



# North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 7:30 P.M. AT  
Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York

MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O.BOX 10005  
R.P.O. Yonge & Finch, 5576 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 0B6

## Contact the Club :

E-mail: [northyorkcoinclub@rogers.com](mailto:northyorkcoinclub@rogers.com)  
Phone: 647-222-9995

## Member :

Canadian Numismatic Association  
Ontario Numismatic Association

President .....Nick Cowan  
1st Vice President .....Bill O'Brien  
2nd Vice President.....Open  
Secretary .....Paul Petch  
Treasurer .....Len Kuenzig  
Past President .....Robert Wilson

## Executive Committee

Director .....Tony Hine  
Director .....Roger Fox  
Director .....Vince Chiappino  
Junior Director .....Open  
Auctioneer .....Bob Porter  
Auction Manager .....Mark Argentino  
Co-Editors .....Paul Petch/Tony Hine

Receptionist .....Albert Kasman  
Draw Prizes .....Bill O'Brien  
Social Convenor .....Bill O'Brien  
Librarian .....Robert Wilson  
Program Planning .....Paul Johnson,  
Paul Petch, John Regitko

## THE BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 2008

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, fellow members:

First, let me wish all of you Seasons' Greetings and a Happy New Year.

This year, I hope with your help to open new horizons for our Club. To start with (and I know you have heard and probably done this before) I really want you to help us get new members, both young and old. Our membership is slipping away and we are not refilling the tank. This is not just our problem; it is the problem of all clubs. How do some of the other clubs attract new members...They let the community, both in the Hobby and outside, know they are there and open to members.

How are we going to do this? We need to attract at least 20 new members this year and how nice it would be if some of them were younger. Please, please help us get into this in a big way. Ideas, big or small are all welcome, so members speak up and tell me how we can get to this membership level.

Personally, I feel that our Christmas dinner was very good and very well received. I had asked Paul to send out a questionnaire to poll the members for their opinions. I did receive 5 back. What about the rest of you? Please send back your responses.

### NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

*We start gathering at 7:00 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 7:30 p.m.*

It has been a few months since we have had a members participation evening. The January meeting is a good time to present new discoveries, news or additions to your collection. Please prepare and participate.

**Please Don't Forget:** *Bring donations to our supply of draw prize material, and please bring some items for the auction.*

And remember, this position or any Board or Executive position is not able to function without your valued input, on an ongoing basis.

I want to bring in more outside speakers this year, I do have a couple of people and organizations lined up, and all I need is their final okay. I think you will enjoy these.

Is there anyone or any organization that you would like to have attend our meeting and is there any place you would like to make a trip to?

One thought was to charter a bus and go to the ONA all at one time. Sure saves a lot of driving.

This is all you get this month. I will bring most of this up at the next meeting, which by the way is next week (there being five Tuesdays this month). So have a good week-end and think about the warm days of spring.

*Nick*

### COMING EVENTS

**JAN. 25 - 27, Hamilton** CAND Annual Show, Plaza Hotel, 150 King St. E, level P3. Show hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Show pass \$20, daily admission \$4. *Auction by Jeffrey Hoare Auctions on Saturday.* For more information, contact CAND, tel. 519-271-8825, fax 519-271-8766, email: [info@cand.org](mailto:info@cand.org).

**FEB. 3, Paris** SWON, Special events Building, Paris Fairgrounds on Silver St. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *Admission \$2 includes ticket on gold coin. More than 50 tables of coins, paper money, military and more. Hot and cold food and drinks available at show.* For more information, contact Ted Bailey at 1-866-747-2646 or [tedscollections@bellnet.ca](mailto:tedscollections@bellnet.ca).

**FEB. 16, Oshawa** Oshawa & District Coin Club Coin-A-Rama, Five Points Mall, 285 Taunton Rd. E. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Free admission. Free public, dealer and membership draws. Featuring coins, tokens, paper, medals and more.* For more information, contact Sharon, 905-728-1352 or e-mail [papman@idirect.com](mailto:papman@idirect.com).

*More events on page 3...*

### MEETING NEWS OF THE NOVEMBER 2007 MEETING

The 529<sup>th</sup> meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on November 27, 2007 at the Edithvale Community Centre, North York, Ontario. The meeting came to order at 7:45 p.m. with the President, Nick Cowan, in the chair and 23 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Len Kuenzig, club treasurer was sick. The on-time attendance draw could not be held, so the pot is adjusted to \$4 for the December draw. There was no financial information available for the meeting.

The Secretary drew member's attention to the minutes published in the bulletin. The minutes were accepted as presented.

This is an election year for the club. David Quinlan is serving as the Chairman of the Nominations Committee. It had not been possible to complete a slate of officers for presentation at this meeting. This item is tabled until the next business meeting.

The President spoke to the need publicize the club and attract new members. He reported that the ideas of promotions at North York libraries along the style used previously during coin week and an information table at the next Torex in February 2008, are being considered.

Kenneth Swartz, a Director and past Vice Chairman and Marketing Chair of the Toronto Aerospace Museum, presented a talk entitled Toronto Icons and Coins of Flight. Using the Royal Canadian Mint's series commemorating flight, he noted that no fewer than 11 of the 20 coins in the series had a connection to Toronto. Through his talk he demonstrated Toronto's rich flight history, its major contributions during World War II and the post war industry which saw the creation of the first commercial jetliner and, of course, the Avro Arrow. Tony Hine thanked the speaker and presented a certificate of appreciation.

We thank Bill O'Brien for sitting in as Receptionist and providing and preparing refreshments for the break.

