



ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 44
July/August 2005
Pages 70-85

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION ISSN 0048-1815

ELECTED EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Tom Rogers

41 Masefield Cres. London, Ont. N5V 1M9
(519) 451-2316 trogers@sympatico.ca

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Hollingshead

Box 1000, Arkell, Ont. N0B 1C0
(519) 822- 5856* cholling@uoguelph.ca

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Ray Desjardins

Box 11447, Stn. "H" Nepean, Ont. K2H 7V1
(613) 825-2318 rayd.641@sympatico.ca

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Petch

128 Silverstone Dr. Etobicoke, Ont. M9V 3G7
(416) 745-3067 p.petch@rogers.com

AREA DIRECTORS

Area 1A- Tom Clarke

558 Dorset Park Pl., St Clair Beach N8N 3N4
(519) 735-0727 mclarke@wincom.net

Area 1B - Hubert Grimminck

1806 Sunningdale Rd., London, Ont. N6H 5J7
(519) 472-2956

Area 2 Fred Freeman

88 Northland Cres. Woodstock, Ont. N4S 6T5
(519) 539-2665 bfreeman@oxford.net

Area 3 Todd Hume

41 Radford Ave., Fort Erie, Ont. L2A 5H6
(905) 871-2451 humebl@aol.com

Area 4 Len Trakalo

11 Joysey St., Brantford, Ont. N3R 2R7
(519) 756-5137* ltrakalo@sympatico.ca

Area 5 Richard Johnson

652 Miller St., Woodstock, Ont. N4S 5K1
(519) 537-3858 inside@primus.ca

Area 6 Murray Smith

20Condor Dr. Box505 RR#2Coldwater, On.L0K 1E0
(705) 3264922 jmcsmith@bconnex.net

Area 7 David Bawcutt

75 Claremore Ave. Scarborough, Ont. M1N 3S2
(416) 266-2718 jbwawcutt@sprint.ca

Area 8 Sandy Lipin

870 Rochdale Cres. Kingston, Ont. K7L 4V3
(613) 542-6923 sandlipin@aol.com

Area 9 Barry McIntyre

3 State St. Ottawa, Ont. K2C 4B3
(613) 761-6929 Barry.McIntyre@rogers.com

Area 10 William Waychison

P.O. Box 466, Timmins, Ont. P4N 7E3
(705) 267-7514 farnorth@onlink.net

Area 11 Craig Wilde

1820 Hamilton Ave. Thunder Bay, On. P7E 4Y1
(807) 622-7815 craigwilde@shaw.ca

President's Message

Numismatists have been termed: avid collectors, greedy speculators, mere accumulators, astute buyers, clever bargainers, imaginative collectors and also keen students. We are any of these things or all. Among numismatists we all can find examples of these types. Numismatics is coming of age, and numismatists are now expanding their interest. Everyone from age 6 to 96 enjoys the hobby.

I have visited 9 clubs in the past month and saw lots of enthusiasm in most but a couple are lacking participation and variety. Your club will only get better if the members come forward and contribute. I have seen this in a number of clubs lets keep the hobby thriving by giving just a little more. We will work with your club in showing how it can be improved just let me know.

In September when we all get back to our clubs, bring along a friend or a youth. Maybe try joining more than one coin club in your area. You always get different knowledge and enjoyment from each coin club. Most clubs and coin shows do take the summer off but that doesn't mean we forget our hobby.

The C.N.A convention being held in Calgary promises to be a worthwhile convention. For those going west don't forget to attend, July 20 to 23. I hope to see a few familiar faces out there. Happy Hunting.

Our executive meeting in Brantford was a very productive meeting. A lot of items were talked about with plenty of feedback from all present. Our new area directors were introduced at this time. I am looking forward in the next two years to working with all the area directors to promote the hobby for all ages.

As president I am pleased that the executive supported the Coins for Kids 101 course so this can start to show that we are working to get the younger people interested in the hobby of collecting coins.

In August there are three coin shows, one in the cottage country and two in southern Ontario. Do get out and support the clubs and organizers of these events. Enjoy the summer and hope to see you soon.

Your President
Tom Rogers

APPOINTED COMMITTEE

RECORDING SECRETARY

Len Trakalo

11 Joysey St., Brantford, Ont. N3R 2R7
(519) 756* ltrakalo@sympatico.ca

TREASURER

Bruce Raszmann

P.O. Box 40033, Waterloo Square P.O.
75 King St. S., Waterloo, Ont. N2J 4V1
(519) 745-3104

AUDIO VISUAL LENDING LIBRARIAN

Ken Koch

310 Queen St. South, Suite 311
Kitchener, Ont. N2G 1K2
(519) 749-0903* kenkoch@sympatico.ca

BOOK LENDING LIBRARIAN

Tom Rogers

41 Masefield Cres., London, Ont. N5V 1M9
(519) 451-2316 trogers@sympatico.ca

CLUB SERVICES CHAIRMAN

Fred Freeman

88 Northland Cres., Woodstock, Ont. N4S 6T5
(519) 539-2665 bfreeman@oxford.net

HEAD JUDGE

Paul Johnson

P.O. Box 64556, Unionville, Ont. L3R 0M9
(905) 472-3777* prj1952@aol.com

AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Paul Petch

128 Silverstone Dr., Etobicoke, Ont. M9V 3G7
(416) 745-3067 p.petch@rogers.com

EDITOR - ONA NUMISMATIST

Richard Johnson

#4-285 Lorne Ave., E., Box 23016
Stratford Ont. N5A 7V8 (519) 272-0051
inside@primus.ca Fax: (519) 272-0067

ONA LIAISON TO THE MINT

Ray Desjardins

Box 11447, Stn "H" Nepean, Ont. K2H 7V1
(613) 825-2318 rayd.641@sympatico.ca

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Bruce Raszmann

P.O. Box 40033, Waterloo Square P.O.
75 King St. S., Waterloo, Ont. N2J 4V1
(519) 745-3104

* Available only evenings & on week-ends

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular Membership - \$15.00 per year
Husband & wife (1 Journal) - \$17.00 year
Junior (up to age 16) - \$5.00 year
Club Membership - \$20.00 year
Life Membership - \$450.00
(life memberships are accepted only after
one year of regular membership)
Send money order or cheque (payable to the
ONA) for membership to:
Bruce Raszmann, ONA Treasurer
P.O.Box 40033, Waterloo Square P.O.
75 King St. S., Waterloo, Ont. N2J 4V1

Membership Report

The applications for membership which appeared in the May/June issue of the Ontario Numismatist have been accepted. We welcome Dave Marcella, Don Brad Stephen P. Woodland and Christine Guyatt-Woodland.

