

## **Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Number 7 - March 20, 2005**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The cat is out of the bag!

When I was interviewed by Canadian Coin News recently, I asked them not to announce my involvement with the C.N.A. E-Bulletin, but you know reporters can never be trusted. So they published my name!

When I agreed to put together a mailing list for the C.N.A. E-Bulletin and publish the first few issues, it was my intention to get it up and running only, before it is turned over to someone else. It was the intention of the C.N.A. President to then announce the name of the permanent editor.

Alas, I am having too much fun with it, and have so much material that I have held back because I do not want to go over the MS Word equivalent of 10 pages. I even went from the planned 2 issues per month to three.

I am hanging onto it a while longer, partly because of your support and encouragement! The President will have to wrest it from my cold hands over my dead body!

### **WE GOT MAIL**

From Mark Argentino: "I would like to give credit where credit is due and the latest issue of the CCN states you are the publisher of this E-Bulletin. Before I state this fact in the MECSCC newsletter, could you please confirm that this is true." (Mark is the Editor of the Mississauga-Etobicoke Coin Stamp and Collectibles Club newsletter) – You mean to tell us that you don't believe everything you read or hear in the press? Yes, indeed, it is true. It is !!

From Jim Majoros: "I'm president of the Ocean County Coin Club in NJ and have an individual interested in obtaining new Canadian Cent rolls for use in our YN program for the club. We have an excellent program whereby we have 15 to 25 YN's attend every meeting twice a month and we enjoy working our program in giving them uncirculated coins from the mint in Canada as well as the U.S. Would appreciate any contact on this." – Always pleased to promote YN programs, so if any of our recipients have any rolls or part-rolls of coins they wish to donate, send them to Jim Majoros, 65 - 16th St, Toms River, NJ 08753. He can be reached at [major@ameri-com.com](mailto:major@ameri-com.com). For our part, we will be donating 25 of each of a few dates of Unc. 1-cent pieces from the 1960s and 1970s. The C.N.A. has been including them in their own YN Kits to all young collectors that have joined the C.N.A. over the past couple of years. And while we're at it, we'll throw in some wooden nickels (compliments of the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors), Municipal trade tokens (compliments of Bonavita/Eligi Consultants) and foreign coins (compliments of your E-Bulletin editor).

From Tolling Jennings: "I was just reading the on line journal and you asked for neglected areas of numismatics. I have often wondered what my first six digit credit card issued by the Seattle 1st National would be worth if I had saved it. It would have been issued in the spring of 1967. I cut it up in the fall of '69 after a separation. What is the collecting of credit cards called? I enjoy the online journal and think it is a great addition to Canadian num." (Tolling Jennings is the Mint Master of the Lasqueti Mint) – We think the collectors of credit cards are called married. The ones that have cut-up credit cards are called separated or divorced as you yourself found out. If

you want to see some of the Lasqueti Mint's work, go to [www.eligi.ca/lasqueti](http://www.eligi.ca/lasqueti).

From Don Young: "In the last bulletin, you mentioned that Bill Fivaz had received the ANA Numismatic Ambassador Award. I would like to point out that ANA doesn't award this, it is awarded and presented by Krause Publications/Numismatic News. They award about 10 to 12 Ambassador Awards yearly. I also received one of these awards some years back myself." (Don Young is an ANA Regional Coordinator and a proud recipient of the Numismatic Ambassador Award) – Our apologies to Krause Publications. We actually knew better, but it slipped by in our proofreading.

John Regitko writes: "In the last issue, you predicted that the price of Moosehead beer will rise as a result of one of their truckloads of suds being stolen. Labatt Breweries, Canada's second largest brewery, has announced an increase in the price of Labatts Blue and Budweiser. Usually when one major player in an industry raises their price, everyone else follows suit before too long. Therefore, I predict that your prediction will prove correct before too long, but not because of a single truckload of beer being stolen. Incidentally, in their announcement, Labatts blamed "rising aluminum and energy cost" for the increase. Exactly how much aluminum is there in beer?" – Aluminum in beer? Just the thought of that will drive you to drink!

From Dorte: "Is there some reason why "Show Business" has not been listing the Ontario Numismatic Association's ONA Convention being held in Sudbury on the weekend of April 16-17?" – Because we have been publishing every 10 days, we have not included upcoming shows more than 2 to 4 weeks in advance because it would take a few pages in every issue if we did (you will note that we haven't even promoted the C.N.A. Convention yet). In future, however, we will include at least basic contact information on regional and national shows, especially those sponsored by C.N.A. member clubs, a couple of months in advance to allow people to make travel plans and hotel reservations. This includes the ONA Convention (see "Upcoming Shows" this issue).

