



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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Member :

Ontario Numismatic Association
Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

PresidentBill O'Brien
1st Vice PresidentLen Kuenzig
2nd Vice PresidentDavid Quinlan
SecretaryHenry Nienhuis
TreasurerBen Boelens
Past PresidentNick Cowan

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THE BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to say hello again to members and everyone interested in the numismatic hobby. It's been a long time since I have sat down to write my President's message. Family obligations, that I must say I was totally unprepared for, have taken a large part of my free time. Being the only child, within thousands of kilometres of a parent, mean family responsibilities have only one person to fall on.

Living with my wife and father in Hamilton for a month I realized the huge difficulties families face with dealing with people with dementia. I strongly recommend that all members of the club have the proper legal documents in place to deal with these life-changing situations. Many of us will face these types of situations in the future so prepare yourself for the possibility. I know this may seem more like common cents (sorry sense) but make sure your complete family unit have living wills, powers of attorney, and of course wills. Talk amongst yourselves to make sure everyone understands your intentions before your ability to make these deci-

sions is no longer possible. Now enough of these ramblings about my life and family, time to get down to some news on numismatics.

The first item I would like to cover was the informative talk Ron Greene gave to the club last month. The information provided as well as the visual representations of the tokens made for a very interesting evening. Thank you Ron, for your dedication to the hobby, for taking time to visit us and for speaking to our club.

The second item I will mention was my attendance at the first Toronto Coin Expo held in downtown Toronto at the Reference Library. The show, run by club member Jared Stapleton, was I believe a huge success. The venue was large, with lots of natural light, when it was not pouring with rain, as it was Friday mid-day. The attendance was very brisk Friday despite the rain and even better Saturday. All in all it was a first rate show with little for Jared to improve on before the next show in late September.

The last meeting of the club was very well attended, mainly to hear Ron speak, but also we had a few others speak, whom I will now thank. In no particular order I would like to thank Marvin, Paul J., Ben, Terry, Philip and Jared for speaking to the club and sharing the numismatic information with us. These informal speakers are what make the club and I thank them for participating.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 26

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.

We hope you have time to join us at the next meeting because, after many meetings of guest speakers, this month you have the chance to share your special interest with the members. That's right, it's a members' night where you get to present your topic. This only works with good participation, so please bring something along.

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.

I only wish there were more of you who would consider doing a small presentation and sharing your knowledge about numismatics with the club.

With the good weather finally here it is time to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. While doing that, perhaps you will venture down our highways and byways and visit some of the local shows this summer. As you travel, why don't you visit one of the local shows in Paris, Ancaster or Woodstock or for those with more lofty ambitions you can always head west and visit Calgary July 18-22nd for the R.C.N.A. Convention.

Well I guess that's a wrap for now so until the next meeting, chill out. (that's a summer time joke.)

Bill O'Brien



NEWS OF THE MAY 2012 MEETING

The 577th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, May 22nd, 2012 in the 2nd floor Gibson Room at the Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. West. The meeting was hammered to order at 7:35 p.m. with our President, Bill O'Brien, in the chair; there were 30 members and 4 guests in attendance.

Our on-time attendance draw was the first order of business. Member Bob Velensky was not present to receive the prize of \$2.00 when his name was drawn. The draw will increment to \$4.00 for the June 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 April meeting as published in

the May newsletter. With no changes identified, member Terry O'Brien made a motion to accept the minutes; member John Regitko seconded. Motion carried.

Our treasurer, Ben Boelens, was then asked to report on the club's current financial balance. Ben mentioned that we had received \$30.00 from the O.N.A. as proceeds from the sales of the Good As Gold draw tickets sold on behalf of the club. Ben also mentioned that he is planning an extended vacation, beginning in October, and is looking for a member to volunteer as temporary treasurer in Ben's absence. He asked that anyone interested talk to him privately.

Bill O'Brien then asked for feedback about the club's Hobby Show that we held in conjunction with the Mississauga club. Overall the feedback was very positive. Nick Cowan said he found the show quite successful and was ready to sign up for our next show. Bill felt that we could have done a bit more advertising to draw in larger crowds; he felt that we should plan to make a profit in the next show rather than have it just break even. Nick suggested raising the table fees as a way of accomplishing that. Paul Petch mentioned that one of lessons learned is that the room at Edithvale was a little smaller than he originally estimated and suggested next time that we sell no more than 18 tables. One

of the members suggested that we should look at the size of the Gibson rooms—thinking that, because of the Banquet rooms shape, Gibson might actually support more tables. Paul didn't think that was true though. Len Kuenzig agreed and said that he liked the access that the main floor room gave dealers directly from the parking lot. Paul took the action item to find out if the room was available in November and again in May 2013 for another show. Philip Simms said he like the character of the Hobby Show and re-iterated that he too would like to see the show continue in May of next year if November was not open to us.

