



TEN YEARS STRONG: The South Wellington Coin Society celebrated ten years on April 4. They meet at Rockwood Library the first Wednesday of every month. Shown here are, from left, treasurer John Semedo, president Art Stephenson, past presidents and founding members Scott E. Douglas, Bob Zmija, and Mike Hollingshead. *Rebecca Ring Photo*

Scam operating in County

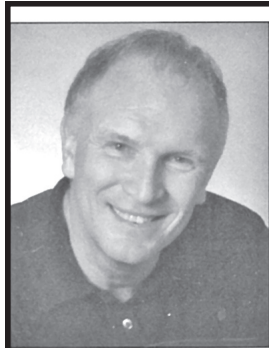
Wellington OPP is warning residents of an internet-initiated advanced fee loan fraud involving an entity that operates online, offering loans to individuals with poor credit ratings.

In order to secure the

loans the individuals are required to send a "security deposit," along with banking information, pay information and various other forms containing personal information. Ultimately the funds are never

advanced and the individuals are unable to re-establish contact with anyone representing the company. In some cases it will instruct the victims to forward the funds and other documentation to a specific address. Likely this address will be a postal establishment that rents out mailboxes, with possibilities of no real existing financial company.

Be very cautious about giving any banking or financial information over the Internet, the OPP warn. In the event that you may have fallen prey to any of these scams you should contact police.



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Coin Society celebrates anniversary in Rockwood

By Rebecca Ring

A passionate group of "numismatists" (coin collectors) celebrated their 10th anniversary as a club at their monthly meeting in Rockwood on April 4. The South Wellington Coin Society (SWCS) is a non-profit organization made up of about 50 members.

The club was formed in 1997 by the "original six": Bob Zmija, his son Tony, Scott Douglas, Matthew Fleet, Bruno Kerkhof, and Mike Hollingshead. Douglas met Bob and Tony Zmija at a coin show in Paris, Ontario. They discovered that they were neighbours living in Acton. All very keen coin collectors, they discussed the lack of a club in their community. They agreed to meet later with the other three men. They decided to form a club, sent out flyers, and held their first meeting on April 2, 1997, at the Eramosa Community Centre in Rockwood. About 30 members signed up in the next couple of months and the rest is history.

Ten years later, the club still holds true to its purpose, which is to educate, create awareness and bring people together in friendship. It is a chapter of the Ontario Numismatic Association, and subscribes to its constitution, rules and regulations. The SWCS meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Rockwood Library. They have donated numismatic books and funds to the library in gratitude. Bob Zmija hopes that people from Rockwood will discover the club and join, because there are members

from Georgetown, Acton, Guelph and other areas but none from Rockwood.

Commemoration medal

To commemorate their anniversary, each member received a gold-plated medal depicting the club's logo with his or her name and membership number on the back. Zmija designed these and other medals. He is the club's resident expert as his trade is precision tool and die making. At 86, he has since retired and is able to dedicate his time and talent to his passion.

Like many other collectors, the seeds of interest were sown in Zmija's childhood. Back in his native Poland, at about six-years of age, he found a coin in an old Roman camp. On one side is the head of Minerva, goddess of crafts, wisdom and war, and on the other, Romulus and Remus suckling the She-wolf. They were the twin-brothers in Roman mythology who were raised by wolves then went on to build Rome. Zmija says the coin was first minted before 800 AD. The Romans took the dies with them throughout their empire and minted new ones wherever they found copper. He says some Roman coins were never in Rome. He found two such coins, and still keeps one as a memento.

Douglas is the resident historian whose love of coins, tokens and medals connects him to Canadian history. He says, "My mission is to convert people from just collecting coins to seeing the historical value in why they were made. It opens the door

for Canadian history." He sometimes brings 50-cent pieces to Tim Horton's so he can watch the reaction of the young people who have never before seen one. He says, "The young guys scratch their heads but the girls show enthusiasm, often exchanging their own money so they can take the coin home." He hopes this will result in even one more collector.

In addition to the commemorative medals, each member was given a nicely bound history of the society, written by Douglas. An unusual and very rare note was also reproduced and given to each member. This note was issued by the Guelph and Dundas Road Company in 1848 and it was basically a promissory note given to workers as pay because the contractor, William Cook, was in financial straits and had not yet been paid for the road they were building. It read, "The District of Wellington promise to pay William Cook, or bearer, ten years, after date, at the office of the treasurer in Guelph, and not elsewhere, the sum of five shillings currency, with ten years' interest for value received."

The note was discontinued in 1849 because bankers and merchants were averse to having money tied up for so long a period. Rumour has it that large amounts of these notes that lay in the county's vaults for over 100 years fell into the hands of collectors and dealers in the 1980's and 90's.

The first two coins designed by the SWCS were released in 1998 and '99. The first, dated 1997, depicts the Wellington County Museum, which was originally a workhouse in the 1800s. The second, dated 1998, depicts St. John's Anglican Church in Rockwood. Thirty-five of each were made in bronze, silver and gold-plated and were accompanied by a signed certificate of authenticity.

Each meeting involves an auction. Items are listed in their bulletin and begin at half their price. They also have a draw, or popular "Pandora's Box," introduced in 2004. This was the brainchild of the current president, Art Stephenson, now in his fourth term.

Each person can submit up to five old world coins, tokens or wooden coins,

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