From Fred Freeman: "The splendid help extended to last year's ONA Convention in Woodstock, Ontario by the Canadian Numismatic Association is very greatly appreciated. There were so many acts of kindness by the CNA that it is difficult to list them all properly. We would also like to acknowledge the generous gift of your President, Charles Moore, of a gift of \$500 to the ONA at the Convention. It is most gratifying to see first hand the co-operation between the ONA and the CNA. We are all in this together and this helps both of us. Let me contribute a little humour that we as youngsters during the Great Depression thought most amusing. I wonder how many of your readers of this era will get this joke that we as kids thought was so funny during the 1930s. "The soles of my shoes are so thin that I can step on a dime and know whether George shaved today." (Fred Freeman was Chairman of last year's ONA Convention) – The ONA provided a complimentary Information Table to the C.N.A. and has done so again at this year's show in Sudbury.

From Mark Argentino: "I have a coin joke for you. A fellow engineer friend of mine sent it to me this morning, not sure if non-engineers would find this funny: A student is appearing for his Engineering final examination which consists of Y/N type questions. He takes his seat in the Examination hall, stares at the question paper for five minutes, and then in a fit of inspiration takes his wallet out, removes a coin and starts tossing the coin and marking the answer sheet - Y for Heads and N for Tails. Within half an hour he is all done whereas the rest of the class is sweating it out. During the last few minutes, he is seen desperately throwing the coin, swearing and sweating. The invigilator, alarmed, approaches him and asks what is going on. "Oye, I finished the exam in half an hour, but yaar," he says, " I am rechecking my answers." – Not bad.

You should know by now that our standards are not too high and we will publish almost anything. It got past our numismatic censors because it involves tossing a coin.

From Peter Becker: "It seems that Money Tracking has caught on in Canada. In addition to Where's Willy at [www.canada.com/finance/moneywise/story](http://www.canada.com/finance/moneywise/story), there are 2 other Websites dedicated to following the Canuck Buck!" (Peter is President of the Waterloo Coin Club) – Thank you for passing along this Website. We were fascinated by the fact that so many people take the time to track their paper money. In the U.S. it's called Where's George? The site claims that more than 1.1 million Canadian bills totaling more than \$16.5-million dollars have been, or are, currently in circulation with stamps asking folks to log on and enter a serial number, so people can literally see where their money has gone. Your C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor has been tracking his bills for years without the Internet. It goes from his wallet to his wife, then either to the department store or credit card company.

## **LOTTERY TICKET BACKGROUND – PART 2**

In the last bulletin, we told you about an 81-year old man suing the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation for the \$100,000 he didn't get from the store owner on the \$250,000 winning Encore ticket that he claims he was cheated out of. We wondered why the store owners, who have denied any wrongdoing and admitted no liability, would agree to give Robert Edmonds \$150,000, Well, it seems we now know why.

A police officer has testified that Phylis LaPlante, the retailer who allegedly stole a \$250,000 lottery ticket from Edmonds, asked officers investigating the theft what would happen if she admitted the offence rather than be found guilty of it. "I suggested to Mrs. LaPlante that the end result would be the same," testified OPP Det. Const. Joseph Hays, who interviewed her. "She said, "Then what's the point of saying anything?"

The OLGC also admitted that their records show not only a telephone call from Edmonds' home in which he claimed he warned them about the alleged theft, but that he was put through to an extension during a telephone call that lasted 4 minutes. This differed from the original OLGC version during which they stated that although they had a record of a call from the home, they denied having any record of any conversation taking place. The fact that they now concede that the call was put through to an extension seems to confirm Edmonds' version that he did indeed speak to somebody.

Court also heard that suspicion rose when LaPlate couldn't answer basic questions about where and when the ticket had been purchased.

Okay, have we had enough background on lottery tickets for a while? We feel we will be publishing one more column on whether or not the OLGC has to pay the other \$100,000 and if the store owners will be found guilty of fraud and theft.