Bill mentioned that a quick review of the sign in sheet showed that again we had a number of guests in attendance. Bill asked the guests to kindly introduce themselves and tell us a little about their collecting interests. John K. was the first to introduce himself; he collects Canadian decimal coins and a little paper money. John mentioned that he had fallen somewhat away from collecting over the years but was looking to our club to help him regain his interest. Brent C. mentioned that he was just getting interested in the hobby having started collecting only 4 months ago. Our last guest to introduce himself was Don Bunjevac. Don remembered attending previous meetings of the NYCC a number of years ago; he is certainly no stranger to the



Paul Johnson



Phillip Simms



Ben Boelens

hobby, being a long-time medal and foreign paper collector. Don is also president of the Toronto Coin Club. (One other guest was our speaker, Ronald Greene of Victoria B.C., whose comments were saved for his talk.)

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

Paul Johnson was the first to raise his hand. Last Friday Paul had driven to Rochester to attend the 100th anniversary of the Rochester Numismatic Association (1912—2012) representing the R.C.N.A. Paul said the banquet was attended by approximately 70 people and that he presented the R.C.N.A. member club (joining in 1964) with a plaque from Bill Waychison, R.C.N.A. President, honouring their impressive milestone.

Philip Simms mentioned that he attended the last NYCC executive meeting. At that time he took the action item to try and obtain a quantity of rolls of 2012 1-cent coins. He mentioned that, as of yet, he had not been successful. Nick Cowan reported that the dealers he knows all say that they are sold out.

Ben Boelens rose to tell the members of an experience he had recently. As we know Ben is an avid world coin collector. He said that he recently bundled up a number of spare European coins, in 2 lb. bags that a friend offered to convert for him while travelling in England. He said that his friend had converted them to a number of Scottish banknotes,

which he was surprised to learn that each bank could issue their own notes. Dick Dunn reiterated that and said that to his knowledge there were approximately 81 different issuing authorities in Scotland.

Terry O'Brien took the floor next to tell the club of an endearing moment she was part of recently when her nephew, Edward, came across some images of the O.N.A. convention she attended in April. He immediately remembered member, Mr. Jim Charlton, who was standing beside his aunt. He remembered Mr. Charlton had given him a 1967 5-cent piece a number of years ago at one of the numismatic shows. Mr. Charlton is known for his philanthropy and actively practised trying to introduce juniors to the hobby in ways such as this. An incident like this is a reminder that even small gestures can have a positive an impact on potential future collectors. It also reflects on just how much of an impact Mr. Charlton has had on our hobby!

Paul Petch asked for the floor to talk about his recent numismatic oriented trip to Quebec. Paul attended the Lakeshore Coin Club's 50th anniversary banquet as president of the O.N.A. The Lakeshore club is a long-time member club of the O.N.A. and was home to such notable numismatists as Fred Bowman and J.D. Ferguson. Paul was able to acquire a silver and a copper medal struck by the club to commemorate the event.

Jared Stapleton took a moment to remind the members that his new show, Toronto Coin Expo, is only about a week away. Bill O'Brien mentioned that the club is still looking for volunteers to man the O.N.A. table at the show on behalf of our club.

Our last show-and-tell was a spontaneous request. Ben Boelens had passed around the Scottish banknotes he had recently acquired. An astute Marvin Kay noticed that one of the 5-pound notes featured a likeness of Sir Alexander Fleming. If we remember our medical history Sir Fleming shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his discovery of Penicillin. Ben, realizing that Marvin collects medical themed numismatic material, presented Marvin with the note for his collection. Marvin thanked Ben for his generosity.