The following application for membership has been received. If there are no objections, he will be accepted into ONA Membership and his acceptance published in the next bulletin.

1841 Tony Hine, Toronto

Bruce Raszmann,
ONA Membership Chair

Jokes

A big-city counterfeiter decided the best place to pass off his phony \$18 bills would be in some small, hick Texas town. So, he packed his bags and off he went. When he arrived in a small, hick Texas town, the counterfeiter entered a store and handed one of the bogus bills to the man behind the counter. "Can you change this for me, please?" he asked. The store clerk looked at the \$18 bill for a short time, then smiled and replied, "I reckon so, mister... do ya want two nines or three sixes?"

Submitted by Bill Cousins

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE AGE OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS?

When one looks around a club meeting, not many people will challenge the fact that the average age of members must be in the 80s (so okay, we are exaggerating a little bit, by a year or two). As well, more and more people we know are getting married (actually, remarried) at a ripe old age.

As a public service, we are pleased to publish the following, which we recently received from one of our sources. Treat it as a joke if you wish, but we have a feeling some of you will take it very serious and rush right down to your local drug store to make the appropriate arrangements.

Jacob, age 92, and Rebecca, age 89, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding and on the way they pass a drugstore. Jacob suggests they go in.

Jacob addresses the man behind the counter:

"Are you the owner?"

The pharmacist answers "Yes."

Jacob: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

Pharmacist: "Of course we do."

Jacob: "How about medicine for circulation?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds."

Jacob: "Medicine for rheumatism, scoliosis?"

Pharmacist: "Definitely."

Jacob: "How about Viagra?"

Pharmacist: "Of course."

Jacob: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, Jaundice?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety. The works."

Jacob: "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, Geritol, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."

Jacob: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes."

Jacob says to the pharmacist: "We'd like to register here for our wedding gifts, please."

Compliments of CNA E-Bulletin

UPCOMING SHOWS

Is your club holding a show? If so, let us know. Send the details to inside@primus.ca, and we will gladly include it here.

Aug. 7, PARIS

SWON Show, Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver St. Hours: 9 a.m. To 4:30 p.m. Admission \$2. Ticket for a draw for a gold coin with paid admission. For more information, contact Ted's Collectables Inc. (866) 747-COIN (2646) or email tedscollectables@bellnet.ca.

Aug. 13, COLLINGWOOD

Collingwood-Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club Show and Bourse, Leisure Time Club. Hours: 9a.m. To 3p.m. Parking and admission are free. Lots of room to roam with tables to search, trade and buy. Tokens, coins, paper money, stamps, postcards, sports cards, trade dollars, militaria, CTC coupons. Light refreshments will again be served. For more information please contact Bill Skinner at wskinner@bconnex.net or (705) 429-5669.

Aug. 28, WOODSTOCK

16th Annual Show, South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington St. S. Admission \$1, kids free. Sponsor: Woodstock Coin Club. For more information, contact Tom Rogers at (519) 451-2316.

Sept. 10-11, NIAGARA FALLS

T L Coin Show, Ramada Suites Hotel, 7389 Lundy's Lane. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Both days. Admission \$3, seniors and students \$2. Children under 12 free. Free parking. For more information contact Linda Robinson (905) 309-5967 or email lindann@sympatico.ca.

Sept. 18, LONDON

London Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show, Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. (Hwy 401 at Wellington Rd.) Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$1, includes draws. For more information, contact Len Buth (519) 641-4353 or lbuth@webmanager.on.ca.

Sept. 23-25, HAMILTON

TNS, Ramada Plaza Hotel, 150 King St. E. Level P3. Dealer set-up Friday from 2p.m. Early bird admittance and show pass \$20. Public admittance Sat. & Sun at 10 a.m. Adults \$4, seniors and young collectors \$2. Auctions by Jeffrey Hoare Auctions, Inc. Numismatic auction on Sat., Militaria auction on Sun. For more information contact Terry MacHugh (905) 570-2434 or by email rscoins@cogeco.ca.

Oct. 1, OSHAWA

Coin-A-Rama 2005, 5 Points Mall, 285 Taunton Rd. E. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free admission, featuring coins, paper money, tokens and medals. Free dealer draw, member draw and public draw. Sponsor: Oshawa & District Coin Club. For more information, contact Sharon or Earl at (905) 728-1352 or email: papman@idirect.com.

Oct. 1, GUELPH

South Wellington & Waterloo Coin Societies Coin Show, Col. John McCrea Royal Canadian Legion, 919 York Rd. Hwy#7. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Penny draw prizes, free parking, free admission. Coins, medals, tokens, banknotes, trade dollars. For more information, contact South Wellington Coin Society c/o Lowell Wierstra, 8 Smart Street, Guelph, ON.

Oct. 23, STRATFORD

Stratford Coin Club, Festival Inn, 1144 Ontario St., Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$2. Penny draw and more. For more information contact Larry Walker at (519) 271-3352.

Oct. 29-30, TORONTO

TOREX, Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queen's Quay W. Admiral's Ballroom. Hours: Sat. 10 am to 5 pm; Sun 10 - 3 pm. Admission \$6. Visit www.torex.net for details.

Nov. 5, SCARBOROUGH

9th Annual Scarborough Coin Club Show, Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. Hours: 9 am to 3 pm. Free admission and hourly draws, refreshments available. For more information contact Dick Dunn at cpms@idirect.com.

Nov. 13, WINDSOR

Windsor Coin Club will hold its 54th Annual Fall Coin Show at the Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Avenue, Windsor. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission of \$1 includes draws for hourly door prizes and a grand prize. Juniors admitted free. Lots of free parking. For more information contact Margaret Clarke at (519) 735-0727, mclarke@wincom.net.



**WE BUY
AND SELL
CANADIAN
COINS
& BILLS**

**Willard & Sandra Burton
Proprietors**



CNA 19744
ONA Member

B&W COINS

**15-6400 MILLCREEK DRIVE
MISSISSAUGA, ON L5N 3E7**

Tel: (416) 254-6569

Fax: (905) 456-9625

E-mail: b_and_w@sympatico.ca

Coin Kids 101

a correspondence course for young or new collectors

Coin Kids 101 a correspondence course for young or new collectors has been completed and is going to press shortly.

A lot of work and research has gone into this project by Fred Freeman with the support of the C.N.A. the O.N.A. and others. The cost of the course will be \$29.00. and orders can be sent to Fred Freeman at 88 Northland Cr. Woodstock, ON, N4S 6T5 or coinkids@execulink.com. This is a great introductory course for junior collectors or anyone wanting a basic overview of the hobby.

It is being suggested that each club order a couple of sets and have them available at meetings or as part of their library.

We offer our thanks and congratulations to Fred Freeman for the valuable contribution to the future of Numismatics.

