

Chatham-Kent Coin Club

Vol 2 Issue 2 October 2026



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Editor: Jim Austin

CKCoinClub.com

Newsletter@CKCoinClub.com

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Next meeting is October 21, 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.

Hello Every One,

I want to remind you that we have our election coming up at the November meeting. Be thinking if you would like to serve in a position or perhaps someone you think would do a good job in a position.

Now that everyone knows what to expect in regards to the live auction, I hope you take a moment to look over the sheets and see if there is something you would like to bid on. Let's make this a success so we feel confident in continuing with the live auctions. This month, we have 17 lots.

This month, we have a guest speaker, Mike Johnston, who will be speaking on grading Canadian coins.

I have seen his presentation and it is very good. You will learn something to help you in this hobby.

Again, some of you are not interested in the Victoria Club newsletter, so we will not be sending it to you any longer. For those who do wish to receive it, you can send an email to Jon at victoriacoinclub@yahoo.ca and request to be added to their email list to send it to you. They are happy to do this for you.

We are starting a book lending library. The books will eventually be listed on our website as soon as I can get them catalogued. I have already received some donations but if you have any duplicate numismatic books or books you no longer need, please consider donating them to the club for other club members to borrow. If you do have some, contact me. I will be the librarian.

See you on Wednesday, October 21

Happy Collecting,
Jim Austin

Report of the Secretary: Richard Sadler

Meeting Notes from #614 Sept-23 2026

Next meeting **Wednesday October 21st 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 22 members and 1 guest in attendance. Jim advised the membership, that the school has new door policies in place for this year. We are all asked to enter the school using the door by the parking lot at the back of the school. If it is locked call Jim's cell (226-627-6789) or Paul Robb's cell (289-228-2817) and they will come open the door. Please put these numbers in your phone for future reference. We all understand how heightened security and locked doors is the new reality that we must all live by and adapt to. Thank-you for your understanding.

On a positive note, the school is very pleased with us and happy to welcome us back for another season.

Treasurer Paul Robb gave his financial report, and advised that we are in good shape. Since our newsletters are available to the general public via our website, I no longer publish the balances, but they are available to review when you attend a meeting. Paul has paid our annual ONA membership and insurance, plus the school rental fee for the year. The insurance covers the membership at our meetings and our shows, and is mandatory to have. Paul also advised that almost all tables are sold for our coin show on March 21st 2027. Paul also reminded us that our membership dues are due at the November meeting.

Werner Paetzold gave a brief talk about the upcoming Windsor coin show on November 08th. Werner has flyers available at our meetings, for members to post where they can, and discussed their “kids corner” that they have at the show. Our fellow members from Windsor, help support our efforts in Chatham-Kent, and we are happy to return the favour and support them and their show.

Jim advised that he has obtained numismatic books and catalogs, and is creating a club Library. He will create a master list, that the members can review and then borrow a book. If any members have numismatic material, they would like to donate to this project please supply them to Jim. This will be a great resource of information, and free to use.

Jim is pleased to announce that Mike Johnston (Director of ONA zone 2) will attend our October meeting and give a presentation on grading coins. This is an extremely important part of our hobby, and affects the prices we pay or receive when selling. Higher bullion prices have greatly affected coin prices, and possibly merged lower graded prices together, but the higher grades still hold significant weight on pricing.

We completed our first auction at the Sept. meeting. As expected, we had some items that did not sell, but others did. Of the items that did sell, none sold for a higher price than minimum bid. We had 29 items offered for sale, and hope future auctions will be bigger, as we learn and grow the auction. Members are asked to email your item description and picture if possible to Craig (mrmcd62@gmail.com) two weeks before the meeting (ie: Oct-07 for this meeting). Craig will then compile the list and send it to Jim Austin so that it can be included in the newsletter notification sent out one week before the meeting, by Jim. When we know what is in the auction, we can research what we feel an appropriate price is and our interest level of the items. All members are encouraged to submit items to the auction, and bring some extra cash with you to the meetings. All sales will be completed at the meetings by cash.