## **HELP SOLICITED BY C.N.A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Dan Gosling writes: "As part of my chapter on Numismatic Literature for the upcoming CNA/NESA Canadian Numismatic Correspondence Course Part II, I would like to include a list of books (not periodicals) that collectors of all types of Canadian coins, paper money and tokens might purchase to learn more about their field of interest. I want to restrict this list to books on Canadian topics only. I have uploaded a list of books containing information on Canadian numismatics to [www.julaine.ca/booklist](http://www.julaine.ca/booklist). To the right of each book is a spot to indicate your opinion on whether the book is worthy of recommendation to other collectors. Your submission to the survey is anonymous and should only take about five minutes. It would be greatly

appreciated if you could complete the survey in the next couple of days. Thank you for your participation." – Okay, faithful recipients, if you are into Canadian books, let's do our part and help Dan and the C.N.A. out!

### **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AMERICANS AND CANADIANS, EH!**

What have we started? You publish a column about the difference between Canadians and Americans, eh, and you get e-mails that are too good to pass up in a bulletin that is committed to add a smile to your life. Here is an anonymous submission from one of our U.S. friends that we just have to pass along even though there is no numismatic connection.

The owner of a golf course in Canada was confused about paying an invoice, so he decided to ask his secretary for some mathematical help. He called her into his office and said, "You graduated from the University of Toronto and I need some help. If I were to give you \$20,000, minus 14%, how much would you take off?" The secretary thought a moment, then replied, "Everything but my earrings."

A group of Canadian friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night, one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under the weight of an eight-point buck. "Where's Henry?" the others asked. "Henry had a stroke of some kind. He's a couple of miles back up the trail," the successful hunter replied. "You left Henry laying out there and carried the deer back?" they inquired. "A tough call," nodded the hunter. "But I figured no one is going to steal Henry!"

Regarding the year 2000, a senior in Canada was overheard saying "when the end of the world comes, I hope to be in Alabama." When asked why, he stated that everything happens here 20 years later than the rest of the civilized world.

The young Canadian came running into the store and said to his buddy, "Bubba, somebody just stole your pickup truck from the parking lot!" Bubba replied, "Did you see who it was?" The young Canadian answered, "I couldn't tell, but I got the license number."

NEWS FLASH! - Canada's worst air disaster occurred when a small two-seater Cessna 150 plane, piloted by two University of Toronto students, crashed into a cemetery earlier today. Search and rescue workers have recovered 300 bodies so far and expect the number to climb as digging continues into the evening. The pilot and copilot survived and are helping in the recovery efforts.

An Ontario Highway patrol officer pulled over a pickup on Highway 401. The police officer asked, "Got any ID?" The driver replied, "Bout whut?"

A Canadian had a flat tire, pulled off on the side of the road, and proceeded to put a bouquet of flowers in front of the car and one behind it. Then he got back in the car to wait. A passerby studied the scene as he drove by and was so curious he turned around and went back. He asked the fellow what the problem was. The man replied, "I have a flat tire." The passerby asked, "But what's with the flowers?" The man responded, "When you break down they tell you to put flares in the front and flares in the back! I never did understand it neither."

Isn't it ironic that a collector from Alabama sent this to us. Or was it West Virginia? The last two paragraphs above are a dead give-away that the original version did not have a Canadian connection. Not a single "eh!" in it!

## **GREAT CANADIAN ETHICS CHALLENGE**

A column by Bob Aaron which appeared in the March 5 Toronto Star mentions that back in 1996, the Insurance Bureau of Canada created the Great Canadian Ethics Challenge to test the honesty of Canadians in an insurance context. Overall, the majority of Canadians polled said they would act ethically in most of the scenarios; but they were far less confident that their fellow citizens would under identical circumstances.

For example, in response to a scenario in which a bank machine gives a customer more money than it recorded on the bank receipt, 69 percent of the people surveyed said they would report the error to the bank – but they thought only 22 percent of other Canadians would do the same.

I'm afraid I have to confess that your editor would keep it if he knew it belonged to either the bank or Securicor (the company that keeps losing bags of money off their trucks...what's another twenty bucks?). Although I would not accept Canadian Tire money instead of \$20 notes - like happened in a bank machine on the East Coast recently.

The above column, as well as other columns written by Bob Aaron, can be found at [www.aaron.ca](http://www.aaron.ca). Click on "Star Columns." They make an interesting read. And Benji is as cute in person as he looks!

## **COIN COLUMNIST FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN ISLAND YACHT CLUB BLAZE**

The name Robert Aaron is not only well-known to coin collectors, but also to millions of readers of The Toronto Star (see above column). Not only does he write the paper's coin column and stamp column, but he is the only writer ever to be contracted to write three columns simultaneously by Canada's largest daily newspaper when he began writing a column on real estate law each Saturday.

