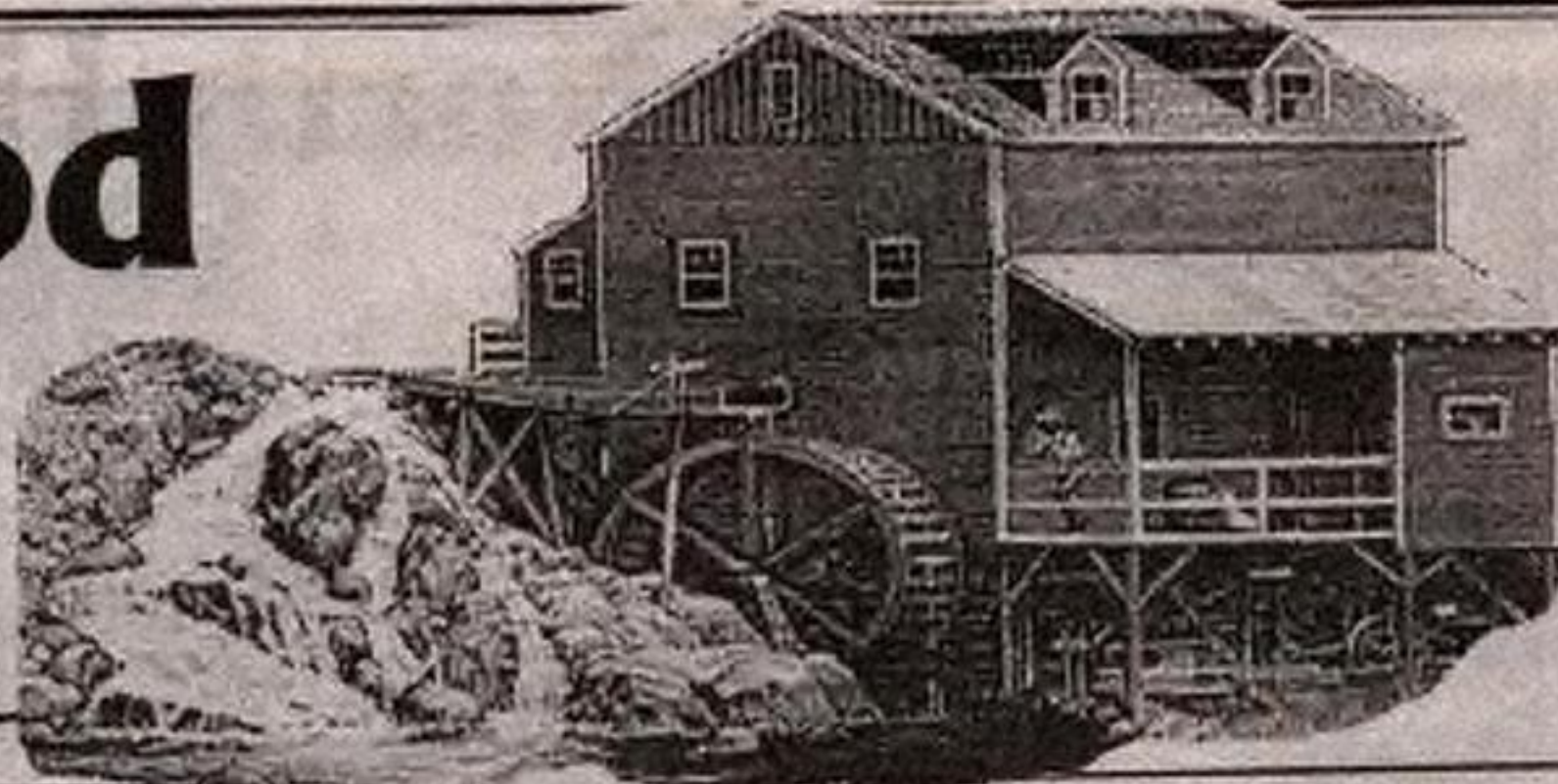


The Rockwood MILLER



Local club mints Canadian coin

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

A rendering of St. John's Anglican Church is the picture on the back the 1998 commemorative medal struck for the South Wellington Coin Society.

At a glance, the medals look like coins. But since they are not currency they are termed medals, says Society treasurer Robert Zmija.

Formed in 1997 with 35 charter members, the Society aims to educate members about the value of coins, and medals as well as paper currency. Memberships cost \$10 for singles and \$12 for families. Meetings are held twice monthly, in Rockwood library on the first Wednesday of each month and in the Guelph branch of the Royal Canadian Legion on the third Tuesday. Members of the public are always welcome to attend a meeting, Zmija says. Zmija says only 35 sets of the medals will be struck and Society members will get first option on purchasing them. They come in silver, gold-plated and copper sets and bear the club logo on one side. The alternate side will carry a different picture each year.

The 1997 medal depicted the Wellington County Museum on the back. Next year's medal is in preparation but the design is not finalized yet, Zmija says.

Coin collecting is a popular hobby around the world and collectors keep in touch in various ways including club newsletters and publications.



