

Welcome to the C.N.A. E-Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 34 – November 26, 2006

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INTRODUCTION

Happy Thanksgiving! (Okay, so we are nearly two months late for our Canadian readers...but only 3 days for our American friends.)

Have you ever wondered about the history of Thanksgiving? The owner of Mama's Treasures has a grandson who started asking questions, so she did a little research. Here's what she found out:

- The Plymouth Pilgrims held their first Thanksgiving celebration in the fall of 1621.
- On December 11, 1620 the first Pilgrims (or Puritans, as they were initially known) landed at Plymouth Rock. By the fall of 1621, of the hundred or so passengers who had sailed on the Mayflower, only half were still alive. (Of these, only four were adult women and almost 40% were children.) The survivors, thankful to be still alive, decided to give a feast.
- The name of the Wampanoag chief that was invited to the first Thanksgiving feast was Massasoit. Some 90 Wampanoag tribesmen were present at the feast. The name of the Pilgrim leader who invited the neighboring Wampanoag to the first Thanksgiving was Governor William Bradford. The reason they were invited was because they were the ones who taught the Pilgrims to cultivate the land, thus making it possible for them to survive.
- The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days (the celebration consisted of games as well as food).
- Even though Thanksgiving was observed most years, it was not an official holiday.
- The woman credited with making Thanksgiving a national holiday was Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor. She began her Thanksgiving campaign in 1827.
- On October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued a "Thanksgiving Proclamation" that made the last Thursday in November a national holiday. (Before that, the president had to make an annual proclamation naming the day when Thanksgiving was going to be held.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed Thanksgiving to the Thursday before last (the reason was to make the Christmas shopping season longer and thus stimulate the economy).
- In 1941, Congress passed an official proclamation naming Thanksgiving a legal holiday to be observed, from that date forward, on the fourth Thursday in November.
- Who wanted to make the turkey the national bird of the United States of America? Benjamin Franklin, but he was opposed by Thomas Jefferson. Legend has it that Franklin then named the male turkey a "tom turkey" to spite Jefferson. (The female is called a "hen turkey" and the baby a "poult.")
- The wishbone of the turkey is used in a good luck ritual?

- The Puritans brought beer with them in the Mayflower to drink.

You can read the whole article at www.news-antique.com/?id=781978&keys=Kitchen-christmas-Jewelry.

WE HAVE MAIL

From Dan Gosling: "A great numismatist but a lousy carpenter! Our wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Serge Pelletier after he suffered an injury at the hands of his table saw. Serge has pointed out the partial loss of his index finger. In the middle of this tragic news we have learned that he also incurred a loss to part of the finger next to the index finger. We understand that it will be weeks before he can properly use his palm pilot. The Canadian Armed Forces are worried that when he travels to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia next February that they will be a little short handed. We have asked the members of the Canadian Errors and Varieties Association whether they categorize this incident as a striking error or ejection damage. Serge is concerned that he is no longer fully number 1 and that he would not make it as a gynecologist. We noticed that when he types he omits the first letter of words beginning with the letter 'J.' Serge also noted that he has trouble counting his heart rate after exercising. ICCS has reduced the grade on his certificate from 'mint state' to 'circulated with bag marks' as a result of the incident. Serge was a little cut up on the news. His wife observed that even though he had cut the piece of wood three times it was still too short. The really funny part is I banged my finger yesterday and I cannot type either. ust thought I would point that out (get it? - no 'J')."

From Miffed in the Maritimes: "I have noticed that the new Bravery quarters are very pronounced on the leaf and laurel side of the coin. BUT on the Queen's bust side the coin looks like it is well used and flattened out. Almost as if it has been in circulation for a great many years. Pity that the mint takes time to produce a coin to represent brave individuals...yet wouldn't take the time to produce the other side of the coin in the same quality as the back. I am proud to be a Canadian, but the mint seems to be very lax on its pride of the coins produced for this occasion. Canada should be a world leader in coin producing. Not a willy-nilly one sided half job manufacturer." – In speaking to a few people that have seen the coins, they did not find the same problem. Possibly one of the working dies was not formed as perfect as it should. I would hang onto your coins to see if you have a die variety (struck with a weak die).

BEWARE OF COSTCO SCAM!

