

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 16th, 2017 @ 7 PM

Summer meeting Place: New Life Centre of the Christian Reformed Church, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound

From the President



Hi Everyone. Don't forget our August meeting is at the new life centre. We should be back to the school in September. I won't be at the meeting this month since we are visiting friends in Ottawa. John Lemon will run the meeting. I believe John has a guest speaker lined up. At

our September meeting we will finalize plans for our Show on Oct 7th. Please consider preparing a one page exhibit on a Canadian theme, for the show. I find making these one page exhibits fun and easy. See you in September. The October meeting will feature Larry Davidson who will share some information about topical collecting.

Larry Crane
President
OSSC

Note: John Lemon says the speaker will be present but wishes to keep the speakers name a mystery.

From the Editor

Phil Visser

It is an exciting time for me right now. We returned from a vacation and I am now preparing to see the total solar eclipse on August 21st. This requires some traveling to Nebraska. Nebraska offers the best chance of seeing the eclipse with the least chance of cloud cover. I have seen many partial solar eclipses in my life, but I hope this will be my first total eclipse.

A newsletter offers several different purposes. Hopefully the articles are interesting, but it is also a means to connect all club members. To keep that up, there are two additional items in this edition, a **News Flash** as well as a section called **Looking For...** If anyone else may have a particular search topic,

please give me a call or send an email with the wish explained. These requests and purposes are the real benefit of being a member of a stamp club. I hope everyone has received or been pointed at something that is in their collecting interest through our stamp club. I know I have received things in my collecting interest, and I have helped other club members with their collecting interests.

This months article is about the Scenic Wonders that are all around us, if we open our eyes to see them. There is nothing like a road trip to open your eyes to the many amazing features of this wonderful country we live in. The topic will be carried on further next month.

I had the opportunity to visit the Postal History Symposium in Hamilton during the later part of July. The displays were AWESOME! My non-stamp collecting brother thoroughly enjoyed the postal history he saw, particularly the exhibit on the agriculture industry in Oxford County. I was completely blown out of the water at the 8 frame exhibit on Air Club and Special Flights display. Eight frames is 128 pages, probably a life time of collecting to gather that amount of material.



Figure 3 From the collection of RJF

Scenic Wonders

By Phil Visser

There is a common saying about the seasons in Canada. The saying goes something like this ... “there are two seasons in Canada, winter and construction.” Of course this is referring to the weather and how important it is for building the infrastructure for this huge country. On a recent trip through the province of Ontario, I had the opportunity to experience the many wonderfully maintained roads, those that are starting to show a need for repairs, and finally those that are being repaired. The delays for road repairs are really not that bad at all!

On this recent road trip, we travelled about 3,500 kilometres, nearly two thirds of that total was driving to the destination and back again! The scenic wonders encountered are many, from the beautiful nature of the Canadian Shield, the hills, lakes and all those innumerable trees along the way. With all the forest fires in the news, we didn't see any burnt out areas in Ontario. But we did see tourist attractions along the way, some that have a tie in with this hobby. The first one that is tied in with stamps is just off of Highway 17, the road that joins Sault Ste Marie to Thunder Bay. High above the Trans Canada Highway sits a clearly visible statue of a Canada goose.

This goose statue is represented on stamps as one of four stamps in the second series of Canada Post's “Roadside attraction series. The series were issued during the period of 2009-2011. The Canada Goose statue is located on the edge of the town of Wawa, Ontario. The stamp comes in two formats, as part of a souvenir sheet, and also as serpentine die cut. The Unitrade (and Scott's) numbering is different; the stamps that are part of the souvenir sheet are numbered as 2397a-d and the serpentine die cut stamp is #2400. The goose from the souvenir sheet is listed as 2397c.

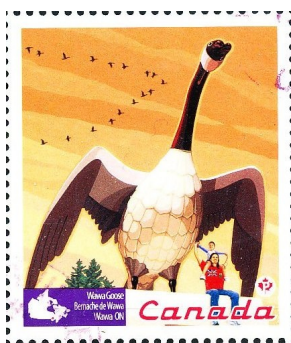


Figure 4 #2397c. From the collection of RJF

It may seem like a silly question, but why build a goose statue? A visit to the statue and the accompanying tourist information building shares that information. The statue's existence owes itself to the idea of one man, Mr. Alphonse Turcott. Mr. Turcott (1907-1974) was a local businessman who realized that when the Trans Canada Highway (TCH) was not going to pass through Wawa, that something needed to be done to get the travellers to stop in Wawa and keep the local economy going. The TCH passes about two miles away from the town but does connect with Highway 101, which does pass through Wawa. So some kind of attraction was needed to draw the travellers to come off the TCH. And that was the beginning of the goose.

Now you might wonder why a statue of a goose was chosen as an attraction. To understand the symbol of the community, we need to refer back to the original settlement in the area. The aboriginal peoples in the area were mainly members of the Ojibway tribe. The word Wawa is an Ojibway word which means “wild goose” or “land of the big goose.” The town of Wawa is located beside a large lake at which the geese would (still do) stop at on their migrations during the spring and fall.



Figure 5 From the collection of PMV

The first recorded European contact with the aboriginals living in the area was by Etienne Brule in the mid 1600's. From that point onwards, the fur trade was an intricate part of the settlement of the area.

As is quite common in Canada's history, natural resources played a very important part in the settlement of this country. In the late 1890's, gold was discovered which in turn attracted people to come there to mine and make their fortune. The gold industry has played an important part in the development of the region. According to Wikipedia, more than 1.2 million ounces of gold have been mined from the several mines that have operated over the last hundred years or so. There is still one operating gold mine today. With the discovery of gold, there also came the discovery of iron ore deposits.