"A lot of people have coins in their families," Zmija says. "They get passed down from generation to generation and no one really knows their value any more. That's where clubs like ours are useful. You can bring in a coin and find out its real value."

Sometimes these keepsake items are very valuable. Other times they are worthless. At least with collectors you know their valuation will be accurate. When you take such items to coin dealers the prices may well be altered to suit the dealer.

Anyone wishing to sell coins is also advised to approach a collector rather than a dealer since a market can probably be found to sell the item directly at its true value, Zmija says.

"If the collector doesn't

want the item himself, he is likely to know someone who would want it," he said. "At least he will know how to get in touch with people to help the coin owner find a potential buyer."

Zmija began collecting more than 60 years ago in England. He sees history when he looks at coins. He also sees how technology has progressed. Even in Roman times there was a specific method for striking coins. How that method changed as materials and machinery advanced can be traced as you look at coins from different eras.

Zmija was a pattern maker by profession and as a result has been the guiding force in preparing the designs for the club's medals. In addition to the 1997 and 1998 medals, he is working on a design for a millenium medal for the club.

Millenium coins are being prepared around the world, he says, so would-be collectors will have an overwhelming choice available. He suggests none of them will be worth having from the investment viewpoint since so many are being created. Oversupply makes them worthless.

From an aesthetics point, of course, things might be different.

"Collectors never look at coins for profit," he says. "They look at them as art. It is just the dealers who look at their monetary value."

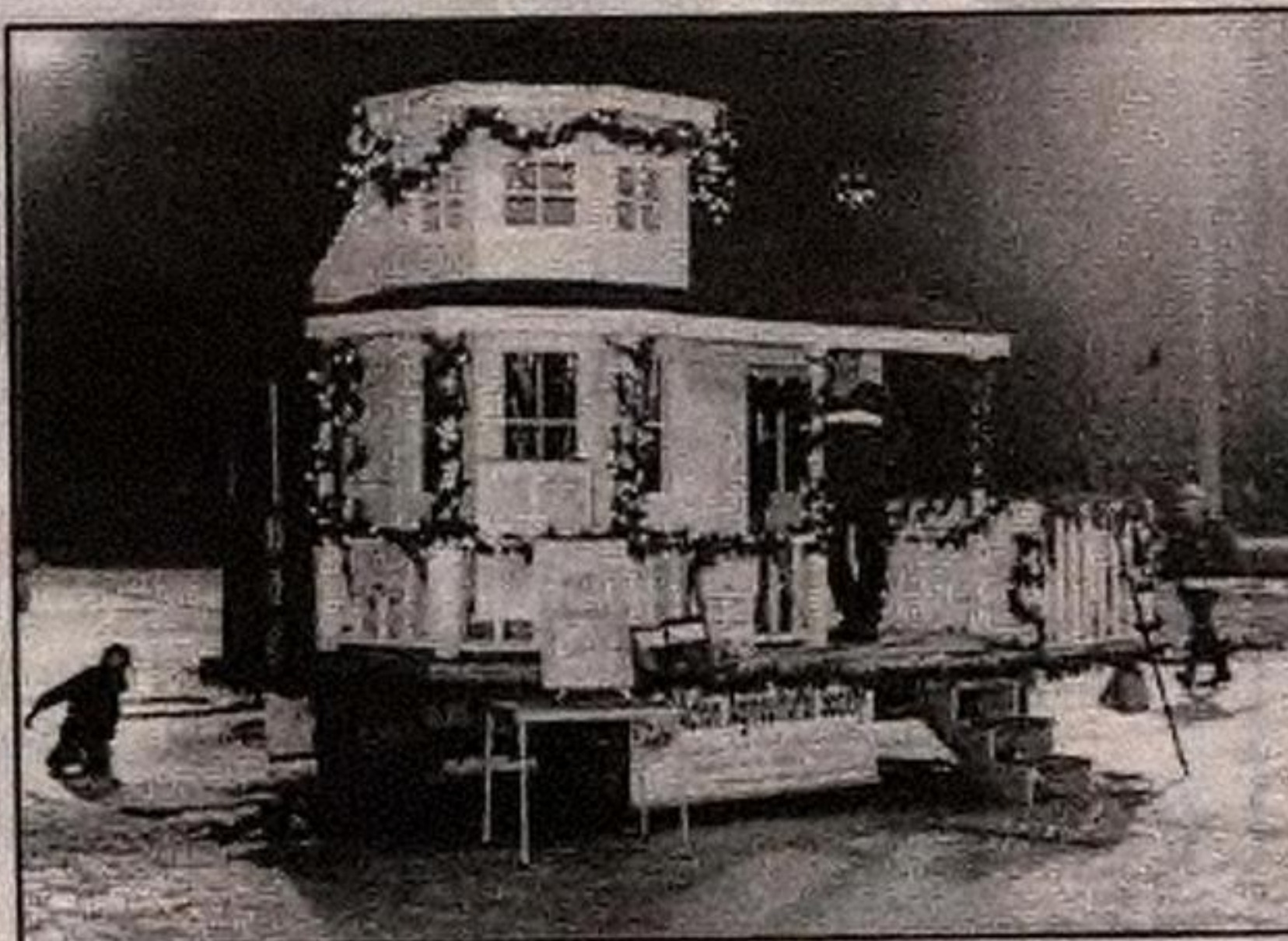
Clubs encourage all their members to keep their collections in safety deposit boxes, he says.