I don't know how many of you shop at Costco, but this may be useful to know. I have become a victim of a clever scam while out shopping. This happened to me and it could happen to you. The victims are always males, so ladies, please pass this information along to your husbands and all your male friends. Here's how the scam works:

Two seriously good-looking 18-year-old girls come over to your car as you are packing your shopping in the trunk. They both start wiping your windshield with a rag and Windex dressed in skimpy T-shirts. When you thank them and offer them a tip, they say 'No' and instead ask you for a ride to another store. You agree and they get in the back seat. On the way, one of them climbs over into the front seat and...how shall we put this...gets frisky, while the other one steals your wallet.

I had my wallet stolen last Tuesday, Wednesday, twice on Thursday, again yesterday, and most likely tomorrow!

TORONTO INTRODUCES NEW SUBWAY TOKEN

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) introduced today (Sunday, November 21, 2006) the first new token in 20 years. The TTC's Website states that "the new token will be replacing the old one, which was first introduced in 1954," implying that only one token was previously available/ Actually, there have been a number of other tokens for the vecturist to collect since then, including special commemorative issues when the Bloor Street subway was extended at two different times.

All previous issues of the tokens were used since 1954, causing excessively high sales just before each fare increase. With each fare increase, the TTC simply recycled the previous tokens so all issues remained usable. A total of 24 million tokens were previously in use. With the change in the tokens today, the old ones will no longer work in the turnstiles.

Twenty million of the new tokens were manufactured by Osborne Coinage of Cincinnati, Ohio (www.osbornecoin.com) at a cost of \$1.7 million, or 8.5 cents per token. Explaining the TTC's sole-source contract, a spokesperson stated that the firm offered unique security features that have made it a well-regarded supplier of casino slot tokens. One TTC manager estimated it will cost the TTC no more than several thousand dollars to modify each token receptacle to accept the new tokens.

On average, the TTC estimates that it loses about \$7 million a year through fraud, including gate jumping and the use of fake tokens and Metropasses. That loss represents just under 1 per cent of the system's total revenue. Members of a cross-border counterfeit ring that cost the TTC about \$10 million were arrested earlier this year, prompting the token redesign. "(It is a) much more complex token. There are edge markers. It's textured," said TTC spokesperson Marilyn Bolton. "We're not announcing what the metals are."

The new tokens are the size of a dime but vaguely resemble the gold- and silver-colored Canadian toonie. It incorporates design features intended to thwart would-be counterfeiters. The swirl pattern on the face of the coin and ridged edges will make the new token expensive to fake, TTC officials say.

Asked why the TTC doesn't move away from the old coin and paper ticket fare formats and towards something like the bar-coded MetroCard commuters swipe at turnstiles in Manhattan, TTC Chair Howard Moscoe said it costs too much to build a whole new fare payment system. "It will take time and it is a huge cost, and now the province is making sounds about paying for a region wide fare card. I'd rather spend on new buses. Smart cards are coming."

Although the new token was available for sale and use earlier today, you can still use the old tokens on the TTC transit system right up until January 31, 2007. After January 31, 2007, the old token can no longer be used as TTC fare. Starting January 2, 2007, an old token can be exchanged for a new token at selected locations. Or you can simply hang onto them as traders with other vecturists.

For an illustration of the new token and further details, go to www.toronto.ca/ttc/new_token.

TTC CRITICIZED FOR SINGLE SOURCE PURCHASE

I read with sadness (or was it disgust?) that the Toronto Transit Commission awarded a \$1.7 million contract for 24 million of the new subway tokens to a foreign manufacturer without, apparently, giving the Royal Canadian Mint and private Canadian mints the opportunity to submit a quotation.

If that was indeed the case, then I would like to know what was so technologically superior that no one in Canada was given a chance to convince the TTC that they have the equipment and technology to compete.

I don't know about the operations at the Great Canadian Mint, Pressed Metal Products or Lombardo Mint (also known as Canadian Artistic Dies and Sherbrooke Mint), but I do know that the Royal Canadian Mint has proven that they have the wherewithal to produce orders to specifications that will exceed customers' expectations.