Bill then asked Paul to introduce our guest speaker, Mr. Ronald Greene. Ron is a very well known numismatist from British Columbia. Ron is an advanced collector of merchant due bills, and paper money from that

province. In welcoming Ron, Paul mentioned that Ron was here visiting his daughter affording us the pleasure of his company. Ron's presentation dealt with the due bills and tokens issued by merchants from the early years of the province, most of it from B.C.'s post-confederation era of 1871. He annotated the slides with historical events and background information that he had discovered during his in-depth research of the material at the British Columbia archives.

After the question and answer period, Henry Nienhuis, thanked Ron for his excellent treatment of the subject and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the executive. At 8:55 pm, Bill called for the refreshment break consisting of cookies, juice and coffee for the evening.

With the refreshment break ending at 9:12pm, the last portion of the meeting was devoted to lucky draws and auction. Lucky draw winners were- Mary T., Franco Farronato (2), Brent C., Henry Nienhuis (2), Ben Boelens, Len Kuenzig, Phillip Simms, Linda Simms (2), Joe C., David Bawcutt, Richard Duquette, Paul Johnson, Raj Makhijani, and Tony Hine. The club earned \$25.00 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 \$17.85 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. 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 9:53 p.m.

As a reminder, the next regular club meeting will be held in the Gibson Room, on the second floor, June 26th at the Edithvale Community Centre.

The editor extends apologies for the poor quality of the photos in this month's meeting news. It was decided that poor pictures are better than no pictures at all.



Ronald Greene

COMING EVENTS FOR SUMMER 2012

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 15, Ancaster, Ancaster Collectibles Extravaganza, Marritt Hall, on the new Ancaster Fairgrounds, 630 Trinity Rd. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Admission \$4 per person, children under 12 admitted for free when accompanied by an adult. *Featuring coins, paper money, tokens, old and new die cast toys, action figures, comics, vinyl records, music memorabilia, sports and non-sport cards, sports memorabilia, movie and television memorabilia and a wide variety of pop culture collectibles.* For more information contact Ian Ward, telephone 519-426-8875, email toyshow@kwic.com. Website: <http://www.ancastertoyshow.blogspot.com>.

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 tedscollectables@bellnet.ca.

AUG. 26, Woodstock, Woodstock 23rd Annual Coin Show, Community Complex, corner of Finkle and Parkinson roads. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$1, free for children. *Buy, sell, evaluate coins and paper money. Snack bar, hourly draws, free parking.* For more information contact John Tuffnail, telephone 519-537-5914.

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. 23, London, 20th Annual Coin Show, Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd., just off 401. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information contact Ted Leitch, telephone 519-472-9679.

Listings are courtesy of Canadian Coin News Coming Events

Bold Colour Enhances Recent RCM Product Offerings



On April 17, 2012 the Royal Canadian Mint announced a large number of products including these three highly colourful non-circulating coins.

The first is a 25-cent Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (left), the latest addition to their Birds of Canada series. Arnold Nagy's rendering is reproduced in a vibrant paint application over a cupro-nickel coin. This one is close to selling out.

Following the success of a fine silver tulip coin with a glass ladybug, the Mint has released a new fine silver and Venetian glass creation with the Aster and glass bumblebee (right). This colourful perennial herb, which bears striking blue, mauve, pink or white flowers, is a favourite food source for the bumblebee on which it counts as a key pollinator. Maurice Gervais captures the image with a dazzling painted mauve Aster on a \$20 99.999% pure silver coin on which master craftsman Giuliano Donaggio's vibrant yellow and black bumblebee, finely crafted in Venetian glass, has landed.

The Aster and bumblebee are also captured in bold colour by designer Maurice Gervais on a 25-cent cupronickel collector coin (left).



CANADIAN COMMUNION TOKENS

by W. A. Craik from “Toronto East and West” and reprinted in *The Numismatist* for June 1912

To many young Canadians of the present generation, the little objects illustrated on this page may appear strange and incomprehensible. Even elder people who were not brought up in the Presbyterian faith might be puzzled to explain them. For each passing year is carrying farther and farther into the past the days when these curious bits of metal were in common use in Presbyterian churches in all parts of the country. But the care of a few collectors of curios, scattered here and there through the country, is preserving for future years specimens of these relics of an old and honoured custom.

The little objects referred to are what are known as communion tokens, and it is estimated that not so many years ago there were between two and three hundred varieties of them in use in Canada. To day a large number of the Presbyterian churches use printed cards as tokens. These are distributed by the elders of the church a few days before the communion service, and are then taken up at the church door on the morning of the service. The tokens, almost universally in use from the early days until cards began to take their place, were small bits of metal, made in various shapes and sizes, and stamped with different wordings and designs. Each congregation had its own token which was used in the same way as the present card.