Simultaneously with the mining of gold, the iron ore deposits were also mined. Again according to Wikipedia, the first shipment of hematite iron ore was done from Wawa by ship to Midland Ontario in July of 1900. This ore was likely destined to go to the Hamilton steel mills. If you are aware of steel manufacturing in this province, you will also realize that there is another steel mill located in Sault Ste Marie. The ore from the mines soon went to the Sault and the Algoma steel mill. Like all things, the good days have come to an end with the closure of the iron ore mine in 1998.

Being in an isolated location, the first connection with the rest of the province was via water and then came the railway to transport the raw ore to the steel mill in Sault Ste Marie.



Figure 6 From the collection of PMV

Nothing is done easily in Northern Ontario and even the building of the first trans continental railway nearly foundered in Northern Ontario in the 1880's.

Readers of Pierre Berton's books "The National Dream" and "The Last Spike" may remember the huge costs and technological challenges associated with the building of the railroad in Northern Ontario. The stretch of track near Wawa was uncompleted when the troops went west to put down the Riel rebellion in 1886 (The Last Spike, P. Berton) and so they had to travel by sleigh over the uncompleted track bed and arrived to end the rebellion. However, road transportation did not arrive until 1960 when this stretch of the TCH was completed, and now back to the problem of the road missing the town of Wawa.

As a business leader, Alphonse Turcott proposed the building of a statue of a large goose overlooking the TCH. Naturally several people called the building of this statue as "Turcott's Folly" but it did happen. The original goose was made from plaster and chicken fence wire and was erected in 1960 at a cost of about \$3,500. By 1963, the original creation was showing wear and tear and so it was replaced by a stainless steel goose made from Algoma Steel and at a cost of about \$8,000. Age again reasserted itself and the second statue was replaced earlier this summer, but at a much greater cost, over \$300,000.

The original goose can be seen in the town itself beside the general store and gas station (it's cheaper than the gas on the highway!). The statue of the goose is accompanied by that of a stuffed moose (taxidermy).

As a tourist attraction, the goose has succeeded! Naturally a stop was needed, both for personal comfort reasons and to get some go juice for the vehicle. The young people working at the tourist centre wished to leave as soon as possible for a larger population centre, but were very pleasant and helpful. In researching this article, several fun facts popped up which may be of interest to the readers. Carol Caputo of the magazine "Algoma Country" suggests that this statue is the largest of its kind in Canada. To put this size into perspective the goose stand 28 feet tall (about 8.5 metres) and has a wing span of 22 feet (6.7 metres). Besides its dimensions, the goose has also been featured in Stompin' Tom Connors song "Little Wawa." The song is a story about a goose that stayed behind when her lover "Gander Goo" got shot down with an arrow. Carol claims that the statue is one of the most photographed landmarks in North America.

Even when the economy was at full employment, the population of Wawa was just over 3,000 people. It is less than that today, but even with this small size of inhabitants, Wikipedia does point out that Wawa was the birthplace for two NHL players, Chris Simon and Denny Lambert, as well as comedian Pete Zedlacher. Meaford is nearby to Owen Sound, and like this town, Wawa was part of the indie film "Snow Cake (2006)". With all of these attractions, a seed may have been planted encouraging the reader to go and visit the town of Wawa. However, there was one disappointment, there was no souvenir first day cover in the tourist centre available for purchase with the goose stamp on it.

This brings me to the end of this article, but it is only part 1 about scenic wonders.

Club News

The July meeting was another lively gathering. About twenty members as well as two junior guests were present and had the opportunity to go through the Circuit books that Tom Griffith brings around. These

Circuit books are prepared by an elderly gentleman who fills his days by adding to these circuit books. I found several items of interest as I suspect others did as well.

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!

News Flash!

Larry Crane dropped by the Bibles for Missions store here in Owen Sound and found out that they have a large tupper ware tub of stamps that will be open for a silent auction. There will also be a stamp collection (in an album, probably worldwide). If you are interested in making a bid on these items, drop on by the store.

Looking For...

Car pooling is great. On a recent trip to the Saugeen Stamp Club meeting, Larry Crane mentioned he was looking for stamps, post cards, cancellations that have something to do with the moose. This request prompted me to search, and behold, I found a stamp with a lovely cancel of Moose Jaw Saskatchewan. If anyone each has something or sees something that may be relevant to this topic, give Larry Crane a call. Other ideas that tie in with this topic as Moosomin,



Figure 7 From the website <http://www.stampsonstamps.org/Rammy/index.htm>

SK, Moosonee ON, Moose Factory ON and something with Moose * in BC. The moose is not limited to Canada, but there is a Moose on a Canadian stamp which is reproduced on a Stamps on Stamps issued to celebrate CAPEX 78.

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

Note

To have Canadian stamps expertized, contact the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Foundation. Visit the website at <http://www.greenefoundation.ca/> for information about costs etc. It is also possible to visit the foundation in person, and if you come on the right day, you can meet with Garfield Portch who operates the VSC 6000. A visit to the Harry Sutherland Library is well worth the visit alone since they both are at the same location, 10 Summerhill Ave, Toronto, just off Yonge Street and a few blocks south of St Clair Ave.

Upcoming Shows

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

OCT 7 Owen Sound Stamp Club Show

St Mary's High School, 555 15th St. E., Owen Sound, ON, N4K 4T4
Owen Sound Club holds their annual stamp show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., including stamp dealers, exhibits, circuit books and ongoing draws. Lunch counter available. Free admission.
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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 more pictures of our common obsession, stamp collecting! These are the serpentine die cut stamps of the Traveling Attractions, Series 3 from my collection.

