

“The Bulletin” September, 2001

President's Message

I am sure that all Club members will join with me in extending condolences and genuine sympathy to Ron Zelk on the recent and surprisingly rapid passing of his father. Ron will not be with us at the next meeting, since it is his plan to take his mother on a short holiday. We wish them a safe journey and peaceful, restful times.

I am pleased to announce that Paul Johnson has agreed to serve as one of the members of our Nominations Committee this year. My term as President comes to an end in December and this will conclude 6 years in this position. I will not be serving again. I believe it is important for the health of a Club to have new workers and fresh ideas. If Paul or one of the other Nominations Committee members asks you to stand for a position, please say yes. This Club or any Club cannot survive if the majority of its members don't contribute. (I will continue as editor of *The Bulletin*.)

If you are now on the Internet, send an e-mail to me at “p.petch@home.com”. This will allow us to send you any last-minute announcements. Phone calls are welcome on my cell at **416-303-4417** and on my home phone at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice message if you can't get through).

Changing Times

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, September 25, 2001**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30pm with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

Dick Dunn is our featured speaker this month with his talk on The New Canadian Money. This is an examination of how we are evolving from the use of traditional paper money and coinage into new forms of specie. Dick will alert us that if money is changing, then there's an opportunity to move into new areas of collecting as well.

Since this is also our first meeting since the C.N.A. Convention, Marvin Kay, our Club delegate, will be bringing us news of the event. We have some items to display and a few more pictures from the Convention and Quebec as well.

There is no listed auction this month, but you are encouraged to bring auction material for this meeting as well as items to go into a listed auction next month.

Coming Events

TNS, The Numismatic Show, Sept. 28-30 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 150 King St. East. Auctions and dealer set up on Sept. 28, bourse open on Sat. & Sun. 10am. Auction by Jeffrey Hoare Auctions, Inc., numismatic sale on Friday, Militaria on Saturday. Early bird admission and show pass \$15, seniors \$3 and young collectors \$2. Contact Terry McHugh (905) 318-6458, email rcoins@netaccess.on.ca.

Durham Coin 2001, Oct. 6, 10am-5pm at the Pickering Town Centre. Free admission, free draws. Contact Earl or Sharon (905)728-1352, e-mail pap-man@idirect.com.

Burlington Fall Coin Show, Oct. 13, 9am- 4pm, Brant Hills Community Centre, 2300 Duncaster Ave. Free admission and parking. Contact Nancy Meredith 705-788-3159.

Stratford 39th Annual Coin Show, Oct. 21, 10am-4pm at the Victorian Inn on the Park, 10 Romeo St. N. Dealers, draw, penny sale, free admission. Contact Dorothy Mason, (519) 565-5354.

***Next Meeting:
September 25***

Meeting News from the June 26 Meeting

The 465th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, June 26, 2001 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:00pm and welcomed 28 members and 1 guest.

Amazingly, Frank Zahra's name was drawn again for On Time Attendance Draw. This happened before in April, but, sadly, Frank was not able to be present to accept the \$6.00 pot.

The Mint Box was passed to one junior.

The Chair noted the recent Brantford and Torex coin shows and commented on the up-coming events including the CNA Convention.

Roger Fox gave members a report on recent and exciting Canadian Tire news centreing on an exhibit planned for the Money Museum in Ottawa.

John Regitko announced eBay.ca is trying to promote the Canadian entry instead of the American one. He distributed promotional rubber handballs to help ease the stress of using the US route!

Paul Johnson reported that three weeks ago the CNA put on a successful advanced course in numismatics. This evening he presented a Certificate of Appreciation to John Regitko for acting as one of the instructors.

This evening featured the third Coin Fair with the following setting up display tables:

- **John Regitko** had a collection of unusual transportation memorabilia
- **Albert Kasman** displayed some beautiful and rare phone cards
- **Bob Porter** and **Brian & Lyan See** had their dealer tables with their normal useful and desirable stuff

- **Norm Belsten** and **Russ Brown** set out a selection of woods, featuring Prince Rupert and NYCC
- **Norman G. Gordon** showed his binders holding a complete set of NYCC bulletins along with other NYCC medals and memorabilia
- **Vince Chiappino** showed some bi-metallic coins
- **Dick Dunn** presented some colourful Scottish notes
- **Marvin Kay** kept things sentimental with wedding anniversary memorabilia and personal items for bragging (his words!)
- **Del Murchison** gave away some secrets with his collection of magicians' trick coins.