To order yours, or for
more information contact:
Fred Freeman
88 Northland Crescent
Woodstock, ON,
N4S 6T5
coinkids@execulink.com.

News From Other Clubs

Compiled by Rick Johnson

1 - Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors. They give out a free wood with each bulletin to members. Contact Al Munro, Box 2643, Station Main, Calgary, AB, T2P 3C1 for membership application, \$10/year, \$5/year if under 16.

2 - St. Thomas Numismatic Association. Their June Bulletin expresses their enthusiasm at hosting the 2006 ONA Convention in London.

3 - Woodstock Coin Club held their election meeting in June. Along with serving ice cream & strawberries. We should be able to report the election results in the next bulletin.

4 - Nickel Belt Coin Club held their elections in May. President: Allan McQuiston, 1st VP: Bob Denton, 2nd VP: Harold Brown, Past President: Gerry Albert, Directors: Robert Ross & Annette Rioux, Secretary: Rolly Albert and Treasurer: Joe Ash. Congratulations to all!

5 - North York Coin Club nominated Terry O'Brien to be their delegate at the CNA Convention in Calgary. Club member George Fraser recently celebrated his 94th birthday. Congratulations to both!

6 - Ottawa Coin Club published in their June bulletin a list of all sources in the Ottawa area for acquiring Numismatic material. Also their bulletin is now available electronically, contact cocc@rogers.com.

7 - Ingersoll Coin Club is advising members to start saving their coin wrappers in anticipation of a new aspect of collecting emerging.

8 - The Classical & Medieval Numismatic Society welcomes submissions for publication in their quarterly journal. Contact oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca if you have any interest.

B.C. COINS LTD 
Bob & Carole Dowsett

**Buying All
VICTORIA & EDWARD COINS**

Phone (519) 271-8884
Fax (519) 275-2684
E-Mail: bccoins@rogers.com

Office By Appointment Only

O.N.A. LM No.
96 C.N.A. LM CAND

Calgary Numismatic Society Hosts 55th Annual CNA Convention
July 20-24, 2005 Westin Hotel, 320 4th Avenue S W, (403) 266-1611

The Calgary Numismatic Society is pleased to host the 55th Anniversary Convention of The Canadian Numismatic Association. 2005 is the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Province of Alberta and The Canadian Numismatic Association's 2005 Convention shares with the residents of Alberta in celebrating the 100th Anniversary by declaring its theme "Alberta 100 Years Proud: Come Celebrate Our Centennial".

The 2005 Convention Committee is pleased to offer several offsite tours which will allow the delegates to share in Alberta's and Calgary's rich historical, cultural and natural resources. The convention activities commence Wednesday morning with a bus tour of some of the scenic and historic highlights of the province's southern landscape. The tour will travel south of Calgary showing the participants a brief glimpse of some of Calgary's southern neighbours including High River, Nanton, with its numerous antique shops and its Lancaster bomber display, and Claresholm. The bus will not stop in any of these locations but will continue on to its first destination "Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump".

Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump is a World Heritage Site located approximately 2 hours south of Calgary. The interpretive centre at the site allows visitors to view one of the oldest, largest and best preserved buffalo jumps in North America. The five level site provides an excellent insight to the methods, procedures and actual site used by the native Americans for nearly 6,000 years. Lunch will be provided at the interpretive centre and will feature their famous delicious "Buffalo Stew".

The tour will then proceed through historic Fort McLeod, with its many historic buildings, to the south-west corner of the Province, where in this breathtaking part of the world, the majestic Rocky Mountains rise suddenly out of the rolling prairies. Amid the peaks are the beautiful lakes of Waterton Lakes National Park, carved out of the rock by ancient glaciers. Also located in the Park is the beautiful and historic Prince of Wales hotel. In the Park there will be a brief stop to enjoy the mountain air and the amenities of the town

The bus will then return to Calgary along scenic Highway 22X through the "Foothills" of Alberta and will pass by the Big Rock near Okotoks. The Big Rock is a glacial erratic (huge boulder) left behind following the retreat of the last ice age 10,000 years ago. The Big Rock is estimated to weigh 16,000 tons. Okotoks is named for the Blackfoot word "okatok," which means rock. The bus will arrive in Calgary around 6:00 PM leaving the delegates the whole evening to enjoy the restaurants and sights of Calgary.

TED'S COLLECTIBLES INC.

WE BUY, SELL AND APPRAISE

ALL SILVER, GOLD, COINS, PAPER MONEY AND JEWELLERY

Hosts of: Paris Shows (Feb. & Aug.), EONS (Kingston), TICF (Oakville)
Distributor for the Charlton Press, most World Catalogues and supplies

281-A Grand River St. North, Paris, Ontario, N3L 2N9

Tel: (519) 442-3474

Fax: (519) 442-2969

Toll Free: 1-866-747-COIN
(2646)

email:teds.s.w.o.n.22@sympatico.ca

Ted Bailey: C.N.A. LM.#346, O.N.A. LM. #57, C.P.M.S. #1072

On Friday morning the spouses and delegates will be given a chance to share in Calgary's rich history by enjoying a tour of some of the gravesites of the famous or infamous residents in Calgary's Union Cemetery. The cemetery tour will be led by Don Sucha, a member of the Calgary Numismatic Society and an avid local history researcher. Among the gravesites that will be visited are: Thomas Kempster; one of the original inventors of the Mounted Police Musical Ride, who has his medals engraved on his tombstone; Col. James Macleod, the man who ordered the building of Fort Calgary and who gave Calgary its name; Harry Cooper, The Yorkshire Giant - a circus performer of immense height who passed away while performing in Calgary and whose grave remained unmarked for over 100 years; George Clift King, the first Mountie to set foot on the site of Fort Calgary, and who became Mayor of Calgary following a scandal; and Sam Livingstone, Calgary's first white settler. The tour will then proceed to the restored turn of the 20th Century residence of Senator James Lougheed, grandfather of Alberta's former Premier, Peter Lougheed, for lunch and a tour of the restored residence. The residence was restored for the Province's centennial.

On Friday evening, delegates and guests are invited to The Nickle Arts Museum, located on the campus of the University of Calgary. The Nickle Arts Museum holds one of the most important numismatic collections in Canada. The museum opened in 1979 and is named in honour of its benefactors, Sam and Carl Nickle. Carl Nickle was a prominent Calgary coin collector, whose large collection comprises the core of the museum's numismatic holdings. The numismatic Curator, Geraldine Chimirri-Russell will give delegates and guests a private tour of the two major numismatic exhibitions, "Canadian Money" and "Money bridging Cultures." The latter exhibition is part of the International Council of Museums theme of "Museums Bridging Cultures", and features so-called primitive money, recently donated in honour of Jack Shinske. The cost includes a cocktail party with a no host bar available.

