



North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 8 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York

MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O.BOX 58508 Sheppard Centre P.O.
4841 Yonge Street, North York, Ontario, M2N 6R7

Executive Committee

Member :

Canadian Numismatic Association
Ontario Numismatic Association

PresidentNick Cowan
1st Vice PresidentBill O'Brien
2nd Vice President.....Open
SecretaryPaul Petch
TreasurerLen Kuenzig
Auction ControlMark Argentino

DirectorOpen
DirectorRoger Fox
DirectorVince Chiappino
Junior DirectorOpen
AuctioneerBob Porter
EditorOpen
Past PresidentRobert Wilson

ReceptionistAlbert Kasman
Draw PrizesBill O'Brien
Social ConvenorBill O'Brien
LibrarianRobert Wilson
Program PlanningPaul Johnson,
Paul Petch, John Regitko

THE BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greeting and Salutations to all my fellow members:

Thank you for your support during this current term as President. I have learned a lot from you; I have tried to bring some new life, new ideas and new members to the Club and will continue to do so in the coming months. If at anytime you do not agree with the thinking or initiatives of myself or the Executive, then please come forward, by phone, e-mail or in person and tell me. That is why I am here.

In December, we will be starting a driven campaign for new members. We will have an advertisement running in the local North York Mirror and on the web-sites Kijiji and Craigslist — both immensely popular sites with people in the 18-35 range. That is exactly “the market” we need to attract into our club’s membership.

By the time you read this, we will be eating our Christmas dinner and hopefully enjoying the auction. Now that we have all agreed not to read the Minutes of the last meeting each time, we will have a little more time to devote to other Club activities. As requested, we will be making space here, and in other sections of our Bulletin, to recognize the contributions and donations of individual members.

I have received an e-mail from one of our members that suggests we provide all members with a copy of the Auction rules. At the



NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 FOR THE ANNUAL DECEMBER CHRISTMAS MEETING

*Set up begins at 7:00 p.m. and dinner starts at 7:30
with meeting business to follow after dinner*

To supplement the purchased Swiss Chalet food (see page 2 about placing your order), we also appreciate whatever family specialties including salads, cookies, cakes, etc. you are able to donate to the “pot luck” buffet table. Because the room is set for dinner, we’re sorry but there will be no dealer tables at this meeting.

If you want to participate in the optional gift exchange, please bring along a numismatic or non-numismatic gift with a value of around \$7 or \$8. Exchange of the gifts will be sequenced by draw.

We will also be holding a special cash draw hosted by Albert Kasman.

Nick Cowan has been collecting material for a special auction at this meeting.

Contact him directly by e-mail or telephone if you have questions.



last meeting there was an incident that should not have taken place and we will strive to avoid in the future. These rules were written by our founding members and still ring true today. The rules of Auction as well as the club constitution and bylaws are to be adhered to without fail. Only you as members can cause them to change. If you believe change is needed, then write to myself or another member of the Executive and let us know.

I will close on this note and wish all of you a Happy Holiday season and a healthy, prosperous 2007.

Nick Cowan
E-mail: The_Club@sympatico.ca
Phone: 416.945.9299
(The Club ‘phone number)

MEETING NEWS OF THE NOVEMBER 2006 MEETING

The 519th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on November 28, 2006 at the Edithvale Community Centre, North York, Ontario. The meeting came to order at 8:00 p.m. with the President, Nick Cowan, in the chair and 29 members and 3 guests in attendance, including Henry Nienhuis of the Canadian Errors & Varieties Numismatic Association.

The President immediately opened the floor. Albert Kasman announced he would run a cash draw at the December meeting awarding a cash prize of first, second and third place.

Paul Johnson, acting in his capacity as the Canadian Numismatic Association Executive Secretary, presented the North York Coin Club with a plaque from the C.N.A. President recognizing 2006 as the club's 45th anniversary year.

David Bawcutt, our regional director from the Ontario Numismatic Association, reminded all members of the O.N.A. Convention, April 21-22 in London at the Four Points Sheraton. He provided Dream Vacation tickets for sale at the Club. He reminded members of the Award of Merit and Fellow of the ONA awards and called for nominations from O.N.A. members. There is also an election this year and he announced a nominations committee has been formed and is accepting nominations from the membership.

David Miranda was not present for the on time draw, so the pot increases to \$12 for the next December meeting.

The minutes, as presented in the bulletin with supplemental financial information, were accepted. Tony Hine was nominated by the President and seconded by Vince Chiappino, to fill the Director position vacated by Rick Craig. There being no further nominations from the floor, he was accepted by acclamation. An announcement was made that money and access to Revlon products, at a discount, would be made available to Olive Bayliss. Also in this regard, it has been decided to redirect and apply the funds normally used to subsidize member dinners at the December

meeting to this charitable cause. Also in respect to the December meeting, the President once again called for the forwarding of auction material.

The President called for new ideas for club activity to keep the club vibrant. Bob Velensky talked about his own efforts at building membership in other organizations. Free membership for the first year was one suggestion. Recognizing that our traditional meeting hours may be an impediment, especially to younger members, it has been decided to switch meeting start to 7:30 p.m.