The origin of the metal token dates back to the time of the Reformation in Scotland. When the Reformers left their old churches, they had to contend with many difficulties in carrying on their worship. Services were held in out-of-the-way corners and in secluded valleys. There were informers all about ready to betray the Covenanters. To protect themselves from these dangerous persons, small tickets made of lead were struck and given out a day or so before a service to the worthy members of the flock, and these tickets were used to identify the true followers. The custom thus established as a safeguard in troubled times was continued when more settled conditions were obtained, and the metal tokens became a necessary part of a Church's equipment.

At first the tokens were very crude, having simply the initial letter of the parish impressed on them, but in time they became more elaborate. Lead was superseded by copper, brass, and even silver. To the initial of the parish, a date was added, and then the minister's initials. From being square, small and of no prescribed shape or device, they became oval, round or oblong, with truncated corners. Later tokens have the name of the place or the minister's name in full, or both, and some display the arms of the town or other device. An appropriate verse of scripture on the reverse side became customary,

So much for Scotland. When missionaries of the Scottish church came to Canada, what more natural than that they should bring with them a supply of tokens for use in their new field of labour. The first tokens to reach Canada are supposed to be those brought to Truro, Nova Scotia, by the Rev. Daniel Cock, in 1772. He had previously established a church there, and the tokens were for use in it. They bear the inscription, “Mr. D. C., Truro, Nova Scotia, 1772.” Another



A FEW NEW BRUNSWICK TOKENS.
Those marked St. I. P. and St. J. were in early use in St. John Parish, P. E. I.



TOKENS FROM ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.
The one marked C. P. C. F. C. is now very rare, also from Cornwall.

very old token from the same province was made for a congregation organized among the settlers round the mouth of the East River, of Pictou, and is inscribed: “Lower Sett” [lement]. It was used later in New Glasgow. Still a third old token was for a church farther up the same river, and carries the initials “U. S. R. E.,” meaning Upper Settlement of East River.

The oldest known token in Ontario dates back to 1794, and was used in Glengarry. The oldest Montreal token is dated 1803. From that time on, the number increased rapidly, as practically every Presbyterian Church in Canada had to have one.

There is great variety even in the Canadian tokens, though they do not date back nearly as far as the Scottish tokens. Some are simply plain pieces of lead without inscription or symbol of any kind. Others have letters rudely scratched on them with some pointed instrument. Still others have the initials of the minister or place indented on one side with chisel or punch. Many are cast from moulds, but the majority of the more recent ones are struck from dies like coins, some of them having a device on one side only, others on both sides. When the reverse side is used, it is generally found to contain a quotation, such as, "This do in remembrance of Me," or "Let a man examine himself."

Again, it is known that some tokens were brought from Scotland. The Antigonish Church used a token that bore the inscription, "Rev. Thos. Trotter, Johns Haven, 1808," while the Lanark, Ontario church used tokens struck in 1788 for Dairy, Scotland. When a token was discarded by one church, it was often taken up by another church. Thus, the token of the Free Church, Pictou, was used in one church in Ontario, in two or three in Prince Edward Island, and in a number in Nova Scotia. From 1850 stock tokens made by enterprising manufacturers were generally employed. These were with or without the name of the church.

The history of an important period in the life of the Presbyterian Church is reflected in the tokens, and, for this reason, if for no other, they possess a deep interest. For quite a number of years there were constant disruptions in the church in Scotland, and there have been at least six divisions in the last two centuries. In the first place there was the Church of Scotland. Then there was the Reformed Presbytery, tokens of which body bore the initials "R. P." Thirdly there was the Associate Presbytery or Secession Church. Then there was the General Associate Presbytery or Anti-Burgher Church, with "A. B." on its tokens, The Presbytery or Relief used the letters "R. C." and finally there came the Free Church,

It is unnecessary, and in fact impossible in this short space to discuss the nature and extent of these various branches of the church, but mention is made of them to illustrate one source of interesting research suggested by a study of the old tokens, for the divisions of the church in Scotland extended to Canada as well.

