

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 7 PM**

**Hillyer Hall, St. Mary's High School, 1555 15<sup>th</sup> Street East, Owen Sound**

**From the President**



Cheers !! Have a Happy New Year. It is -25 degrees as I type this. I hope you can all thaw out in time for our meeting Jan 17th. John will be unable to bring his stock to the meeting, however, Phil will bring his friend's collection that he is selling for 10 cents a stamp and 25

cents a cover. We will also have our circuit books. So there should be ample opportunity to stock up for the winter.

Larry Crane  
 President  
 OSSC

**Editors Note**

It is time to renew your dues for the present year. Please help keep the club going. Annual dues are \$20 per person.

**From the Editor**

Phil Visser

A new year has jumped upon us and here is the first edition of this year set of Newsletters. Besides being the New Year, it is also time to consider if the executive will continue serving. Larry didn't mention that in his message above, so we may depart from tradition.

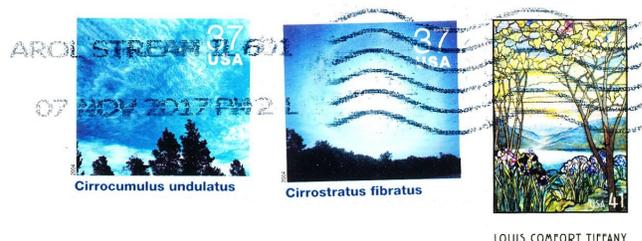
A lengthy article based on a favourite Canadian conversation topic. You can continue to guess what that topic may be until you turn this page over and begin reading it. There is a report about the Club Circuit books that follow the article.

Nothing was submitted for the Looking For ... section so instead are listed a number of ideas to consider as topics for the Annual Stamp Show coming up in September. Hopefully there will be a discussion about this matter, and if there are any other ideas out there, don't be shy in sharing them.

If you happen to be bored, or wish to do some traveling, there are a number of shows within the GRVPA as well as Toronto region that you may want to visit. Checking out what other clubs do is always good because you may see or hear something that would be a benefit to this clubs meeting and show.

On the last page is a chart of the sales that Chris and Randy have recorded. They have gone to a lot of work to produce this chart and I hope everyone will take a moment to thank them for their tremendous efforts in organizing and keeping the Club Circuit Books.

From my own experience of looking through the different Clubs Circuit books, I know that the stamps have to be in good condition, especially nicely cancelled stamps. Those that put good stuff in the books will sell their excess stamps. As a rule of thumb, if you wouldn't put that stamp in your album, would anyone else? Even though we are usually looking for the hard to find stamps, collecting interests change so you can include common stamps as well. Naturally, if you put in higher priced items that sell, your return on effort will also be higher.



"A" EAST  
 NAK 0C4

**Figure 3** A few stamps that I found interesting and have set aside for who knows what future use.

## Weather: The Great Canadian Topic

By Phil Visser

I'll bet you that if you kept track of how many conversations you had in a day, at least half of them would have something to do with the weather as part of that communication. Maybe it will be the conversation starter, about how dry it is, or how wet it is or how much snow has fallen, to yes, how many times the driveway needed to be cleaned in a day. As I sit here preparing this article, it is blowing a blizzard outside and my early morning tomorrow is already planned to get up and blow the snow out of the driveway.

With weather being on my mind, came the idea on how many stamps are related to weather. A quick look in the 2015 Canadian Specialised Unitrade Catalogue Index and there is no topic heading for the term "weather." The editors do make a provision that the index will be expanded in the future. Fortunately, memory has helped find a few stamps issued by Canada as well as other countries that are weather related.

Weather is a very large topic, so this article will gently brush over the technical details and focus on how stamps apply to it. One of the first things to consider is that the weather changes through a year. For us living in the middle latitudes, we have four pronounced seasons, while the tropics only have two as well as do the Polar Regions. Canada issued a set of four stamps showing the maple leaf in each of the four seasons in 1971. Unitrade #535-8 start with the hope of spring and concludes with the frozen leaf partially covered with snow.



