



The Bulletin

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The Baltic Chain by Ralph Wyndham

On August 23, 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union secretly signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact agreeing to invade Eastern Europe but not attack each other. Poland would be partitioned between the two powers. Germany would take control of Danzig and Lithuania while the Soviet Union would have control over Finland, Estonia and Latvia. As Germany withdrew in defeat during WWII, however, the USSR occupied much of Eastern Europe bringing its own style of dictatorship to the region.

In 1986, the Soviet Communist Party instituted a policy of greater openness and tolerance that led to more public displays of dissatisfaction with the status quo. Demonstrations held on August 23 of 1986, 1987 and 1988 grew in size each year culminating with the Baltic Way demonstration of August 23, 1989 – the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.



The protest's organizers planned carefully and chose what they felt would be the best route to allow an uninterrupted human chain. On that day, free bus rides were provided for participants who needed transportation to the event. Some employers sponsored buses while others would not give their employees time off to participate. Estonia declared a public holiday. Using walkie-talkies and

special radio broadcasts to coordinate the event, as many as 2 million people literally joined hands for 15 minutes to create a human chain that ran through villages, towns and countryside for 675 kilometres (420 miles) linking the capitals of the three Baltic States: Vilnius, Lithuania, Riga, Latvia, and finally, Tallinn, Estonia.



It was only in December, 1989, after the Baltic Way, that the Soviet Union admitted, for the first time ever, that the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact existed and declared its protocols to be illegal and invalid. The Soviet Union would recognize the three Baltic Nations' independence on September 6, 1991.

Cont. On page 4

Upcoming Meetings

Saugeen Stamp Club
Tues Sept 2
Spec Sat Sept 13

Kincardine Stamp Club
Wed Sept 3

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Zoom Auction Wed Sep 3
Zoom Mtg Thurs Sept 18
Sat Sept 20

Guelph Stamp Club
Wed Sept 3
Wed Sept 17

KW Philatelic Society
Thurs Sept 11

Oxford Zoom Auction
Fri Sept
Fri Sept 19

LASO Zoom Meeting
Tues Sept 16

Check with the club
before going to its
meeting.

ONE PAGE

EXHIBITS

**THESE WILL CONTINUE
AND BE VOTED ON**

**IT WILL BE A PAGE OF
THE EXHIBITOR'S
CHOICE OF TOPIC**

**THIS IS A GOOD WAY TO
HONE YOUR SKILLS**

Message from the President – Walt Berry

Greetings!!

As you read this edition of the Club bulletin, we will be on the down side of summer weather. Very soon patio furniture & garden tools will be moved into storage, the weather will dictate individual outdoor activity. However, the fall is a great time of the year to enjoy a leisurely stroll through a wooded area to view the amazing transformation of the leaves of the maple trees.



SPRING

April 14 1971

The Seed of the Maple
amidst the fresh greens
of Spring



SUMMER

June 16 1971

The Nation's emblem
appears in the Greens of
mid-summer



AUTUMN

September 3 1971

The Growth Cycle of the
Maple Tree Whose leaf
is Closely Associated
with Canada's History



WINTER

November 19 1971

The Beauty of the Maple
Leaf in the Winter snow

A friendly reminder that there will be two meetings in September (Tuesday September 2nd & Saturday September 13th.) Tuesday is our regular meeting with a member auction and Saturday is for a circuit book social BUT there will not be an auction. Bring your want lists and any questions you may have always wanted to know about your stamp collecting interests. I am sure there will be someone in the group who will / can answer your questions.

The current political climate of our southern neighbour is not good news for individuals who purchase goods from or sell goods to persons south of the boarder. A personal experience - on behalf of my Rotary Club, I arranged the shipment of dictionaries from the Dictionary Project (established to provide a free dictionary to grade three students). The invoice cost was \$204.00USD. with free shipping. A sticky note was left on my door by the UPS driver the indicated \$450.90CND must be paid on line. Through many emails and discussion with the driver on the next delivery day, the charge was a result of the new reality of this political climate. This will also apply to collectibles crossing the boarder either to or from Canadians. Time to really think about dealing Canadian to Canadian.

This is also a good time to remind members the club will respond to the ever growing need of the Hanover Salvation Army food bank by holding an auction of donated philatelic material during our Christmas social. As you review your philatelic holdings, set aside material for this worthy cause.

The Saugeen Stamp Club's annual show is scheduled for May 2nd 2026 – members are encouraged to consider preparing a one frame exhibit (16 pages) to showcase their collecting interests keeping in mind there are no restrictions on formatting – it is your collection ***just do it your way!!***

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED - the bulletin editor has indicated retirement after the December 2025 bulletin and a new editor must step forward to assume that role. ***Interested*** - speak to Diane. Also, interesting stories of philatelic events / knowledge are welcome for the monthly bulletin.

