

# sights

circulation  
*Scott Simmie*

## Faking It

Although today's high-tech equipment has made it easier to attempt to counterfeit money, this is far from a new crime.

Back in the mid-1880s, Canada was awash in fake bills. The Bank of Canada says more than \$1 million was in circulation, enough to potentially destabilize the Canadian dollar. A detective with the Government of Ontario, John Wilson Murray, was put on the case.

The counterfeiters were producing a number of bills, including a then-used Dominion Bank of Canada \$4, a \$1 bill, an Ontario Bank \$10 note, and a Bank of British North America \$5 bill. The quality was exemplary, and Murray knew "that I was tackling one of the hardest cases of my life."

It took nearly five years, but Murray finally nabbed the fraudsters. The case did more than halt an economic threat to the nation; it ultimately led to the production of banknotes that were more difficult to copy.

don't accept it.

"One thing I always caution consumers and retailers is never focus on a particular denomination," says Marsh.

In the first half of 2004, a new series of \$20s, \$50s and \$100s will feature enhanced security features designed to keep the bank several steps ahead of the counterfeiters.

"That will make them harder to reproduce," says the Bank of Canada's Stockfish.

If someone does happen to slip you a bad bill, authorities say it's your responsibility to ensure that the buck does indeed stop

here. Write down any details you may have about where you received the money, along with a description of the person. Put the date and your initials on the bill, keep it in a safe place and call

police.

Eventually, the phonies taken out of circulation wind up in Ottawa at the RCMP Bureau for Counterfeit and Document Examinations. There, smart people with fancy machines try to figure out everything they can about the play dough, including whether what's floating around came from the same source.

Finally, when the time comes, the bogus bills are incinerated. Now *that* is money to burn.

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## Winters may be cold, but the welcome is warm in White River

► **Winnie** From M20

One child, whose heart she captured, was Christopher Robin Milne, son of author A.A. Milne. It was the elder Milne, along with illustrator Ernest Shepard, who would make Winnie famous. And, it was Christopher Robin who added the "Pooh" to Winnie's name, after his dearly departed pet swan.

Christopher Robin was so taken with Winnie that he even changed the name of his stuffed brown Edward Bear to Winnie, which is why Winnie went from

being a girl-bear to a boy-bear in Milne's books.

Those of us who loved the Pooh bear books can't help but smile remembering the time silently old Pooh ate too much honey and got stuck in Rabbit's hole. Or, when he and Piglet went tracking Woozles, only to discover they had been following their own tracks in circles.

Captain Colebourn didn't forget Winnie and was kept up-to-date by her attendants in London. After a long and happy life, Winnie died in May, 1934 at 20 years of age. So loved was she

that a London newspaper ran her obituary. A bronze statue stands in London Zoo in memory of the adorable Canadian bear and, in 1997, a Grade 8 class from White River travelled to London Zoo to present a plaque detailing White River's involvement with Winnie.

Along with a CPR historical display, the White River Heritage Museum houses a collection of Winnie-the-Pooh memorabilia, most of it on loan from private collectors. It includes books by A.A. Milne and Christopher Robin, some of them au-

tographed by Christopher Robin who passed away in 1996.

