so it would be inappropriate to describe them, but trying to rescue a reused stamp to add into the collection is a challenge at times. For instance, a few years ago, while trying to rescue a reused stamp, I came to the realization that this stamp was a postage due stamp. Who and why would that stamp be reused? The suggestion was put forward that in a theme of “pay back”, the recipient of the unfranked postage due stamp then sent a letter to the author but reusing the postage due so that the writer of the first letter also had to pay postage due for the return letter. No other plausible explanation has come forward so it is assumed that “pay back” was the motivation for the reuse of the postage due stamp.



Green paper that refuses to be soaked off

In an effort to curtail the reuse of stamps the cancellation process has been used since the beginning placing stamps on letters. I am certain that the reuse of stamps is a world wide phenomenon. Technology has also entered the hobby with the use of “super glues” which does not respond to water so that they can not be removed from envelopes. However collectors have also responded to these technological adaptations by the postal authorities and are able to remove stamps from envelopes with the use of citrus air spray or Bestine. Thus it is still possible to reuse the modern stamps.



Stamps removed with Bestine

Another attempt to limit reuse has been employed by the Royal Mail of Great Britain. On many of the definitives, primarily the Machins, two scallops have been placed on the stamp so that the scallops will separate from the stamp while being removed from the envelope and so the reuse of these stamps could be clearly seen by the alert postal clerk. In trying to save the stamp, it has been possible to, with careful use of the liquid and stamp tongs, save the stamp intact and thus the collection would be of the complete stamp. Yet soaking in the summer past has revealed a new reuse of these super sticky stamps.



Proof of reuse!

The envelope with which I had received the purchase was the bubble wrap type of envelope with a plastic type of covering as the envelope. Because of the security measures taken by the Royal Mail as mentioned above, there was some concern about whether Bestine would remove these stamps from the plastic and bubble wrap envelope. More than the usual amount of Bestine was needed, but the stamps did come off. When the stamps came off the discovery was made and now the readers can see that the stamps have clearly been reused. This is the only time I have seen what is being shared here.



An even stronger glue used to keep the stamps on this envelope!

Concluding this article is actually a jumble of things mentioned above. It would probably help our hobby and lower the collectors frustration levels if the collector could accept stamps used “out of period” as well as admire the beauty of the stamp design whether there is a hinge on the back or not. Some of these points have probably stemmed from the sellers who are trying to maximize the limited value of the vast majority of their stock. But

finally, there is probably a collective wish that the postal authorities would cancel all letters and do so in a manner that can be appreciated by the stamp collector.

#### Coming Events...

- SEP 24, Owen Sound Stamp Show  
Royal Canadian Legion, 1450 2nd Avenue West, Owen Sound, ON, N4K 0C4  
Owen Sound Stamp Club invites all stamp collectors to attend their annual show. The show hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Show will feature dealers and stamp exhibits as well as a club competition for the best one page display on the topic of Flora or fauna from one region. The club circuit books will be present as well as a lunch table with refreshments. Phone: 519-376-6760 Email: [visserps@bell.net](mailto:visserps@bell.net) Web: <http://www.owensoundstampclub.org/>
- OCT 15, 55th Annual Barrie Stamp Exhibit and Bourse  
Army, Navy and Air Force Club, 7 George Street, Barrie, ON, L4N 5G8  
The Barrie District Stamp Club, Chapter, 73 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada will hold its 55th annual stamp exhibit and bourse from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Branch 365. There will be approximately 15 dealers of philatelic materiel, including varied dealers specializing in postal history, deltiology, British Commonwealth and British North America. Admission and parking is free. Refreshments are available at nearby venues. The members of the Barrie District Stamp Club will proudly display their annual exhibits for judging by a renowned judge of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Also at this venue will be the Club's Sales Circuit binders and a children's table for beginner collectors. Phone: 705-735-6009 Email: [b.walter@rogers.com](mailto:b.walter@rogers.com) Web: <http://www.barriedistrictstampclub.ca>
- OCT 15. Burloak Stamp Fair  
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4  
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nineteen years 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](mailto:bas6@bell.net).
- OCT 15. CANPEX 2016 National Philatelic Exhibition  
October 15, 2016 to October 16, 2016  
The Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Rd West, London, ON, N6J 2J2  
Featuring 150 frames of competitive exhibits, 30+ dealers, free parking, lunch counter and more. This will be the start of "the Exhibition Season" for collectors to qualify their exhibits for the APS World Series of Philately. Thus, we expect the demand from collectors wishing to exhibit will be high. Only the best will be accepted! We invite you to join us as we celebrate "Stamp Collecting Month." At Canpex 2016 you will be able to visit dealers you would not normally see and view world class exhibits. You will also renew old acquaintances with fellow collectors and meet new collectors with similar interests. In short, an opportunity not to be missed! Plan to attend and mark these dates on your calendar now!  
Email: [infor@canpex.ca](mailto:infor@canpex.ca) Web: <http://www.canpex.ca>
- OCT 29. GRVPA Club Fair (22nd)  
United Kingdom Hall, 35 International Village Dr., Cambridge, ON, L2V 4S1  
10:00 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. 12-14 Clubs, 450 circuit books, 2 silent auctions, snack bar, free parking.  
Phone: 905-227-9251 Email: [stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca](mailto:stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca)
- NOV 4. Hamilton Stamp Club Fall Show  
November 4, 2016 to November 5, 2016  
Bishop Ryan Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, ON, L0R 1P0  
Large silent and voice auctions Friday evening with viewing starting at 5 p.m. Saturday is a 20-dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies, plus youth booth and silent auction from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. GRVPA clubs circuit sales books Friday and Saturday. Light food and refreshments available with ample free parking. Sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club. Email: [southont@cogeco.ca](mailto:southont@cogeco.ca) Web: <http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com>

From the Editor...

Since the last newsletter I have had the opportunity to visit the Kincardine Show, the Royal in Waterloo and now the North Toronto Stamp Show. I received an email about the upcoming Barrie show. Traveling to other shows may help them return the favour and visit our own show. As always, input is greatly appreciated for this newsletter and hopefully provides a quality means of keeping club members up to date and informed. I hope you all take a moment to visit the Owen Sound Stamp Club website at [www.owensoundstampclub.org](http://www.owensoundstampclub.org) which will help Google find it in its search engine. If any members currently receiving this newsletter through the mail but wishes to receive it by email instead, please contact me. Any comments or thoughts on our common hobby will be shared in subsequent newsletters.



During the school year, 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 15<sup>th</sup> Street East. Meeting agendas will vary between having visiting club circuit books, speakers and an auction. Guests and new members are always welcome. Annual membership fees: \$15.00

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