

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 19th, 2017 @ 7 PM

SUMMER meeting Place: New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound

From the President



Hi Everyone. Don't forget our next two meetings in July and August will be held at the New Life Centre on 4th Ave West, because the high school is closed for the summer. At our next meeting, I will have some Circuit Books from Tom Griffiths. In August, I will be away, but John Lemon will have a guest speaker, and probably our club circuit books. Happy Stamping.

Larry Crane
President
OSSC

From the Editor

Phil Visser

Key point for this meeting is to remember that we cannot meet at the normal meeting place. The meeting on the 19th will be at the New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound. I hope to be there myself if we return from our planned vacation in time.

We have a new author this month who has contributed an article about strange coincidences. I hope you enjoy the story and he shows us how we can represent our club within the community. I'm not sure how, but over the last few days I heard a famous quote from John F. Kennedy while he was President of the United States. The quote is "ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country." That adage is a reminder to all of us to speak about our hobby to anyone who is willing to listen.

Following the article on coincidences, is "Stamp Tip #17" from Andrew McGavin of the Universal Philatelic Auctions. The topic is a reminder of the presentation made by Mr. Garfield Portch of the

Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Foundation on the process of validating Unitrade #32 as being printed on laid paper. The tip may provide some guidance on the idea that a certificate can enhance a particular collection. The challenge lies in authenticating stamps from another country other than Canada. There is the American Philatelic Society who does authenticate "foreign stamps."

Immediately following the club meeting on the 19th is Postal History Symposium in Hamilton. The show runs from the 20th to the 23rd. I plan on attending the show on the 23rd while visiting my brother, who just happens to live in the area.

A week ago I was at an event at the Owen Sound Rail and Marine Museum by the harbour. The invitation was to see the first time lighting of recently added lights to the masts located on the east side of the harbour. What I learned was that the masts represented those that were on the SS Manitoba, a ship that was built in Owen Sound by the Polson Iron Works. To complete the building of the ship, hundreds of Scottish iron workers immigrated to Canada to build the ship. Apparently there were no local trades people available to do this project, not even in the United States.



Figure 3 This is a copy of a Google Image when searching for the SS Manitoba

Strange Coincidences

By John Lemon with editorial assistance

A request was received from the Billy Bishop Museum to prepare and make a display of stamps for an upcoming open house. Searching through my material I found many different covers that dealt with Billy Bishop and other military history. These items would become talking points to any interested visitors to the Open House seeing the display.

One of the best starting points is this commemorative cover of Billy Bishop. The stamp is catalogued in Unitrade as #1525 and was issued on August 12th, 1994. The cancel itself is not considered to be an official First Day cancel but the date of the cover is given on the first day of issue. The Unitrade catalogue calls the two stamps issued in se-tenant pairs as "Great Canadians." To begin with the stamp of discussion, Billy Bishop was born in Owen Sound and served in the Canadian Army before transferring to the Royal Flying Corp. Ultimately, Bishop was awarded the Victoria Cross medal for his bravery as a pilot.

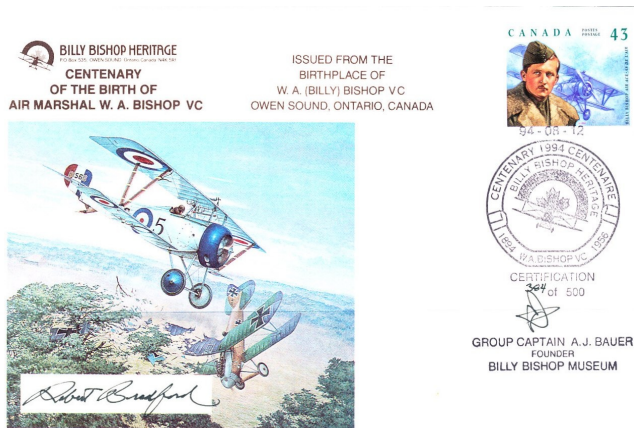


Figure 4 The Billy Bishop Commemorative cover from the collection of JCL.

It seems strange that a single community can claim two residents who would later be awarded the Victoria Cross. A second resident of this community, Thomas William Holmes was awarded the medal for bravery shown at the battle in Passchendaele in 1917. Tommy was not born in Owen Sound but lived here from an early age until he too went off to flight in World War 1. Although the cover is issued in honour of the Grey Simcoe Foresters, in the upper

left of the cover is a picture of Tommy Holmes. He joined and trained with the Foresters and when he arrived in France was sent to another division. Holmes fought and was wounded at Vimy Ridge in April of 1917 and returned to active service during the fall to participate in the Passchendaele offensive.



Figure 5 From the collection of JCL

The name Vimy Ridge has been widely reported in Canadian history. Several sources suggest this battle was the forming of Canada as a nation because all the Canadian troops were organized and fought together and led to the victory at the ridge for the army. Vimy Ridge was simply a smaller part of a much greater battle plan called the Arras Offensive. Both the French and British armies had attacked and failed to win Vimy Ridge, prior to 1917. The success of the Canadian Corp led to the ceding by France of about 100 acres of battlefield to Canada to construct a memorial of the battle. Unitrade #486 shows the monument built on the Ridge.