On Saturday, spouses and delegates will be given the opportunity to see some of the more famous sites of Calgary by participating in a bus tour in the afternoon. Some of the sites that will be encountered are the Calgary Tower, the Pengrowth Saddledome, Canada Olympic Park, the Calgary Zoo, and the University of Calgary featuring the Olympic Oval and The Nickle Arts Museum.



**Colonial
Acres Coins**

300 Victoria St. N., Unit#7
Kitchener, ON N2K 6R9
1-888-255-4565 - (519) 579-9048
coins@colonialacres.com

WANTED TO BUY!

We Buy and Sell Across Canada!

FREE APPRAISALS!

We want to purchase your coin and banknote collections! We are among the top buyers of numismatic material in Canada. Contact us or visit our store. Please ask for Cam or Todd.

Tel: (519) 579-9048

Email: coins@colonialacres.com

UNCOVERING HITLER'S COUNTERFEITING SCHEME

(Part 2: The Search for Answers: Lake Toplitz, Austria*)

When *60 Minutes II* went to Lake Toplitz in the Austrian Alps last summer, it was looking for secrets the Nazis had dumped there in the final days of World War II. But if the wooden pieces the crew found were the remains of the Nazi project, the packing boxes had fallen apart and whatever was inside them was clearly in bad shape. It seemed Hitler's secret could be lost to history. But if the high technology was being defeated by Toplitz, there was something else that could bring a conclusion to Hitler's Lake.

The memory of 83-year-old Adolf Burger is as sharp today as it was during the Holocaust. He will never forget the moment when, as a Jewish prisoner, he was ordered to pack up the secret Nazi project. "All the boxes were numbered at that time... They were all numbered according to a protocol," he recalled.

He never dreamed he would see them again. Burger's eyes have seen a crime most of the world knows nothing about. It is a Holocaust story that he witnessed because he survived every step of the way. "I survived five concentration camps over a period of three years. We looked at death on a daily basis. You were never sure of your life," said Burger.

Early in 1942, Burger's life was a joy. He was living in his native Czechoslovakia, a printer by trade. And he had just married Gisella, his bride, whom he describes as "in love with life and full of hope." A few weeks after their marriage, the Gestapo came to the print shop. He was arrested the day before his 25th birthday. "I'll never forget that as long as I live. It was August 11, 1942." The newlyweds were prodded onto a livestock train and shipped to Auschwitz. "No one can imagine such a night," said Burger. "Sixty people and 60 suitcases in a livestock car. Then the train finally stopped.... The doors were opened and they shouted 'Everyone out, everyone out.'"

On the platform at Auschwitz, the young couple was separated. "She told me, 'Think about me every night at eight o'clock, and I will think about you,'" remembered Burger. "In this way, our thoughts will come together." He never saw her again.

Gisella Burger was murdered in the gas chambers. But the Nazis had something else in mind for her husband. His journey through the death camps was just beginning, because the Nazis needed him. Fifty-five years later, *60 Minutes II* brought him to the lake to help search for proof of his amazing story.

Looking at the video image relayed from the underwater vessel, Burger thought he recognized the markings on the remains of the boxes that were found. The evidence was in The Phantom's mechanical grasp. The crew brought up the one plank that could confirm the discovery of Nazi boxes. It was at the surface, seeing daylight for the first time in five decades - and then it slipped back into the water. Pilot Jeff Kowalishen tried to catch the evidence on the fly, but it vanished, just as the Nazis had intended.

Why the S.S. dropped the boxes in the lake was still a mystery. But if it was to get rid of them forever - it was working. Solving the mystery meant Oceaneering would have to take a much bigger risk. To get to the bottom of Toplitz and its secrets, a man would have to go down. Oceaneering called in the cavalry - a team of deep-ocean divers and their one-man submarine called a WASP. The WASP can dive to 2,000 feet, and the air inside is recycled. At least in theory, a diver can breathe in there for three days.

Ken Tyler made the first trip down 200 feet into the debris field and discovered paper that had been soaking in water for 55 years. "It's very, very fragile. It's falling to bits," said Tyler while underwater in the one-man submarine. Whatever it was, it was coming apart like confetti. It wasn't clear how much, if any, would make it to the surface. And if it did make it, would Burger recognize it?

As the first bundle of paper came up, it became clear what the diver had found. The notes were inscribed with the words "Bank of England." The boxes were full of cash, perhaps millions of dollars in counterfeit British pounds. But the discovery was only one piece of an incredible story. Burger recognized the fake notes because he printed them at the point of a gun in a concentration camp. "These are the ones I was printing. That's

unbelievable, 55 years later I see my own product," said Burger.

Shortly after his wife was murdered, Burger was ordered to the Auschwitz camp commandant, expecting to be sent to his death. "He stands up and says 'Mr. Burger, you are leaving here tomorrow. We need skilled workers like you in Berlin,'" recalled Burger. He wasn't the only one. Dozens of Jewish craftsmen were being picked out of death camps and sent to work on a secret project in Sauchsenhausen, a camp outside of Berlin. Burger's trade had saved his life.

When Burger arrived at the camp, he found himself with 140 other special prisoners, all of whom were artists in their fields. There were bookbinders, engravers and printers. They were escorted to two barracks that were sealed off from the rest of the camp behind barbed wire. The windows were painted over for absolute secrecy. Inside the two buildings, the men found the very latest printing equipment, a photo lab, everything they would need for what would become the greatest counterfeiting operation in history.

The project was part of a Nazi scheme to print money on a vast scale (the equivalent of \$4.5 billion), most of it in British pounds. Rabbi Marvin Hier is among the world's leading Holocaust scholars and an authority on Hitler's S.S. "This was a very serious undertaking that could cripple the Allies," said Hier. It was Hitler's secret weapon. The idea was to flood the world with bogus money to undermine the Allied currencies and, at the same time, help pay for the war. The closely guarded secret was supervised by Heinrich Himmler, head of Hitler's S.S. "You would imagine in 1943: They're defeated in Stalingrad. They're beginning to lose battles, the invincible Third Reich," said Hier. He speculates that "Himmler would inform the Fuhrer... 'Hey, not to worry, my Fuhrer. We've got a plan, and it'll be very soon now that we're gonna bankrupt... all these Western economies.'"

After perfecting the British pound, the prison print shop copied the American \$100 bill. By war's end, they were prepared to print \$1 million a day. According to Burger, "The first 200 bills were finished on Feb. 22, 1945. We were supposed to start printing the first million dollars the next day. But on that day, Feb. 23, there was an order from the Reich

Security's main office to stop work and dismantle the machinery. The Russians are 300 kilometers from Berlin."