According to a front page story in an issue of The Toronto Star last year, Robert Aaron figured prominently in a story about the blaze that destroyed the Island Yacht Club's 52-year old clubhouse and a decades-old collection of trophies and memorabilia located in Toronto harbor. More than 200 firefighters and 37 vehicles were dispatched to the six-alarm fire on Mugg's Island that has no road or bridge access after an emergency call came in from a citizen reporting a fire under the clubhouse.

"It's a nightmare, an absolute nightmare," said member Bob Aaron, as the club's launch motored past the smoldering heap of charred wood that used to be the social center. A small grass fire that was lit behind the clubhouse spread quickly on Sunday, June 20. Within minutes, the fire had spread to the wooden building, which housed a dining room and lounge filled with trophies, model boats and photographs chronicling the club's history.

All of the members and staff quickly evacuated the burning building, but all that was saved were a few computers. While most of the club members had taken a launch back to the mainland by 6:30 p.m., about two dozen remained with their moored boats. But when firefighters grew concerned that several propane tanks were getting so hot they were going to explode, police told the members they had to evacuate the south end of the island. The members piled into Aaron's boat, The Cottage II, and headed to shore.

Two investigators and an electrical engineer from the Ontario fire marshal's office combed through the skeletal remains of the Island Yacht Club's home, searching for the cause of an inferno that left the wooden building in ashes. They were examining what's left of the electrical, heating and air-conditioning equipment. The fire was so intense, the roof and the walls of the

clubhouse caved in. A police dog was also called in, sniffing through the debris. Investigations by the police and the Ontario Fire marshal's office determined the fire was deliberately set. A couple of days later, a 13-year old youth surrendered to Police in connection to the incident. He was charged with arson and several counts of mischief.

### **COUNTERFEITER CONVICTED**

A man who helped flood the country with millions in fake money has been sentenced to 5-1/2 years in prison.

It will be the second term behind bars for printing bogus money for Anthony Caporale, 28, who served six months as part of two-year sentence in 2001. In Windsor, Ontario last week, Caporale pleaded guilty to five changes of making counterfeit money.

According to the Toronto Star, police have so far linked the former University of Windsor student to \$1.2 million of fake \$100 bills across Canada in the latest case.

### **THE POPPY QUARTER AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT**

When the Royal Canadian Mint first issued the Poppy colorized 25-cent coin through the Royal Canadian Legion and Tim Hortons outlets across Canada, everyone we know went to Tim Hortons. Most of us did that anyway, but now we asked for a Poppy Quarter as part of our change.

We think the Royal Canadian Mint has not received sufficient credit for having a whole nation wanting to add a numismatic collectible to their holdings. We saw that happening in 1967 with the Centennial coinage, in 1973 with the Mountie quarter, in 1999 and 2000 with the monthly quarters, the more recent Queen Mother Jubilee coin and various commemorative dimes. Everywhere you went, people were looking at their change. Especially when the Royal Canadian Mint picked on themes and designs close to the hearts of most Canadians such as the Queen Mother or honoring Remembrance Day. The Poppy quarter pays homage to Canada's war veterans and the 117,000 brave Canadians that have died while in the service of the nation. The red poppy is Canada's flower of remembrance. Each Remembrance Day, Canadians show their abiding respect for those who have freely given their lives for the cause of freedom, justice and peace by wearing a poppy.

If you agree that the Royal Canadian Mint is to be congratulated for the positive effect that the special circulating coins are having on our hobby, we wish you would let them know. Send your e-mail to [taylorp@rcmint.ca](mailto:taylorp@rcmint.ca) and Phil Taylor will make sure that Mr. Dingwall gets to hear about it.

### **NEW CANADIAN MUNICIPAL TRADE TOKEN CATALOGUE**

The collecting of Canadian municipal trade tokens is a large field. If you were to take a survey at your local coin club in Canada, we venture to guess that every collector has at least some in their collection, with at least half possessing a dozen or more. This is possible because hundreds of municipalities and regions have issued them over the years, most in sufficiently large quantity to make them readily available and very affordable. Thanks to the late Jerry Remick, who wrote hundreds of articles on the topic, to publications such as Canadian Coin News that published them, and to Serge Pelletier and Ray Desjardins that have published catalogues over the years, its popularity remains high.

