



North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 7:30 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. W., North York M2N 2H8

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Contact the Club :

E-mail: info@northyorkcoinclub.com
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Member :

Ontario Numismatic Association
Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

President	Bill O'Brien
1st Vice President	Len Kuenzig
2nd Vice President	David Quinlan
Secretary	Henry Nienhuis
Treasurer	Ben Boelens
Past President	Nick Cowan

Executive Committee

Director	Roger Fox	Auction Manager	Mark Argentino
Director	Vince Chiappino	Editor	Paul Petch
Director	Andrew Silver	Receptionist	Franco Farronato
Junior Director		Draw Prizes	Bill O'Brien
Auctioneer	David Quinlan	Social Convenor	Bill O'Brien
		Librarian	Robert Wilson

THE BULLETIN FOR MAY 2012

R.C.M. REMEMBERS R.M.S. TITANIC

The 100th Anniversary of the disastrous sinking of R.M.S. Titanic occurred on April 14. The Royal Canadian Mint issued three products to commemorate and remember this event. Canada's geographic proximity to the site of the sinking caused several ships out of Halifax to participate in recovery operations. A third of the bodies recovered were not identified and are buried in Halifax cemeteries.



20,000 of these 99.99% pure silver 34 mm coins were offered to the public

Designed by Canadian artist Yves Bérubé, the reverse features a finely detailed image of the bow and port side of the colossal vessel as it travels westward on its tragic maiden voyage, the North Atlantic waters shimmering in its wake. The iceberg that sealed Titanic's fate lurks in the foreground. The image also features the words "R.M.S. Titanic" and a map of the Canadian Atlantic coast and the nautical coordinates at which Titanic sank.



Also produced is this 25 cents Cupro-nickel 35 mm colour coin. Final mintage will be determined by the demand.



**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 22**

We start gathering in the Gibson Room, second floor at the Edithvale Community Centre, at 7:00 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Our guest speaker for the May meeting will be Mr. Ronald Greene, a life-long resident of Victoria B.C. He is a Past President of the British Columbia Historical Federation and Chairman of the J. Douglas Ferguson Board of Award. Always researching and always writing, we are fortunate that he is making time to be with us and provide some background on his interest in British Columbia tokens. Ron is a knowledgeable and engaging speaker and this North York Coin Club meeting should not be missed!

We appreciate all donations to our supply of draw prize material. Please remember to bring your auction lots if you would like an auction at this meeting.

15,000 of these Silver-plated copper 42 mm coins have been produced.

Also designed by Canadian artist Yves Bérubé, the reverse features an image of the bow of the vessel as it steams westward. Painted North Atlantic waters seem to shimmer and flow as the mighty ship cuts its path. The iceberg that sealed Titanic's fate appears in the foreground. The commemorative image also features the words "R.M.S. Titanic 2012."

NEWS OF THE APRIL 2012 MEETING

The 576th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, April 24th, 2012 in the 2nd floor Gibson Room at the Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. West. The meeting was hammered to order at 7:36 p.m. with our President, Bill O'Brien, in the chair; there were 31 members and 5 guests in attendance.

Our on-time attendance draw was the first order of business. Member David O'Brien was present to receive the prize of \$4.00 when his name was drawn. The draw will reset to \$2.00 for the May meeting.

As the customary next order of business, Bill O'Brien asked those members present if they had noticed any errors or omissions in the minutes of our March meeting as published in the April newsletter. With no changes identified member Dr. Marvin Kay made a motion to accept the minutes; member Phillip Simms seconded. Motion carried.

Our treasurer, Ben Boelens, was then asked to report on the club's current financial balance.

Bill highlighted that there were a number of guests in attendance, including one junior. Bill, following our custom, asked the guests to introduce themselves and tell us a little about their collecting interests. John K. was the first to introduce himself, mentioning that he had been acquiring Canadian decimal sets and individual coins from the mint but had not developed his collection any further. Members responded with the hope that we can help him learn more and develop his interests further. Razvan R. mentioned that he collected foreign and Canadian coins. Our junior guest, Danielle G., was at the meeting with her father and brother. She was a bit shy so her father mentioned that she collected Canadian decimal from change. Guest Mike V. mentioned that he had sold coins on eBay in the past but had not done that for some time. He is thinking about returning to the hobby.