Before the dollars could roll off the press, the print shop was on the run. The end of the road for the Nazis and the counterfeit prisoners came at Ebensee, Austria, which was the very last concentration camp to be liberated. When Burger finally ran through the gate, a free man, he wanted only one thing - a camera. He took pictures because he was afraid no one would ever believe his story of death camps and economic sabotage.

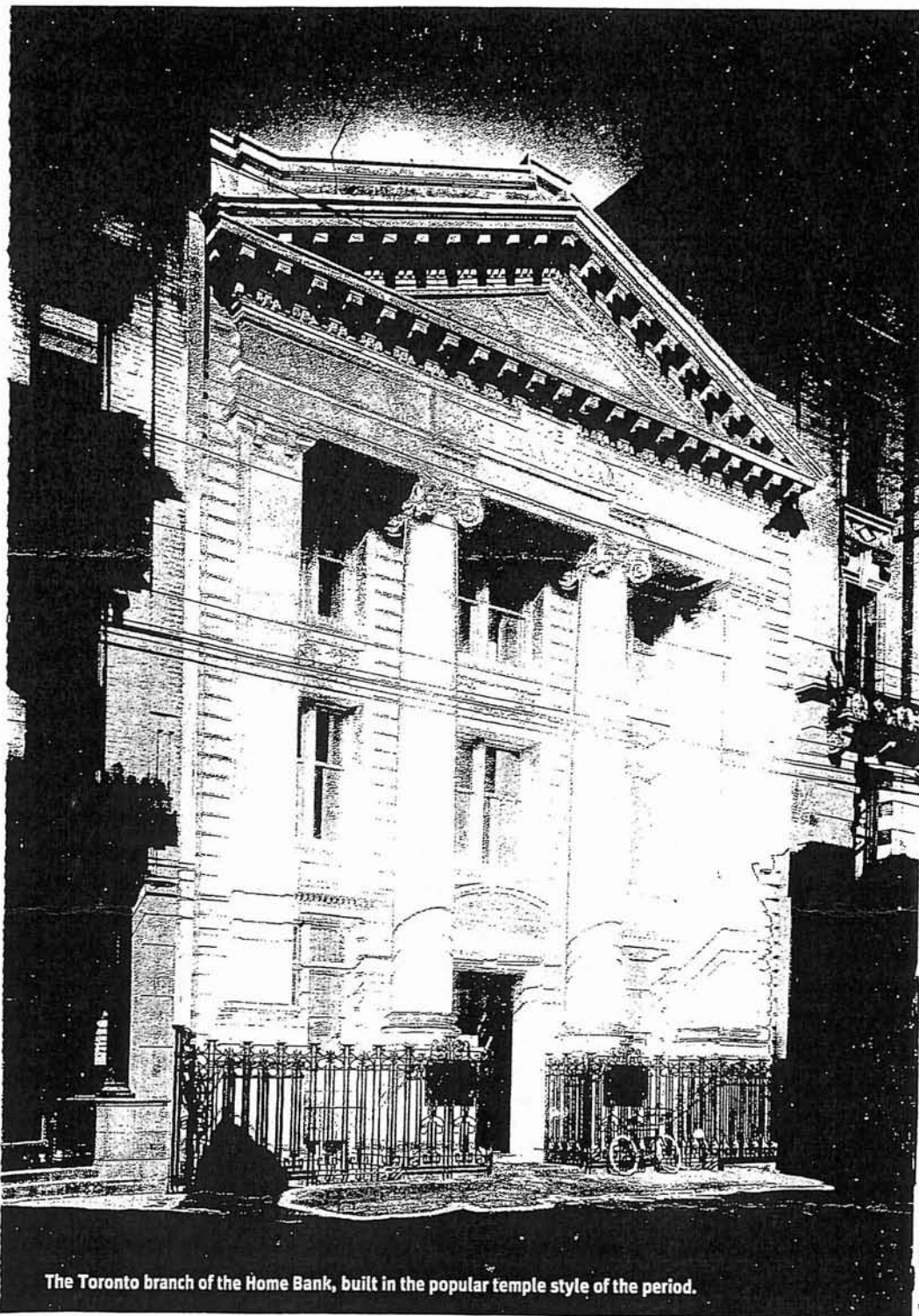
The evidence of this incredible scheme was being brought back from 200 feet some 55 years later. The WASP team made 15 dives and logged 34 hours on the bottom of Lake Toplitz. *60 Minutes II* put the deteriorating notes into the hands of two world experts on paper conservation, Bernard Lebeau and Florence Hereenschmidt of the French company LP3. They initially doubted the notes could be saved.

Four months later, outside Paris, their work was unveiled. The pounds dried so well they could be separated. Even the fake watermarks could be seen. Hitler's bills were perfect. It turns out the Nazis used some of them to pay off spies and finance commando operations. They were in circulation from Europe to South America. There were so many that, by the end of the war, the Bank of England was forced to recall all its currency and redesign the pound. "If they had this counterfeiting operation fully organized in 1939 and early 1940, the results of World War II may have been quite different," said Hier.

Adolf Burger thinks the expedition to the bottom of Lake Toplitz was important to bring awareness to the atrocities committed by the Nazis: "Millions of people will see it again on TV, millions of people will see what the Nazis did... I know I've done a very small bit of work in order for the young to learn the truth." The money recovered from Hitler's counterfeiting print shop will soon be on display. The Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles is creating an exhibit around the artifacts from Hitler's lake.

*A CBS News documentary that aired on *60 Minutes II*, November 21, 2000. The article has been edited from its original content to fit this journal.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA / BANQUE



The Toronto branch of the Home Bank, built in the popular temple style of the period.

Eighty years ago, Ottawa took control of the business of banking. It was forced to. A great bank had collapsed and many Canadians were ruined.

The Bank That Went Bust *00.00*

by John Turley-Ewart

This is not a begging letter, Sir," wrote Mrs. Hill of Toronto's 45 Sackville Street in her brief note of August 22, 1923, to T.L. Church, her local Member of Parliament. It is "to ask you to try to get our money back, if it is humanly possible, for the poorer class at any rate." The "money,"—\$234.19 (roughly \$2,600 today)—was put aside, said the desperate woman, for the coming "winter's supply of clothing and coal" that she, her husband, and their two small children would surely need. She had "banked" most of their cash in May, for fear she would "lose it" at home.

Five days before pleading to Church for help, Mrs. Hill had been enjoying the warm, sleepy Friday afternoon in Toronto and had decided to deposit another \$40 in the small bank she had come to trust with her family's money. She did so at precisely 2:30 P.M. Her peace of mind, and that of roughly 60,000 other Home Bank depositors from Quebec to Fernie, British Columbia, was shattered thirty minutes later when the seventy-one-branch, Toronto-based Home Bank of Canada shut down. Much of Mrs. Hill's savings, and those of others, was gone.