. . . and Roger Fox, always with it, announced he was set up with a participation display of cookies, coffee and juice.

There was great milling around and, if noise was any indication of fun and enjoyment, then the evening was a great success. Del Murchison won the trophy for most interesting table and Roger's table was certainly the most popular on this very warm evening. Many thanks were extended to all participants.

Lucky Draw winners were: Paul Petch (2), David Kneller(2), Bob Velensky(2), Dick Dunn, May Bunnnett, Mark Argentino, Ben Walters, Leon Saraga and George Fraser. Albert Kasman sold the tickets and Roger Fox ran the draw that brought proceeds amounting to \$33.00.

An auction of 10 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Paul Petch as runner and Mark Argentino tallying the sales. It earned \$4.60 in commissions.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:38pm

J.E. Charlton Biography

Coinman To Canadians is a collaborative effort by Publisher Bill Cross, author Harold Don Allen, and North York Coin Club member Jim Charlton himself. The book was available for sale at the Charlton Press table at the C.N.A. Convention and was reviewed by Robert Aaron in the Toronto Star of Monday, August 27.

Mr. Aaron observed, "No person better deserves the honour of being called the dean of Canadian coin collectors than James E. (Jim) Charlton. In celebration of his 90th birthday in July, the Charlton Press has published a biography titled, J. E. Charlton - *Coinman To Canadians*.

Not only is it a warm tribute to the man who introduced coin collecting to Canadians but the book is a behind-the-scenes peek at the coin market and its luminaries in this country over the last 50 years.

By coincidence, the biography appears in the golden anniversary year of Canada's most popular coin catalogue. Jim Charlton's 34-page Catalogue Of Canadian Coins, Tokens & Fractional Currency was first published in 1952. It's been continuously published ever since. With the Charlton format and hallmark, the book is a perpetual Canadian bestseller.

Jim Charlton had a long career with The Toronto Star. He joined the newspaper in 1948. As chief engineer in the old Star building at 80 King St. W, he was responsible for the physical plant until he left in 1961 to devote himself full-time to his business, the Canada Coin Exchange.

Coinman To Canadians is a chronicle of a great range of Charlton's business and promotional activities, which brought popular numismatics, the "coin hobby", to Canadians, as no one had before.

This biography includes a series of appendices highlighting many historically important events in during Canadian numismatic's last 50 years.

The book is available in soft cover at bookstores for \$19.95.

Question of the Month

While scanning some coin books I was reminded of a particular coin which was produced not only to serve as money, but was also intended to serve as a basis of weight and measure. Our September question challenges you to identify this particular coin and to perhaps come up with other items as well.

Back in June at the Coin Fair we had two questions:

1. How many woods have been issued by the North York Coin Club?
2. How many woods did Harvey Farrow issue?

The "official" answer was supplied by Norm Belsten from his massive computer data base.

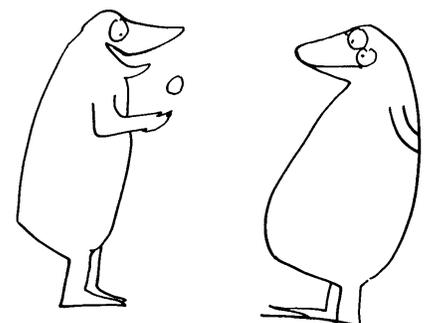
There are 14 known North York Coin Club woods:

- 5905-011 NORTH YORK ONT NORTH YORK 2000 ONA PROMO YR 1990 ISSUED: 100 COLOUR OBV. B COLOUR REV. B RATING 2 SHAPE RD SIZE: 38
- 5905-012 NORTH YORK ONT 2000 ONA ONA WOOD YR: 2000 ISSUED ? COLOUR OBV. R COLOUR REV. R RATING- 1 SHAPE RD SIZE: 45
- 5905-013 NORTH YORK ONT 2000 ONA CHERRY ADMIT YR. 2000 ISSUED: 100 COLOUR OBV. 8 COLOUR REV. BLANK RATING- 1 SHAPE FL SIZE 50X85
- 5905-014 NORTH YORK ONT 2000 ONA MAPLE ADMIT YR- 2000 ISSUED 300 COLOUR OBV 8 COLOUR REV BLANK RATING: 1 SHAPE: FL SIZE: 50X85
- 5905-015 NORTH YORK ONT 2000 ONA MAPLE ADMIT YR 2000 ISSUED 100 COLOUR OBV. GL COLOUR REV. BLANK RATING: 1 SHAPE: FL SSIZE: 50X85
- 5908-028 WILLOWDALE ONT NORTH YORK COIN CLUB 25TH ANN. YR. 1985 ISSUED ? COLOUR OBV. SIL COLOUR REV 8 RATING: 1 SHAPE: RD SIZE 38
- 5908-029 WILLOWDALE ONT NYCC 25TH ANN. BANQUET YR 1985 ISSUED 100 COLOUR OBV SIL COLOUR REV R RATING. 1 SHAPE: RD SIZE 38
- 5908-037 WILLOWDALE ONT NYCC CNA YR 1986 ISSUED 1000 COLOUR OBV. 8 COLOUR REV. B RATING 1 SHAPE: RD SIZE: 38
- 5908-051 WILLOWDALE ONT NORTH YORK COIN CLUB XMAS' YR 1986 ISSUED ? COLOUR OBV R COLOUR REV GR RATING 1 SHAPE RD SIZE 38
- 5908-052 WILLOWDALE ONT NORTH YORK C.C. 300TH MEETING YR. 1986 ISSUED: ? COLOUR OBV. BL COLOUR REV. BL RATING: 1 SHAPE. RD SIZE: 38
- 5908-053 WILLOWDALE ONT NORTH YORK C.C. 300TH MEETING YR 1986 ISSUED: ? COLOUR OBV. R COLOUR REV GR RATING: 1 SHAPE: RD SIZE. 38
- 5908-054 WILLOWDALE ONT NORTH YORK C.C. ONA SHOW/ LOGO YR. 1987 ISSUED ? COLOUR OBV. B COLOUR REV. B RATING: 1 SHAPE: RD SIZE: 38
- 5908-076 WILLOWDALE ONT NYCC 30th ANNIV DINNER YR: 1990 ISSUED: 100 COLOUR OBV R COLOUR REV. BR RATING 1 SHAPE: RD SIZE 38
- 5908-097 WILLOWDALE ONT NORTH YORK C C. 35th & 400th YR 1995 ISSUED: 100 .COLOUR OBV B COLOUR REV. R RATING: 1 SHAPE RD SIZE 38

There are 5 known Harvey Farrow woods:

- 5900-262 TORONTO, ONT HARVEY FARROW NYCC 25TH ANNIV YR: 1985 ISSUED: 100 COLOUR OBV. B COLOUR REV. GR RATING. 1 SHAPE: RD SIZE: 38
- 5900-298 TORONTO, ONT HARVEY FARROW 50TH BIRTHDAY YR: 1988 ISSUED. 100 COLOUR OBV. R COLOUR REV. B RATING: 1 SHAPE, RD SIZE: 38
- 5900-375 TORONTO, ONT H FARROW LIFE MEM CNA YR: 1993 ISSUED: 100 COLOUR OBV. L-B COLOUR REV. R RATING: 1 SHAPE: RD SIZE 38
- 5900-376 TORONTO, ONT H FARROW LIFE MEM ONA YR: 1993 ISSUED 100 COLOUR OBV. GL COLOUR REV. L-B RATING: 1 SHAPE: RD SIZE 38
- 5900-399 TORONTO, ONT H FARROW FOR ONA PRES. YR: 1997 ISSUED 140 COLOUR OBV. B COLOUR REV, B RATING: 1 SHAPE. RD SIZE: 38

When Coin Collectors Can't Agree . . .



Okay, so it's obverse I win and reverse you win!

The Beaver Preserve Tokens by Donald M. Stewart

"Beaver Preserve" tokens are seen occasionally, but little information about them has been published in the numismatic press.

In order to better understand their use, it might be helpful to take a historical perspective. Certainly, the influence of the beaver in the economic, geographical and political development of Canada cannot easily be overstated.