The President turned the floor over to Dick Dunn to introduce the feature program for the evening. George Fraser with the assistance of his daughter, Fern Woodruff, reading the text and Dick Dunn operating the computer graphics presentation related Canadian history as represented by art medals from the Wellings Mint. This was part one of the series taking us from Leif Erickson on the Canadian coast circa 1000 to British Columbia joining Canada in 1870.

We thank Len Kuenzig for transporting the refreshment equipment and Roger Fox for preparations in the absence of vacationing Bill O'Brien's. A thank you to Nick as well for bringing Tim Horton donuts.

Bob Porter conducted the auction with Mark Argentino serving as clerk and Vince Chiappino as runner. The auction alternated with the evening's Lucky Draw called by Roger Fox. Draw ticket sales were \$28 and the club earned \$21.25 in auction commission, largely through material donated by Avner Bar-Moshe and Mark Argentino. Lucky Draw winners were David Lamond (2), Nick Cowan, Franco Farronato (2), Roger Fox (2), Italo Vilella, Norman G. Gordon (2), Fern Woodruff, Vince Chiappino and Tony Hine. The Club thanks those who donated draw prize material.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.



SWISS CHALET DECEMBER DINNER CHOICES

Please note that prices have increased since last year and that an extra 99¢ is now charged for white meat.

To help simplify the food orders, there are five basic menu items with a side option. Only Festive Dinners include dressing, cranberry sauce and the chocolate treat. Everyone should select a side option.

Please specify one of: French Fries, Baked Potato, Mashed Potatoes, Rice or Garden Salad.

Feature Cut BBQ Rib Dinner . . . \$13.

Festive Dinner White Meat . . . \$12.

Festive Dinner Dark Meat . . . \$11.

Quarter Chicken Dinner
White Meat . . . \$10.

Quarter Chicken Dinner
Dark Meat . . . \$9.

You may place an order by telephone right up until noon on December 12.

You may also cancel if you are forced to change plans and get a full refund.

Len Kuenzig:
e-mail: len.kuenzig@sympatico.ca
Telephone: 905-824-4893

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION RELEASES NEW TOKENS

New TTC token designed to thwart counterfeiters

*Updated Mon. Nov. 20 2006 6:31 PM ET
CTV.ca News Staff*

Toronto's transit system is putting new subway tokens into circulation that are designed to thwart counterfeiters who have been targeting the TTC in recent years.

Unveiled at city hall Monday afternoon, the new gold and silver-coloured token with ridged edges is the first major redesign in decades.

The TTC claims the new token is "next to impossible to reproduce." A total of 20 million new tokens, which resemble smaller versions of the \$2 coin, have been ordered at a cost of \$1.7 million.

Transit security official Mark Russell said the coin "a unique electronic signature" that only TTC turnstiles can recognize.

New tokens were ordered by the transit system after high-quality counterfeits were found in the system, siphoning an estimated \$10 million dollars from the cash-strapped transit commission.

The counterfeit token scam involved three brothers who had allegedly contracted a U.S.-based mint to make the fakes.

They were arrested and charged in February after a two-year investigation that included Toronto police and FBI agents.

The transit commission is counting on the new design to protect them from losses due to counterfeiting.

"It's something we have to do," TTC chairman Howard Moscoe told reporters.

"If there are huge quantities of phoney tokens out there, it's in our interest to get them out of the system."

Officials are not releasing the exact metals used to craft the token.

The new token goes on sale Sunday. Commuters can still use the old coins until Jan. 31.

Starting Jan. 2, riders can exchange the old tokens at the following subway stations:



Bloor-Yonge;
Finch;
Kipling; and
Warden.

Commuters who wish to exchange more than 100 tokens, it must be done at the Davisville station.

The TTC has been victimized by counterfeiters in recent years. In 2004 an undercover operation by transit authorities resulted in more than 450 charges and the arrest of 307 people for allegedly making and selling fake tickets.

The TTC says it loses about \$7 million every year, or just less than 1 per cent of revenue, through various forms of transit fraud.

With a report from CTV's John Musselman



2010 OLYMPICS

Vancouver Olympic special edition coins to be unveiled

*Carly Weeks
CanWest News Service
Friday, December 01, 2006*

OTTAWA — The Royal Canadian Mint will start unveiling in January a larger-than-usual collection of special edition coins that will be released at intervals in the lead-up to the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Vancouver.

"They will be put into circulation at different times over the next few years," said mint spokeswoman Pam Aung Thin.

Although the mint is trying to keep some details about the new coins under wraps until the project is officially announced next year, descriptions of the special edition dollar and quarter coins were included in an order in council released by the government in November.

The mint will issue two special-edition loonies and 10 quarters that feature both Olympic and Paralympic-themed images.

The collection will be larger than others done in honour of past Olympic games, said Aung Thin.

One of the dollar coins will feature the image of a loon about to fly out of the water, with the year 2008 on one side and a Maple Leaf and Olympic torch and rings — Canada's Olympic committee symbol — on the other.