Eligi Consultants has just published the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2005) of "A Compendium of Canadian Municipal Trade Tokens" that includes denomination, year, description of obverse and reverse,

metal, quantity struck and value of all known Canadian municipal trade dollars. The catalogue is a 124 page booklet size 5-1/2" x 8-1/2", spiral bound, with plastic cover. The catalogue is available for \$12.95 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling anywhere in Canada or U.S. If shipment is made to Ontario, add 15% PST & GST. Anywhere else in Canada just add 7% GST. Their Website is [www.eligi.ca/bonavita](http://www.eligi.ca/bonavita).

### **ROYAL CANADIAN MINT SUPPORTS RRSP AMENDMENT**

The Royal Canadian Mint recently endorsed the federal government's move to amend Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) eligible investments, tabled in the 2005 Federal Budget. The amendment allows investors to include investment grade precious metals of gold and silver in an RRSP. Investment grade precious metals would include Canadian produced coins and bars with a minimum purity of 99.5% for gold, 99.9% for silver.

Legal tender bullion coins will qualify if they are produced by the Royal Canadian Mint and all or substantially all of their fair market value is attributable to their precious metal content. The change will be effective for investment made on or after February 23, 2005.

"The Royal Canadian Mint sees this as a great benefit to Canadian investors, the precious metals industry and to the Mint," said David C. Dingwall, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint. "As significant global players, Canadian mining companies will benefit directly through increased interest in precious metal investment products. Investors will also benefit, as this will provide another option to achieve a RRSP balanced portfolio." Including precious metals in a self directed RRSP will allow individuals to create a more diversified portfolio, potentially reducing overall investment risk.

The Mint anticipates increased interest in its gold refined products and storage services as a result of the new regulations.

### **GET WELL**

To Tom Clarke, following spinal surgery, who is resting at home.

To George Fraser, following thyroid treatments, who is resting at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

### **CONDOLENCES**

To the family of George Heyer, who served as President of the North Shore Numismatic Society for many years. He also owned Lynn Valley Stamp & Coin located in North Vancouver.

From Gar Travis: "I am profoundly saddened by the passing of Earl Salterio. I have lost a dear friend as has the American Numismatic Association. Earl was one of our longest serving Country Ambassadors of Region 10/Worldwide, representing ANA members and member clubs of Canada with distinction and absolute dedication. Please convey my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. (Gar Travis is Regional Coordinator Region 10/Worldwide and ANA Assistant National Coordinator) – The hobby lost one of their dedicated stalwarts.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To Teletrade who, upon reaching a milestone 2,000<sup>th</sup> auction, donated \$2,000 worth of Red Books to the ANA for their Young Numismatists programs. In case the people at Teletrade didn't know it, the C.N.A. also has youth programs and are looking for donations to include with their Coin Kids Correspondence Course that will be unveiled at their annual convention in Calgary, Alberta in July. If anyone wishes to donate 50 to 100 copies of books or numismatic material of

all kind, drop us a note at [cnanews@look.ca](mailto:cnanews@look.ca) and we will pass your offer of a donation on to the right people.

### **HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA**

Hey, how many hockey fans had time on their hands and took up coin collecting instead? And how many are going to stick with numismatics once the NHL goes back to work eventually?

Or did the hockey fanatics simply switch to amateur hockey because that's where all the interesting things are happening? Like the good shouting matches and the real fights amongst parents. If you don't believe amateur hockey is the "in" thing in Toronto, how come the attendance went up dramatically recently? Which happened immediately after the newspapers revealed that a woman taunted the opponents' parents by lifting her sweater and revealing...you get the picture! Even Jay Leno made reference to this incident on a recent Tonight Show, wondering if this is a Canadian tradition of taunting. He also stated that Americans are willing to pay big bucks to see that, amateur hockey or not.

How many of you were just waiting for the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor to take the hockey problem and try to tie it into numismatics? Expect the unexpected!

### **SHOW BUSINESS**

APRIL 1 - 3, Kingston, ON – EONS Eastern Ontario Numismatic Show, Days Inn Convention Centre, 33 Benson St. Over 40 bourse tables. Hours: Fri. 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sun. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Auction Sat. 7 p.m. Information from (866) 747-COIN (2646) or e-mail [tedscollectables@bellnet.ca](mailto:tedscollectables@bellnet.ca).