Bill next brought up the subject of the joint NYCC/MECSCC Hobby show. He told members that he would be willing to bring some of the club's display cases to the show for their use and suggested that they contact him to make sure he brought enough and to avoid disappointment. Nick Cowan mentioned that he had run a paid advertisement in the North York Mirror for Thursday May 10 and Friday May 11th and a free ad in their community events column.

Bill reminded members of the new Toronto Coin Expo show that is running the first weekend of June. He also mentioned that he had received a special promotion from the show owner, Jared Stapleton, of three wooden tokens entitling the bearer to one free admission at the show. Jared, a recent new member of our club, was on hand to invite members to attend the show Friday June 1 and Saturday June 2. He mentioned that Geoffrey Bell Auctions Inc. is holding a two-session auction the evenings of Thursday May 31st and June 1st.

Bill O'Brien then opened the floor to any members interested in a show-and-tell opportunity.

Member Andrew Silver rose to talk about the Bank of Montreal tokens that he brought along. Andrew mentioned that that last month's talk, given by Henry Nienhuis, had inspired him to bring them along this month. He mentioned that he would have them at his table if anyone were interested in seeing them during the break.

Nick Cowan was up next to talk about an antique cheque he acquired recently. The cheque was written on the Bank of Hamilton in 1918 for the princely sum of \$2,221.38 to the favour of the Public Utility office of Dundas. What is even more special about the cheque in Nick's mind is that a Mr. McGuinty signed it. Nick is interested in knowing if this might be a relation to the current Premier of Ontario,

Dalton McGuinty? He asked anyone possessing further information to please contact him directly.

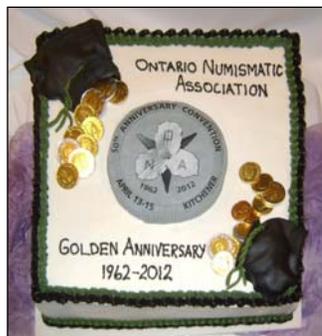
As his show-and-tell Norm Belsten brought a complete set of woods that were distributed during the CAWMC meeting at the recent O.N.A. convention held at Kitchener. He passed them around for everyone to see.

Roger Fox rose to remind everyone that this was the 90th year for the Canadian Tire Corporation. In honour of this anniversary Roger has organized a display at the Newmarket public library and invited members to attend his presentation on the CTC at the library the next evening.

Raj Makhijani brought along an RCMP 125th Anniversary medallion that he ordered from the Mounties. The medallion commemorates the 125th anniversary of the North West Mounted Police (NWMP), Royal Northwest Mounted Police and the RCMP Veterans' Association. This fine keepsake is 38mm in diameter and is composed of silver plated bronze with selective plating of antiqued bronze on the obverse design featuring Col. James F. MacLeod on horseback.

Terry O'Brien asked for the floor next to report on the recent, April 13—15, O.N.A. convention events that she attended. Terry mentioned that she was able to attend both the R.C.N.A. and the O.N.A. executive meeting on Sunday. She said she found them quite interesting and recommend that all convention attendees make a point of going to them. Terry also mentioned that she attended as many of the club and association meeting that she could, finding them both interesting and educational. Terry especially enjoyed Fred Freeman's presentation on the money cards that he prepares and distributes as part of the Coin Kids 101 program at the CPMS meeting. One of the highlights of the convention for her was the

Continued next page...



Jim Charlton with Roger Fox



Jim Charlton with Carolyne-Marie Petch and Terry O'Brien



*Terry Boyle,
Banquet Speaker*

Coin Kids Auction sponsored jointly by the O.N.A. and the R.C.N.A. The auction, managed by Chris Boyer—the R.C.N.A. National Youth Coordinator—was well attended and enjoyed by the budding numismatists present. Terry remarked that many of the participants were reluctant to part with the special auction “money” that they were given. Another highlight of the convention was the awards banquet held on Saturday evening. Terry especially liked the special guest speaker, Terry Boyle—broadcaster and author, of many ghost and haunting stories from throughout Ontario. Terry brought along the door prize that she won at the banquet, a 1989 proof silver dollar.