Bob Porter conducted the auction with Mark Argentino serving as auction manager and Vince Chiappino as runner. The auction alternated with the evening's Lucky Draw called by Bill O'Brien. Draw ticket sales were \$18 and the club earned \$8.80 in auction commission. Lucky Draw winners were Leon Saraga (2), Paul Johnson, Franco Farronato, Nick Cowan, Dick Dunn, Avner Bar Moshe (2), Italo Villella, Paul Petch (2), Tony Hine (2) and Vince Chiappino. The Club thanks those who donated draw prize material, and everyone is reminded that more material is desperately needed (and please let the Secretary know so you will receive credit in the minutes.)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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### MEETING NEWS OF THE DECEMBER 2007 MEETING

The 530<sup>th</sup> meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on December 11, 2007 at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 66, 6 Spring Garden Avenue, North York, in the upstairs hall and took the form of our annual Christmas Party. People started gathering a little after 6:30 p.m. (with the opening of the cash bar). Members of the Toronto Coin Club joined North York Coin Club members at this event. There were 23 members and 15 guests in attendance. Ample time was available for socializing of members and guests during the reception time before the dinner.

Because of the social nature of the event, all Club business was dispensed with. The on-time attendance draw pot will go to \$6 for the January meeting.

The dinner began at 7:50 p.m. with grace being said by Paul Petch (in place of Bob Porter who was not able to attend). There

was a salad course, a main course of turkey/beef/mashed potatoes/dressing/vegetables/gravy and a dessert with apple pie and ice cream with tea or coffee. Pricing was \$21 per head including taxes and gratuity.

A gift exchange was called for those who wished to participate in two sessions at the start and end of the dinner.

A fine bingo machine and call cards were supplied by the Legion with Bill O'Brien calling the numbers. John Regitko kindly supplied many prizes with a 25-cent error alpine quarter being contributed by Henry Nienhuis.

The first series of games were to form the standard line. Winners were Dick Dunn, Tony Hine, George Fraser, Henry Nienhuis, Marg. Fox, Paul Johnson, Paul Petch and Nick Cowan.

A game to fill all four corners was won by Dick Dunn.

Karen Eaton, Roger Fox, Shawn Hamilton and Carolyne-Marie Petch won a series of games to form an X. This was followed by a series to form a + which were won by Franco Farronato, Don Bunjevac and David Quinlan.

Don Bunjevac, Roger Fox and Lucille Colson won a final set of three games to form a line.

There being no further food or prizes, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

## COMING EVENTS FOR WINTER / EARLY-SPRING 2008

**FEB. 23 - 24, Toronto** Torex - Canada's National Coin Show, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, 5875 Airport Road, Mississauga. Featuring Canada's finest dealers. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$6. Official Auctioneer: The Canadian Coinoisseur, Michael Walsh. The Hilton hotel is located directly across from Toronto's Pearson International Airport. For more information, please call 416-705-5348. Web site: <http://www.torex.net>.

**MARCH 2, Mississauga** V Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2008, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of 403). Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. *Many tables of coins, medals, paper money, stamps, militaria and antique papers. Polonica and historical souvenirs. Exhibit of Upper Silesia coins, stamps, paper money, sports pins, medals and collectibles. Exhibit of Polish POW camps stamps of WWII, Stamp Exhibit, John Paul II On World Stamps. Polish Mint info table. Polish stamps expert info table. Troyak Junior table with boxes of free stamps for kids. Troyak special medal and show souvenirs. Free admission and parking. Refreshments available.* For more information, contact Janusz (Peter) Machulec 647-400-7857 or 416-724-4410 or visit web site: [www.troyakclub.com](http://www.troyakclub.com) or [info@troyakclub.com](mailto:info@troyakclub.com).

**MARCH 7 - 9, Montreal, QC** Nuphilex, Holiday Inn Midtown, 420 Sherbrooke St. W. Hours: Fri. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Admission \$3 per day, Sunday free. Early bird admission \$25 (\$10 donated to Quebec Autism Society). Coin auction by Lower Canada Auction.* For more information, contact Gabriel Sebag, (514) 842-4411, [nuphilex@bellnet.ca](mailto:nuphilex@bellnet.ca). Web site: <http://www.nuphilex.com>.

**CH 15, Cambridge** Cambridge Coin Club 17th Annual Coin Show, Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Road. *Free admission. Buy, sell, trade and evaluate at 51 tables. Tokens, trade dollars, coins, paper money, militaria, sports cards, CTC coupons.* For more information, contact Wolfe, [wolfe1937@hotmail.com](mailto:wolfe1937@hotmail.com) or Vince Nevidon, 519-622-6625.

**MARCH 28 - 30, Kingston** E.O.N.S., Days Inn & Convention Centre, 33 Benson St. Hours: Friday, 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Admission \$4 includes ticket on gold*

*coin. Early admission Friday \$20 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., good for all weekend. Fifty tables of coins, paper money, jewellery and more. Hotel reservations 1-800-267-7888. For more information, contact Ted Bailey at 1-866-747-2646, E-mail: [tedscollections@bellnet.ca](mailto:tedscollections@bellnet.ca).*

**APRIL 4 - 6, Niagara Falls, NY** Buffalo Numismatic Association, Niagara Frontier Coin Club Gold & Silver over Niagara 2008, The Conference Center, 101 Old Falls St. Hours: Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Over 200 tables, exhibits, free appraisals, door prize drawings.* For more information, contact 716-694-2724 or 716-628-9440. Web site: <http://www.goldandsilveroverniagara.com>.

**APRIL 6, Chatham** Kent Coin Club 40th Annual Spring Coin Show, Wheels Inn, 615 Richmond St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Free Admission and parking, 25 dealer tables (coins and paper money for all interests). Hourly draws and a raffle. Displays with prizes in 10 categories.* For more information, contact Lou Wagenaer (President), 27 Peters St., Chatham, N7M 5B2, (519) 352-5477 [lous@netrover.com](mailto:lous@netrover.com).

**APRIL 11 - 13, DEARBORN, MI** Michigan State Numismatic Society Spring Show, Hyatt Regency Hotel. Free admission. Hours: Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Exhibit area. For more information, contact Brian Malnar PO Box 87931, Canton, MI, USA, (586) 453 0504. Web site: <http://bam68@comcast.net>.

