

# Beth McEachen's artistry highlighted on new coin

Many people have given their two cents to Canada's national unity debate.

Hanover-area native Beth McEachen has given her quarter.

The life-long local resident, now a first-year student at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto, was on hand Thursday night in Yellowknife, N.W.T. for the introduction of the second of a dozen 25-cent coins to mark the 125th anniversary of Confederation.

The Canada 125 program sees the unveiling of one of the 12 quarters, to represent each province and territory, each month in a ceremony in the respective capital. The set's \$1 coin, representing Canada as a whole, will be introduced in July in Ottawa.

Ms. McEachen's winning Northwest Territories design of a pre-historic Inuit stone structure, an inukshuk, was one of 11,003 overall designs received in just six weeks, Supply and Services Minister Paul Dick told the Yellowknife gathering. Of those, 612 were about the Northwest Territories.



BETH McEACHEN

Ms. McEachen, 19, said she has long been impressed by the inukshuk and can remember an elementary school geography lesson when she first learned about the phenomenon.

"These structures are remarkable and so visually interesting," she said, "and I think the coin itself looks fantastic."

The inukshuk dates from about 1200 AD, but may go back as far as 2500 BC. The heaviest con-

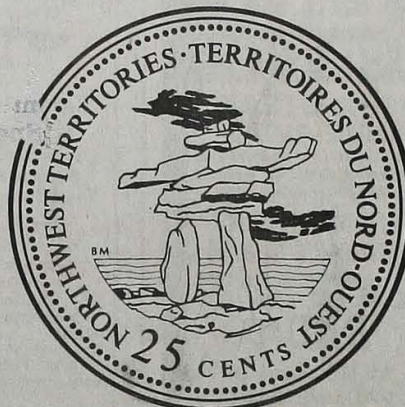
centration can be found at Enuks Point on the southwest corner of Baffin Island, where there are still about 100, some measuring more than two metres high.

"What inspired my design? I vaguely remembered a primary school geography lesson where we learned that in the Northwest Territories, above a certain longitude the ground is always frozen and trees cannot grow," said Ms. McEachen, a graduate of Holy Family School in Hanover and Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton. "To know where they were going, the Inuit built landmarks out of stone."

Joining Ms. McEachen and Mr. Dick at the Yellowknife ceremony were the Dettah Drummers of the Dene community and the Yellowknife Youth Choir.

The nickel coin is now available at banks and other financial institutions across Canada.

As well, the Royal Canadian Mint will be selling each of the 12 different Canada 125 quarters and the dollar coin in proof collector versions.



BETH McEACHEN'S design of an Inuit stone structure, known as an inukshuk, is now shown on the second of 12 quarter coins which are being released to mark the 125th anniversary of Confederation. Ms.

McEachen was in Yellowknife, N.W.T. Thursday for the unveiling of the new coin, which features her initials as part of the motif, and is now available.

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