When Groseilliers returned in the NONSUCH to London from Hudson Bay in 1669, the ship carried a full load of fur, which were mainly beaver skins. The success of this expedition resulted in Charles the Second granting a broad charter to "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay." This charter of May Second, 1670 made the Company master of a huge wilderness area fanning out from Hudson Bay. The French, with a strong presence in the new world, would not concede that England had any jurisdiction over this territory. Their opposition brought strong competition to the fur trade, resulting in armed skirmishes and eventually contributing to war between England and France. General Wolfe captured Quebec in 1759 and it was not long before France had lost the remaining areas it controlled in what is now Canada.

To the surprise and disappointment of the Gentlemen Adventurers, this did not end the fur war. Not only did Admiral La Perouse damage the trade with successful attacks against the posts in Hudson Bay in 1782 and 1797, but also the French Canadian and Scottish fur traders of Montreal pushed further and further west. Combining to form the X Y Z Company and the North West Company, these Montreal traders were able to expand the field of trade and were matched by the men of the Bay. This brought about the exploration of Canada and in 1793 Alexander Mackenzie succeeded in crossing the continent by land. The cost of this struggle for furs was high and the resulting financial

stress forced the competitors to merge in 1821 under the name of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Once again looking back to the first voyage to Hudson Bay of the NONSUCH, we find that the state papers of Charles the Second include a statement in reference to the expedition which reads "They report the natives to bee civill and say Beaver is Very plenty." We know that Groseilliers voyage took him through Hudson Bay to the lower southeast shore of James Bay. In the estuary of Rupert's River, they built a tiny fort in which to winter and named it Fort Charles. This first post of the Hudson's Bay Company was later renamed Rupert's House.

At this time, the Hudson's Bay Company post manager at Rupert's House was an experienced trader named James Watt. During World War I, Watt and his French Canadian wife, Maud, were in charge of the post at Fort Chimo. The annual supply run of the NASCOPIE failed to reach the Ungava. With the post short of trade goods and supplies and with little game available they were forced to trek overland from Ungava Bay to the St. Lawrence River. This epic crossing in winter under terrible hardship had made them famous.

Now, at Rupert's House, James Watt was facing another desperate situation. Beaver returns at the post had declined from 2,000 pelts in his first year to al-



While Canada was being explored and settled, time had stood still for 250 years at isolated Rupert's House. Each winter, the Cree Indians worked their traditional family trap lines, always leaving enough breeding pairs of beaver to ensure successful trapping in the future. Then, in the years following World War I, fur prices sky-rocketed; white trappers moved into the hereditary areas of the Cree, anxious to cash in on the bonanza. Soon Indians, too, began to trap all the beaver they could, knowing that someone else would profit if they did not. The natural balance was upset and beaver returns began to shrink alarmingly.

most none. The Company had been forced to give instructions that credit, or "jawbone", was only to be allowed to the extent of one-half of the value of furs brought in by a hunter in the previous year. This meant that there was now little or no credit available to the Indians. The beaver were apparently extinct in the area. Watt began to feel panic. Several thousand Cree around James Bay were now in danger of starvation. While beaver skins meant trade value at the post, it was the beaver meat that was the staple food of the Indians in winter. Watt appealed to the Company for help. Communications were slow owing to the isolation. The Company

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was sympathetic but the post was losing a lot of money and it might have to be closed. The Watts went on short rations to make available what help they could, but the Cree suffered, and many died. As a last resort, Watt went to Winnipeg to appeal in person to the Fur Trade Commissioner. He resigned when no help was forthcoming. Realizing that this was no solution, Watt rejoined the Company and returned to Rupert's House.

Then it happened! Two Cree hunters came to the post to report an occupied

beaver house only thirty miles away. Conditions were so bad that they needed to borrow guns or traps in order to kill them. Watt had an inspiration. If there were still some live beaver, there was still hope. Calling the hunters inside the post, he took a pencil and paper and showed them that the pair of beaver would increase to 288 beaver in ten years if left undisturbed. The Indians understood but exclaimed that their families were starving and could not wait for ten years to eat. Jim Watt knew he couldn't allow those beaver to be killed, so he offered to buy them. It was soon agreed that he would pay \$60.00

for the pair. The hunters were incredulous. They were able to buy supplies for simply finding two beaver and allowing them to live. Soon, the word spread and a few other beaver houses were located and sold to Watt. By the end of the following year he owned twenty-five beaver houses.