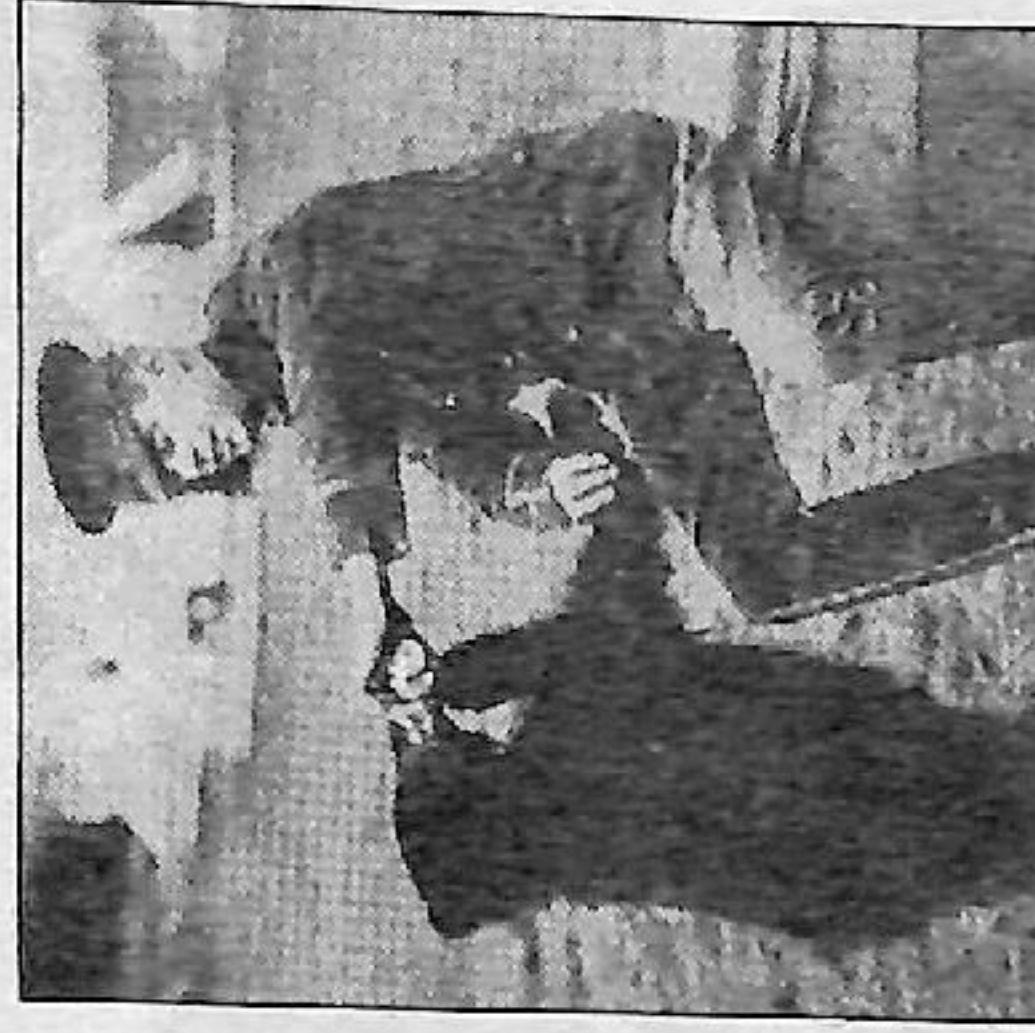
Rights to the Winnie story were sold to Disney, which is why the Disney logo is on Pooh books in the gift shop.

White River celebrates its Winnie-the-Pooh heritage at its annual Hometown Festival the third weekend of August. It attracts thousands of Winnie fans. ★ Call White River Recreation Tourism and Special Events Department toll-free at 1-888-517-1673 or, during summer months, the Visitor Information Centre at 1-807-822-2794.

Continental Motel and Dining Lounge (1-800-822-3616, [continentalmotel@ontimk.net](mailto:continentalmotel@ontimk.net)).

For information on Winnie, write White River Heritage Museum, PO Box 583, White River, Ont. P0M 3G0. Phone 807-822-2657, e-mail [museum@nwconx.net](mailto:museum@nwconx.net) or visit <http://welcome.to/whiterivermuseum>.

For information on the 2004 Superior Colours rail tour, contact Rail Travel Tours, Box 44, 123 Main St. Winnipeg, Man R3C 1A3, 1-866-704 3528, [railtraveltours@mts.net](mailto:railtraveltours@mts.net) and [www.railtraveltours.com](http://www.railtraveltours.com).



Captain Colebourn offers a treat to his beloved Winnie.