Raffle: Werner Paetzold

Door Prize: Rudy Boogerman

Did you know: the Roman Emperor Augustus (63 BCE – 14 CE), is often cited as one of the first known coin collectors

The Fascinating History of Ridged Coins

By Jim Austin

Picture this familiar Canadian winter scene: you are standing at a snow-swept transit stop or fumbling through the pocket of a heavy parka at a Tim Hortons drive-thru. Without looking down, your bare fingers plunge into a pocket full of loose change. Instinctively, your thumb sweeps over the edges of the coins. You bypass the thick, completely smooth rim of a five-cent piece and brush against a tiny disc rimmed with crisp, closely spaced grooves. Without glancing at the metal, you know you are holding a ten-cent dime.

Those tiny parallel vertical ridges decorating the circumference of our coins are known in numismatics as reeding (or a reeded edge). To most modern Canadians, they feel like an aesthetic flourish or an ergonomic grip.

Yet, those miniature ridges were not created for your fingers. They are the remnants of a centuries-old financial arms race involving high treason, Renaissance engineers, and Sir Isaac Newton. Understanding why our coins possess these textured rims requires a journey back to an era when money was literally worth its weight in silver and gold - and when tampering with it could cost you your life.

To understand why coins have ridges, you must first understand how money used to work. Until the mid-20th century, circulating coinage operated primarily on specie value (or commodity value). A gold coin was worth five dollars because it contained five dollars' worth of physical gold; a silver dollar contained an honest ounce of high-grade silver.

Before the advent of mechanized steam presses, coins were "hammered." A blank piece of heated metal was placed between two hand-carved dies and struck with a heavy

hammer. Because this method was imprecise, hammered coins rarely had perfectly round shapes or neat borders. The edges were uneven, ragged, and blank.

This technical flaw opened the door to an epidemic of economic sabotage known as coin clipping.

Thieves and unscrupulous merchants discovered that if they used shears or metal files to trim off a sliver-thin ring from the rough perimeter of a silver coin, nobody would notice. The coin was spent into the market at full face value, while the culprit kept the precious metal shavings. After clipping hundreds of coins, a thief could melt down the hoarded trimmings into an ingot and sell it to a goldsmith for pure profit.

A related technique was called "sweating." A fraudster would place dozens of gold or silver coins into a coarse leather sack and shake it vigorously for hours. The friction knocked tiny specks of precious dust off the surfaces and rims. When the coins were removed, they appeared merely "worn by circulation," but the bottom of the sack was lined with gold dust.

The effects were catastrophic. By the late 17th century in England, the currency was so badly mutilated that coins entering the Royal Mint were routinely found to have lost up to 50 percent of their original weight. Trade ground to a halt because merchants refused to accept lightweight currency. Governments imposed horrific penalties: across Europe, coin clipping was classified as high treason, punishable by hanging, drawing, and quartering for men, and burning at the stake for women.

Yet the profits were so high that people kept clipping. The state needed an engineering solution, not merely a legal one.

The breakthrough came from mechanization. If human hands could not make uniform perimeters, machines could.

The earliest experiments with mechanizing coin production took place in France and Germany during the 16th century, but the definitive blow against coin clippers was struck in the mid-17th century by a French engineer named Pierre Blondeau.

Blondeau invented a proprietary edge-marking machine (later refined into the Castaing machine, named after Jean Castaing) around 1649–1651. His device could roll coin blanks between two parallel steel rulers engraved with lettering or grooves under immense pressure. By rotating the coin blank between these plates before it was struck by the main coin press, Blondeau imprinted raised letters, patterns, or precise vertical ridges—reeds—onto the rim.

The rationale was unassailable: if a coin had crisp, machine-engraved ridges along its entire circumference, any attempt to shave, file, or clip metal off the side would

immediately destroy the pattern. A clipped coin would be spotted in an instant by any merchant, rendering it useless.

While experimental pattern coins with textured edges were struck in France during the 1640s under King Louis XIV, the first fully realized, official production coins to incorporate machine-impressed edge devices were Pierre Blondeau's pattern pieces for the English Commonwealth in 1656, commissioned by Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell.