Figure 6 The Vimy Ridge monument from the editors collection.

One last stamp from World War 1 is shown here. The stamp was issued to remember the 50th anniversary of the death of Lt Colonel John McCrae. McCrae is remembered for his writing of the poem that we all now hear on Remembrance Day, "In Flanders



Figure 7 Unitrade # 487.

From the collection of JCL

Fields.” The open house, however, brought a total surprise to what we all remember of how Colonel McCrae died. The granddaughter of Colonel McCrae came to the open house and shared that while he did die of pneumonia, the pneumonia was contracted as a result of poison gas released as part of the chemical warfare campaign to break the stalemate on the battle front. Colonel McCrae had gone to the front lines to provide medical help to the soldiers who had been gassed during the battle and in the process also breathed in amounts of the gas. Meeting his granddaughter was another strange coincidence!

Alas, the Great War was not the end of world wars. The display also included stamps and covers showing the Second World War. An elderly gentleman came



Figure 8 From the collection of JCL

along who commented on the stamps showing the Mosquito aircraft and the Lancaster bomber. It turns out this man was a ferry pilot flying the Lancaster bomber from Brantford ON to England with a stop at Gander NL to refuel for the last stage of the flight. It turns out that in the process of the delivery, he came in contact and knew my parents. This too was completely unexpected making it another coincidence.

My father served as the Post Master at Gander NL during the war, and at the conclusion of the war returned to Walters Falls ON to take up the job there.

This lovely clear cancel of Walters Falls shows what collectors would love to find for their collection. A short time after returning from Gander, my father transferred to become the Post Master in Chatsworth ON, just a few kilometres away from Walters Falls, as the crow flies. Following the war, my mother took up the Civil Service course and

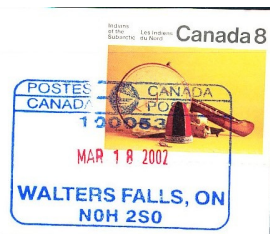


Figure 9 From the collection of JCL

saw an opening for Post Master in Walters Falls and became the Post Mistress there. That is how they met each other and the rest is history, so to speak. The Chatsworth Post Office is still going strong with its own cancel.



Figure 10 From the editors collection



Figure 11 From the editors collection

Canada Post issued a stamp showing the Lancaster bomber as part of a series showing military aircraft. Unitrade #874 was issued on November 10th 1980 and is in a se-tenant pair with the Voodoo from the 1950-60's. The building of the Lancaster was completed in

Milton and Brantford and many local industries supplied parts that were produced on sub-contracts for the aircraft. The parts that were installed in the Lancaster were inspected by my mother as part of the quality control process of the aircraft before being dispatched off to the war in Europe.

All in all the Open House was a successful couple of days in which some 200+ people stopped by and visited the museum. The display brings the Owen Sound Stamp Club into the eye of the public and it was a pleasure to meet those people and speak about the hobby as well as the topics that the stamps themselves remind the visitors about.

Club News

There were about fifteen members present for the June meeting. As promised, Ken Magee presented an interesting discussion about preparing exhibits. Hopefully this will light a fire among club members to make exhibits for our upcoming show. While Ken spoke about making full frame exhibits (there are 16 pages in a full frame) don't forget the one page challenge for the show in October. The topic is "Canada." The topic is so broad that anything associated with the country can be made into a one page display. I believe Ken will be the judge for this challenge.

Of course each meeting is a chance for club members to show what they have found and might be of interest to others in the club. Trading, buying and selling between club members is always part of the evening!

CERTIFICATES - WHY BOTHER?

Summary Tip #17: Certificates are essential for certain types of stamps

Dear Philip,

I'll gladly be proven wrong - but when was the last time you read an article about certification of stamps? In 40 years of philately this is the first such article I've read - and I'm writing it! Seems hard to believe - but it's true. Many collectors will go through their entire lives never seeing, owning or acquiring a stamp that has a certificate ... so what is this all about?

A philatelic 'certificate' is issued by an independent recognised expert/ expert committee/ authority stating that they have examined the stamp, cover, philatelic item - a photograph of which is attached ... and in their opinion - the stamp is genuine, a reprint, is 'cleaned' (has a postmark removed to make it appear mint rather than used), repaired, re-perforated, a fake, cancelled by favour, cancelled by a forged postmark and a significant number of variant opinions therein. Indeed some certificates may be issued stating that the 'expert committee' has been unable to reach an opinion (further research/evidence may be required - or may never be obtained).

So why are certificates important?