Strictly speaking, weather is more appropriately termed "meteorology." Canada issued Unitrade # 479 on March 13<sup>th</sup> 1968 to honour the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the study of meteorology in Canada.

The design is divided into two parts, the left side shows a weather map and the right side shows meteorological instruments. On the left side are a series of black lines which indicate the air pressure and then the "Low" and "High" pressure areas. The weather instruments on the right side of the stamp include the anemometer, radar antenna and the radiosonde (weather balloon).



Unfortunately the Unitrade catalogue does not mention the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and how did that anniversary come about. Curiosity got my interest and so using a common computer search engine I typed in "meteorology 1768" and the top hit was [www.canadianpostagestamps.ca/stamps/15791/meteorology-1768-1968](http://www.canadianpostagestamps.ca/stamps/15791/meteorology-1768-1968). The web page gave the information that was contained in the Postage Stamp Press Release from 1968. This contains information that I had never heard before. To remain focussed on the stamp though, the relevant information was the recording of temperature and air pressure by William Weiss and Jacob Dymond starting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1768. Our two intrepid scientists stayed only a short time and the official Canadian weather recordings begins in Toronto in 1840.

Prime meteorological recordings are the air temperature and barometric pressure. Galileo is credited with the invention of the thermometer in 1607 while the barometer was invented by Pascal around 1643. These four stamps show the barometer. Listed as Scott #1963-6, they depict the four parts of the barometer scale and the weather typically associated with that part of the barometer reading. Watching and recording the barometer reading was an hourly part of the watch when at sea. Closely associated with the barometer reading was the wind velocity and so we also recorded the wind strength by reading the anemometer shown on Canada #479.

Looking at the set in picture order, we see that at the bottom left that the barometer is low and wet, stormy weather can be expected. Stormy weather is also associated with stronger winds and

accompanying the wind is the waves. I doubt, in fact I know, that a sail boat would not have all sails set as depicted on the stamp! Another thing to remember is that the winds at sea are 10-15 knots higher than on land.



Figure 6 From the collection of JA

Translating the nautical terms into ones readers are more familiar with is that the wind at sea is 15-25 kilometres per hour faster. The reason for this difference is that over land wind speed is reduced due to trees and buildings.

At the upper left, we see the barometer needle in the middle of the arc of the barometer scale. When in that area of the arc, the weather is beginning to get overcast and rain is likely to be coming or has started. The design shows a cat holding an umbrella as well as a dog running at full speed, making an allusion to the saying “it is raining cats and dogs out.” Reviewing several web sites on definitions of this term simply say that it is raining very hard and seems to have its origin in print in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Britain.

On the upper right of the scan, the sun is shining brightly and the word “Fair” is printed in bold letters. Not only is the sun shining, but the designer has put a smile on the face of the sun. Ah yes, the fair skies and sunshine makes one dream of idling on the beach, soaking in the rays and cooling off in the water. Of course, that is not what we are experiencing now, unless you wish to holiday in the South or the Southern Hemisphere as some members are doing currently! Also on this stamp is the marker where the last reading of the barometer was. As a youth I remember my father rapping the barometer twice to see what the barometer was doing, and he knew what to expect the next day.

Finally we come to the last stamp. On it is a bird clinging to a plant and a couple of butterflies. In case the person looking at the stamp isn't sure what that means the designer has written the words “very dry” and “set fair.” The skill testing questions are,

what type of bird is this, to what kind of plant is it clinging to, and what two types of butterflies are fluttering about on the stamp? A prize will be given out to the person who can answer all of these questions successfully.

With about seventy percent of the earth's surface covered in water, the localized measurement of temperature and barometric pressure, the study of meteorology had to progress. During the Crimean War a storm was recorded to have occurred in Portugal and one day later the same storm sank a number of British ships off of Crimea, which is east of Portugal. This began the study of weather and ships became weather observation posts. With telecommunications and the telegraph also coming shortly after this war, weather predictions could be made and information shared.