The people at the TTC recently awarded a single-source contract to Bombardier for its new subway cars so that a lot of the manufacturing would take place in Canada with Canadian raw materials and Canadian workers. If the policy was good then, why did a Canadian source, the North American Free Trade Agreement notwithstanding, not get at least a chance to submit a quotation?

BANK OF CANADA TARGETING COUNTERFEITING

The Bank of Canada expects "dangerous levels" of currency counterfeiting to continue for up to three more years.

Since 2001, counterfeiting has exploded in Canada, breaking historical records and making the country one of the worst in the world for the circulation of funny money. Internal documents obtained under the Access to Information Act by Canadian Press show counterfeiting has for years exceeded a little-known benchmark used by the central bank to signal when the problem has reached "dangerous levels."

The current threshold is 120 phony bills for every million banknotes in circulation, or 120 parts per million (ppm). The benchmark, originally set at 100 in 1988, was raised to 120 in recent years just as the proliferation of inexpensive, high tech copying equipment made Canadian bills a ripe target for counterfeiters.

"All denominations except the \$5 bill continued to be above our historical threshold of 120 counterfeits detected per million genuine notes in circulation," says an internal report from December 2005. "This threshold is now considered high by Canadian standards and is well above the level of concern used in other countries."

In 2004, the worst counterfeiting year in Canadian history, there were 470 phony bills for every million genuine notes circulating. The number declined to 316 in 2005 as the bank introduced new bills with security features that were tougher to fake. This year so far, the central bank has wrestled the number down to 277, still more than twice the benchmark as the currency remained well in the danger zone. The decline of counterfeit bills is attributed not only to the newer security features on bills, but also to greater awareness of those who work at the cash register since ultraviolet lights and charts are readily available to attendants.

Central banks around the world, fearful of undermining faith in their currencies, are typically coy about revealing actual counterfeit levels and precisely what thresholds they use to determine when counterfeiting problems are getting out of hand. The information is rarely made public, making international comparisons almost impossible.

However, the Bank of Canada surveyed 15 central banks last year, including those in Australia, the United States and China, to provide it with a global perspective on its own funny-money

problems. The detailed findings were censored in a release under the access law, but the bank acknowledges Canada has one of the worst counterfeiting problems in the world.

The central bank last week completed a major overhaul of Canada's currency with the introduction of a new \$5 banknote, featuring security features designed to thwart counterfeiters.

The Bank of Canada is hoping the new banknotes, along with efforts to educate retailers and more aggressive prosecution of counterfeiters, will pare the number of phony notes to tolerable levels. "We still use the PPM as a measure of performance, and we have set a goal of bringing counterfeit levels down to below 100 PPM by 2009," Bank of Canada spokeswoman Monica Lamoureux said in an interview with Canada Press.

RCM ISSUES 2007 YEAR OF THE PIG COINS

Centuries ago, the Chinese invented a calendar based on the lunar - rather than the solar - cycle. In 1998, Canada inaugurated a remarkable series of coins, designed by Harvey Chan, featuring the animal symbols of Chinese astrology based on the Lunar Calendar. These symbols roughly approximate the signs of the zodiac in western culture, however, denote years instead of months.

In 2007, the Royal Canadian Mint continues production of the annual series with a coin commemorating the Year of the Pig. All 12 of the Lunar animals - the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig - appear in a circular arrangement around the rim of each coin. The Pig occupies the place of honor in the octagon-shaped cameo in the center. The coin's obverse bears the former effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by artist Dora de Pedery-Hunt. The face value is 15 dollars, with a mintage of 48,888 worldwide. Its composition is 92.5% silver, 7.5% copper, with gold-plated cameo, in proof finish.

The Mint has also announced the arrival of the Pig on a new hologram coin with a face value of \$150. With a worldwide mintage of only 4,888 in 75% gold, 25% silver composition, it is bound to sell out quickly.

"A person born in the Year of the Pig is one of the kindest, most loyal friends you could hope for. This is the person to turn to when things get tough. Eternally helpful, the Pig is an excellent listener and will take up your cause with incredible resolve. Even if you're in the wrong, he won't have the heart to tell you. The Pig enjoys the good things in life with childlike enthusiasm. Unselfish, he assumes everyone else is the same way and will help himself to everything you own - and recoil in disbelief when told to stop. He can be quick tempered but will soon give in - the peace-loving Pig abhors quarrelling!" So states the press release from the Mint. Golly, the next time someone calls me a pig I will consider it a compliment.