**APRIL 12, Guelph** South Wellington Coin Society Spring Show, Colonel John McCrea Legion, 919 York Rd., Guelph or Hwy 7. *One of Southwestern Ontario's biggest shows, 50 dealer tables, free parking, fully accessible. Large display area, hot meals. Admission \$2 for age 16 and up. Free gold coin draw.* For more information, contact Lowell Wierstra, 8 Smart St., Guelph, N1G 4K9, phone (519) 824 6534.

**APRIL 25 - 27, Sudbury** ONA 46th Annual Coin Convention hosted by the Nickel Belt Coin Club, Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre, 85 Ste. Anne Rd. Hours: *Bourse floor opens at 10 a.m. each day. Admission \$3. Buy, trade, sell. 56 bourse tables. Auction 6 p.m. Friday.* For more information, contact Tom Rogers, 519-451-2316 or Gerry Albert, 705-523-1778.

*More on that sunken treasure story...*

## Treasure hunters ordered to reveal shipwreck site to Spain

A Florida judge has ordered a group of treasure hunters to tell Spain the exact location of a shipwreck in the Atlantic from which it recovered a massive trove of gold and silver. Odyssey Marine has two weeks to inform Spanish authorities of the spot where it found the world's biggest maritime treasure, valued at hundreds of millions of dollars, federal court documents show. The information will remain confidential to protect the interests of the company, which fears other treasure seekers may poach its find.

Judge Mark Pizzo said the company had to provide the "exact location" of the wreck, as well as a listing and description of all the artefacts uncovered to date. Spain is also to be given the opportunity to inspect the treasure brought to the surface.

Odyssey Marine insists the shipwreck is located in international waters, but has refused to disclose its exact location. Spain argues that the treasure hunters must demonstrate that they have not taken the treasure from Spanish territorial waters.

The company said an expert recommended offering the silver coins at retail prices ranging from a few hundred dollars to \$US4,000 (\$4,500) each, depending on the condition, date and origin. "The gold coins are estimated to bring substantially higher numbers," Odyssey said.

Odyssey flew its 17-tonne haul from Gibraltar to its US headquarters in Florida in May.

The Spanish Government filed claims with the court in Tampa, arguing that if the shipwreck was Spanish or located in Spanish waters, any treasure would belong to Spain. Odyssey argued that the fact the coins have been identified as being Spanish does not mean they were found on a Spanish ship.

In November Justice Pizzo ordered the two sides to hammer out a confidentiality agreement so Odyssey could disclose details to Spanish officials without making the information public.

The dispute has even reached the White House, with Madrid formally asking the US Government in July to defend the right of states over sovereign ships containing archeological remains.

*Listings are courtesy of Canadian Coin News Coming Events*

## 2007: THE NUMISMATIC YEAR IN HINE-SIGHT

BY TONY HINE

As the year 2007 has now wound down and collectors in central Canada have reviewed their snowstorm forecasts and decided whether to hibernate or fly south for the winter, it is worthwhile to review the year 2007.

Succession planning was accomplished somewhat abruptly by the ANA, which saw an almost clean sweep of its board of directors in elections this summer.

In contrast the C.N.A. changed its elected and appointed leadership this year with a lot less ruckus. New Executive Secretary Paul Johnson is a longtime hobbyist and part of the organized hobby. His mandate appears to be bringing the hobby into the twenty-first century technologically. His style is “weekends off,” reflecting his young family, but a far cry from the John Regitko regime when CNA seemed never to rest. Regitko is still a fixture at Torex and regional coin shows where he sells supplies and books at wholesale prices to encourage beginner collectors. Regitko was the founding editor of the CNA e-bulletin, which has not resurfaced since Regitko’s last issue, fresh from the very successful CNA 2007 Convention run by Regitko in Niagara Falls. The Falls, hosted two successful conventions in a row both run by John Regitko. The 2007 version is notable for its very successful two-day educational program, immediately before the formal convention program started. Incoming CNA president Michael Walsh gave a strong presentation on George VI five-cent coins, focusing on the weak strikes. David Bergeron, Henry Neinhuis, Graham Esler and Rob Turner also gave noteworthy presentations.

The ONA also hosted a successful conference in April, this one in London for a second year in a row. The passing of Paul Flocci was a real loss early in 2007, as was the passing of the *eminence gris* of CMNS; Mr. Bruce Brace.

The publishing sensation of 2007 was definitely the October mailing of the two-volume Canadian Numismatic



Bibliography. This pioneering work, published by the Canadian Numismatic Research Society was edited by Darryl Atchison and laid out by Paul Petch.

Rob Butler’s volume on the 1858 Canada Cent also made a big impact in 2007.

Atchison did much more than merely compile a listing of other works; he discusses and synthesizes key documents, including unpublished ones. Even a cursory reading of Atchison’s very capable work clearly demonstrates the need for more rigorous biographical sketches of key numismatic personalities; including mint officials and engravers and key members of the hobby community.

At the Charlton catalogue shop, the addition of three new uncirculated grades put Charlton Press ahead of the Canadian Paper Money Society. In April, the CPMS voted to refrain from approving or adopting the new grades before the 2008 catalogue of Paper Money went to press.

Toronto Coin Show Torex announced the relocation of its Toronto show from the Waterfront to the airport strip. The last Harbourfront show was in October; the 2008 shows will be at **The Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel**, which is optimistically

billed as 20 minutes from downtown Toronto. That distance was obviously not calculated using the Toronto Transit Commission. A more accurate description might be that drivers leaving the new Torex site can be in Toronto traffic jams within twenty minutes.

The market news for 2007 reflects medium term volatility for base metals, precious metals and currencies. The rise in the Canadian dollar relative to the United States dollar means numismatic investors in Canadian coins would have outperformed investors in U.S. coins over 2007. Canadian Nickel five cent coins struck prior to 1999 and Canadian copper cents struck prior to 1997 continue to see melt values exceeding face value, joining pre 1968 silver change (ten-cent, twenty-five cent and dollar) where silver melt value is at a premium to face value. Despite all the volatility and uncertainty, the North York Coin Club Bulletin confidently predicts that over the medium term, the market will fluctuate.

