

Chatham-Kent Coin Club

Vol 1 Issue 6 June 2026



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CKCoinClub.com

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Next meeting is June 17, 2026

at John McGregor Secondary School Library,

300 Cecile Avenue Chatham - 7 PM

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Presidents Message:

WHAT'S GOING ON

Welcome to the newsletter.

This meeting is the last one before the summer. We will be resuming in September. There will be some changes coming in the new season and we are looking forward to sharing them with you in the fall.

There are several coin shows within a couple hundred kilometers of us, over the next few months. I encourage you to try to get to some of them. They are a great experience to attend and you have an excellent opportunity to fill in some of the blank spots you have in

your collection.

It's good to check them out because there are different dealers than what we see at our own show and they have different items to offer. Check out the list at the end of this issue.

Happy Collecting,
Jim Austin

Report of the Secretary: Richard Sadler

Meeting Notes from #612 May-20 2026

Next meeting **Wednesday June 17th 2026 7pm-9pm**

In the Library at John McGregor Secondary school (300 Cecile Ave)

The meeting was brought to order by President Jim Austin with 18 members and one guest in attendance. Richard Sadler reviewed the minutes from our April meeting and reminded everyone that the newsletters are now posted on our website (<https://ckcoinclub.com>). If you have any issues accessing the newsletter from the website, please let us know, so that we can help you view it.

Jim has attended other coin club meetings recently, to help learn and get the most from our meetings. If anyone has an idea to help improve our monthly meetings, we are open to all ideas. One idea Jim would like to try, is beginning at the September meeting we will have a live auction with Don Chalut volunteering to be the auctioneer. Members are encouraged to bring in items they would like to sell, and provide a "minimum value" that they are willing to sell it for. Don will proceed to auction the item. If the item does not reach the

minimum value the seller wanted, than the item will be returned to the owner and no sale will be made. Once the minimum value is obtained, the highest bidder will pay the owner. With this direction, the owners will never feel cheated by someone putting in a low bid, since they set the minimum value they want from the item. This will replace the silent auction we've been running and will allow members to bring in more expensive items for sale. Members will want to bring in a few extra dollars to the meeting in case there's an item that you are interested in.

Treasure Paul Robb delivered our financial report including our bank balance and cash on hand. Paul has approached The Everest Convention center about hosting our coin show for March-21-2027, and was advised that the hall retail will increase \$100 to \$750 for the day. While the increase is disappointing, it is in line with other similar halls. We will maintain the dealer

tables at \$80 each for at least 2027. Paul has commitments for all but two tables for this show, so that is great news.

Werner gave a brief report about the recent Windsor Coin club show. They had 365 people thru the door and were happy with the turnout. They did have a last minute cancelation and turned that empty table into a “Kids table” and had club members donate items to give away to kids attending the show. This was such a success that they plan on making space for a similar give-a-way next year. This is very similar to the table that Christine took care of at our show, which has been well received over the years we’ve done it.

Colin did not receive enough coins (100 items) to send in for grading at the reduced “bulk pricing” by the May meeting. There was commitment by members to have enough coins by the June meeting, so Colin will submit “coins for grading” after the June meeting, and Colin will accept coins from members up until the June meeting. If this interests you, please reach out to Colin or attend the June

meeting with your coins.

We had a video presentation on Canadian Large cents during this meeting and hopefully everyone was able to learn something from it, as it dealt with, why there was a need for the coinage, to size and composition of the coins and the monarchs that adorned them, not to mention the many varieties that occurred due to tooling wear and reworking plus numerous mints that struck the coins.

Raffle: Jeff Webb

Door Prize: Ray Coulthard

Did you know: The Canadian 1947 5 cent piece has 3 variations?

Proof vs Proof-Like Coins

By Jim Austin

For Canadian coin collectors, the distinction between circulating coins and special strike coins represents one of the most fascinating aspects of numismatics. Among these special categories, proof coins and proof-like coins hold particular significance in Canadian numismatic tradition. The Royal Canadian Mint has produced these premium coins for over a century, creating pieces that are as much works of art as they are currency. Understanding the characteristics, differences, and historical context of Canadian proof and proof-like coins is essential for both seasoned collectors and newcomers to the hobby.