Certificates only become more significant the more valuable the stamp that is supplied. Certificates of authenticity are expensive. In the UK at the lowest level they can cost minimums of £40+/- per item. Bear in mind that it costs this whether the stamp is right or wrong. Rare stamps authenticated are often charged on a percentage of catalogue value - so some certificates can cost several hundreds of pounds - but they can potentially add £1,000's of value to rare stamps.

Buyers of rare stamps appreciate a good certificate and provenance. Such stamps sell for more.

Stanley Gibbons catalogues (not the 'Simplified' Stamps of the World) sometimes warn collectors in footnotes about certain 'fake-prone' stamps which require provenance and/or certification. Not all stamps require certificates - for example I have never seen a British 1929 PUC £1 with a certificate - or an Australian 5/- Sidney Harbour Bridge and I've only ever seen one £5 orange with a certificate in 37 years of handling them - so the important thing for a collector is to understand areas where certificates become significant, and if unsure - ask a trusted supplier. Some companies issue their own certificates (as a marketing tool) for stamps that they are selling - they are only as 'good' as the company and will not have been authenticated by an independent 'expert' committee.

Some expert's opinions are recognised by virtually all. Some 'experts' are not recognised as experts by all. Generally speaking - in the UK there are three recognised organisations that issue certificates - the Royal Philatelic Society, the British Philatelic Association (both do not sell or value stamps - but issue certificates for stamps from all areas of the world) and David Brandon - a respected 'International dealer' who authenticates British and British Empire stamps using a team of experts. There are other experts recognised for their excellence within tighter defined specialist fields.

For the collector of British stamps the prime area of 'concern' is the 'back of the book' - as in the GB 'Officials' overprints. One such unique authenticated example with provenance recently sold for £400,000=. Without the overprint you could buy this stamp for less than £15. It is not hard to imagine the temptation for the unscrupulous to create their own 'overprints' and proffer them as the 'genuine' article.

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

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

Andrew McGavin



Figure 12 The Lancaster bomber is featured as part of #1504 (stamp on the bottom right hand corner) as well as in the cancellation of the FDC. From the collection of JCL

Upcoming Shows

JUL 15 Burloak Stamp Fair

Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4

Hours: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Twenty years of regular monthly shows on the third of Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers, and always something new.

Phone: 905-575-2950

Email: bas6stamps@gmail.com

JUL 20 Postal History Society of Canada Symposium 2017

July 20, 2017 to July 23, 2017

Sheraton Hamilton, 116 King St. W., Hamilton, ON, L8P 4V3

First Annual PHSC Symposium, a four day event of exhibits, bourse, numerous presentations, social events and historical tours.

Phone: 905 699-7451

Email: symposium@postalhistorycanada.net

Web: <http://www.postalhistorycanada.net>

AUG 3 APS National Summer Convention

August 3, 2017 to August 6, 2017

Greater Richmond Convention Center, 403 N. Third St., Richmond, VA, 23219

Stamp Show 2017 in Richmond, Virginia marks the 131st annual convention of the American Philatelic Society. Each year, stamp collectors, exhibitors, historians and members of the general public gather to socialize, increase philatelic knowledge, and exchange stamps. The 2017 show will feature 100+ dealers, societies, live auctions, literature and philatelic exhibits, more than 100 meetings and

seminars, and first-day-of-issue ceremonies for new stamps. The show is FREE and open to the public.

Phone: 814-933-3803 ext. 217

Email: stampshow@stamps.org

Web: <http://www.stamps.org/stampshow-SS>

AUG 12 Kinex 2017

Davidson Centre Seniors Room, 801 Durham St., Kincardine, ON, N2Z 2X7

8 Dealers, exhibits, youth table, door prizes, lunch booth, free admission.

Phone: 519-395-5817

Email: jcortan@hurontel.on.ca

SEP 9 North Toronto Stamp Club – Fall Postage Stamp Bourse

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, M4T1Z9

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Easy subway access at St. Clair subway station. Free admission. 22 dealers, over 100 sales circuit books including recent issues, over 100 ten cents books, members table, door prizes, snack bar, wheelchair access, parking at the Church and on nearby streets, families and children welcome.

Phone: 647-990-4073

Email: ntsc.programchair@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.northtorontostampclub.ca>

SEP 16 Burloak Stamp Fair

Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4

Hours: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Twenty years of regular monthly shows on the third of Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers, and always something new.

Phone: 905-575-2950

Email: bas6stamps@gmail.com

SEP 16 Best Western Stamp Show

Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel, QEW at Lake St., St. Catharines, ON, L2N 4G9

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking, free admission and free appraisals. Sponsored by Roy's Stamps, specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. For further information, contact Roy Houtby

Phone: 905-934-8377

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Figure 13 Unitrade # 32 as copied from the VGG Foundation website.



Figure 14 In honour of the Canada 150, Unitrade # 142 issued to honour the 60th anniversary of Confederation.

When you have a chance, why not visit the club web site at www.owensoundstampclub.org. Feedback is always important to keeping this means of connecting up to date. The only way to end a newsletter is with another picture of our common obsession, stamp collecting!