With the Home Bank went an era when many had faith in the transparency of their banks, and national governments were keen to stay out of the business of banking. What followed saw many Canadians turn to government to underwrite their banks' honesty and politicians increasingly feel comfortable intervening in the business of banking in the name of the public good.

Acrimony spoiled the party when Parliament opened in November 1867. In October, the divide between Canada's first finance minister, Sir Alexander Galt, and his cabinet colleagues, including Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald, was laid bare. Galt wanted Ottawa to intervene and save failing banks, smooth over economic upheaval, rescue ruined depositors, protect debtors from having their loans called before they were due, and bail out bank investors as well as bank executives who exercised bad judgment using the public purse to finance the entire process. Galt had support in Ontario, but not where it counted, in Macdonald's cabinet, which rejected his pleas for an interventionist policy. After the pomp and ceremony of the opening day of Canada's first Parliament, Galt resigned. His failure to persuade Macdonald and others reflected the reality of the new government's troubled finances.

What to do about banking claimed Canada's second finance minister, Sir John Rose, a little less than two years later. Rose took to heart demands for a sound banking system, inspired in part by the 1866 failure of the Bank of Upper Canada, which left Ontario without a large bank capable of competing with the Montreal-based Bank of Montreal, the biggest North American bank in 1867.

Rose, a Montreal MP and friend of Macdonald's, pro-

posed legislation modelled on U.S. federal banking law. Though it made safety a priority, many businessmen, farmers, and bankers in Ontario and the Maritimes felt safety came at the expense of competition and access to bank credit needed to grow the new national economy. Like Galt before him, Rose failed to inspire cabinet confidence. Macdonald withdrew Rose's proposed legislation in May 1869, and shortly thereafter once again sought a finance minister who could deliver a blueprint for banking that would not threaten the stability of his government. Macdonald turned in the end to an old hand, Sir Francis Hincks, who, after a long political career in pre-Confederation Canada, had been absent from politics for a decade.

Hincks's solution was presented in the Bank Act, 1871, legislation that was promoted as the answer to demands for safety. It proved nothing of the kind. It did not even define a bad debt, which allowed imprudent bank managers to hide their losses.

While the Dominion government issued currency valued at \$4 or less, banks issued their own bank notes, the bulk of the country's currency, on the proviso that they not exceed the value of the bank's capital, which was to act as insurance to note holders if the bank failed. But Ottawa neither enforced this precaution nor required minimum reserves to keep a bank strong in bad times. Canada's banks would be entirely self-regulating despite the public perception that the government had put new safeguards in place—a perception created, for example, by monthly statements from the banks listing their assets and liabilities that were published by Canada's finance department. Neither Hincks nor Macdonald, however, wanted the government tangled up in regulating the banks and did not require the banks' submitted statements to be verified. Their accuracy was only ascertained, admitted a finance official years later, "after an investigation of the affairs of the Bank and in that case ... the guilty parties are generally out of reach before the false character of the return is discovered." Hincks's Act called on bankers to be transparent. Some lived up to the challenge, but a good many, including those who led the Home Bank, did not.

The Home Bank of Canada's roots reached back to 1854 when it operated as the Toronto Savings Bank, an institution launched by Catholic senator James Mason and promoted by priests to their largely working-class, Irish parishioners. In 1905 Mason obtained a federal bank charter and turned his provincial savings institution into a federal bank so that it could expand to other provinces. This allowed him to collect more deposits that he could convert into loans for stock, bond, and real-estate speculators who found fortune in the economic prosperity that lifted Canada's economy to new heights after 1896.

One of those speculators was the eccentric Sir Henry Pellatt, a millionaire mining and utilities promoter who was a friend of Mason's son, James Cooper Mason. Pellatt had met

Mason when he joined the Queens Own Rifles of Canada in the early 1890s, and had relied on the Masons to bankroll speculative land deals in Western Canada that made him rich. When the company became a bank, Pellatt had no intention of taking his hand out of the till, and the Masons, who controlled the bank, saw no reason to ask him to.

Six years later, in 1912, with an economy heading into recession, Pellatt owed the bank the astounding sum of \$4.5 million (or \$75 million today) and had just started building his Toronto vanity project, Casa Loma, which, when finished in 1914, cost an estimated \$3.5 million. Pellatt's loans were not being repaid; other very large and reckless loans made by Mason were equally unproductive. Together they compromised the Home Bank's liquidity.

Thus was the state of the Home Bank when the spectre of war shook world markets in the summer of 1914 and crippled the finances of Canada's Conservative government, led by Robert Borden. To bolster confidence in the banks, which had suffered runs on deposits in the days before war was declared on August 4, Canada's finance minister, Thomas White, in consultation with a small group of the country's senior and most trusted bankers, devised the Finance Act,

1914. The act departed from Macdonald's noninterventionist banking policy, essentially turning Canada's treasury into a central bank that would offer banks loans to tide them over during bad times. It also gave the government a mechanism to increase the supply of credit to the banks and, through them, to farmers and businesses, boosting the economy in the process. The Home Bank was one of the first to knock on Ottawa's door.

The Masons wanted \$450,000, but they needed to provide the government with appropriate collateral, something they did not have. The bank should have been closed immediately, but Canada was at war, its own finances were in bad shape, another bank, the Bank of Vancouver, had just failed to great public outcry, and for the sake of maintaining stability the finance minister hoped a loan combined with time would cure what ailed the Home Bank. In the end, it made it much worse.

Within a year White would regret his decision. The government loan to the bank had forced the senior Mason, who acted as the bank's general manager, to crack open the books ever so slightly to some Toronto Home Bank directors who wanted to know why the Home Bank was applying to Ottawa for a loan. One of those directors informed the Home Bank's Winnipeg branch manager, W.H. MacHaffie, that the bank was in "a most serious state of affairs." MacHaffie soon told the bank's three western directors, led by the president of the influential Grain Growers' Grain Company, Thomas Crerar, about the suspected problems.

Crerar saw the Home Bank as a welcome addition to the West and its credit-hungry farmers. The Grain Growers' Grain Company had benefited from that competition, obtaining needed loans from the Home Bank, yet Crerar wanted answers. In Toronto, he hit a wall of silence. Crerar responded by asking White to investigate.