Looking ahead to 2008, the year kicked off on January 2 with the one-hundredth anniversary of the striking of the first coin at what was then the Ottawa branch of the Royal Mint. In April 2008 the ONA meets in Sudbury, home of the big nickel.

In July 2008 the first RCNA Convention is scheduled for Ottawa. A scheduled tour of the Royal Canadian Mint will have to struggle to top the thrill delegates to the 2000 CNA convention experienced when they were allowed to strike and keep their own silver twenty-five cent coin. In 1998, the RCM offered a double-dated commemorative replica of the 1908 mint set available in red (proof) or antiqued finish. So far, comparable offerings for 2008 have not been announced, although Britain’s Royal Mint is resuming the use of Roman numerals on a five hundredth anniversary coin for Queen Elizabeth the first.

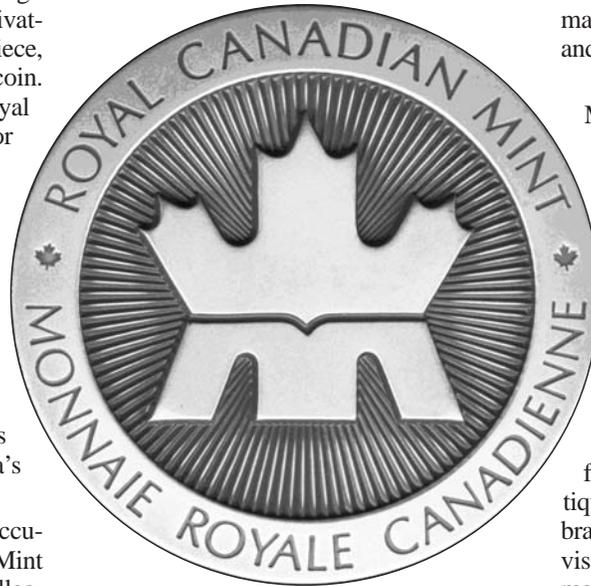
## ROYAL CANADIAN MINT CELEBRATES 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Special commemorative products to be issued*

OTTAWA and WINNIPEG, Jan. 2 /CNW Telbec/ - One hundred years ago today, Governor General Earl Grey activated the press to strike a fifty-cent piece, Canada's first domestically produced coin. What would become known as the Royal Canadian Mint was officially open for business.

"To celebrate the centennial of the Mint is to celebrate the history of Canada," said Mr. Ian E. Bennett, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint. "Over the past century, the Mint has played an important role in the economic and social fabric of our nation, by creating circulation and commemorative collector coins which are a true testament to Canada's rich heritage and values."

The Mint's Ottawa facility, which occupies the same premises on which the Mint was founded, produces hand-crafted collector and commemorative coins, gold bullion coins, medals and medallions. Established in 1976, the Winnipeg Mint is a high-tech, high-volume manufacturing facility where Canada's circulation coinage is produced, as



well as coins for countries around the world.

"Throughout 2008, the Mint is celebrating its employees who, both past and present, have contributed to its remarkable suc-

cess," added Mr. Bennett. "Their combined efforts and overwhelming dedication have made the Mint one of the most innovative and respected in the world."

To commemorate its centennial, the Mint is producing a high-quality limited edition book which will describe the corporation's rich history in both text and photography. Numismatic coins marking this special anniversary will also be issued mid-year. In addition, Canada Post has announced that, in June, it will recognize the occasion by issuing a commemorative stamp in the Mint's honour.

This year, the Mint is inviting visitors to stop by its Ottawa and Winnipeg facilities, to take a tour, browse the boutique and be a part of its anniversary celebrations. To mark the occasion, the 100th visitor every day will receive a special commemorative gift. The Mint will also be taking an opportunity on Canada Day to open its doors and celebrate its centennial with fun-filled family activities.

Over the last century, the Royal Canadian Mint has emerged as a global leader in minting. Some memorable events in its dynamic history include:

- 1908 - On January 2nd, Governor General Earl Grey activated the press to strike a fifty-cent piece, Canada's first domestically produced coin at the Mint's Sussex Drive facility, which is the site of the present-day Mint.
- 1911 - The Mint opened its gold refinery and by year's end, a record number of gold sovereigns were produced.
- 1931 - The Mint transformed from a branch of Britain's Royal Mint to the Royal Canadian Mint, a wholly Canadian institution.
- 1953 - The first effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II appeared on Canada's coins. Over the past five decades, the Queen's effigy has been updated three times, most recently in 2003.
- 1969 - The Mint became a Crown Corporation with a mandate to operate as a profitable business, rather than simply a supplier for Canada's coins.
- 1976 - The Mint's ultra-modern production facility opened in Winnipeg. All of Canada's circulation coins as well as coins for countries around the world are produced in this facility. Over the past 25 years, the Mint has produced coins for over 60 countries around the world.
- 1987 - The one-dollar circulation coin, affectionately known as the "Loonie", rolled off the assembly line in Winnipeg and into the pockets of Canadians. The bi-metallic two-dollar circulation coin followed in 1996.
- 1999 - The Mint's patented multi-ply plating technology made its debut and quickly revolutionized the industry. It delivers tremendous cost efficiencies and produces coins of increased durability and brilliance.
- 2004 - The Mint became the first in the world to issue a coloured circulation coin with the introduction of the "red poppy" 25-cent circulation coin, which was issued to pay homage to the brave Canadian men and women who have died while in the service of the nation.
- 2005 - Terry Fox became the first Canadian-born individual featured on a Canadian circulation coin when the Mint issued a one-dollar coin to commemorate the 25th anniversary of his Marathon of Hope.
- 2006 - The Mint became an Official Supporter of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Over the next four years, it will produce the most extensive Olympic circulation coin program ever conceived by any Mint worldwide and offer 36 numismatic products. The Mint will also strike the athlete medals for the Games, as it did for the XXI Olympic Games in Montreal.
- 2007 - The Mint unveiled a 100-kg, 99999 pure gold bullion coin with a \$1 million face value as a flagship of its new line of one-ounce, 99.999% pure Gold Maple Leaf coins - the purest gold bullion coins in the world.