These Cromwell silver crowns and half-crowns featured either raised edge lettering (such as the Latin motto HAS. NISI. PERITVRVS. MIHI. ADIMAT. NEMO—"Let no one remove these [letters] from me except at the peril of his life") or straight reeded edges.

The technology was officially adopted for mass circulation in Britain in 1662 under King Charles II, during the Great Milled Coinage transition. Every silver and gold piece produced by the Royal Mint was struck with either lettered edges (for large denominations) or reeded perimeters (for smaller denominations).

Decades later, in the late 1690s, the famed scientist Sir Isaac Newton was appointed Warden (and later Master) of the Royal Mint. Newton oversaw the Great Recoinage of 1696, bringing mathematical rigor to the minting process. He standardized the precise depth and count of edge reeding across denominations, effectively eliminating the centuries-old scourge of coin clipping from the British Empire.

Today, circulating coins are no longer made of silver or gold. Canada eliminated silver from its circulating currency in 1968, transitioning through pure nickel and, ultimately, to multi-ply plated steel. A modern Canadian quarter contains iron, copper, and nickel; its metallic scrap value is only a fraction of twenty-five cents.

If nobody is clipping our base-metal coins anymore, why does the Royal Canadian Mint in Winnipeg still spend millions manufacturing complex reeded edges?

The answer lies in two critical modern functions: accessibility and tactile security.

1. Tactile Discrimination for the Visually Impaired

The primary reason reeding remains on modern coins is universal accessibility. According to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), tactile differences on coin edges are an essential tool allowing blind and partially sighted Canadians to identify denominations instantly by touch.

Consider our pocket change:

The Dime (10¢): Has 118 fine reeds along its edge.

The Quarter (25¢): Has 180 reeds along its edge.

The Nickel (5¢): Has a completely smooth edge.

The Penny (1¢, before 2013): Had a smooth edge (and a distinctive round profile).

If the five-cent piece and ten-cent piece had identical edges, confusion would be rampant. While the nickel is larger and thicker than the dime, having one smooth and one reeded provides an unmistakable sensory contrast.

2. Vending Machines and Counterfeit Deterrence

In automated vending systems, transit turnstiles, and coin sorters, edge profiles can play a role alongside electromagnetic sensors and optical scanners. A uniform, milled edge creates a precise diameter and rolling speed, helping machines reject slugs, tokens, and foreign currency.

Canada's coinage features a uniquely clever assortment of edges that blend historical tradition with cutting-edge minting technology:

Coin	Denomination	Edge Style	Why It Is Designed This Way
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<i>Dime</i>	\$0.10	Fully Reeded (Fine)	Carried over from its silver heritage (pre-1968); prevents confusion with smaller smooth tokens.
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<i>Quarter</i>	\$0.25	Fully Reeded	Inherited from the historic silver twenty-five-cent piece; provides tactile distinction from the nickel.
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<i>Nickel</i>	\$0.05	Completely Smooth	Historically made larger and smooth-rimmed in 1922 so it would not be confused with the thin, reeded silver "fishscale" five-cent coins it replaced.
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<i>Loonie</i>	\$1.00	Smooth, 11-sided (Hendecagon)	Introduced in 1987. Rather than edge reeding, it uses an 11-sided curved polygon profile to make it recognizable by sight and touch.
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<i>Toonie</i>	\$2.00	Interrupted Reeding	Introduced in 1996, the bi-metallic two-dollar coin alternates between smooth sections and reeded sections (interrupted milling).
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The Toonie's interrupted reeding is a masterclass in modern minting. By alternating four blocks of grooved reeds with four smooth segments around its outer ring, the Royal Canadian Mint gave the \$2 coin a tactile signature found nowhere else in North American pocket change.

In contemporary production at the Royal Canadian Mint's high-speed plant in Winnipeg, edge ridges are no longer applied before the strike using Blondeau's separate rolling machine. Instead, it happens in a single, instantaneous blow.