Hidden away here and there all over the country there must be supplies of the old metal tokens, so full of human interest by reason of their long association with the lives of the pioneers. To search them out and to gather together a number of different varieties must surely present an alluring field of effort for young Presbyterians who possess a proper reverence for the things of the past. There are as yet very few collectors of tokens, so that opportunities are of the best. Some examples, it is true, are extremely scarce, and valuable accordingly, but there are still a good many that may be had without much trouble, and there are always chances of making discoveries.

A complete collection of Canadian tokens in fine condition would be worth at least \$500. Some collectors place an even higher



A GROUP OF NOVA SCOTIA TOKENS.

The token in upper left hand corner is the first one brought to Canada.

1. "Mr. D. C.," stands for Mr. Daniel Cock, who brought these tokens to Truro, N. S., in 1772.
2. Next it is the token of the Presbyterian Church, Halifax, an early example and scarce.
3. The token "Lower Sett" was used in a settlement near the mouth of the East River and later in New Glasgow.

valuation than this on them, and no doubt, before many years, they will be worth double the money, because more people will be wanting them.

The rarest tokens are said to be those of St. Paul's, Truro, and Shelburne, Nova Scotia; St. John's, Dalhousie, and St. Stephen's, St. John, New Brunswick; Georgetown, Prince Edward Island; Fornham Centre, Quebec; Glengarry and Port Hope, Ontario. All of these are now worth from five to ten dollars each. Quite a large number such as P. C. H. 1784 Halifax, Barney's River (B. R.), Lochaber, St. Mary's, Sydney Mines, River John, Canso, Miramichi, Springfield, etc., are worth two to five dollars each.

Some years ago a collector's guide to all known Canadian tokens was compiled by Robert Wallace McLachlan of Montreal, describing two hundred and forty-one varieties and giving details about each. Some such list as this will be a great help in getting together a collection.

To derive the greatest measure of inspiration from the pursuit, one should learn to handle these ancient tokens reverently, not for what they are, so much as for what they represent. Let the mind drift back to the years long gone, to the saintly men and women who carried them, and when they stood for so much in the religious lives of the people. What emotions have they not witnessed, what prayers have they not heard, what experiences have they not passed through. Each one of these tarnished bits of metal could doubtless relate many an absorbing tale of human life.

The author resided in Toronto and was a columnist for both the Toronto Telegram and Maclean's Magazine.

**RCM ANNOUNCES A SERIES OF FIVE CIRCULATING COINS
TO CELEBRATE THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR OF 1812**

First up is a \$2 coin marking the victory of HMS Shannon over USS Chesapeake with coins also honouring Brock, Tecumseh, de Salaberry and Laura Secord to follow.

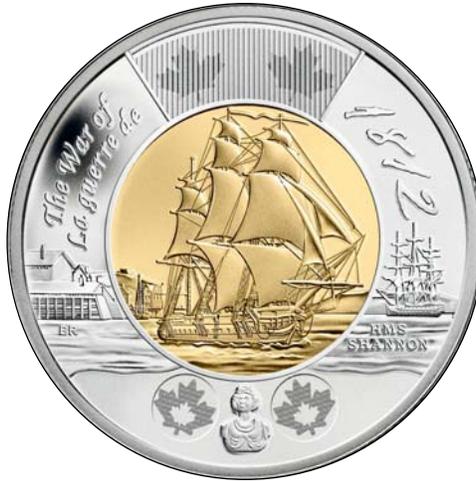
On June 18, two hundred years following the start of the conflict in 1812, the Royal Canadian Mint announced the launch of a series of five new commemorative circulation coins celebrating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. The first of these coins, which immediately entered circulation, is a two-dollar coin commemorating HMS *Shannon*, famed for its defeat and capture of the USS *Chesapeake* and its escort of the American war prize into Halifax harbour.

A group of key historical figures, which influenced the successful fight for Canada in the War of 1812, will also be honoured on four new 25-cent circulation coins to be released later in 2012 and 2013. Historic individuals who valiantly defended British North America and ushered 200 years of peace on the North American continent will be represented by: General Sir Isaac Brock, Chief Tecumseh, Charles de Salaberry and Laura Secord. The designs of these coins will be revealed in conjunction with their official circulation date, from 2012 to 2013.

“The Royal Canadian Mint is proud to celebrate Canada’s history, culture and values through inspirational coins and we are delighted to join Canadians in celebrating the bicentennial of the War of 1812 by launching a new series of commemorative circulation coins dedicated to these pivotal moments in early Canadian history,” said Ian E. Bennett, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint.