After Terry’s report Paul Petch rose and asked for the floor to give his reflections on the O.N.A. convention as the President of that association. On a sombre note, Paul mentioned that very sad passing of Tom Rogers, often called the godfather of the O.N.A. At the opening reception, Paul had the very sad responsibility of reporting on Tom’s worsening health. Tom had very much wanted to be at the convention but his health was just too fragile. Tom passed on Saturday, April 21. Paul then mentioned the establishment of a new O.N.A. service award, the Bruce H. Raszmann Award. He brought the permanent award plaque, a portion kept by the O.N.A., for the members to see. Paul mentioned that the award was created to remember one of the founding members of the association, Bruce Raszmann, who served as the association’s Treasure for almost fifty years until his death in September, 2011. Paul had taken a special interest in the award since its original suggestion, seeing to its implementation personally. Two long-time contributors and members of the association Bill English—past president and Don Robb received the award in its first year.

On a positive note Paul brought with him a plaque, composed of a set on pre-decimal

coins of Great Britain issued by her majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which was presented to the O.N.A. from the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, David Onley in celebration of the Association’s 50th anniversary. Unfortunately, the Lt. Governor was not able to be at the Banquet. However, he did send his greetings through a video which Robb McPherson, O.N.A. First-Vice President, played on his behalf. Paul showed the opening of the video on his iPad. Paul also brought along the plaque presented to the O.N.A. by the R.C.N.A. President, William Waychison, to commemorate the 50th anniversary. On a final note Paul, as President, had the pleasure of announcing the winner of the “Good As Gold” draw. This year’s winner was none other than North York Coin Club member Bob Velensky. Bob was present to receive the 2012 Gold Maple-leaf bullion coin (1 troy ounce of .9999 fine gold) from Paul.

Bill O’Brien then asked Henry Nienhuis, our club secretary, to go through his portion of the club delegates report on the O.N.A. convention that consisted of images he took at the convention in the form of a power-point presentation. These images brought some additional news about the convention as well as illustrating events commented on by Terry and Paul.

Bill thanked Henry for his informative slide-show presentation and at 9:00 pm, called for the refreshment break consisting of cookies, juice and coffee for the evening.

With the refreshment break ending at 9:15pm, the last portion of the meeting was devoted to lucky draws and auction. Lucky draw winners were- Jared Stapleton (2), Linda Simms, Raj Makhijani, Franco Farronato, Norm Belsten, Danielle G. (3), Michael G. (?), Andrew Silver, Henry Nienhuis (2), Phillip Simms (2), Paul Johnson, Mike V., Richard Duquette, Ben Boelens, and Vince Chiappino.

The club earned \$36.00 through the sale of the draw tickets! The lucky draws were intermixed throughout the evening’s auction, called by David Quinlan our official auctioneer, and volunteer runner Dick Dunn. Mark Argentino served as our auction manager and reported that receipts from the auction added \$16.00 to the club coffers.

The club executive would like to send out a special thank you to club members for supporting the club through the purchase of draw tickets and for draw prize donations. We would especially like to thank Andrew Silver and Jared Stapleton for their continued support of the club through donations this month. Keep up the good work and to the other members, please consider supporting your club through a donation of numismatic material, etc. (Please mention your donations to the club secretary so that your support can be recognized in the minutes and newsletter.)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

As a reminder, the next regular club meeting will be held in the Gibson Room, on the second floor, May 22nd at the Edithvale Community Centre.



Bob Velenski receives his “Good as Gold” draw prize from O.N.A. President Paul Petch



R.C.N.A. President William Waychison presents 50th Anniversary plaque to the Ontario Numismatic Association



Henry Nienhuis receives Best in Show from Exhibits Awards Head Judge Paul Johnson



Henry Nienhuis is declared “Fellow of the O.N.A.” by Awards Chairman William Waychison

COMING EVENTS FOR SPRING & SUMMER 2012

JUNE 1 - JUNE 2, Toronto, Toronto Coin Expo, The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon located at the Toronto Reference Library, 2nd Floor, 789 Yonge St. Canada's premium coin, bank note and collectable show. *More than 30 dealers in attendance. Partnering with numismatic auction house Geoffrey Bell Auctions. Auction May 31-June 1.* Show dates Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information contact Jared Stapleton, email torontocoinexpo@gmail.ca, telephone 647-403-7334. Website: <http://www.torontocoin-expo.ca>.