Proof Coins



A proof coin represents the highest standard of minting excellence. According to the Royal Canadian Mint's specifications, proof coins are struck using specially prepared dies and blanks, with multiple strikes at increased pressure to ensure complete details and mirror-like clarity. The defining visual characteristic of a proof coin is its contrast between the fields (flat areas) and the design elements.

The fields of a Canadian proof coin display a deeply mirrored, reflective surface—often compared to polished glass or a mirror. This mirror-like finish is achieved through polishing the die surface before each striking. The design elements, by contrast, typically feature a frosted or cameo appearance, created through sandblasting or other surface treatments applied to the design portions of the

die. This contrast between the brilliant, reflective fields and the matte design creates the characteristic "cameo" effect that defines premium proof coins.

Canadian proof coins are produced in limited quantities, typically in dedicated facilities using specially prepared materials. The Royal Canadian Mint struck its first official proof coins in the early 20th century, though the practice became standardized and more widely available to collectors beginning in the 1970s. Today, the Mint produces proof sets annually, featuring Canadian coins in precious metals including silver, gold, and platinum, as well as base metal proofs for special commemorative issues.

The striking process for proof coins is labor-intensive and time-consuming. Each coin may be struck two or more times to ensure perfect detail and surface quality. Dies used for proof production are carefully maintained and replaced more frequently than those used for circulation strikes, as any imperfection in the die surface can compromise the mirror finish. This meticulous attention to quality justifies the premium pricing of proof coins compared to their circulation counterparts.

Proof-Like Coins

While proof coins represent the pinnacle of minting quality, proof-like coins occupy a unique middle ground in Canadian numismatics—a category that is particularly significant in Canada's coin history. Proof-like coins were introduced by the Royal Canadian Mint in 1953 as a cost-effective alternative to traditional proofs, making premium-quality coins more accessible to collectors.

Proof-like coins share some visual characteristics with proof coins, most notably the brilliant, mirror-like fields. However, they are distinguished by several key differences. Proof-like coins are struck once on regular (not specially prepared) dies, and their design elements do not feature the frosted cameo finish characteristic of true proofs. Instead, the designs of proof-like coins retain the same brilliant finish as the fields, creating a uniformly reflective appearance across the entire coin's surface.



The Canadian proof-like coins of the 1950s and 1960s represent a particularly collectible category. These coins were issued in sets and feature exceptional mirror-like surfaces that rival or sometimes surpass later official proofs in visual appeal. The 1954-1957 proof-like sets, in particular, are highly sought after by collectors for their stunning aesthetics and relative rarity.

During the 1960s, the Royal Canadian Mint experimented with various finishes, and the quality and consistency of proof-like coins varied somewhat year to year. By the 1970s, the Mint had discontinued regular proof-like production in favor of formally designated proof sets, shifting the market for premium Canadian coins toward the official proof category.

Here is the practical distinction:

Feature	Proof	Proof-like
Purpose	Premium collector issue	Better-than-circulation collector finish
Surface	Mirror-like field with frosted or contrasting devices	Brighter, reflective, but less formal and less uniform than Proof
Production	Specially prepared planchets and dies with multiple strikes	Typically new or well-prepared dies, early strikes, careful selection
Packaging	Modern presentation cases, often with certificates	Often pliofilm or similar mint packaging, especially on classic sets
Collector status	Clearly premium and widely recognized	Collector finish, but generally a step below Proof

Differences from Circulation Strikes

Circulation strike coins are produced for regular commerce and represent the standard coining process. They differ fundamentally from both proof and proof-like coins in several ways. Circulation strikes are produced in large quantities using standard dies that are used repeatedly until worn. Multiple coins are struck rapidly, often with less pressure than proof coins, which allows for faster production but results in less crisp detail and a less refined surface.

The surface finish of a circulation strike is typically matte or lightly glossy, lacking the mirror-like brilliance of proofs and proof-like coins. Circulation coins show varying degrees of striking quality, as dies wear during production, resulting in progressively less sharp details and softer surfaces as the die reaches the end of its productive life.

Additionally, circulation coins are often struck with fewer precautions regarding die preparation and blank quality. During the striking process, circulation coins may be handled, packaged, and transported in ways that would never occur with proof coins, potentially resulting in handling marks and other surface imperfections even in their fresh state.

