

# The Bulletin

VOLUME 20, No. 11

NOVEMBER 2017

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

## ***WE WILL REMEMBER THEM***

by John McCrae, May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
 Between the crosses, row on row,  
 That mark our place; and in the sky  
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
 To you from failing hands we throw  
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
 If ye break faith with us who die  
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
 In Flanders fields.

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- SAUGEEN STAMP CLUB,  
Tuesday November 7
- KINCARDINE STAMP CLUB  
Wednesday November 1
- OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB  
Wednesday November 15
- GUELPH STAMP CLUB  
Tuesday November 21
- K.W. PHILATELIC SOC.  
Thursday November 9

**One Page Exhibits—**

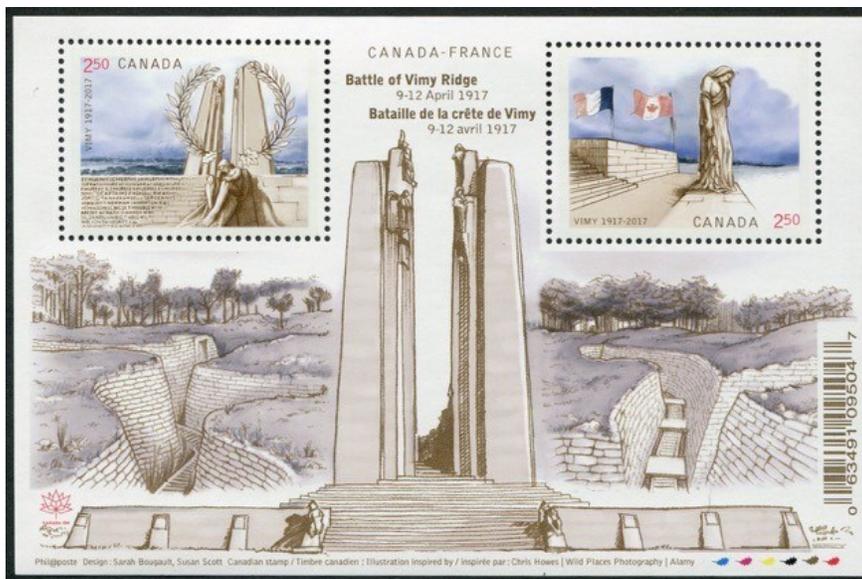
**upcoming topics:**

November: Bridges

December: Types of Stamps (ie semipostals, war tax, etc.)

January: Toys

February TBA



**THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN .....WALT BERRY**

The great weather coming into the middle of October certainly has been a treat – despite the periodic rain in most of the catchment area of our club. Thanks to everyone who attends our year-round monthly meetings and steps up to the plate when a volunteer task is at hand – this is greatly appreciated. At our October meeting, we finally presented Marion Ace with her well deserved award for People's Choice at our annual show – winning both the last two years. Well done Marion – a lot of work and dedication to the hobby.

Also at the October meeting, bulletin editor Bill Findlay announced he wishes to step down from compiling the monthly communication to members. Thus, we are looking to the membership for a volunteer to continue putting the bulletin together – beginning with the January edition. Bill will continue to work for the betterment of the club – assuming the chore of managing the club circuit books.

In discussion regarding our upcoming show, Anne will work with other volunteers to manage the lunch counter – funds will be provided to purchase needed supplies. Members will still be asked to donate various treats for the attendees.

Our annual “Christmas” gathering will soon be upon us – members bring in a sample of their favourite treat to share with fellow members – and donate items for the funny money auction. This meeting is a great social time for all to chat with other members of the club.

**23rd ANNUAL GRVPA CLUB FAIR****Saturday November 18****35 International Drive, Cambridge****1000am-430pm — 450+club circuit books****Two silent auctions — snack bar****Free Parking! Free Admission!****What'scoming up...**

*See the Grand News for complete information on the following shows:*

**November 3/4—Hamilton Club Fall Show**

**November 10—Ukrainepex 2017, Toronto**

**November 18—GRVPA Club Fair, Cambridge**

**November 25—Waterloo Regional Club STAMPFUN**

**May 5th 2018—Saugeen Stamp Club Annual Show**



## ANOTHER MEASURED MOMENT.....Jim Measures ***THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE***

On 8 April 2017 Canada and France issued a joint issue honouring the World War I battle of Vimy Ridge. What is this all about?

For Canada, the WWI victory at Vimy is as significant as the battle at Gallipoli is for New Zealand and Australia. It was the first time that the Canadian Corp fought as a single unit and not just a part of some other country's army (usually Britain's).

Vimy Ridge is a 7 km long ridge in northern France that had been held for more than a year by German forces who had it heavily fortified. It was seen as the doorway into the heart of France, so was of strategic importance. The French attempted to take the ridge but were thrown back by the Germans. Next the British tried, but were similarly defeated after great losses of both men and the morale of the entire British army. Vimy Ridge was seen as an impregnable fortress. The French and British attacks had been studied by Canadian generals and they offered to make the attempt to take the ridge, with four Canadian divisions and no other allied troops.

Beginning at 530am on 9 April 1917, Canada launched an uphill battle that was carefully planned and fearlessly executed, and after four days, Canada had full control of the ridge. This came, however, at a terrible cost, with 3600 Canadians killed and over 7000 wounded.

In 1918 when the war ended, the negotiations for a peace treaty were held up for a week because Canada's Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden (see a Canadian \$10 bill) insisted that Canada must sign on her own, or we would not recognize the treaty, as our forces had won the right at Vimy to sign the peace. Britain thought she could sign on behalf of all members of the British Empire. Nevertheless, because of Canada's heroic victory at Vimy and in various other battles, Canada did get to sign the treaty and became the first member of the empire to sign an international treaty on her own right.

Canada and France have a longstanding friendship dating from the early French settlers, so France gave Canada 400 hectares of land on Vimy Ridge to build the monument that is seen on the stamps of this joint issue. Over half of this property is considered "out of bounds" as there are still dangerous unexploded shells scattered around the area.

The Canadian stamp shows the awe-inspiring twin pillars, which symbolize the two nations, and are a reminder of the tragic human cost. On the monument are the names of the 11, 285 Canadians who died in France during WWI, and who have no known grave. The French stamp focuses on the statue named "Canada Bereft", a part of the Vimy Memorial. (ed note: It is worth noting that there are no "military" themed statues at the memorial)



# Saugeen Stamp Club

Chapter 220, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada  
Chapter 1538, American Philatelic Society  
Chapter 21, Grand River Valley Philatelic Association

Meeting at St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
356—9th Street  
Hanover, Ontario  
Use 11th Avenue entrance

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We are on the web!  
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## Club Officers:

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## GRVPA NEWS...

Check out the latest *GRAND NEWS* for information about our fellow clubs, and their meetings and shows.

To answer the question “What is this all about?”, this joint issue is a sign of Canadian/French friendship and a reminder of the brave Canadians who fought and the many who died in a battle that was a turning point of that war.

Like the ANZACs who proudly fought in Turkey, bringing honour to their homelands, so the Canadians who battled up Vimy Ridge helped to build their nation and establish Canadian independence. The world needs to remember them – both the ANZACs of Gallipoli and the Canadians of Vimy Ridge.



## ROYAL OAK STAMPS

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*Let us know your wants and needs!!*