## CENTENNIAL OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

by Tony Hine

### *Controversial fence battle delayed Mint's 1907 opening schedule.*

1908:First Strike

The Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa opened on January 2, 1908. Although Governor General Earl Grey struck the first coin, he will be better remember for his football trophy and his taste in tea. At the time of its grand opening the mint was in fact the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Mint. It was not until December 1, 1931 that the Dominion of Canada took over the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Mint, renaming it the Royal Canadian Mint. In honour of this anniversary, your bulletin, will, throughout 2008, feature some historical vignettes of the Mint's colourful past.

For some time, the Royal Canadian Mint continued to rely on the Royal Mint for the production of dies upon which Canada's coinage was struck. Indeed as late as 1937, the Royal Mint farmed out some die engraving to the Paris Mint. The history of the Royal Canadian Mint is of great interest to numismatists, historians and Canadian nationalists.

Histories of the RCM

In 1968, the Royal Canadian Mint celebrated its sixtieth anniversary by issuing a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary souvenir commemorative history entitled "Heads and Tales" through the Queens Printer. Reflecting the age of Marshall McLuhan, the book was more souvenir than history, the layout simulating a scrapbook. In 1983, a more scholarly work by James Å. Haxby, entitled "Striking Impressions," was published by the mint on the occasion of the seventy fifth anniversary.

The land for the mint was expropriated from the Canadian Pacific Railway. Tenders were invited in November 1904.

Quotes for construction and site preparation were received, and Sanders & Sutherland of Kingston began construction as contractors in

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Originally opening was planned for January 1907.

An employee transferred from the Royal Mint in London, England to Ottawa on September 1, 1906 prepared specifications and drawings for the equipment for the Ottawa Branch. Imperial protocol resulted in tenders being let in England in November 1906. In July 1907, Dr. James Bonar, LLD, was appointed Deputy Mint Master. Bonar had been Chief Examiner of the Civil Service Commission. An examination of the site and the plans disclosed that a surrounding security fence made of stone, specified by the Royal Mint, was absent. Although this was deemed an emergency, no solution foreseen could be completed before 1908.

The Royal Mint specified a surrounding security fence made of stone, but a series of miscues resulted in the fences construction costing three times the original estimate. Numismatic Researcher Henry Neinhuis, reviewing the Hansard transcript with the assistance of Dan Gosling, discovered that a fence that should have cost \$14,000.00, wound up costing \$45,000.00. A detailed description of the equipment ordered for the Ottawa branch was published by mint master Arthur H. W. Cleave, M.I.M.E., in a paper read before the mechanical section of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and published in April 1908 in Volume 22 of the Transactions of the Society of Civil Engineers at pages 134-152. The article was reprinted in the CN Journal in three parts in 1978. The equipment specified by Cleave arrived in the fall of 1907, and in November 1907, bronze trial run tokens were produced. A December 10, 1907 article in the Ottawa Citizen reported on the production of the test pieces, which are now considered a

numismatic rarity. In the Canadian Numismatic Journal, Henry Neinhuis reviewed the history of the test pieces in a November 2007 article.

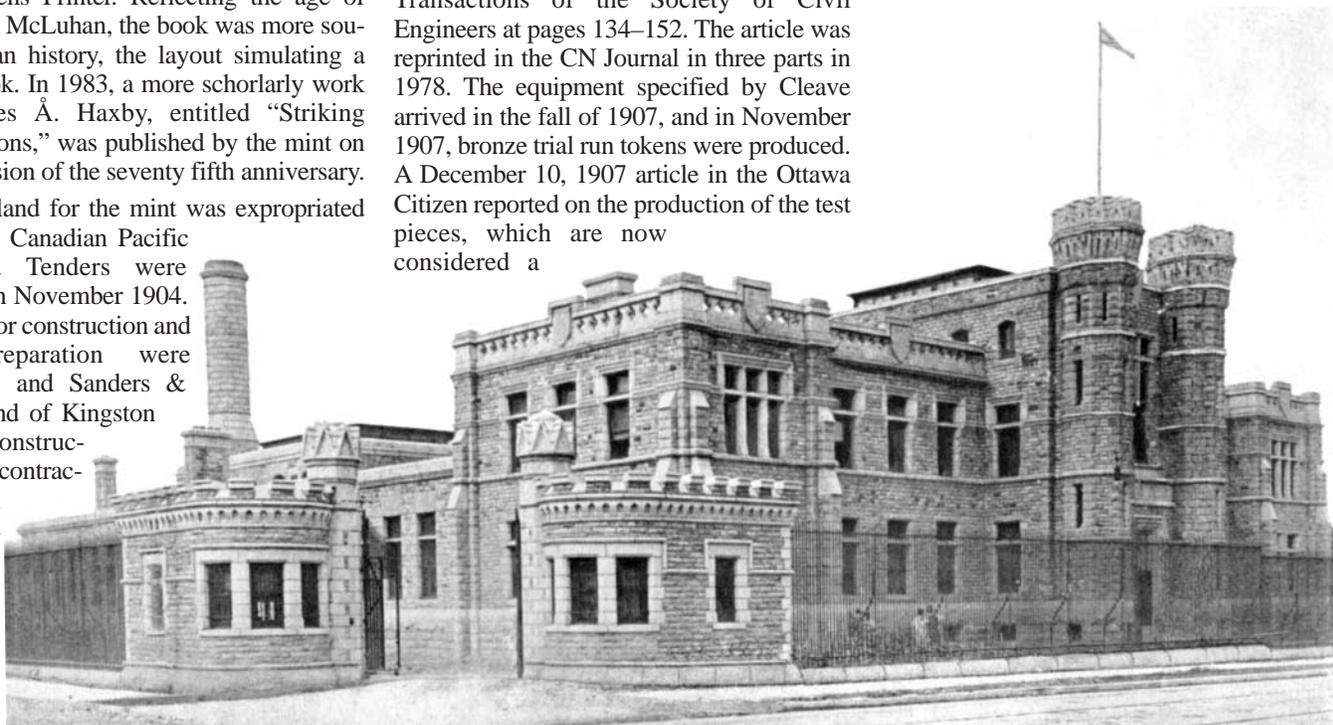
The history of the Ottawa branch starts long before 1908. British Columbian gold miners had been agitating for a mint from the middle of the nineteenth century.