JUNE 10, Brantford, 51st Annual Coin Show, Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Free admission and parking, 38 dealers at 63 tables, featuring Canadian coins, paper money, tokens, trade dollars, and CTC coupons.* For more information, contact Ed Anstett, telephone 519-759-3688, email edanstett@rogers.com, or the Brantford Numismatic Society, c/o P.O. Box 28071, North Park Plaza, Brantford, ON, N3R 2S2.

JUNE 23-24, Toronto, Torex - Canada's National Coin Show, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, 5875 Airport Rd. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$6. Under 16 free! *Official Auctioneer: Moore Numismatic Auctions, Charles Moore. The Hilton Toronto Airport hotel is located directly across from Toronto's Pearson International Airport.* For more information please call 416-705-5348. Website: <http://www.torex.net>.

JULY 18 - 22, Calgary, The Royal Canadian Numismatic Association Convention, The Calgary Westin Hotel, 320 4th Ave. SW, Telephone: 1-800-937-8461. Hours: Thurs. educational symposium and set-up. Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$5, juniors free, includes pass for re-entry on Sunday. *Dealers from across North America and displays. Lots of youth activities to enjoy. Official auctioneer: The Canadian Numismatic Company.* For more information, contact James A. Williston Convention and Bourse Chairman, telephone 403-461-2663, email jawilliston@shaw.ca. Website: <http://www.rcna.ca>.

AUG. 12, Paris, SWON, 139 Silver St. at the convention centre Paris Fairgrounds. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3 includes a ticket on the gold coin draw, more than 50 tables of coins, paper money, gold and silver bullion, militaria, jewelry, watches and more. *Food and drinks available at show.* For more information, contact Ted Bailey, telephone 519-442-3474 or 1-866-747-2646, email tedscol-lectables@bellnet.ca.

SEPT. 9, Brampton, Brampton Coin Show, Century Gardens Recreation Centre, 340 Vodden Rd. E. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$3, under 14 free. *Buy, sell, trade and appraise at more than 40 tables of dealers, featuring coins, medals, tokens, paper money, trade dollars, militaria. Children's table. Free parking. Funds raised for Children's Charities.* For more information, contact B&W Coins & Tokens, Willard

Burton telephone 905-450-2870, email b_and_w@sympatico.ca.

SEPT. 15 - 16, Cambridge, TL Coin Show, Cambridge Conference Centre, 700 Hespeler Rd. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$4, students and seniors \$2, under 12 free. *Free parking, draw for gold coin.* For more information, contact Linda Robinson, telephone 289-235-9288, email lindarobinson@cogeco.ca; or Tom Kennedy, telephone 519-271-8825. Website: <http://www.tlcoinshow.com>.

SEPT. 27 - 29, Toronto, Toronto Coin Expo, The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon located at the Toronto Reference Library, 2nd Floor, 789 Yonge St. Bourse Hours: Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Canada's premium coin, bank note and collectable show. More than 30 dealers in attendance. Partnering with numismatic auction house Geoffrey Bell Auctions.* Auction Sept. 27-28. For information, contact Jared Stapleton, email torontocoin-expo@gamil.ca, telephone 647-403-7334.

SEPT. 29 - 30, Toronto, UKRAINPEX 2012, St. Demetrius the Great Martyr Church, 135 La Rose Ave. Hours: Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Ukrainian stamps, coins and collectibles exhibition and bourse.* For more information contact Jerry Kalyn, email ucst@upns.org, telephone 416-251-6898.

Listings are courtesy of Canadian Coin News Coming Events

From *The Numismatist* of May, 1912: No Canadian Silver Dollars

"The Cartwheel" silver dollar is not to cumber the pockets of Canadians, says *The Halifax Morning Chronicle* of April 11, 1912. The Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance, has decided not to proceed with the coinage of silver dollars as authorized by

the legislation passed last year by the ex-Finance Minister, Hon. W. S. Fielding. Mr. White believes that the dollar notes fill all requirements at present, and that the silver dollars would be unnecessary and cumbersome. The dies for them, which recently arrived at the Ottawa Mint from England, will therefore not be used.