A smooth metal blank is dropped into a heavy carbide steel ring called a retaining collar. The inside of this collar is carved with the exact negative shape of the coin's edge—if the coin is a quarter, the inside of the ring contains 180 micro-grooves.

When the top and bottom dies slam down on the coin blank with up to 40 tonnes of hydraulic pressure, the metal is squeezed like putty. Finding nowhere else to expand, the blank's perimeter flows outward into the microscopic crevices of the collar. In a fraction of a second, the face designs, the raised border rim, and the reeded edge are formed simultaneously.

The next time you pull a dime or a quarter from your pocket, take a brief moment to run your thumbnail across its edge. Feel that sharp, rhythmic chatter.

You are touching a mechanical defense mechanism conceived in the 1650s, perfected by Isaac Newton, and deployed to prevent 17th-century rogues from trimming silver off the wealth of empires. Though the precious metals have long since faded from circulation, the ingenious ridges remain: an unbroken, tactile chain linking Canada's high-tech modern minting to the age of highwaymen and hand-hammered gold.

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

Windsor Coins
Coins and Supplies

Werner
Numismatist
(519) 999-9747
Email: windsorcoins@mnsi.net

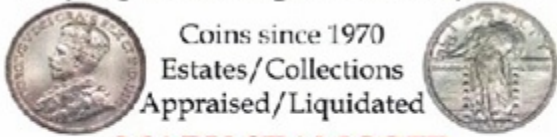
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Jim Austin
226-627-6789

www.AustinCoins.ca Info@AustinCoins.ca



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wheniretired@gmail.com



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:

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

Fall 2026 Toronto Coin Expo Oct 23, 2026 to Oct 24, 2026

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, M4W 2G8

Canada's "Premier Coin and Banknote Show and Auction," representing Canada, U.S. and worldwide currencies. There will be 55 internationally renowned coin and banknote dealer tables on the bourse. Buy, sell, trade and get appraisals with internationally renowned dealers in coins, banknotes, tokens, medals, militaria, gold, silver and jewelry. Located on the second floor of the Toronto Reference Library, the show will be open Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. & Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is \$6, and children under the age of 16 are free. You are sure to find one-of-a-kind coin or banknote treasures! Saturday will feature free educational workshops that will teach attendees what collecting is all about. A youth workshop and auction starts at 10 a.m. The educational workshop starts at 1 p.m. Live numismatic auctions Thursday and Friday conducted by Alliance Coin & Banknote and Geoffrey Bell Auctions.

Name: Jared Stapleton

Phone: 647-403-7334

Email: torontocoinexpo@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.torontocoinexpo.ca>

Scarborough Coin Show November 1, 2026

Cedarbrae Community Center, 91 Eastpark Blvd, Scarborough, ON, M1H 1C6

28th Annual Coin Show. Hours 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with free admission and draws. Buy and sell coins, paper money, medals, tokens, Canadian tire money and more. The show at the same location as our monthly meetings. Refreshments will be available for purchase

Name: Dick Dunn

Phone: 905-509-1146

Email: cpms@rogers.com

Web: <http://www.scarboroughcoinclub.ca>

Windsor Coin Show **November 8, 2026**

Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave, Windsor, ON, N8X 4K2

The Windsor Coin Club is holding its Annual Fall Show as it celebrates 75 years. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with free admission and hourly door prizes. Plenty of free parking available. Buy, sell, trade with over 30 dealers present. Featuring Kids Corner.

Name: Werner Paetzold

Phone: 519-999-9747

Email: windsorcoins@mnsi.net

Web: <http://www.windsorcoinclub.com>

Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show **November 29, 2026**

John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, ON, L4Z 1V8

Sponsored by the Troyak Club, the Mississauga Coin and Stamp Show will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with 60 tables and more than 30 dealers. There's something for everyone, with Canadian and world coins, stamps, paper money, tokens, medals, trade dollars, official mint products, hobby supplies, reference books and more. Free evaluations plus buying, selling and trading. Admission is \$7 (children under the age of 16 are free), and parking is free.

Name: Les Plonka

Phone: 416-505-7999

Email: leszekp@rogers.com

Web: <https://troyakclub.com/shows/>