The Ottawa Mint Act was passed by Canada's Parliament in May 1901.

The key provision was the creation of a \$75,000.00 per year annuity to cover expenses.

The Mint added a refinery in 1911.

In 1998, the RCM offered a double-dated commemorative replica of the 1908 mint set available in red (proof) or antiqued finish. The antiqued finish is valued more highly in "trends." So far, comparable offerings for 2008 have not been announced. If the Royal Mint's marketing efforts are in any way predictive, collectors may expect a sovereigns collection offering Victorian, Edward VII and George V reproductions in a premium priced collectors set. This writer believes a RCM reproduction of the 1911 dollar pattern in .9999 silver would be well received by collectors, although pricing is unlikely to be nostalgic because of the high metallic value of silver in the 2008 market.



## RIGHT ON THE MONEY

by Chris Webb, Winnipeg Free Press

### *New plating technology keeps mint booked solid through 2008*

It's been a bumper year for the Royal Canadian Mint, thanks to the worldwide popularity of its unique plating technology.

The mint's Winnipeg facility has set a new production record, having struck almost 1.2 billion coins for countries around the globe—and the demand keeps on growing.

Peter Ho, executive director of foreign circulation, said the mint is renowned for its research and innovation into new coin technology—technology that has won it multimillion-dollar contracts with foreign governments.

"We're sold out for 2008, that's how booked we are," Ho said.

Contracts in the new year include a major deal with India, which wants to use the mint's plating technology to produce its new five- and 10-rupee coins, and two other large countries.

Alex Reeves, the Crown corporation's communications manager, said in an interview from Ottawa that the mint's multi-ply plating process is a benchmark in coin production. He credits the mint's talented engineers for the popularity of the Winnipeg-struck coins with foreign governments.

"At a time when base metals like copper and nickel are extremely high, thanks to our plating technology, we use a smaller proportion making it less expensive," Reeves said.

The mint's patented multi-ply plating process deposits thin alternating layers of nickel and copper over a cheaper steel core to produce some of the highest quality and most economical coins in circulation today.

Recent surges in the price of copper and zinc nearly sent the U.S. penny into extinction in August, with lawmakers debating pulling it from production. It cost the U.S. mint almost two cents to make a one-cent

coin. U.S. lawmakers wanted to replace the pricey zinc coin with a steel one, something the Royal Canadian Mint has been doing for nearly eight years.

Ho blames increasing global demand in countries such as China and India for pushing prices of copper and nickel up.

"Growth in China before the Olympics is pushing up the price. They're buying steel and lots of other metals to get ready," Ho said.

Copper and aluminum prices peaked in May last year, and zinc and nickel are now down 50 per cent since their record highs.

Recent Canadian mint customers include New Zealand, Ghana, Oman, Paraguay, Barbados, Papua New Guinea and the Bahamas, with Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela expressing interest in the new technology.

Ian Bennett, the mint's president and CEO, said the numerous international contracts are ringing endorsements of multi-ply plating technology.

Hieu Truong, executive of advanced engineering research at the mint and the multi-ply process's inventor, said the corporation is clearly a world leader in minting technology. Truong developed the multi-ply technology after frustrating efforts with the older single-plating technology that is still used by many countries.

"We are the ones with the modern jet packs, we are ahead of all other countries with this technology," he joked. "Other mints are like propeller-driven planes, way behind us."

Truong praises the coins for resisting tarnishing better than others and offering heightened security because of unique electromagnetic signatures that prevent vending machine fraud.

Due to the increasing global demand for

Winnipeg-struck coins, the mint has more than doubled its workforce since 2003.

The mint's Winnipeg facility has produced coins for more than 60 countries in the last 25 years.

## ROYAL CANADIAN MINT LAUNCHES QUEBEC AD CAMPAIGN

OTTAWA, Dec. 21 /CNW Telbec/— Under the theme Our Values, the Royal Canadian Mint (RCM) will be launching an all-new ad campaign for Quebec on December 27, 2007. The campaign's spokesperson will be none other than popular TV host and producer Véronique Cloutier, who has signed on to represent the RCM for three years.

The RCM's choice of this public figure, a media personality the people of Quebec have practically watched grow up on TV, is in line with the new communication platform that the Royal Canadian Mint developed for the Quebec market.

One of the primary objectives of the campaign is to increase awareness and understanding of the various roles played by the RCM, and consequently, to create an emotional bond with the people of Quebec. "I am extremely proud to be part of this campaign to promote and demonstrate the undeniable quality and great diversity of the Royal Canadian Mint's products," stated Ms. Cloutier.

Through a public call for tenders, the three-year RCM account was awarded to TANK, a new Montreal-based advertising firm. Diane Plouffe Reardon, RCM Vice-President of Marketing and Communications, is certain that the theme chosen to convey the RCM's brand will further boost the Mint's profile in Quebec. "We've developed a concept that touches the very hearts of Quebecers, based on a set of core values they all share. We're looking forward to this new ad campaign's grand debut. The people of Quebec are going to love it," said Ms. Plouffe Reardon.



## STATE FUNERAL FOR SIR EDMUND HILLARY

by Martha McKenzie-Minifie, Edward Gay and New Zealand Herald Staff

*Tributes to Sir Edmund Hillary have poured in since his death this morning.*



A state funeral is to be held for Sir Edmund Hillary, who died this morning from a heart attack, aged 88.

In a statement, his widow, Lady Hillary, indicated the family thought such a funeral appropriate, “recognising the impact [Sir Edmund] has on all New Zealanders.”

She added the family was comforted by messages of support from around the country and the world.

