

ALMOST CIRCULATED



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Vice President - George Murray

Secretary - Steve Small

Past President - Jim Young

Upcoming Events

April 25, 2021 - APNA General Meeting online via Zoom

April 29 & 30, 2021 - Geoffrey Bell Auctions Ltd. Toronto Coin Expo Spring Sale

July 10-25, 2021 - RCNA Virtual Convention

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Grand Orange Lodge of Canada Medals

By Kevin Day-Thorburn, FRCNA

The Orange Order is a Protestant fraternal organization that had its beginnings in 1688 when Prince William of Orange, who would soon become known as William III, left Holland for England shortly before the deposition of King James II who was attempting to reestablish Catholicism in the country.

Orange lodges are credited as first forming in Ireland in 1795 and the Orange movement quickly spread to other countries and colonies. There is no accurate record of the first lodge in Canada, but the presence of the Order has been dated to before 1812. There is actually a record of a lodge meeting in New Brunswick in 1783, which seems to contradict the history of lodge formation.

Fraternal organizations, which do still exist, were very popular in

Canada's early history and played an important role in community structure, including politics. At least four Canadian prime ministers were Orangemen, including Sir John A. Macdonald.

It's worthwhile to learn a little about the organization of the lodges to understand some of the terms and places found on their medals. At the top is the National headquarters, which is in Toronto. Below that, there is Provincial Grand Lodges, then County, then District. At the bottom, so to speak, are Primary Lodges, which are at a local level.

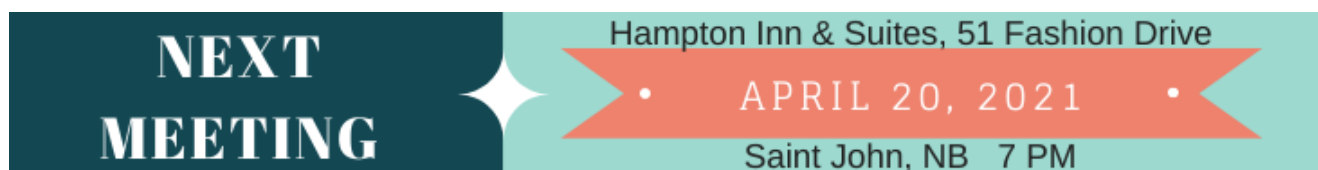
Illustrated are three New Brunswick Orange Order medals. All three are sterling silver and they are often found in black leather snapping holders. The most modern of the three has the initials PCM at the top, which stands for Past County Master. Westmorland is the county, and L.O.L., which will catch the eye of Internet users who may mistakenly think of the LOL text abbreviation, stands for Loyal Orange Lodge. The medal was presented to J. A. London with the dates 1974 and 1976.

The second medal is another Westmorland issue, this time from 1957-58 to Past County Master Lee Dole.

The third medal is dated 1931-32 and is from Diamond L.O.L. number 12, Moncton. The engraving, issued to a Past Master, is a little more elaborate in both detail and wording.

Lodge numbering can seem confusing. According to Grand Orange Lodge of Canada historian, Jim Pyke, in this case New Brunswick incorporated prior to the Grand Orange Lodge of Canada and chose to keep their number. Also, "The crossed gavels is symbolic of the office of master or the chairperson at meetings, a star over or behind the crossed gavels symbolizes a past master or mistress."

There is still a lot of research to be done on the medals of fraternal organizations in Canada, but these three pieces demonstrate the structure of the Orange Order lodge system, and the problems associated with maintaining their individual histories, in the Moncton, New Brunswick area. It is quite similar to numismatic organization in Canada. The Moncton Coin Club or our Saint John Coin Club are local, the APNA is regional, and the RCNA is national, and each keep their own documentation and history. Some are diligent with this task, others more laid back, and blips in attendance can certainly lead to gaps in recorded history too.



NEXT MEETING

Hampton Inn & Suites, 51 Fashion Drive

• APRIL 20, 2021 •

Saint John, NB 7 PM

Meeting Minutes - March 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by the president with six members in attendance.

Tom C presented the Treasurer's report, which was passed on a motion from Jim Y, seconded by Bob D.

Kevin noted the APNA has a new incoming executive, with Jacques Poitras as president, Mark Holton vice president, Allan Carrier as treasurer, and Robert Lodge secretary.

Kevin showed Eric Leighton's new book on Newfoundland and PEI tokens. Three club members purchased copies.

The next Geoffrey Bell Auction is coming up April 29 and 30th. Fundy Coin will be moving west in April and will be known as the Coin Cabinet once again.

The RCNA convention was cancelled as an in-person event due to COVID-19 for the second consecutive year, but this year there will be a virtual convention. The 2022 convention is set to be in Ottawa, with 2023 in Halifax.

Tom mentioned there is talk of a possible upcoming Woodstock show.

The RCNA correspondence course, which has seen a surge in participants due to the pandemic, is available with our club reimbursing half the cost of the course on successful completion.

Kevin noted there are lots of available virtual meeting via Zoom and has attended a few himself.

Tom gave a short talk on the \$20 United States banknote with a Del Monte banana sticker that sold for \$396,000 USD, the highest ever for an error note.

The attendance draw was won by Bob H and the 50/50 by Bob D.

Jim Y conducted our auction.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Hobby Updates

Note that because of the current situation with COVID-19, social distancing and masks will be required at our meeting. Staying safe is important. If you know someone with an interest in coin collecting, bring them along.

Fundy Coins & Collectables and the Coin Cabinet are both open to the public with measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Do support them when you can and remember you can buy from them online via eBay too.

The Coin Cabinet, formerly Fundy Coins and Collectables, is now open at 78 Main Street West, Saint John. There have been nothing but positive comments so far on the new location and the excellent space in the former TD Bank building. If you haven't already, drop in and say hello.

New/Old 50 Cent Pieces for 2021

The latest 50 cent coin issues from the Royal Canadian Mint has been a success. They released their normal special wrap rolls of 50 cent pieces with the 2021 date, as they have done in recent years, but this year they are commemorating the 100th anniversary of the coat of arms, which, of course, is on the reverse of the coin, with the old design that began on the 1937 50 cent coin, complete with George VI on the obverse in place of Queen Elizabeth II. This "retro" design quickly sold out at the Mint, leaving many dealers and collectors scrambling to try and obtain the coin. The 50 cent coin is no longer issued for circulation, so these rolls and the various sets are the only way to get the denomination from the RCM. Mintage was 10,000 rolls.



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 A pile of various Canadian coins, including several maple leaf coins and a 100-cent coin. In the bottom left corner, there is a small circular inset image showing the storefront of 'THE COIN CABINET' at night with interior lights visible through the windows.