

The Bulletin

VOLUME 23, No. 9

SEPTEMBER 2020

A Letter from Ralph

Firstly, thank you for the very kind send off in the August Bulletin. Secondly, thank you to all our members for making the Saugeen Stamp Club one of the greatest stamp clubs around. Regular attendance and willing participation from so many members from such a broad geographic area – not just Hanover, but from London to Owen Sound, Goderich, Kincardine, Clinton and Brussels and communities in between -- is a rare circumstance! Few stamp clubs are so blessed.

Thirdly, thank you to those who dropped by Sauers Lane to see me off. Peter, Walt, Dave Pugh, John Cortan, Lois and Les ... sorry if I've forgotten someone. Thank you, Peter, especially for arranging for the little parting memento. I really appreciate it. It now resides atop my stamp desk.

John Cortan introduced me to the club on the occasion of its second meeting in June, 1998. Other than that inaugural meeting, I have missed only a handful, mostly due to winter weather. My job required me to work evenings but also allowed me a great deal of latitude in scheduling so that unless I was working away from home, I was mostly able to give myself the first Tuesday evening of the month off.

I intend to maintain my membership and stay in touch and I hope to find some way to continue contributing to the club. I urge you all to consider picking up the little jobs I was doing. None of it was difficult or terribly time consuming. Once travel is easy again, perhaps I can plan to attend a show or a meeting sometime.

As for where I have exactly moved to, that is another story ... apparently, I got "over-excited too early" with that announcement. Thanks to New Brunswick's Covid-19 14 day quarantine policy for out of province visitors, we could not personally come here to search for a new home. That meant making an offer conditional on having a place inspected professionally. Sadly, as much as I would have loved to explore those 50 acres, what the inspector found led us to withdraw our offer.

Until June 7, moving was little more than a casual notion that Christina and I would briefly entertain from time to time. On that fateful day, we were enjoying a pleasant afternoon watching wood burn in our little campfire when circumstances caused all the various puzzle pieces to snap into place all at once and the little light saying that it was time to move suddenly blinked on.

Selling proved to be very easy. We signed a listing on June 15 and on June 18 we were committed to leaving Sauers Lane by July 30. *Buying* proved tougher! By the time we made the hard decision not to move to North View, it was already a week into July. The panic was on. Not one, not two, but three offers later we had a place to move to with just 10 days to spare.

But now here we are, around 10km north of Florenceville, the french fry capital of the world and corporate home of McCain Foods. A new routine is starting to take form, but I am still not yet back into stamping. My stamp desk and my computer desk are now side by side rather than on opposite ends of the house. (I may have to add another kilometre to my daily walk.) All the most important boxes are unpacked and only a few looked-for things are still missing. We brought with us boxes that had been closed prior to our last moves more than 20 years ago (!!!). How many boxes now sitting in the loft above the new garage will join them?



Upcoming Meetings

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Saugeen Stamp Club
Cancelled

Kincardine Stamp Club
Cancelled

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Cancelled

Guelph Stamp Club
Cancelled

KW Philatelic Society
Cancelled

Check with the club
before going to its meet-
ing. It may be cancelled.

ONE PAGE EXHIBITS

UPCOMING TOPICS

NEXT MEETING -

Design a stamp
(see details pg 2)

NEXT MEETING + 1 -

Airmail

NEXT MEETING + 2 -

Flowers

NEXT MEETING + 3 -

My Favourite Stamp

Message From the President

And another month has gone by and we continue to be in a holding pattern waiting for our monthly meetings to begin again – I am sure most of us are getting frustrated being told to stay home, stay safe and do the social distancing. Whatever we are doing, I do hope everyone has managed to stay healthy. Everyone has had to adjust their way of living to the challenges that COVID-19 has presented to the general population – most important is to follow a trusted source of information because there are so many persons voicing what to do / how to do and many have no reliable background to make comments of a medical nature. I trust everyone is keeping in contact with friends and neighbours to ensure they are keeping well & safe. People are social animals and have a need to contact with others by phone or email – OR IN PERSON (WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING).