Crerar's persistence drew the ire of Edmund Bristol, a Conservative MP from Toronto who was personally indebted to the bank for more than \$30,000. With his business partners, Charles Barnard, a Home Bank director and Montreal investment dealer, and W. Grant Morden, a Canadian-born British MP and deputy chairman of Canada Steamship Lines, Bristol had used influence to win a large deposit from Ontario's Conservative government, which was part of a larger scheme to obtain financing from the Home Bank for a railway in New Orleans. Bristol, not wanting his plans spoiled, hired private detectives in a vain attempt to discredit Crerar and the other two western directors. Crerar was clean, but Bristol had little to worry about. Mason made sure he received the financing he was after.

Nevertheless, White could not ignore Crerar's request and turned to his friend and trusted lawyer, Zebulon Lash, vice-president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, who examined the state of the Home Bank. By 1916 he had found that three times the bank's capital was locked up in four large loans, including those to Pellatt, Bristol and his partners, and other Home Bank directors living in Toronto. Lash should have recommended the Home Bank be closed. Instead, he advised little more than cosmetic changes, asking that the seventy-three-year-old Mason be removed as general manager. He soon retired, only to be replaced by his equally incompetent son, James Cooper Mason.

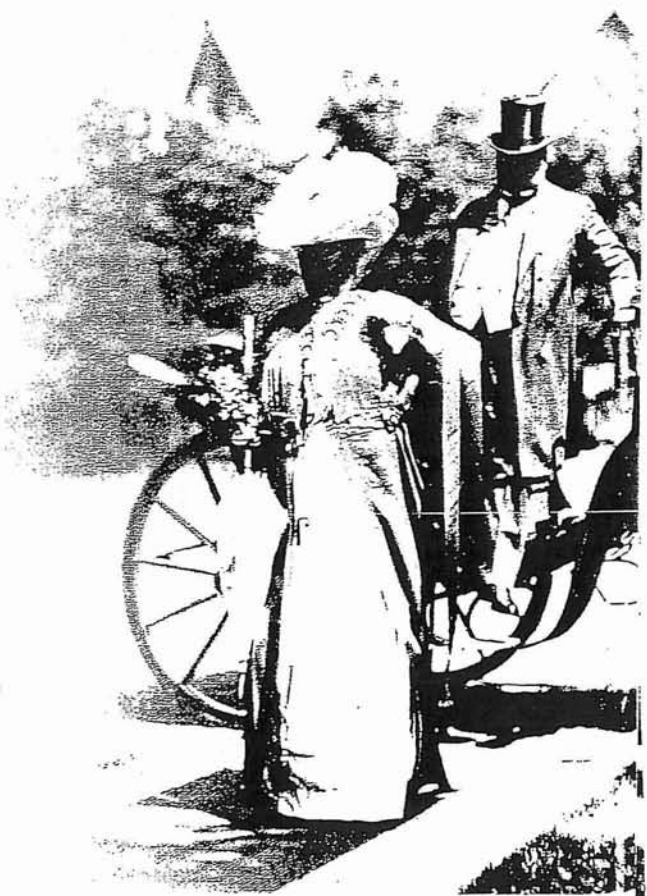
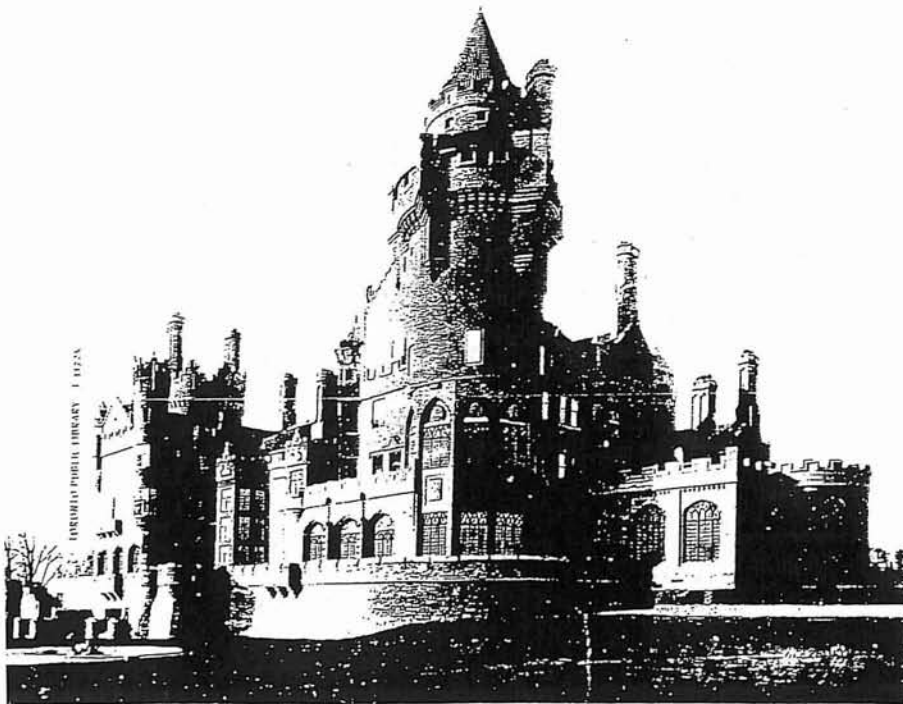
While the self-dealing financiers in charge of the Home Bank were running the bank into the ground, Canadian banking itself was going through an important transformation that had started just before the war and that the war had accelerated. Canada's banking industry was consolidating. Unenterprising institutions were, with government approval, being merged with stronger competitors, making the country's banking system more stable in the process. One merger, the 1921 deal that



A hundred years ago, Canada had no central bank. Private banks, like the Home Bank of Canada, could license their own currency.

Sir Henry and Lady Pellatt (below, right), circa 1909. Kingston-born Pellatt (1859-1939) made his fortune in electricity, insurance, mining, transportation, and land speculation, and relied on his cronies at the Home Bank of Canada to bankroll his financial activities. Before the First World War, Pellatt owed the Home Bank \$4.5 million and had just begun construction of his eccentric \$3.5-million Toronto home, Casa Loma (below). The collapse of the Home Bank sent Pellatt into bankruptcy, forcing him to sell his beloved castle.

James Cooper Mason was the son of Senator James Mason, who in 1854 founded the Toronto Savings Bank, an institution directed largely to working-class Irish. It later became the Home Bank of Canada. Mason Jr.'s connection to Sir Henry Pellatt through a shared interest in the militia led in part to the ruinous financing that brought down the Home Bank in 1923.





FERNIE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Fernie, British Columbia, branch of the Home Bank of Canada after a fire in 1908. When the Home Bank, one of the busiest banks in Fernie, filed for bankruptcy in August 1923, many local businesses and organizations, including the City of Fernie, lost heavily.

joined two of the country's largest banks – Merchants Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal – ensured stability, but at the same time it chipped away at the faith Canadians had in their banks.