APRIL 2 - 3, Boucherville, QC - ANPB Association des Numismates des Philatelistes de Boucherville Annual Expo Show, School de Mortagne, 955 Blvd. Montarville. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 40 dealer tables of coins and stamps. Information from Andre (450) 632-4745. Web site: [www.anpb.net](http://www.anpb.net).

APRIL 2 - 3, Vancouver, BC - Vancouver Numismatic Society 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Money Show, Oakridge Centre Auditorium, 41st and Cambie. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Sat. Golden Anniversary Banquet; Sun. numismatic seminar. Information from Peter at (604) 228-9445 or [mooqk@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:mooqk@interchange.ubc.ca).

April 10, 2005 – Chatham, Ontario - Chatham Coin Club's Annual Show. Wheels Inn, Corner of #2 Highway and Keil Dr. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 15-17, 2005 - Dearborn, Michigan - Michigan State Numismatic Association 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Convention. At the Hyatt Regency, Dearborn, Michigan.

April 16-17, 2005, Sudbury, Ontario – Ontario Numismatic Association 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention, hosted by the Nickel Belt Coin Club. At the Radisson Hotel (formerly Ramada Inn), 85 Ste. Anne Road, Rainbow Outlet Centre, Sudbury, Ontario. The 50-table bourse is almost sold out, as are the majority of the registration kits, thanks mainly to the hard work of Gerry Albert, Show Chairman, and Tom Rogers, O.N.A. President. The silver medals, with the low mintage of 30, are sold out. Information from Gerry Albert at (705) 523-1778, Tom Rogers at (519) 451-2316, or email [trogers@sympatico.ca](mailto:trogers@sympatico.ca).

### **HISTORY OF BIG NICKEL MONUMENT**

About 3 hours north of Toronto on Highway 11 lies the town of Sudbury. There you will find a number of tourist attractions, including the Science North complex, a mine tour and the Canadian Centennial Numismatic Park. The numismatic highlight of a visit to Sudbury is, without doubt, the Big Nickel. The other numismatic highlight is the upcoming ONA Convention being hosted by the Sudbury Coin Club.

A recent issue of the Ontario Numismatist, official publication of the Ontario Numismatic Association, included the following history of the Big Nickel Monument:

The Big Nickel was the brainchild of a Sudbury fireman, Ted Szilva, and artist/sign maker, Bruno Cavallo. The idea was to develop the coin to celebrate Canada's 1967 centennial. The centennial committee rejected the submission. Undaunted, Szilva and Cavallo formed the Nickel Monument Development Corporation Ltd. (MDCL) and Szilva coined the phrase Big Nickel. The NMDX chose the 1951 Canadian five-cent piece as the model.

The 1951 coin was designed by Canadian artist Steven Trenka. The coin was issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the isolation of nickel as an element by Swedish chemist Baron Axel Frederick Cronstedt in 1751. The coin featured King George VI on one side and a nickel refinery on the other side. As Sudbury was the second largest producer of nickel in the world, it was the perfect choice for the Big Nickel.

The construction project was undertaken in Cavallo's sign manufacturing workshop in Sudbury. Two vertical columns and several angle iron pieces make up the framework. The inside layer is a sheet of metal skin. Plywood is the middle layer and the outer layer is stainless steel sheet metal.

In May, 1964 the nickel was erected and the Canadian Centennial Numismatic Park began operations. The nickel was unveiled at the official opening on July 22, 1964 in front of 2,500 Sudbury residents and dignitaries.

In 1981, Ted Szilva sold the Big Nickel and the Canadian Centennial Numismatic Park to Science North (Northern Ontario's future science centre). Science North considered dismantling the nickel due to the high cost of maintenance. But, as the monument was considered a unique, unmistakable landmark for Sudbury, Science North refurbished the nickel in 1984 at a cost of \$12,000. All other non-mining related items were removed from the site.

During the week of January 22, 2001, the Big Nickel was removed from its original base at the Big Nickel Mine in Sudbury. Dismantled for refurbishing, this was the first time in almost 40 years that the nickel was absent from Sudbury's skyline.

In April 2001, the Big Nickel was temporarily relocated to Science North. It was moved back to its traditional site on Big Nickel Mine Road at the newly constructed Dynamic Earth on May 10, 2003.

For the full story and other statistics, go to [dynamicearth.ca/experience/nickel](http://dynamicearth.ca/experience/nickel).