The coinage of five and ten dollar gold pieces will begin next month and about eight million dollars worth will be minted. A large quantity of Canadian gold has gone through the refinery at the Mint during the past six months, and is now ready for minting.



A MEMBERS' PAGE : Featuring Alerts from North York members

**Jared Stapleton caught blogger Jordan Chittley's eye in this story on...
Canada's First One-cent Piece Expected to Fetch \$900 at Auction** From the Daily Buzz (A Yahoo News Blog) for Thursday May 10, 2012

A penny these days can't buy anything, but there will be some very valuable ones at the Toronto Coin Expo

While some will be happy to see the penny disappear, others will be hoping to pick one up at the end of the month for thousands of dollars. Among the many coins that will be auctioned off at the inaugural Toronto Coin Expo will be three one-cent coins from 1858 and organizers expect them to fetch about \$900, according to a statement.

Pennies these days mostly weigh down pockets, are left in tip jars and cost the Canadian government \$11 million a year because they actually cost 1.6 cents to produce. Even Finance Minister Jim Flaherty joked he couldn't buy anything with a penny when he was a kid. "The time has come to make the sensible decision to end production of the coin, which is underused by Canadians, no longer vital to commerce and ultimately a burden on Canada's balance sheet," said Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to The Canadian Press late last week.

However, this wasn't always the case.

Canada's first penny was struck in 1858 at the Royal Mint in England and shipped to the Province of Canada (Ontario and Quebec) by boat. That year, 421,000 one-cent pieces were put into circulation. But that first penny didn't look like the penny we know today. It was much larger, weighed more and featured Queen Victoria on one side and a vine circle of maple leaves on the other. In 1858 the one-cent piece was 25 millimetres in diameter compared to the 19 millimetres we see today and it weighed 4.5 grams compared to 2.35 grams today. The weight was actually 1/100th of a pound, allowing people to use the coins to measure weight as well as pay for goods. The first penny struck in Canada was produced in Ottawa in 1908.

The 1858 coins are "not super rare but they are tough to come by, and in great condition they're not easy, either," said Jared Stapleton, owner and manager of the expo, to the Toronto Star. "It's a neat piece of history."

While this may seem like a lot for a penny, it is far from the most expensive Canadian penny sold in the world. In 1936,

the Mint produced three pennies with a special dot and one of them sold at auction for more than \$400,000 in January 2010. All three of them are in private collections and not at the Ottawa Currency Museum.

Also up for auction over the two days are a 1867 Commercial Bank of Newfoundland \$20 bill expected to fetch up to \$10,000, a 1859 Canada One Cent Pattern estimated to sell for \$30,000 and a 1858 Province of Canada One Cent Trial estimated to sell for \$10,000.

If all this talk of expensive old pennies has you thinking you should stockpile some from this century and pass them down for 154 years, that may not be the best idea. Stapleton told the Star he doesn't think they will ever fetch more than face value. The final Canadian penny was made last Friday, but it will take a while to go out of circulation.

The auction at the Toronto Reference Library is in conjunction with the Toronto Coin Expo and will run May 31 and June 1. People can also make bids online.

(Visit <http://www.torontocoinexpo.ca/> for all the event information)



Marvin Kay sends advance notice of two major items for the auction at the NYCC meeting on May 22nd, 2012:



Item #1—a collection of postage stamps depicting coins. The collection has nearly 300 postage stamps from over seventy countries all around

the world. The collection includes postage stamps, post cards, souvenir sheets and first day covers.

The collection took many years to assemble and includes coin stamps from Brazil to Bhutan, from Tuvalu to Tunisia, from Cyprus to China.

The reserve is \$125.00.



Item #2—another collection of postage stamps, this one featuring Expo 67, Canada's centennial. There are nearly 150 stamps, first day covers and souvenir sheets from Iceland, Maldives, United Nations, Senegal and Czechoslovakia, to mention just a few of the countries that came to Montreal in 1967. The reserve is \$100.00.

ROYAL CANADIAN MINT COMMEMORATES STRIKING OF LAST PENNY (IT'S A CENT!)

On May 4, 2012 at the Royal Canadian Mint's high-speed manufacturing facility in Winnipeg, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty struck the last penny to be produced for Canadian circulation.