Coins can be forged, Zmija says, but, unlike paper currency, striking coins requires such huge presses and expensive equipment that it is too costly an undertaking. He also says coin club members would be able to pick up on any forgery. This is an additional reason for neophyte collectors to get involved with coin clubs. Clubs and their extensive resources, can teach collectors what they need to follow their hobby and avoid frauds.

The South Wellington and Waterloo coin clubs will jointly sponsor a large coin show at the College Inn in Guelph in late April.

Participants in coin shows offer the public astonishing amounts of money to look at.

"There could quite easily be five or six million dollars worth of coins set up on the tables at a show," he says. "The tables are just dripping with money."



AND THE WINNER IS...tickets are still on sale for the Agriculture fund raising draw for the children's playhouse donated by Peter Zions Construction. - Angela Tyler photo

EWAG News

Spring is in the air and maybe you are feeling the need to get out then head on down to EWAG Community services and see what we have happening!

Check out Happy Returns, the EWAG thrift shop during the month of March. All green items are just \$1. On March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) we will be having an Irish Customer Appreciation day with coffee and goodies and maybe a lucky draw or two. Happy Returns is open Tues. - Fri. 10 to 4 and Sat. 10 - 2. We gratefully accept any donation of good, clean clothing.

Free tax clinic available if you qualify, at EWAG office March 18, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Please call to book and appointment at 856-2113.

Join us for Fun Folk Art for three weeks starting Tues., March 23 from 10 to 12 at the Rockwood library. In the three week period you will be completing a heart shelf and a large bunny, just in time for Easter! Everything included for just \$35. Must pre-register and space is limited.

If you've always wanted to put your life experiences into words, now you have the opportunity. Starting Friday, April 9, at 1:30 we will be offering Memoir Writing at the Rockwood library at a cost of only \$25. You must pre-register and there is a limit of 10 people. Join us and preserve your memories for your grandchildren.

Remember to bring your pre-schooler to Tot-time, 9:30 - 12, Tues., and Thurs. The cost is only \$15 annually. A great social and fun time for your child.

Our senior folks of the community meet for Euchre and Bingo. Thursday afternoons. Always a good time with refreshments and goodies provided for just a loonie. Come out for some fun. A seniors potluck luncheon is planned for April 1 followed by Euchre, so whip up your favourite dish and join us at noon that day.

If we can be of service to you, please let us know. EWAG is your Community Services. Our phone number is 856-2113 or fax us at 856-1498.

Rockwood area students receive music awards

Area students of the Keyboard Studio performed at the 1999 Guelph Kiwanis Music Festival.

The following students entered in one or more competitive categories and received 20 awards in total:

Victoria Borg, Megan and Nicole Beatty, Chantal Bielmann, Kaitlin Breton-Honeyman, Heather Brown, (also presented three of her

compositions), Meaghan and Beckie Den Engelsman, Rebecca Hannom, Kelly and Lisa Millson, Aaron, Anastasia, Stefan and Constance Smelsky, Kasia Sitarz, Joanne Schenker and Sara Yantho.

Mrs. Bookbinder was proud of all her students and happy for those whose extra efforts were rewarded at the Festival.

Rockwood library has March break program

Rockwood Library has some special programs lined up for 'March Break' aimed specifically at children.

The movie, "The Prince of Egypt" is being shown twice on Thursday, March 18 at 6 p.m. and again on Friday, March 19 at 1 p.m. Tickets are available now for \$1 each and refreshments are available for \$1.

A children's cooking contest for kids 14 and under, where entries are prepared at home, is being judged on Wednesday, March 17 at 11 a.m. The entries have been divided into categories: salads and sandwiches, main dishes, muffins and cookies, desserts and drinks. Registration forms must have been handed in by March 10.

Children aged 5 to 10 years of age are invited to make some Easter crafts on Saturday, March 20 at 1 p.m.

The cost is \$4 per child and pre-registration is going on at the library.

Wednesday afternoon, March 17 will see the Celtic Rathskallions performing at Rockwood Library at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2 for this oboe and banjo duo, with Irish Bodhran drums, stepdancing, tin whistle and other instruments as well as humorous songs and original stories set to music.

School needs volunteers

Rockwood Centennial school is looking for volunteers for a couple of programs.

Anyone with the time and interest to help out is invited to contact Entwistle at 856-9556.

Poet's Corner

Spring's Flowers

Of all the beauty one may behold; even that from time of old. Perhaps that which fills the hidden hours, is the splendour of spring's first flowers.

Now released from winter's chain. Now the season to renew again. Come they do with eager heads; blues and yellows; whites and reds.

Some bold they stand in field and shade, some be timid, so are they made. Perfume to the air do they bring. These the heralds of eternal spring.

But alas too soon do such depart, return they do from whence the start. To slumber again so are they able; to mother earth; in her cradle.

Written by Wes. Fountain

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