For complete details, go to www.mint.ca or visit your local coin dealer.

ANNUAL HAPPY PIG COLLECTORS CLUB CONVENTION

And while we are on the subject of Pig collectibles, we just can't resist telling you about the following:

There are hundreds of national and international hobby organizations out there, each one holding annual conventions. Just so you know what sort of publicity releases I receive, here is one:

"The 12th Happy Pig Collectors Club (www.happypigcollectors.org) will be meeting on July 20 and 21, 2007 in Nashville! The annual convention is a time when club members get together to "show & tell" about their pig collectibles, who collect all sorts of pig theme items from Hummels to hog oilers, rare antiques and art to Dollar Store and flea market finds, from Porkey Pig comics to Olivia and Fred the Detective Books, from small specialized collections to massive eclectic ones. Some of our members own pigs as pets and would never think of eating a pork chop, and some raise pigs for market and wish that more folks would eat 'the other white meat.' One of our members is listed in the Guinness Book of World records as having the world's largest pig collection, now numbering over 11,500."

They publish a quarterly newsletters ranging from 16 to 44 letter-size pages, containing pictures and stories about "pig-related stuff."

What caught my eye was the following line in the press release "It's a great time for all who attend, kind of like a big family reunion." Are they calling themselves pigs? After reading the press release from the Royal Canadian Mint above, that would be a compliment!

ACCUSED RUSSIAN SPY HAD FIVE CURRENCIES

An accused Russian spy that appeared in a Montreal court last Wednesday was arrested carrying the signature tools of a secret agent. In addition to three cell phones, two digital cameras, a phony Ontario birth certificate and Canadian passport, he was caught with several bank and credit cards, five encrypted SIM cards (prepaid cell phone cards) and the equivalent of CDN \$7,800 in five currencies.

I was wondering what the five currencies would be. Obviously it included Canadian and U.S. currency. But what were the other three? I checked the CBC, CTV, Global TV, The Toronto Star, Reuters, The National Post, Canadian Press, Globe and Mail, CanWest News Service, even the Moscow Times and dozens of others, and not a single one mentioned what the five currencies are. Anybody know for sure?

US BANK CANADA BUYS INTO CIBC VISA

Another new credit card series coming soon to a bank branch near you!

U.S. Bank Canada, a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp, said it has acquired the Visa purchasing and corporate credit card portfolio of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. U.S. Bancorp is the sixth-largest U.S. bank, while CIBC is Canada's fifth-largest. CIBC is Canada's market-share leader in credit cards, due to the success of its Visa Aerogold card.

CIBC's Visa corporate and purchasing cards will become U.S. Bank cards and will be managed by a sales staff located in Canada.

FOUR CHARGED FOR POSSESSION OF COUNTERFEITING MONEY

City of Guelph police and local RCMP officers raided a house and arrested Frank Cipolla, 32, a chef in a local restaurant, for allegedly being in possession of \$42,000 in counterfeit \$10 bills. He is said to have told police he bought the bogus bills from a man for 5 percent of the value, adding "You can't blame a man for taking a chance."

Frank Cipolla, who appeared in Guelph magistrate's court last Friday, charged with illegal possession of counterfeit currency, was again remanded because no magistrate was available to hear the case.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Frank Cipolla, 25, of Guelph, and Edith May Lafreniere, 24, of Brockville, were committed for trial when they appeared for preliminary hearing in Brockville on counterfeit charges. The two women are charged with possessing and passing counterfeit \$10 bills.

The pair was arrested in Brockville last Sept. 18 as they stepped from the Morristown, N.Y., ferry. Police said a search of the Brockville rooming house in which they were staying yielded \$7,500 in bogus \$10 bills. An additional \$42,000 in counterfeit money was found in the Cipolla residence at Guelph.

In a statement to police, read in magistrate's court Monday, Mrs. Cipolla said she had returned to her Guelph home Sept. 2 after visiting friends, to find a shopping bag partially filled with \$10 bills. She said she decided to take the money with her when she came here to visit Miss Lafreniere. She said she did not know the money was counterfeit at that time. However, Constable Jack Wylis, of the Brockville police force, told court Miss Lafreniere admitted at the time of her arrest that she knew the bills were counterfeit.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are investigating if a Toronto man, Taylor Little, arrested in Nashville, Tenn., by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was connected with the above counterfeit ring. Little, Toronto police say, disappeared after serving a 12-year term for shooting with intent to kill a police officer.