"The Mint has proudly produced the penny to satisfy the needs of Canada's trade and commerce for over one hundred years," said Ian E. Bennett, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint. "Although today marks the end of an era for this denomination, the Mint has a solid international reputation on which to build a future without the penny."

"For the past several years, Canadian taxpayers have been burdened by the rising cost of producing pennies," said the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Royal Canadian Mint. "While the penny can still be used in day-to-day transactions, our Government is encouraging Canadians to donate their pennies to charities in order to make a difference in their communities."

The last penny struck for Canadian circulation will be entrusted to the Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada in Ottawa, as a permanent reminder of its contributions to Canada's economy and history.

In Economic Action Plan 2012, the Government of Canada announced that it will modernize Canada's currency set by eliminating the penny from Canada's coinage system. While the coins will remain legal tender, the Royal Canadian Mint will no longer distribute pennies as of fall 2012.

Due to rising labour, metal and other manufacturing and distribution costs, each penny cost more than 1.6 cents to produce. As a result of the Mint's patented, cost-effective multiply plated steel technology, all other Canadian circulation coins cost well under face value to produce.

LAST CANADIAN PENNY ON ITS WAY TO THE CANADIAN CURRENCY MUSEUM by John Size, CTV News

The last penny minted in Canada since its introduction in 1858 is on its way to the country's currency museum in Ottawa.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty pushed the button just after 11 a.m. local time (noon ET) at the Royal Canadian Mint in Winnipeg. After about a minute or so, the final coin dropped into a clear container from the side of the bright yellow press. Flaherty picked up the penny wearing white gloves and held it up for a flurry of flashing cameras and television crews. "It was very cool," he said when asked how it felt to push the button. "This is the coin that was not working very well in business," he said after the official ceremony.

Flaherty said the penny has a long history in Canada since it was first domestically produced in 1908 to mark the opening of a British Royal Mint branch in Ottawa. "At the time and for many generations that followed, the humble one-cent circulation coin was a workhorse of Canadian commerce," he said. "It was also for many years a positive source of revenue for the mint and the Canadian government when its one-cent face value exceeded the cost of producing and distributing the penny," Flaherty said.

But that changed when the "fine balance" of production costs and value couldn't be maintained, he said. Over time, inflation eroded the value of the penny, multiplying its manufacturing costs, Flaherty said.

The federal government decided to put an end to the penny in its March budget, calling it "a currency without currency" that cost taxpayers 1.6 cents for each coin minted, or \$11 million per year. Plus, it takes business owners more time to process pennies, taking them away from the task of growing their company and creating jobs, he said.

While the mint has found innovative ways over the years to cut costs and introduce new techniques in currency manufacture, the time had come to end production of an underused coin that's no longer vital to commerce, Flaherty said. He hopes Canadians will donate their remaining pennies to charitable causes across the country.

Habitat for Humanity has launched a national campaign to support its work building housing for families who need assistance with home ownership. "I also wish the best for charities across the country launching penny campaigns. I can think of no better tribute for this historic coin and consider it fitting that they could have a lasting impact in the service of causes that Canadians believe in," Flaherty said. As well, about one million pennies from the mint will be offered to Canadians as collector's pieces to mark the occasion.

The penny has been in use in what is now Canada since 1858 when the decimal system was adopted. The first coins in the Dominion of Canada were issued in 1870. About 35 billion pennies have been issued since then, more than half of them in the last two decades.

Cash transactions will soon be rounded to the nearest five-cent increment. If a coffee costs a \$1.27, it will be rounded down to \$1.25, but if that coffee costs \$1.28, it will be bumped up to \$1.30. Transactions involving debit cards, credit cards or cheques will still be calculated to the cent.

Although there's no "end date" for the use of the penny, the government advises anyone wanting to cash them in to roll them up and take them to a bank.



Photo by John Woods / The Canadian Press



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, with Ian Bennett, president and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint holds the last penny struck in Canada at the Royal Canadian Mint in Winnipeg, Friday, May 4, 2012

BANK OF CANADA UNVEILS NEW \$20 NOTE

On May 2, 2012, Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty and Governor Mark Carney unveiled the new and more secure \$20 polymer bank note at the Bank of Canada’s head office, on Wellington Street in Ottawa. To raise public awareness about the new note, the building’s north-east corner now features seven-storey high images of both sides of the polymer \$20.