A date for the funeral would probably be fixed over the weekend as some family members were out of New Zealand and would take time to get home.

Among them is Sir Edmund’s only son Peter, currently in Portugal.

The funeral will be broadcast on TVNZ.

Lady Hillary said Sir Edmund died peacefully in Auckland Hospital at 9am today after his heart gave out.

He had been in hospital since Monday but was due out and had been looking forward to coming home.

“He remained in good spirits until the end.”

At the family’s Remuera home this afternoon, step-daughter Susan Hayman also said Sir Edmund was in “high spirits” prior to his death.

The family wanted some time to themselves to come to terms with his passing, she said.

A spokesman for acting Prime Minister Michael Cullen said Prime Minister Helen Clark had been in contact with the family as Sir Edmund’s health deteriorated.

“The offer was always to provide whatever assistance they wanted, on any sort of level,” he said.

“I have just heard they have accepted the offer of a state funeral.”

Documentary maker Tom Scott, a long-time friend, arrived at the Hillarys’ home following the news.

Scott said he’d been working with Sir Edmund on a documentary about the mountaineer’s work in Nepal and the resulting footage would be shown on the night of the funeral.

“We knew when we were making it (the documentary) that was the purpose of it and we were terribly sad,” Mr Scott said.

“Everywhere we went there was this kind of cloud hanging over us because we knew we were making it to be played on the night he was buried—on the state funeral.

“But at the same time it was a tremendous honour and a privilege to be asked to make it.

“He’s a great New Zealander.

“We will not see his like, the old cliché, for a long, long time.

“He was an extraordinary man.”

Elsewhere, staff at Scott Base in Antarctica lowered the New Zealand flag to half-mast as the mood quickly turned to one of great sadness.

Flags have also been lowered to half-mast at Parliament in Wellington.

A condolence book for Sir Edmund Hillary has been opened in Parliament, Speaker Margaret Wilson said.

Ms Wilson paid tribute to Sir Edmund, saying he was “a true New Zealand hero.”

“Because of the significance of Sir Edmund to New Zealand, Parliament is offering New Zealanders the opportunity to express their condolences,” she said.

“I have asked for a Book of Condolences to be opened. This is now available in Parliament House and I invite anyone wishing to pay their respect through messages of support and sympathy to come and sign the book.”

Governor-General Anand Satyanand said the death of Sir Edmund Hillary was a great loss to his family and to all New Zealanders.

“Sir Edmund was a great New Zealander and his passing will be deeply mourned by people throughout the world. As Governor-General of New Zealand and on behalf of all New Zealanders, I extend my deepest condolences and those of my wife Susan, to Lady Hillary and Sir Edmund’s family on

their great loss.”

Friend and climber Graeme Dingle described Sir Edmund as “a great human mirror of who we are, or who we like to think we are,” calling the late icon “a national treasure.”

Sir Edmund shot to international stardom as the first man to scale Mt Everest in 1953.

As the tributes began to flow in, Helen Clark described Sir Edmund as the best-known New Zealander to have ever lived and said his passing was a profound loss to New Zealand.

“Sir Ed described himself as an average New Zealander with modest abilities. In reality, he was a colossus,” she said.

“He was an heroic figure who not only ‘knocked off’ Everest but lived a life of determination, humility, and generosity.”

National Party leader John Key said Sir Edmund Hillary was a New Zealand hero.

“We will all feel the loss of a truly remarkable man whose achievements and humility have inspired New Zealanders for so long,” he said.

Sir Edmund’s last visit to Scott Base, which he was instrumental in establishing, was only last year.

“It was a very special time,” said Antarctica New Zealand’s senior representative at Scott Base, Dean Peterson. “He was a great gentleman who had a huge amount of tenacity not to mention a lot of willpower and boundless courage. This was in someone incredibly gentle and caring—an extremely rare combination of qualities.”

Reserve Bank Governor Alan Bollard said Sir Edmund’s special character was demonstrated in the fact that he was the only living New Zealander to have been chosen to feature on a New Zealand banknote—the \$5 note.

In a sporting tribute, the New Zealand cricket team will wear black arm bands and observe a minute’s silence along with the crowd before play starts on day one of the second test against Bangladesh at the Basin Reserve in Wellington tomorrow.

“Sir Edmund was a role model for all New Zealanders. His legendary story as both a humanitarian and adventurer has been, and will continue to be, inspirational to generations,” Mr Key said.

“I offer the National Party’s condolences to Sir Edmund’s family and friends. I’m sure all New Zealanders will feel the loss of his passing.”

He famously said of the ascent, carried out with with sherpa Tenzing Norgay: “We knocked the bastard off.”

For a long time Sir Edmund refused to say who reached the summit first, but in his book *View From The Summit* he eventually made it clear.

“I continued cutting a line of steps upwards,” he wrote.

“Next moment I had moved on to a flat-tish exposed area of snow with nothing but space in every direction. Tenzing quickly joined me and we looked round in wonder. To our immense satisfaction we realised we had reached the top of the world.”

The conquest of Everest brought Hillary, then 35, lasting fame which was swiftly recognised when he was knighted on June 6, 1953.

Sir Edmund was typically modest about the award.

“I could see myself walking down

Broadway, Papakura, in my tattered overalls and the seat out of my pants, and I thought ‘That’s gone forever. I’ll have to buy a new pair of overalls now.’”

In recent years Sir Edmund’s health had been failing but he made a final visit in January 2007 to Antarctica, the scene of another of his triumphs.

He was made a knight of the Order of the British Empire in 1953 and, 42 years later, the Queen bestowed on him her highest honour—a knighthood in the Order of the Garter.

## BREAK WITH CONVENTION PUT HEAD ON \$5

by Paula Oliver

The appearance of Sir Edmund Hillary on New Zealand’s \$5 banknote broke a longstanding international convention - but it was a decision former Reserve Bank Governor Don Brash never came to regret.

Sir Ed was put on the note in the early 1990s, after a process which began with the public putting forward suggestions of who they thought should appear on the country’s revamped currency.