The other special edition loonie will feature Vancouver's official Olympic emblem, which consists of a contemporary design of an inukshuk and the trademark Olympic rings underneath.

While the dollar coins will feature more traditional images to pay tribute to the 2010 winter games, the special edition 25 cent coins rely on action shots of Canada's powerhouse sports, such as hockey, snowboarding and curling.

The Olympic winter games will be held in Vancouver Feb. 12 to 28, 2010.

The Paralympic games will be held in Vancouver March 12 to 21, 2010.

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POLYMER CASH QUALITY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

05/10/2006

VietNamNet Bridge – Technology, material, and printing quality are the major attributes that government inspectors are checking at the National Money Printing Factory.

The inspection began in mid-September and will last until the end of November, revealed Dang Duc Lam, a manager of the factory.

Mr Lam has visited the government inspection agency twice to provide information related to money printing, under the request of the Chief Government Inspector.

The manager previously asked relevant bodys to consider the issues related to polymer banknote printing.

Vietnam issued polymer banknotes for the first time on December 17, 2003, with banknotes of both VND500,000 and VND50,000. The VND100,000 polymer banknotes were put into circulation on September 1, 2004. This year, three more kinds of polymer banknotes, with values of VND20,000, VND10,000 and VND200,000 were issued on May 17 and August 30.

According to the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV), polymer is an advanced material, which allows the application of many anti-counterfeit money technologies. Moreover, polymer banknotes are more durable than cotton-paper banknotes, which helps Vietnam save issuance costs.

However, just several months after the first polymer banknotes appeared in the market, some problems emerged, for example difficulty of counting by machine, the ink on the face of the banknotes being lost when two banknotes rub each other, and particularly, all the new VND50,000, VND100,000 and VND500,000 have been successfully counterfeited using sophisticated methods. The newly issued VND10,000 polymer banknote also incurred a publishing error.

The Tuoi Tre (Youth) and Sai Gon Giai Phong (Liberated Saigon) newspapers reported that the printing quality of polymer banknotes is only one of the six concerns of the Government Inspectorate at the State Bank of Vietnam at this time.

More news — Howard Daniel writes in the e-Sylum:

“There has been a recent rash of news items in the Vietnamese press about their counterfeit and error polymer notes.

The production errors are creating quite a stir because quality control was supposed to be much higher for polymer notes than for the old paper notes because the printing process is much more precise.

Numismatists have been collecting the polymer production errors, and I have seen several of them, but we have not been reporting them to the national bank branches. When the national bank recently had an error reported to it by a non-numismatist, they got quite excited and started an investigation.

>From the articles about investigating production errors, it now appears they are actually being printed in Viet Nam and that the polymer “paper” is coming from Australia. The printing facility is being reported using various different words, but the official name in English is the National Banknote Printing Plant (NBPP). I had thought the notes were only being numbered at the NBPP, but now, I am pretty sure they are printing them too.

A design error has also created a lot of noise in the press. It is on the new 10,000 Dong polymer note, which is missing a dot on



VND20,000 polymer banknotes.

the upper right face side which should be “10.000” but has only “10000” in a vertical line. The poor designer and/or engraver who did it might have been demoted, but it is likely he was fired.

The counterfeits coming out of the South China operation are getting better and better. I recently was sent two 100,000 Dong counterfeits made with a plastic “paper” that is very close to polymer and can be passed once or twice before it starts to look “funny.” The passers only need to pass it once so it is working very well.

Of course, this has re-energized law enforcement in every branch of the government. Polymer was supposed to be MUCH more difficult to counterfeit and this was one of the factors in Viet Nam converting from paper to the higher cost polymer. I doubt if there will be a change out of polymer, but I do expect much stronger law enforcement actions, and stronger diplomatic and INTERPOL actions to stop the South China counterfeiting.”

Q: How Crazy Was Caligula?

Written by Mental_Floss
Published November 09, 2006

A: When you hear the name “Caligula” you may immediately think of the infamous 1977 sexploitation flick, and not really the model for the movie himself. You may wonder then, was the real Caligula really as crazy as all that?

Well, yes. The Roman emperor Caligula had more loose screws than a hardware store in an earthquake. According to the ancient historians Suetonius and Flavius Josephus, although Caligula was only emperor for four years — from 37-41 CE — he certainly made quite an impression.

The adopted son of the previous

emperor, Tiberius, he was initially very popular with Roman commoners. Partially, because he would spontaneously distribute *gold coins* to them and partially because he’d engage them with his wild, unpredictable sense of humor. But the public’s opinion of him quickly turned sour when (according to Suetonius) Caligula started cross-dressing in public, impregnated his own sister, declared war on the Greek god Poseidon (bringing back chests full of worthless seashells as booty), and topped it all off by declaring himself a god. (And if you think that’s bad, wait till you hear the crazy stuff!)

Evidently, all of his deranged behavior didn’t exactly sit so well with his bodyguards because they got together and decided to assassinate him not long after.