The merger was not one of equals. The 400-branch

Merchants Bank of Canada was badly mismanaged and faced \$8 million in losses, equal to nearly \$80 million today. The Merchants' shareholders saw a large portion of their capital wiped out. The Bank Act, 1871, fiddled with over the years but still largely intact, had proven inadequate to the task of protecting bank investors and customers. The only good news was that Merchants Bank was not too far gone for the Bank of Montreal to save.

The new Bank Act, designed to prevent another Merchants Bank fiasco, was introduced in March 1923 by Liberal finance minister William Stevens Fielding, the former Nova Scotia premier who had served as finance minister in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's governments from 1896 to 1911. Auditors from two different firms would now be required to report to each bank's chief executive and its board of directors suspect transactions and large loans, ensuring directors were far more accountable to shareholders. Moreover, to guard against conflicts of interest, a bank's external auditors were prohibited from taking retainers or other business

from their clients. The legislation was passed but was given little chance to show its true value before it was superceded by legislation that came on the heels of the Home Bank's collapse.

The fundamental change contained in the 1923 act concerned bank statements to Ottawa. Common accounting rules would now govern bank balance sheets. Market valuations, rather than future expectations, were to be enforced under threat of legal penalties. Most significant was the standard definition of a bad loan. Hincks's Bank Act had allowed bankers to use whatever definition they wanted for a bad loan. This would no longer suffice. The days when a loan could go unpaid for years and be reported in good standing were numbered.

On August 9, 1923, as the Home Bank's day of reckoning loomed, James Cooper Mason succumbed to a four-month battle with cancer. In his absence the new assistant general manager, A.E. Calvert, discovered a banking horror story. Calvert laid his findings before the bank's president, H.J. Daly, who scrambled with other officials to obtain a bailout from Ottawa barring a merger with another bank. Neither was possible. The Home Bank's bad loans had climbed to \$7 million. By August 17, the day Mrs. Hill made her last deposit, the scrambling was over. There was no hope for the Home Bank of Canada.

The money Mrs. Hill was to use to buy clothing and coal for the winter seems but a small loss compared to the hardship the Home Bank's failure caused many of its customers. In

Fernie, B.C., then a mining town where the Home Bank was the only bank in town, disabled miners lost a large share of their life savings needed to pay health-care costs. Committees of depositors were established across the West and in Ontario. Church groups took up the cause and looked to the Canadian Bankers Association to come up with the money from their members to repay the deposits belonging to the Home Bank's customers. They also turned to the federal government, demanding not only an investigation but compensation as well, arguing rightly that the government knew the precarious state the Home Bank was in years before and should have closed it then.

Canada's banks delivered the assistance they could, lending against what assets the Home Bank possessed so depositors could withdraw 25 cents on the dollar. The National Depositors Committee, which was established to press the case against the government for not protecting depositors, did not see its efforts rewarded till 1925, when government legislation used public money to pay Home Bank depositors another 35 cents on the dollar for deposits of up to \$500. No compensation was given for bank balances above \$500.

Criminal and civil charges were brought against a large number of Home Bank officials in December 1923, but to no avail. They were charged under the provisions of the bank act Hincks designed in 1871, which offered little satisfaction to the Mrs. Hills who were their victims.

At least one suicide (probably more), great hardship, and demands for political reform in Ottawa sprang out of the Home Bank's collapse. For the future of banking in Canada, it rang the death knell for the revised bank act Fielding had proposed in 1923 that would have given shareholders far more control over their banks than had been the case since Confederation. Shareholders' trust in bank directors, bank executives, and auditors paid to examine the books of banks had all

been badly damaged. The courts seemed incapable of holding those who had wronged depositors and investors to account. Government inspection, however, offered solace to voters that, should another Home Bank ever occur, at least politicians could be made to account for their failure to safeguard the interests of Canadians who relied on banks being safe places to do business.

The transparency called for by many in 1867 was enshrined in Fielding's original 1923 Bank Act. It came too late and was seen as too little by a great many Canadians when it did come into force. The Home Bank affair planted deep suspicions about the integrity of bankers and even the merits of capitalism. Shareholders and their auditors did not seem to be capable of guarding the public interest in Canadian banking. That role was taken over by the federal government, which created the Inspector General of Banks in 1924 to supervise banks. The decision ended once and for all Sir John A. Macdonald's five-decades-old policy that the business of banking was the business of bankers. In turn it gave rise to the face of banking today and the political predilection that banks are a public utility to be dictated to by politicians in the name of the public good.

■

John Turley-Ewart has a Ph.D. in Canadian banking and political history from the University of Toronto and is a member of the *National Post's* editorial board. His writings have appeared in the *National Post*, *Financial Post*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Washington Times*, and the *Jerusalem Post*. He can be contacted at <jturley-ewart@nationalpost.com>.

ET CETERA

Northern Enterprise: Five Centuries of Canadian Business by Michael Bliss. McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1987.

Different Drummers: Banking and Politics in Canada by Robert MacIntosh. Macmillan Canada, Toronto, 1991.

Coin Clubs in Ontario

First Tuesday	London Numismatic Society Midland Coin Club Mississauga - Etobicoke Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Club
First Wednesday	South Wellington Coin Society Scarborough Coin Club Sarnia Coin Club
First Thursday	Champlain Coin Club (Orillia)
Second Sunday	Oshawa & District Coin Club
Second Monday	St Thomas Numismatic Society Windsor Coin Club
Second Tuesday	Waterloo Coin Society Pembroke Coin Club
Second Wednesday	Wasaga Beach Coin Club Peterborough Numismatic Society Leamington & District Coin Club
Second Thursday	Woodstock Coin Club Lake Superior Coin Club
Third Sunday	Watford Coin Club Brantford Numismatic Society St Catharines Coin Club Nickel Belt Coin Club (Sudbury)
Third Monday	Ingersoll Coin Club Toronto Coin Club
Third Tuesday	Tillsonburg Coin Club Alliston Coin Club
Third Wednesday	Stratford Coin Club Kent Coin Club (Chatham) Niagara Falls Coin Club
Fourth Monday	Cambridge Coin Club City Of Ottawa Coin Club
Fourth Tuesday	Collingwood - Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club North York Coin Club
Clubs Not Listed	Nipissing Coin Club North Bay Timmins Coin Club Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club Mississauga Troyak Polish Canadian - Markham

**2006 O.N.A.
44th Annual Convention**

**Best Western Lamplighter Inn
591 Wellington Rd.
London, Ontario
(519) 681-7151**

April 21-23, 2005

**Buy-Sell-Trade
Bourse tables**

**Hosted by the
St. Thomas Numismatic Association**

*It's never too early
to start planning!*