Sir Ed was a strong suggestion, but he was quickly dismissed by the ultimate decision-maker, Dr Brash, because he was still alive.

Internationally, it was rare to put a living person who was not a head of state on a banknote, because of a fear that the person could go on to embarrassingly blot their copybook.

Dr Brash came up with a plan to put the Queen on the most-used note, the \$20.

He had ideas for all of the other notes except the \$5, which he decided to dedicate to a dead sportsperson.

But after examining options, Dr Brash eventually became perplexed - none seemed to him to fit correctly with the faces on the other notes, or just didn’t seem to be of enough stature.

Two things influenced his decision to go with Sir Ed. “One was what I call my dinner party test,” Dr Brash recalled yesterday.

“At dinner parties I’d say to people, ‘Who do you think should be on our bank notes?’” he said.

“And before I could explain to people that the person had to be

dead, most people would say, ‘Well of course Hillary has to be on one of them.’”

The second influence came during a visit to Singapore, when he saw a TV ad featuring Sir Ed walking through the grounds of a hotel, without a voiceover or a caption.

Dr Brash turned to his brother-in-law and said he knew that New Zealanders would recognise Sir Ed, but Singaporeans?

His brother-in-law said, “We all know who he is”, and Dr Brash realised Sir Ed was the best-known New Zealander outside the country.

“I decided, to hell with the convention, I would put Ed Hillary on the note,” he said.

With the decision made, an approach had to be made to Sir Ed to make sure he was happy with the idea.

Dr Brash tried to phone the mountaineer at home but learned through Lady June that Sir Ed was in Europe.



“I rang him there. Despite everyone telling me he would reject the issue out of hand, he said, ‘Thank you very much, I’m very flattered and I’d be happy to be on the note.’”

Sir Ed then had some input into the design, opting to put Mt Cook on it and a Massey Ferguson tractor, which illustrated his historic drive overland to the South Pole.

Dr Brash said the appearance on the note was a tribute not only to Sir Ed’s mountaineering and exploring achievements, but his diplomatic and humanitarian efforts too.

The Reserve Bank’s current governor, Alan Bollard, paid tribute to Sir Ed yesterday and a wreath was laid outside the bank’s museum window.



## A WORLD CELEBRATION

by Dr. R. S. “Bart” Bartanowicz

He couldn't resist digging in. What coin collector could pass up buckets of coins in 2-by-2s with a tempting sign, “One dollar each or 11 for \$10”? Even seasoned and well-heeled collectors were drawn toward the jumble of coins.

Our numismatist resisted the urge for a microsecond, and then dug in. Sorting through a handful of coins, he spotted a lovely Newfoundland 1941 one-cent piece. This was kismet. 1941 was his birth year. Continuing his treasure hunt, he was quickly rewarded with a 1941 Canadian small cent. “This is great,” he said to the dealer. “I can probably put together a respectable-looking international selection honoring my birth year.”

The dealer slyly nodded, adding, “Let me know if you need an empty bucket.”

Our numismatist worked his way through the remaining buckets, and after 20 minutes or so he had only been rewarded with a badly worn 1941 Mexican two-centavo piece. Examining the coin, he mused that both he and the two-centavo piece had both experienced a hard journey through life.

Paying the dealer, he said: “I found three coins from 1941. It looks as if I had beginner's luck with the first two coins. You're \$3 richer and I've got a new interest.”

Taking the money, the dealer responded: “You can come back later and do some more looking. Better yet, how about buying a whole bucket? I'll make you a real deal.”

Not one to succumb to large temptations, our numismatist smiled. “I'm getting out of here before you try to sell me your whole business.”

This leads to a great chicken or egg question. Do we look for reasons to collect coins, or do we just want to buy everything? There are lots of nice coins that I don't have any particular reason to collect. On the other hand, inspiration can appear. In this case it was a nice-looking 1941 Newfoundland cent - the year of my birth.

Most collectors have put together U.S. coin sets to commemorate birth years and



other special occasions. Now an international birth year set, that's different and interesting. So again, was I subconsciously looking for a reason to collect world coins? Who knows, but it's a fun activity.

A world coin set commemorating a particular year is pretty much an open ended task. You can do it by country, by denomination or any other rules that you set for yourself.

This can be done leisurely with the idea that you don't ever have to complete your task, as some coins will be harder to find than others. Generally speaking, if you're a post-World War II Baby Boomer, there are plenty of world coins for your birth year.

So how do you begin, or what's your plan? My suggestion would be to start with our hemisphere. The United States, Canada and Mexico could be a good start. Most of us are familiar with the coins of our neighbors, and these coins are readily available.

For instance, if your birth year is 1950, a one cent/centavo set in About Uncirculated from the above three countries would run around \$5. The U.S. cent costs about 50 cents, the Canadian cent \$2.50 and the Mexican centavo \$2. Depending on grade, you can spend more or less.

A variant on this could be other denominations (such as quarters or their equivalent) from these three countries. It's really up to you.

So where do you get these coins? The most fun is at coin shows. At large coin

shows you will usually find world coins in all denominations and grades. Some dealers will have buckets or suitcases of these coins. Coins may be in 2-by-2 holders or just lying loose, and it will be up to you to the digging. I prefer the 2-by-2s. Other collectors prefer the loose coins, as the dealer may not have sorted through all the coins. This increases your chances of finding a not-so-common coin or a silver coin at a bargain price. Better-date and grade coins will usually not be in the bargain bucket.

There are several publications that can help you in your quest, including the ultimate reference, the Standard Catalog of World Coins, which is both in printed form and DVD. This is an eye-opener to the wide array of world coins.

Oh, where am I with my birth-year set? I started with a set of Newfoundland coins. (Note: Newfoundland joined the Canadian Confederation in 1949.) There were only three denominations struck in 1941 the small cent, and five- and 10-cent silver issues.

All were readily available, and total cost was under \$10. If only two of the coins were affordable, it would have been a two-coin set.

As I said, you make the rules. My next set will be from Mexico.