Watt's personal credit with the Company was now running low. Another problem surfaced too. The local Indians respected his ownership of the beaver in the houses, but what of any white trappers or travelling Indians from other districts who might come across the beaver? The Watts realized that their program to rebuild the beaver stocks would become increasingly difficult to administer as the beaver population increased. After consideration, they decided that only the Quebec Government had the power to protect the beaver. Because Maud was naturally French speaking, they agreed that she should approach the Government in Quebec City. During the cold of a northern winter, she set off for Moose Factory, Moosonee and then Cochrane, where she could take a train to Quebec City. Once there, Maud contacted Dr. Robert Hastings who had visited Rupert's House and knew the Watts. Dr. Hastings was able to advise Maud to approach Louis A. Richard, the Deputy Minister of Colonization, Game and Fisheries for the Province of Quebec.

There were difficulties. How could he, Richard, persuade the Premier to lease more than seven thousand square miles of territory to an individual, and for a rent of only ten dollars? Especially when the law permitted only two hundred square miles and it was for the benefit of the Indians who were a direct responsibility of the Dominion Government at Ottawa. Maud Watt persevered. She was successful in persuading the Honourable Richard, who in turn was able to convince the Quebec Premier Taschereau and the Quebec Cabinet. A beaver sanctuary of seven thousand, two hundred square miles was established under a lease with Maud Watt.



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Establishing the Beaver Preserve was only a start. This great area would require Indian game wardens to ensure the safety of the beaver and they would have to be paid. Yet, it would be years before the beaver could be harvested to generate some revenue. Watt estimated the costs for the next seven years would be \$73,000.00, much beyond his personal ability to finance. It was now time for the Hudson's Bay Company to become involved and there was a precedent.

In 1851 some beaver were placed on Charlton Island in James Bay and left undisturbed for several years. Families from Rupert's House were then authorized to trap the surplus beaver. This arrangement had worked well and the informal sanctuary had continued into the early years of the 20th Century, when Charlton Island could no longer be protected from unrestricted trapping. The beaver were soon wiped out.

The General Manager of the Hudson's Bay Company recognized the potential of the Beaver Preserve. In 1932 an agreement was reached for the transfer of the lease from Maud Watt to the Company. The Watts were reimbursed for their expenses and were paid a \$500.00 bonus. James Watt was retained in the dual role of manager of the Rupert House Beaver Preserve and as post manager of Rupert's House.

The official count of beaver in the Preserve showed dramatic growth. By 1933, there were 38 beaver houses holding an estimated 162 beaver. In 1938, the count had risen to 3,300 beaver. By 1944, there were 13,000 live beaver. The first quota of 450 beaver were permitted to be trapped in 1940. A fair share of this quota was set for each of the licensed Indian trappers within his own hunting grounds. When the dressed beaver pelts were brought to the Hudson's Bay Company post, the Beaver Preserve manager attached a Beaver Preserve token to the pelt. J. Armand Tremblay, chief of the Fur Service of Quebec, issued the tokens. Each token carried the trapper's identification number. The tagged skins were then sent to

Quebec City for grading by the Fur Service and were then sold at a fur auction. Each trapper accumulated credit for the receipts from his own furs. Settlement cheques were issued in each Indian's name and forwarded to Rupert's House for delivery to the trappers.

For its work in managing the Beaver Preserve and for handling the skins, the Company received a fee. The tremendous economic benefit to the Indian families is obvious. In recognition of the success of the Rupert House Beaver Preserve, the Company initiated other beaver sanctuaries and by 1948 there were eight preserves in operation around James Bay. The pioneering work of James and Maud Watt was changing the Indians' way of life for the better.

While the Beaver Preserve tokens were first struck about 1939, they seem to have come to the attention of numismatists about 1951, when Ray Kelly, a well-known Ottawa, Ontario coin dealer obtained eight of the brass tokens. None seen by the writer have been pierced or numbered, which would indicate that they originated before reaching their place of use. One aluminium Beaver Preserve token from the

same die is known and this might be either a specimen striking or from a wartime minting, when brass was a restricted metal. Eventually, with many Beaver Preserves operating, a different system of controlling the skins was developed which utilized coupons in place of tokens.



While the Beaver Preserve tokens are not "good fors" in the usual sense, their close association with the fur trade and the Hudson's Bay Company has made these scarce 351 mm. tokens eminently collectible.

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Warren Baker, Fred Bowman, Sheldon Carroll and the Department of Tourism, Fish and Game of the Province of Quebec.

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