It was the space age that has really advanced the study of weather. This set of stamps issued by Australia on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1968 introduces the World Weather Watch. These stamps are listed in Scott as #431-2 which provides the link of weather information

between Australia, United States and Russia with



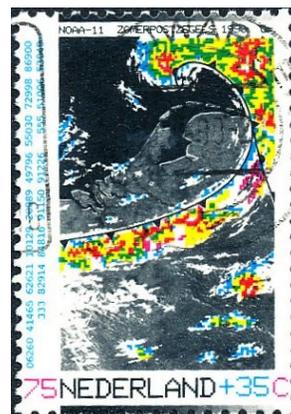
satellites

observing the weather and sharing weather information learned from satellites. Besides seeing the cloud formations, satellites can also help see what is going on inside the clouded area.

A last stamp shows what satellite imagery can do.

The Netherlands issued this semi-postal stamp on

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1990 showing the precipitation pattern along a frontal system passing over Europe. The different colours represent the precipitation density, with red indicating areas of heavy rainfall to green and yellow a lighter amount of rainfall. This frontal system is an occluded front (at the top of the stamp) where the cold



front has caught up to the warm front while the lower centre to left side indicates the cold front. The Warm front is mostly missing from the stamp design.



A EAST  
NAK DC4

**Figure 9** The cumulonimbus cloud is on the middle stamp on this cover.

A last look at the weather is a series of fifteen stamps which were issued by the United States in 2004. Recognizing the cloud formations will let most anyone the ability to predict what weather

they will experience over the next few hours. When looking at a cumulonimbus cloud, if you can see the top of it, it will miss you by forty miles, but someone underneath it is getting a heavy downpour. If looking outside is too more exercise, then turn on your TV and watch some of the specialty channels which provide weather predictions. Be safe and weather wise.

### Circuit Books in Review

By Chris Tschirhart and Randy Rogers

After handing out the Pay outs (Spoils) for the Circuit Books at our December Meeting a number of Members approached both of us inquiring which Countries were “Movers” and which ones were “Duds” .

We say that jokingly as we are well aware that one collector’s cast offs are another collector’s treasure. Randy went through the sales for 2017, did some analysis, and prepared the following summary for the club to answer the member’s questions.

Canada and Germany accounted for about 82% of the sales. United States, Australia, Netherlands, New Zealand and Russia accounted for about 10% of the sales. The remaining 8% occurred through sales of other countries with less than 1% of sales each. We also have more Canada and Germany pages than we do for other countries which may also drive up the sales for those two countries. Additionally, it reflects the collecting preferences of the members of the Owen Sound Club.

Because most of the sales are to our club members the percentages represent the buying interests of

our members. We feel this is an important point because the sales have been mostly in the “Closed Environment” of our own club. To be honest in the past two years the Circuit books have only made two trips to another club, and 2 trips to the annual circuit book show in Cambridge.

Expanding our audience by getting our books to other clubs might result in more purchases from the less active country pages. We have been invited to the Waterloo Club and intend to go there when the weather is less wintery!

The Circuit Books have grown in volume this past year by 7 binders, and remember our Circuit Book system is only just over three years old. We appreciate all of the contributions large and small to the system. We encourage members to submit more pages from countries other than Canada and Germany as well as additional Topical pages. We also urge you to look at the web site because new pages are up on the site and can be examined from the comfort of your own home. Another measure we have undertaken is to put the most recent pages in the front of the book or country so that they may be accessed easier.

Those pages that have sold over 60% of the stock on the page or looked a little visually worn have been pulled and will be handed back to the owners at the January Meeting. Please look at the Listing of sales percentage to get a more detailed picture of what went on last year. Happy Stamp hunting.

### Club News

The December meeting was joined by 17 members with three spouses who came along as well. The treats that everyone bought along were awesome! The apple cider was enjoyed so much, there was nothing to take home. A big thanks to all who brought along those treats and liquids. The President’s “Funny Munny” auction was the high light of the evening. Many items were donated by club members and the usual things happened. Bidding wars, with one side of the room sharing the “funny munny” so that they could “win” the gem! There was also a Christmas gift exchange, not many participants, but everyone took home a gift that they had not brought there.