“Honouring the bicentennial of the War of 1812 with this special circulation coin pays tribute to some of our greatest national heroes and a crucial moment on the road to Canadian nationhood,” said the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Royal Canadian Mint. “Our government encourages Canadians to take this unprecedented opportunity to learn more about our history and take pride in our traditions by collecting these exciting new circulation coins from the Royal Canadian Mint.”

Limited to a mintage of five million coins, the HMS *Shannon* two-dollar commemorative circulation coin began circulating on June



18, 2012. Besides looking for the coin in your change, it is also available under an exchange program from one of the Mint’s boutiques in Ottawa, Winnipeg or Vancouver.

In June 1813, Captain Philip Broke, Commander of the HMS *Shannon*, was eager to secure a victory for the British Navy, which had suffered a series of single-ship combat defeats at the hands of the United States.

Challenging the USS *Chesapeake* off the New England coast, both ships met with guns at the ready. The battle lasted only 11 minutes, but the decisive victory helped to bolster the confidence of the British Navy, especially at the sight of the captured *Chesapeake* being escorted into Halifax harbour by a triumphant HMS *Shannon*.

HMS *Shannon*’s historic naval battle in June 1813 resulted in the death of 23 crewmen. The graves of fallen crewmen are marked in the Royal Navy Burying Ground and at the Old Burial Ground, administered by St. Paul’s Church in Halifax. *Shannon*’s bell is currently on display in Halifax at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

The reverse image of the 2012 two-dollar circulation coin commemorating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and the influential role of the HMS *Shannon* was designed by Nova Scotia artist Bonnie Ross. It depicts HMS *Shannon* leaving Halifax Harbour to do battle on the Atlantic at the height of the historic conflict between Great Britain and the United States.



Mr. Kirk MacRae, Member of the Royal Canadian Mint Board of Directors and Halifax artist Bonnie Ross, the coin’s designer, unveil the 2012 two-dollar circulation coin commemorating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 at the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site (June 18, 2012).

(Photo: CNW Group/Royal Canadian Mint)

Spanning the entire face of the coin, are docks and buildings of early 19th-century Halifax Harbour on the left side, with Citadel Hill visible in the distance. On the far right, a tall ship sails across the well-defended harbour. The brass-plated centre of the coin contains a starboard-side portrait of HMS *Shannon* rendered in elaborate detail, sails fully unfurled and filled by a steady westerly wind, jib boom and bowsprit pointed out to sea.

Engraved at the base of the outer ring is the original figurehead from HMS *Shannon*'s bow. The rest of the ring features "The War of 1812/La guerre de 1812" and "HMS *Shannon*," as well as the initials of the artist. This coin maintains the security-features of the Mint's new multi-ply plated steel two-dollar circulation coins, namely: two laser-engraved maple leaves at the bottom of the coin; a virtual image of two maple leaves at the top, and the words "CANADA—2 DOLLARS" struck along its edge.

The obverse features the effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by Susanna Blunt, as well as the Government of Canada's official commemorative symbol for the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Cutline:

Canadian token collectors will recall the Britannia 1814—Broke Halifax Nova Scotia token depicting Captain Phillip B. Vere Broke on the obverse and Britannia on the reverse, supposedly watching the H.M.S. Shannon towing the U.S.S. Chesapeake into Halifax harbour as a prize of war. Rather crudely made, the depiction of the naval victory on the piece was undoubtedly intended to promote its acceptance as a circulation coin.



MEDALLIC ART SOCIETY OF CANADA EXHIBITS TOP WINNERS IN ITS 1812 ART MEDAL COMPETITION



Rodman Hall Art Centre, a part of Brock University, located at 109 St. Paul Crescent, St. Catharines, is the site of an art medal display by the Medallistic Art Society of Canada. The medals on display are the result of a recent competition on behalf of the Niagara 1812 Legacy Council to create a presentation piece suitable for award to visiting dignitaries. Shown here are the top three with first place going to Art Ellis, second to Janine Lindgren and honourable mention to Erin Crysdale, a first year adult art student at Central Technical School in Toronto. The first presentation was to Governor General David Johnston during his visit to Niagara-On-the-Lake on Saturday, June 16 as he kicked off War of 1812 bicentennial events. The display is free of charge and open to the public until the end of August.