(Thanks Walt for the plug)

The Estonian Song Festival by Ralph Wyndham

For varying periods of time for more than 600 years, Estonia was ruled by Danish, Swedish, German, Polish and Russian masters. By the mid-19th century, the Estonian National Awakening began to take hold. Estonians had begun to view themselves as a nation worthy of governing themselves in their own language. Music, and song specifically, has played a significant role in building the foundation of Estonian culture and national identity.



Johann Voldemar Jannsen was a major figure in the national awakening. He sought permission from authorities to publish in Estonian in order to help educate poor Estonians in their own language. Jannsen, with co-founder Aleksander Kunileid, organized the first Estonian Song Festival. Intended to promote Estonian national identity, it was held in the town of Tartu, in 1869. At that first festival, Jannsen's poem, My Fatherland, My Happiness and Joy, was set to music by German-Finnish composer Frederic Pacius. The song would be adopted as Estonia's national anthem in 1920.

Co-founder of the first festival, Kunileid, was also a musician and composer who wrote many choral works which are still part of Estonia's national canon today. In addition to being Jannsen's co-organizer for the first event in 1869 he also served as chairman of the jury for the choral performances at that first festival.



Lydia Koidula was the daughter of festival founder Johann Jannsen. As a poet, a writer for her father's newspaper and as founder of Estonian theatre, Koidula played a major role in Estonia's emerging sense of culture and identity. At the song festival in 1869, her poem 'My Country Is My Love', was set to music; it would become Estonia's unofficial anthem when her father's anthem was banned during Soviet occupation. Her contributions remained largely anonymous in her day because writing was not considered proper work for a woman.

While not a musician himself, Karl Robert Jacobson, as a writer, politician, and teacher, was another significant force behind the national awakening. It was with his encouragement that Kunileid was part of that first song festival. Kunileid, born Saebelmann, not wanting to sound so German, adapted his chosen surname from Jacobson's motto, Otsi, kuni leiad, "Seek, until you find".



Born in 1908, Gustav Ernesaks would become a prominent composer in Estonia and a father figure for the Estonian Song Festival in the 20th Century. It was his version of Lydia Koidula's song, My Country Is My Love, that became Estonia's unofficial anthem after My Fatherland, My Happiness and Joy, was banned by the Soviet regime after WWII. With or without Soviet permission, a performance of My Country Is My Love ended every song festival. This tradition continues today.

After the first festival, it would be 10 years before Jannsen would recreate the Event. Then, starting with the seventh festival in 1923, with the exception of the WWII period, the Song Festival has been held roughly every five years. The 25th event took place in 2009,



The 27th festival, in 2019, also marked the 150th anniversary of the event. Four of the first five festivals were held in Tartu. In 1896, it was permanently moved to the capital, Tallinn. Since 1928, The Song Festival Grounds have been the festival's permanent home. In 1869, the performances consisted of 822 singers and 56 brass players, all men. In the fourth festival held in 1891, mixed choirs could participate; folk dance performances were incorporated in 1934. Today, more than 10,000 dancers and 30,000 singers and musicians take part.

Cont. On page 4

Saugeen Stamp Club

Chapter 220, Royal Philatelic
Society of Canada

Chapter 21, Grand River
Valley Philatelic Association

Website: [https://www.rpsc.org/
chapters/saugeenstampclub/](https://www.rpsc.org/chapters/saugeenstampclub/)

Club Website:
[saugeenstampclub.org](https://www.saugeenstampclub.org)

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Owen Sound Zoom Auctions

The links to see items and read the terms and conditions follow below:
https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionSQL/Auction_Owen_Entry.php?operation=insert – Please use this form to enter your individual lots for auction

https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/Cat_OwenSC.aspx – You may view listed items in the current auction on this page. These will be the same scans used during the auction

<https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/OwenTCs.html> – Terms and Conditions - please read if you are listing or bidding in the auction

Cont. From page 1

While the Baltic Way demonstration may have been only one event in a complex interplay of events over many years, it was certainly the boldest, most striking demonstration of unity staged by the people of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The three nations have commemorated the Baltic Chain protest with common design stamp issues on two occasions: on August 23, 1999, for the event's 10th anniversary and again on August 23, 2014, for the demonstration's 25 anniversary. Except for 2014, each country issued a domestic rate single stamp and a souvenir sheet of three different international rate stamps; Lithuania released only a souvenir sheet in 2014.

Cont. From page 3

During the Soviet era and leading up to re-independence, the festivals were a subtle form of protest against the regime. A key event in what is referred to as the Singing Revolution took place on September 11 1988, when an estimated 300,000 came to the festival grounds to sing in a show of national unity that marked a significant milestone in Estonia's peaceful revolution. The 2014 festival saw a peak of over 153,000 performers and attendees. In a small country with less than 1.4 million inhabitants, the festival is, as you can see, truly a major event!

*Visit our webpage for all information and past
Bulletins*

[saugeenstampclub.org](https://www.saugeenstampclub.org)

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