As with the previously issued \$50 and \$100 polymer bank notes, the main reason for issuing a new \$20 is to stay ahead of counterfeiting threats. The new polymer notes are also more economical and have a smaller environmental footprint.

“The Bank’s goal is to maintain Canadians’ confidence in our money as a secure means of payment,” said Governor Carney after the unveiling ceremony. “This new \$20 note fits the bill.”

The front of the polymer \$20 features a new portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II, who is celebrating her Diamond Jubilee this year. The back of the note pays tribute to the contributions and sacrifices of Canadian men and women in all military conflicts, and features the Canadian National Vimy Memorial—an iconic monument located in Vimy, France that commemorates the Battle of Vimy Ridge and honours those who fought and gave their lives

in the First World War in France and have no known grave.

On 9 April 1917, all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force united for the first time to take Vimy Ridge in France—a strategically important position that had eluded previous attempts by allied forces between 1914 and 1916.

“The Canadian Corps’ victory at Vimy is often described as Canada’s ‘coming of age’ as a nation,” said Minister Flaherty, “This third note in the Frontier series commemorates the combination of technical innovation, tactical planning and meticulous execution with which Canada breached more than just a military frontier at Vimy Ridge.”

“The Bank is proud to memorialize this pivotal moment in Canadian history and to feature the inspiring Canadian National Vimy

Memorial on the new \$20 bank note,” said Governor Carney.

The \$20 bill, which accounts for over 50 per cent of all bank notes in circulation and is the main note dispensed by automated banking machines (ABMs), will begin circulating in November of this year. To prepare for the new notes, the Bank is working closely with financial institutions and manufacturers of bank note equipment to ensure a smooth transition to polymer. The Bank is also providing authentication training and support materials to law enforcement officers and to cash handlers in retail and financial institutions.

The remaining bank notes in the series—the \$5 and \$10—will be issued by the end of 2013. The specific designs and detailed images of these notes will not be released until their official unveiling dates.



From left to right: Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of Canada, and the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance at the unveiling of the new polymer \$20 bank note, at the Bank’s head office in Ottawa.



\$20 front, 2012 Polymer series Portrait: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Signatures: Left—T. Macklem, Right—M. J. Carney
Size: 152.4 x 69.85 mm (6.0 x 2.75 inches)



\$20 back, 2012 Polymer series Theme: Canadian National Vimy Memorial
The Canadian National Vimy Memorial is featured on the new \$20 note as a tribute to Canada’s contributions and sacrifices in military conflicts throughout its history. Located on the site of the 1917 Battle of Vimy Ridge, the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France was erected in honour of Canadian service during the First World War.

SHOULD WE ABOLISH THE PENNY (IN THE UK)?

by Glenys Roberts, *This is Money on the Internet*

As a unit of currency it may not be worth much, but do we really want to bid it farewell? We've long since seen the demise of the farthing and the much-loved 12-sided three-penny bit, but now there's a campaign to consign the penny to history, too.

A growing number of Britons think we can do without one of the oldest coins in our history. Canada has already ditched its cent (known as a penny)—following similar moves in Australia and New Zealand to abolish their low-denomination coins. The Canadian finance minister said: 'The penny is a currency without any currency. Financial institutions face increasing costs for handling, storing and transporting pennies. Over time, the penny's burden to the economy has grown relative to its value as a means of payment.'

With the U.S. and Russia toying with the idea of doing away with fiddly cents and kopeks (one-hundredth of a rouble and the equivalent of our penny), should we follow suit? Battle has already joined between the modernisers and the traditionalists.

On one side of this great currency divide is the Federation of Small Businesses, which claims shopkeepers hate the penny. They say it clutters up tills and forces staff to make unnecessary trips to bank bags of low-value coins.

They point out that the pennies clogging up our purses and wallets and rubbing holes in our pockets are worth less than one-twelfth of their value when they were introduced in 1971 (then, they bought the equivalent of 12p).

On the other side of the argument are the coin conservationists led by Katie Eagleton, curator of modern money at the British Museum, and Phil Mussell, director of Coin News, arbiter of all things numismatic.