## December Show and Tell

Larry passed around the page from the Canadian Stamp News that showed the picture of those attending the September meeting Trevor Ham sent around the Christmas stamp that featured the stained glass window from the Leith United Church

Randy Rogers thanked everyone who had shared stamps for his elephant Christmas present. A Picture of that present is below



## Looking For...

No requests for this particular section this month, but I did receive a few suggestions for the one page challenge for the 2018 Annual show. Some potential topics for our annual one-page challenge...

- 100th anniversary of the end of WW1
- Warner Brothers 100th anniversary
- 100 years of Chevy Trucks
- 200th anniversary Emily Bronte's birth
- Fiftieth Anniversary of the Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia
- Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
- Fiftieth Anniversaries of the Assassinations of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert F. Kennedy
- One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration – birth of modern Japan

## Upcoming Shows

JAN 20 '18 Burloak Stamp Fair  
Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4

Hours: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Twenty-one 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](mailto:bas6stamps@gmail.com)

JAN 20 '18 69th Cathex

Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St., St. Catharines, ON, L2M 7W7

Sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club, the show will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Exhibits, 12 dealers, youth area, club circuit books. Free admission and parking. Wheelchair accessible. A lunch counter is available. For more information contact David Hillier Phone: 905-641-2318

Email: [fancycancelhillier@gmail.com](mailto:fancycancelhillier@gmail.com)

Web: <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca>

JAN 27 '18 Scarborough Stamp Show

Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd., Toronto (Scarborough), ON, M1H 1C6

Buying and selling stamps; up to 4 dealers (dealer inquiries welcome); five and ten cent club books; free parking; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Phone: 416-460-3970

Email: [jmerelaid@gmail.com](mailto:jmerelaid@gmail.com)

FEB 3 '18 Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show

Judith Nyman Secondary School, 1295 Williams Pkwy., Brampton, ON, L6S 3J8

The show is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring 10 dealers, silent auctions, exhibits, free stamps for beginners,. Plenty of free parking, door prizes, snack bar and is wheelchair accessible.

Phone: 905-792-3526 Email:

[bobthorne70@gmail.com](mailto:bobthorne70@gmail.com)

Web: <http://www.bramaleastampclub.org>

FEB 17 BURLPEX 2018

Burlington Seniors' Centre, Teen Tour Way, Burlington, ON, L7M 4A3

Annual Burlington Stamp Show. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free parking, refreshments available, silent auctions. Teen Tour Way runs north from New Street just west of Guelph Line. The Seniors' Centre is on the left. Phone: 905-336-8685

Email: [macneall@cogeco.ca](mailto:macneall@cogeco.ca)

FEB 24 Scarborough Stamp Show

Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd, Toronto (Scarborough), ON, M1H 1C6

Buying and selling stamps; up to 4 dealers (new dealer inquiries welcome); five and ten cent club books; free parking; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Phone: 416-460-3970 Email: [jmerelaid@gmail.com](mailto:jmerelaid@gmail.com)

**Club Executive:****President::**

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When you have a chance, why not visit the club web site at [www.owensoundstampclub.org](http://www.owensoundstampclub.org). Feedback is always important to keeping this means of connecting up to date.

Country	Sold	Percent
Canada	824	45.52%
Germany	664	36.69%
United States	50	2.76%
Australia	45	2.49%
Netherlands	32	1.77%
New Zealand	28	1.55%
Russia	24	1.33%
France	16	0.88%
Hong Kong	16	0.88%
Ireland, Republic of	15	0.83%
Great Britain	13	0.72%
Poland	12	0.66%
Bulgaria	6	0.33%
Hungary	6	0.33%
Burkina Faso	5	0.28%
Laos	5	0.28%
Newfoundland	5	0.28%
Cuba	4	0.22%
Finland	4	0.22%
German Dem. Rep.	4	0.22%
Korea	4	0.22%
Mongolia	4	0.22%
Portugal	4	0.22%
Sweden	4	0.22%
Switzerland	4	0.22%
Romania	3	0.17%
Ger. (Allied Occ.)	2	0.11%
Austria & Belgium	1 ea	0.06%
Bosnia and Herz.	1	0.06%
Brazil & Jersey	1ea	0.06%
Mexico & South Africa	1ea	0.06%