The psychological and collectible appeal of proof coins versus circulation strikes is significant. While circulation coins represent the story of commerce and everyday use, proofs embody craftsmanship and intent—they are created specifically for the collector market, often commanding premiums of 10 to 100 times or more over face value, depending on the specific coin and market conditions.

Grading Considerations for Proof Coins

Grading proof coins presents distinct challenges compared to circulating coins, as the standards and preservation criteria differ substantially. Standard grading systems like those employed by the Numismatic Guarantee Company (NGC) and Certified Guaranty Company (CGC) have adapted their methodologies for proof coins.

For Canadian proof coins, graders must assess the mirror finish quality, the extent of any surface hairlines or marks, and the overall eye appeal of the piece. A proof coin graded as "Proof-65" (PR-65) might display some light hairlines from handling or storage, while a "Proof-69" (PR-69) would show only imperceptible imperfections under standard viewing conditions. A perfect "Proof-70" (PR-70) represents the absolute pinnacle of preservation.

Hairlines—light parallel scratches resulting from handling or cleaning—are the most common imperfection found on proof coins. Even a single light hairline can reduce a coin's grade significantly, as the mirror finish is extraordinarily reflective and highlights even minor surface disturbances. Canadian collectors should store proof coins carefully, preferably in archival-quality holders, and handle them minimally and only by their edges.

The semi-reflective nature of the cameo design on true proofs can actually make them somewhat more forgiving of minor imperfections than uniformly brilliant proof-like coins, as the frosted design areas can mask or minimize the appearance of hairlines. However, hairlines on the mirror fields remain clearly visible.

Collecting and Investment Value

The Canadian proof and proof-like market offers collectors numerous opportunities, from affordable silver proofs to rare precious metal commemoratives. The Royal Canadian Mint produces proof sets annually in various compositions, making them accessible starting points for new collectors. A typical modern Canadian proof set might include the standard circulation denominations struck in special finishes, and prices typically range from \$50 to \$200 CAD depending on the metal content and year.

Proof-like coins from the 1950s and early 1960s have appreciated significantly, particularly in higher grades, as their limited production and exceptional quality have become increasingly recognized. A PR-65 example of a 1954 proof-like set might trade for \$400 -800, reflecting both the coin's age and collector demand.

Specialized Canadian proof issues have considerable value. Precious metal commemoratives, Olympic coins, and other limited-edition proofs issued in gold, platinum, or high-purity silver often command substantial premiums. A proof gold coin from Canada's Olympic series, for instance, might trade for \$1,500 to \$3,000 CAD or more, depending on the specific issue and grade.

Investment considerations for proof coins differ from those for circulation coins or bullion. While precious metal content provides a floor value, the numismatic premium—the value above the intrinsic metal value—can fluctuate based on collector demand, market trends, and the specific coin's rarity and condition. Proof coins with strong eye appeal, excellent preservation, and limited mintages tend to appreciate more reliably than more common issues.

Historical Context of Canadian Proof Production

The Royal Canadian Mint, established in 1908 in Ottawa, began producing coins under the British sovereign system. Early proof-like coins were produced sporadically for special occasions and VIP distribution, but systematic proof production was not initiated until the modern era.

The introduction of proof-like coins in 1953 coincided with Queen Elizabeth II's coronation and represented a significant democratization of premium coin collecting in Canada. These coins were marketed to collectors as affordable alternatives to the expensive proof coins being produced elsewhere, and they found a ready market among Canadian numismatists.

The transition from proof-like to formal proof production in the 1970s reflected both technological advances in the minting process and changing consumer preferences. As the Royal Canadian Mint modernized its facilities and processes, the production of true proofs with the characteristic frosted cameo finish became more practical and economically viable.

Conclusion

Proof and proof-like coins represent the finest achievements of the Royal Canadian Mint's coining craft. For collectors, understanding the distinctions between these categories—the mirror-like fields, frosted cameos, limited production quantities, and careful handling requirements—is essential to building a meaningful collection. Whether pursuing the accessible modern proof sets, the historically significant proof-like coins of the 1950s and 1960s, or the prestigious precious metal commemoratives, Canadian collectors have access to a rich and varied market that combines artistic excellence, historical significance, and genuine investment potential.

The legacy of Canadian proof coinage extends beyond mere numismatic value; these coins represent Canada's commitment to excellence in metalwork and design, serving as miniature ambassadors of Canadian culture and achievement to collectors worldwide.