This break in our regular routine has presented a great opportunity for “stampers” to review their philatelic collections – hone exhibits – adjust collecting interests – find new areas to collect – or just enjoy the hobby at a leisurely pace. Personally, I have purged some material that I have saved for that “by chance” opportunity that has never surfaced.

Thoughts from the desk of an old curmudgeon – Dave Pugh

So you are bored with Covid 19 and the treat of wearing a mask, likely with us for quite some time – maybe even after there is a vaccine. Follow the advice of our dedicated Health Authorities. Be very wary of the junk on the Net.

This era that we are in will pass, some things will return to normal or the way it was, others will be different – get used to it, it's called the new norm.

What to do in your spare time as a stamp collector? How about cleaning up your accumulation of duplicates, whether Canada or some other collecting area, especially the definitives and maybe even the commemoratives. We all have extras that we may wish to dispose of through the circuit. How about Hi-grading these duplicates to rid your accumulation of stamps that you would not purchase yourself! If you wouldn't buy it why would some other fellow collector. It will improve the quality of the circuit, your collection and also your fellow collectors.

I took time over the past few weeks and disposed of maybe 4 or 500 definitives and commemoratives to the garbage can which had ballpoint pen and china marker obliterations. After checking the catalogue, I culled most heavy post cancels, creases, bent corners, missing perforations especially on the corners; this includes some high values. Recent Canada perforations are a bit of a nightmare sending you for maybe a wobbly pop, which I have not totally figured out yet. Telling them apart in used condition will take some more work.

After returning the stamps to the stock books, I actually went back over them visually and culled a few more that stuck out. As a side line, by doing this, I was hoping to spring a stock book free for other material, that did not work, but my duplicate accumulation certainly looks cleaner and quite presentable.

What's Coming Up

All shows for the next few months are cancelled. The next one listed as tentative is in September. We will keep you up to date on any changes.

Another Measured Moment.....

Refused Mail

Due to the latest "Virus Panic", New Zealand has started refusing some international mail. My postmaster advised me that New Zealand will not accept any parcels and only a limited number of First Class Mail, as they are disinfecting each letter from overseas individually. There seems to be a limited capacity for this *service*.

I have had two items returned to me: one for the RPSNZ, and an order sent to NZ Post. In both cases they attached a label that I had not seen before. One has a code number that dates it as, "(20-4)", so I believe that it is something new, although the other is dated "(00-04)" in the past there have been cases of mail being returned because of a strike, and examples of disinfecting mail before, but this is the first time I have seen this new "courtesy label". In both cases my items concerned was in the mail system for about a month.

The NZ Post Order, I held, about 3 weeks, until I heard that New Zealand's Prime Minister stated that she felt that the Pandemic was over for them, even if the rest of the world was still fighting it. The item to RPSNZ came back this week a few days after I had remailed the NZ Post order. I am now waiting to learn more about this situation.

At my age I can no longer do much of what I once did, however I can still use the telephone and the Post Office. Is the mail being taken away from us now too? Only temporarily, I hope!



Saugeen Stamp Club

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

Website: <https://www.rpsc.org/chapters/saugeenstampclub/>

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From the Editor:

If anyone has any news, items to share or ideas for articles please forward them to me either by email or by snail mail I would love to get them for the Bulletin. You don't even have to write the article just send the idea for the article. I would like to write about things YOU want to know or hear about.

My mailing address is: PO Box 1571, Wingham, ON N0G 2W0

Everyone stay safe and healthy 'til we meet again

Classified Ads

(\$1.00 per issue)

1. FRENCH COLONIES, pre-independence issues. Four manila stock sheets, over 850 stamps, Mint, Mint-hinged, Used, mixed condition, duplication \$25.00
2. STOCK BOOKS, gently used - three books, each 16 double sided white pages, single glassine interleaves \$10.00 each
3. WORLDWIDE STAMPS - 3500+ in a stock book, 31 pages off paper, one page on paper, mixed condition, duplication \$25.00

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Something to do with all those low value stamps?



Ralph's new address:

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Let us know your wants and needs!!