He was charged in Nashville with possessing counterfeit money. At the time of his arrest he had \$640 in bogus \$10 bills in his possession, and three loaded pistols were found in his car. He told police that the "phony" bills were given to him in payment of a debt.

STATUE BY COIN DESIGNER GETS UPDATE

The late Emanuel Hahn designed the reverses of the Canadian dime (schooner), quarter (caribou) and dollar (canoe, whose design resembles the central portion of the C.N.A. logo) as well as Royal Visit medals, Canadian National Exhibition awards medals, at least a dozen postage stamps, and more.

One of his greatest statues that are scattered around Toronto is that of Sir Adam Beck, the first chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, who was responsible for building the world's first hydro electric power plant generating alternating current that was invented by Nicola Tesla. Beck was knighted and had a statue erected in his honor on University Avenue in downtown Toronto.

Paul Petch photographed the head of the statue and used it for the central design of the 2006 C.N.A. Convention souvenir medal, which seemed appropriate since the site of the Convention, Niagara Falls, Ontario, is the location of the power plant.

The statue was recently seen sporting a glitzy new dollar-sign necklace. Although we thought that was rather appropriate, what with the statue having been sculpted by the designer of the Canadian dollar that was first used in 1935, we wondered why? And by whom? After all, Emanuel Hahn has been dead for numerous years and couldn't have "updated" his statue.

The addition of the dollar-sign necklace is the work of someone identified as Specter, a Montreal artist who has been seen in Toronto trying to make a name for himself in his own clever way.

According to his website www.specterart.com he is a self-taught visual artist who has been active in the art community for over six years. His work ranges from graffiti and other public space art installations to paintings and illustrations. He states that he wasn't trying to make a statement one way or another when he draped a necklace with dollar-sign pendant around the figure.

RCM CELEBRATES QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

The first-ever 35mm 25-cent collector coin has been released by the Royal Canadian Mint. Available at an attractive suggested list price of \$19.95 plus shipping & handling from coin dealers or directly from the Mint, the colored coin features the Imperial State Crown worn by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II following her Coronation in 1953. This crown is the most valuable piece of the Crown Jewels.

Limited to only 25,000 coins worldwide, the coin can be viewed at www.mint.ca.

GOVERNMENT TO PROBE LOTTERY

We have been writing about the big lottery winners and how unhappy they were when they were poor, and how unhappy they were with their millions. I stated that I wish I had the problem of deciding what to do with \$10 million. Now I read why I may not have won more than a free ticket. It is because retailers...the people who sell tickets to you...are winning a disproportionate amount of money.

Fearing that too many lottery "insiders" could be winning prizes over \$50,000 through theft and fraud, Ontario's ombudsman is launching an investigation into the province's government-run lotteries. "We're really concerned...whether there's any hanky-panky," Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin said. He encouraged Ontarians who have experienced problems to call his office. While people accept the odds of winning are slim, "the risk they don't accept is that an insider, not entitled to the winnings, hits the jackpot and walks away with the cash," Marin added. The Ontario Ombudsman's office has received 124 complaints since an investigation into the province's government-run lottery corporation was announced just days ago.

Marin told a news conference he was "bobsnacked" at the way the lottery officials stonewalled complaints from Bob Edmonds, 83, a cancer survivor, who was forced to take the lottery corporation to court. They eventually settled out of court. After a police investigation, he also won a settlement from the clerk who scammed his ticket.

The probe was prompted by allegations in the CBC television program "fifth estate," that store clerks and others who sell or verify lottery tickets are winning in "disproportionate" numbers to the general population, including the case of Edmonds whose \$250,000 winning ticket was switched on him by a clerk in 2001. The documentary went as far as suggesting that unscrupulous vendors were stealing winning lottery tickets from customers.