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Business Card Ads: Any CK Coin Club dealer may submit their business card for inclusion in this section.





Buy/Sell/Trade:

C-K Coin Club members in good standing are encouraged to submit ads to buy or sell numismatic and related items. There is no cost to place an ad

Be the next to place an ad.
No charge.

Wanted: Wooden money.
Particularly from SW Ontario,
but any from Canada. Call
Jim @ 226-627-6789

Looking for something you
are having a hard time
finding? Place a free ad
here. Let our readers help
you find it.

Am looking for Canada
Specimen Sets, 2010
Northern Harrier, 2014 Baby
Rabbits, 2015 Baby Racoons
if anyone has them to bring
to the meetings. Colin

Upcoming Coin Shows:

Brantford Numismatic Society Coin Show **June 14, 2026**

Brantwood Community Centre, 238 Brantwood Park Rd, Brantford, Ont

Our annual show and sale will be from 9 am to 3 pm. Entrance is at the back. We will be featuring something for everyone, Canadian coins, notes, tokens as well as worlds and US, bullion, and militaria. We have free parking, food on site and admission is by donation to the club.

Contact: Chris Liantzakis

Phone: 416-804-2021

Email: branfordcoinclub@gmail.com

Oxford Annual Coin Show **June 28, 2026**

Oxford Auditorium, 875 Nellis St, Woodstock, On

Last year's show hosted 77 tables of coins, bank notes, bullion, tokens and numismatics. This year's expansion allows capacity for 100+ tables. Hours are 9 am to 3 pm. Buy, sell, trade and evaluate. Kids table, free parking and kitchen open for food and drinks. Admission is \$4 with a chance to win a .999 pure gold coin. Hosted by the Woodstock and Ingersoll Coin Club.

Contact: John Tryhub

Phone: 519-608-8446

email: John@woodstockgoldnsilver.ca

Paris Coin Show **August 9, 2026**

Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver St., Paris, ON, N3L 1V4

Canada's best one-day coin and collectables show features more than 50 tables of coins, paper money, tokens, militaria and more with dealers buying, selling and appraising. The show will be open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and admission is \$5, which includes a draw ticket for a gold coin.

Name: Jared Stapleton
Phone: 647-403-7334
Email: pariscoinshow@gmail.com
Web: <http://www.pariscoinshow.ca>

Guelph Fall Coin Show **September 26, 2026**

Colonel John McCrae Legion Branch 234, 57 Watson Parkway South, Guelph, ON, N1L 1E3

The annual Guelph Fall Coin Show is open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free! Free level parking, fully accessible and with a legendary lunch counter. Coins, banknotes, tokens, Canadian Tire money, medals, books and supplies will be offered at more than 35 dealer tables, featuring some of Canada's top numismatic dealers plus free appraisals – don't give your collection away to those bandits operating out of hotels!!! There will also be a club table promoting the host South Wellington Coin Society.

Name: Mike Hollingshead
Phone: 519-823-2646
Email: cholling@uoguelph.ca
Web: <http://www.southwellingtoncoinsociety.com>

Welland Coin Show **October 3, 2026**

Croatian National Home Welland, 6 Broadway Ave, Welland, ON, L3C 5L3

Canadian Coin News is excited to host a coin show in its hometown, featuring dealers buying, selling and appraising Canadian and worldwide coins, banknotes, medals and so much more. Come to our inaugural show in the multi-cultural community of Welland, located in the awesome Niagara Region, offering the spectacular Falls, wineries, and so much more. Show opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. Lunch bar provided. Admission \$5. Plenty of free parking. Door prizes.

Name: Mike Walsh
Phone: 905-646-7744
Email: mwalsh@trajan.ca
Web: <http://canadiancoinnews.com>

Stratford Coin Show **October 18, 2026**

Best Western Arden Park, 552 Ontario Street, Stratford, ON, N5A 3J3

63rd Annual Coin Show. Show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$3 (under 16 free).

Buy, sell, view, appraise coins, paper money, tokens, supplies.

Make a day of it. Experience the history of Stratford. Top restaurant just down the hall.

Maybe even see a show at the Stratford Festival.

Name: Larry Walker

Phone: 519-271-3352

Email: lswalker@cyg.net