Mr Mussell says that every penny costs just 0.3p to produce and is therefore still economically viable. And if you don't want it cluttering up your life, what's stopping you from giving it to charities, who would be glad to have it jangling in their tins. However, in the anti-penny lobby is David Buik, of the City stockbroker BGC Partners, who says: 'After losing several hundred per cent of its value in the past two to three decades, the penny seems like a complete waste of time and space.'

New research suggests many agree with him. A quarter of people say they would be glad to see the back of the coin which their ancestors begged, borrowed, stole and hoarded over a period of 1,000 years.

According to a survey by Prudential insurance, the young are less sentimentally attached to our ancient coinage. While all but two per cent of those in the 55 to 65 age group still treat their pennies with respect—probably because they remember the old adage that if you 'look after the pennies, the pounds look after themselves'—young spenders simply could not care less.

One third of the Smartphone and credit card generation admit to throwing their coppers away—and that's not just into a fountain to bring them good luck. Young men worried about the cut of their designer jackets simply toss them in the bin. Sales girls, too, look impatient while the more prudent shoppers rummage in their purses at the till and count out the pennies, even if there is no queue.

But do away with pennies entirely? That's another thing! In one form or another, today's under-fire penny has proved it has admirable staying power. The little coin dates back to the 8th century and the days of King Offa, the monarch who famously built a fortification separating England from Wales.

He introduced Britain's first coinage since Roman occupation, basing it on a continental prototype. Offa's penny was not the familiar copper we know, but a much more glamorous affair made of pure silver. By the 13th century, there was even a gold penny in circulation. Those were the days when the value of the coin represented the value of the metal used in its manufacture, and the coin-maker would put his name on the reverse to guarantee it.

These pennies had considerable buying power, being worth as much as £20-£30 today. In time, people started to cut the coins in halves and quarters to make halfpennies and farthings to spend on cheaper goods.

Throughout medieval times, the coins, which were minted all over the country, could be embossed with a rudimentary monarch's head. But from the time of Henry VII, in 1485, kings insisted on having a much better likeness on one side, with the royal shield on the other.

Henry VIII took an even closer interest in the currency and decreed that all mints should be Royal Mints under his protection. This was an unpopular move because Henry, who was running short of money to spend on all his wars, adulterated the silver with copper. This triggered such an outrage that when the silver rubbed off, revealing the baser metal beneath, they nicknamed the king Old Coppernose.

It was not until the 19th century that copper was used regularly to make pennies. They were so thick and heavy that they were known as cartwheels. By Queen's Victoria's time, the days of copper were over and pennies were made of bronze, with the Queen's head on one side and Britannia bearing a trident on the other. This coin, which was slightly larger than today's 2p piece, remained in currency until 1970.

Then came decimalisation and the new, smaller modern penny. Around a half-inch in diameter (or should that be 1.27cm?), it was made of bronze, but since 1993 it has been made with cheaper copper-plated steel.

Initially, the new penny had a traditional portcullis on the reverse, but that has since been replaced by a version which has part of the royal shield. Every denomination of coin up to 50p carries another part of the shield, and if you collect them all, you will see the whole shield.

But with such an ever-changing history, is the penny to be subjected to the ultimate insult and be ditched forever? The British Museum's Kate Eagleton is convinced this won't happen quite yet, with 514 million pennies produced last year.

In fact, the irony is that its saviour may be the recession. 'People still quite like cash,' says Ms Eagleton. 'It's something tangible and it will be a long time before it becomes common for small transactions to be done digitally. Research has shown that most transactions below £10 are still done in cash. It's easier to budget if you take out money at the start of the week and just spend that.'

But the biggest argument for keeping the penny is financial. Its existence helps to keep prices down. For whenever a coin is ditched, retailers and service providers cynically use the opportunity to surreptitiously round prices up rather than down.

As Phil Mussell, of Coin News, puts it: 'Whether it's decimalisation or the switch to the euro, prices always rise in these situations and inflation goes up.'

Penny lovers also fear that with the farthing killed off in 1961 and the halfpenny in 1984, the abolitionists will turn their sights on the smaller 5p: once the proud shilling, Britain's oldest unit.

So, watch out. Soon, if we're not careful, the phrase 'penny-pinching' may take on an altogether more sinister meaning.