If you want to own a big chunk of the Big Nickel (donation of \$10,000), or just a letter (\$2,500) or even a dot (\$1,000), you just have to check out [dynamicearth.ca/about/donations](http://dynamicearth.ca/about/donations).

If you want to know what other tourist attractions are near the Big Nickel in Sudbury, Ontario, including tours of an underground nickel mine, go to [dynamicearth.ca/experience/index.html#nickel](http://dynamicearth.ca/experience/index.html#nickel). Information about the Sudbury area is indeed

timely if you are planning on attending the ONA Convention. It is the premium numismatic event taking place in Ontario in 2005 that is hosted by non-profit clubs.

As a matter of interest, Alan Herbert's Coin Clinic column in the February 8 issue of Numismatic News included the following: "What is the biggest coin reproduction known? I know of at least three candidates, including the big 1953 cent erected at Woodruff, Wis. Somewhat larger is the 30-foot-high 1951 Canadian nickel in the Canadian Centennial Numismatic Park at Sudbury, Ontario. Both are dwarfed by the Japanese reproduction of a coin that is described as being 100 meters (328 feet) in diameter, laid out on the grounds of a park."

### **TOM ROGERS - A VERY ACTIVE NUMISMATIST**

"The most quoted name in club bulletins in Ontario for the past couple of years." So said John Regitko, former author of the "Club News" column in the Ontario Numismatist, official publication of the Ontario Numismatic Association, which required him to review every bulletin received each month from clubs around Ontario.

He is speaking about Tom Rogers, currently President of the Ontario Numismatic Association and one of the driving forces behind the upcoming Convention in Sudbury.

"Tom Rogers is one of the best promoters of the Ontario Numismatic Association, taking every opportunity to do so," states John Regitko. "For example, when he is called upon to speak at coin club meetings, he takes full advantage to promote the ONA, its Audio Visual Lending Library and its upcoming Convention." Recent write-ups in a number of local coin club bulletins attests to his busy schedule, which has him attending and presenting programs at a number of clubs, all in the same month. So how does he do it, devoting all those evenings each month to his hobby? "I have a very understanding wife who even attends some shows and conventions with me."

But, alas, he had to slow down recently until he overcomes some health problems. We understand he is coming along great.

We didn't even bother to find out for this write-up what Tom collects. Having seen his enthusiasm at numerous coin club meetings and talking to anybody that crosses his path, it is obvious that his enjoyment is more the intangible "fun and fellowship" mixed with "education" than it is the tangible collecting.

### **LOIS ROGERS IS FILLING SOME TALL SHOES**

Collectors that belong to the ONA, the Ingersoll Coin Club or at least half a dozen other local coin clubs in South-Western Ontario, know that Tom Rogers had been under the weather for some time and had to reduce his travelling to the dozen-or-so clubs that he attended regularly every month.

So what happens when the President of the ONA and the Ingersoll Coin Club is unable to chair their meetings?

When you are Tom Rogers and you have a caring wife who has attended meetings with you and even serves on your Executive, the solution is simple: keep it in the family until you are back on your feet! Hopefully she will even volunteer to write your President's Messages for you. Read on.

A recent bulletin of the Ingersoll Coin Club featured a column entitled "President's Wife Report" that brought members up-to-date on her husband: "It sure is great to see all the members pitch in to make the meeting go smoothly in the absence of both Vice President and President. Thanks to all, Tom sure appreciates it. Tom is getting stronger every day. His stem cell transplant is now behind him. It may take a few months but he knows he'll get his health back real soon. I can hardly wait."

Our congratulations to Louis and every other spouse that attends meetings with their husbands. You do not have to be a coin widow!

Incidentally, Tom is doing just fine. He has taken a very, very active hand in assuring the success of the upcoming ONA Convention, getting involved with bourse sales, publicity, exhibits, medal design and so much, much more.

If you wish to nominate a long-time volunteer, drop us a note at [cnanews@look.ca](mailto:cnanews@look.ca).

## **CONCLUSION**

When I was appointed C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor by the President, I agreed to do it, knowing that I would enjoy it. And enjoy it I do. I thank everyone for not asking us to remove you from our mailing list. That is the true response of what you think of its contents.

Your C.N.A. E-Bulletin Editor  
Canadian Numismatic Association

*The Canadian Numismatic Association is a not for profit organization devoted to serving those who enjoy coin collecting/numismatics by promoting fellowship, communication, education and providing advocacy and leadership for the hobby.*

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