University of Toronto professor Jeffrey Rosenthal, who analyzed those wins for the CBC, found that 214 insiders claimed prizes of \$50,000 or more since 1999, but said the odds of that happening were very long – one in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion. That number is a 1 followed by 48 zeroes. To put that in perspective, the odds that you will be hit by lightning in the next year are one in 5 million or that you will be killed in your next vehicle trip one in 7 million (both examples contain only 6 zeros). Statistic experts that The Toronto Star contacted supported Rosenthal's findings. For example, Fred Hoppe, professor of mathematics and statistics at McMaster University, calculated that no more than about 20 retailers should have won major

prizes, while Peter Bell, professor of management science and information systems at the University of Western Ontario, said that “it is naïve to suggest there is zero theft going on.”

One letter writer suggested in The Toronto Star that winning lottery tickets should be fingerprinted every time a store clerk or a close relative claimed a larger prize, since the letter writer’s fingerprints could only be found on tickets that he handled. If handling of a ticket becomes the criteria for a decision being made of who should get the prize, get ready for a slew of wins by the Ontario Lottery Corporation employees that delivers them to the lottery outlets!

NEW PHONE SYSTEM INSTALLED AT ANA

A new telephone system has been installed at ANA headquarters, making it more convenient to reach a live person. The new phones are digital and Internet protocol based, and include several enhanced features. Callers will no longer be forced into voice mail.

An automated membership attendant will allow members to report address changes or lost issues of the “Numismatist.” Callers will be given several options that will help them reach the right person more easily.

For more information on the ANA and benefits of membership, go to www.money.org.

RECIPE BANDIT AND CAMOUFLAGE BANDIT PLEAD GUILTY

In previous C.N.A. E-Bulletins, we wrote about the Camouflage Bandit and Recipe Bandit that robbed dozens of banks. In separate trials, both pleaded guilty to a combined total of 47 bank robberies.

Kenneth Calver, 37, dubbed the Recipe Bandit because he wrote his hold-up notes on the back or recipe cards, has pleaded guilty to 24 of 31 bank robberies committed across southern Ontario. He was sentenced to 10 years for each robbery, but under Canadian law all sentences run concurrently. Justice William Blacklock gave him two years credit for time served, meaning he’ll spend up to eight years in a federal prison.

Eight of the bank robberies were committed in Mississauga, Ontario, where he lived, others in Toronto, Hamilton and York and Halton regions. A \$10,000 reward had been offered by the Canadian Bankers’ Association for Calver’s arrest. Peel police, acting on a tip from Toronto police, arrested him on November 14 in front of a convenience store in Mississauga.

The other serial robber hitting financial institutions, Danny William Miller, 41, a.k.a. the Camouflage Bandit because he often wore army fatigues, sunglasses and a toque during his three month robbery spree, was handed an eight-year sentence after pleading guilty to 23 robberies.

CONCLUSION

When you have to play Santa Clause to a number of nieces and nephews and an ever-growing brood of their kids, the local department store is just not the best place to shop for everyone before Christmas, especially since it is simply impossible to keep up with the changing sizing and tastes of most young relatives. Earrings or pierced jewelry for the guys and ripped jeans for the girls just aren’t part of a fashion statement that I want to instill in them. Cash or cash cards just don’t satisfy the Holiday spirit. So I have settled on a sure-fire way of being remembered by everyone in years to come. It won’t wear out. It won’t go out of fashion. They will never outgrow it, although some of them might have been happier if it was made from gold rather than silver. So what is it already?

Just as soon as I finish sending this E-Bulletin to our 2,300-plus subscribers, I will be flipping through the colorful booklet I received from the Royal Canadian Mint listing their offerings for this Holiday Season. What a variety of gifts in all price ranges, on historical and collectible subjects that are sure to please everyone. I can give individual proof coins or sets to everyone on my list...all without leaving the comforts of my home. No driving around in a mall parking lot for up to an hour before I find a parking spot. No pushing my way through a crowd of other shoppers. No fighting with other customers for the limited selection of sizes and styles and colors in popular sizes. No placing of special orders because the items I want are out of stock and may or may not be received in time for Christmas. No frustrations in not finding a knowledgeable clerk or catching the eye of one of the sales staff standing around talking to each other.

The only decision left for me to make is which coin dealer(s) I will contact and, if I cannot track down my choices locally, to access the Royal Canadian Mint website at www.mint.ca to place an order.

John Regitko
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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