Royal Canadian Numismatic Association
66th National Convention
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
July 16-20, 2019

When I was asked to speak at Calgary, I checked with Delta Airlines and they wanted $1200 per person. I then checked Westjet. They wanted $750 per person and my wife and I flew Delta to Atlanta and Westjet to Calgary and I still received my Delta frequent flyer miles.

Calgary temperatures were a little cool at 45 to 60 degrees. The Best Western Plaza & Convention Center was in the northeast suburbs about a $20 cab ride to downtown. Opening ceremonies were Thursday at 10 AM mountain time. 65 people were at the opening. The president of the RCNA, RCM director, and Cliff Mishler representing the ANA, all spoke. The Calgary Coin Club gave each of them a white cowboy hat and they took an oath. Attendance was about 500. There was a $6 admission fee. 18 and under were free.

The show had 64 tables with mostly Canadian coins & currency. I was surprised that many of the coins were graded PCGS and the currency PMG and PCGS. It was pretty much half coins and half currency. The Royal Canadian Mint had two booths and were selling their products. One of the featured coins was the new $2 bimetal D-day coins with & without color. There were 8 educational talks, several specialty clubs met, and there were several tours to a museum, brewery, glass blowing factory, and the Calgary Zoo. There were also banquets and breakfast meetings.

My wife and I went downtown to the Glenbow Museum where we saw a lot of Blackfoot memorabilia. We walked the eight city blocks of restaurants that were blocked off for foot traffic only. We then went to Ft. Calgary built in 1874.

Friday morning was the Club Delegates Breakfast where I spoke on “Running an Estate Auction at Your Local Coin Club”. 42 were in attendance. They said this was the best attended Club Breakfast in two decades. After my talk, we went downtown to the Calgary Tower standing 56 stories or 810 feet. The elevators were broke, so we could not go up. We went to a 4-story shopping mall in the center of downtown. It had a large food court and beautiful indoor Devonian Gardens with all the plants from Florida.

Saturday, I attended the General meeting. There were 30 in attendance. Membership in the RCNA is about 1200. There are 60 coin clubs across Canada. Calgary has about 95 club members and Edmonton has about 120. All officers and directors ran unopposed in the national election, except for 2nd VP. The Convention Banquet was Saturday night. Membership in the RCNA is $45 a year Canadian ($34 US).

I took $230 Canadian with me, all 2nd or 3rd generation currency. The current currency is $5 thru $100 with holograms. There are no $1 or $2 bills. They use $1 Loons and $2 Bimetal coins. There are no pennies. They round up or down. People questioned what I had but they took it. A collector wanted all my $1 & $2 bills. The soda machine would not take the old bills. They had to be holograms or $1 & $2 coins.

We left on Sunday morning. At the airport we had to be at the International terminal. They used passports for all I.D.’s We went thru TSA, then you had to get a picture with your passport, then you were interviewed by Customs before you could go to your gate. We almost missed our flight. It was 4 hours to Atlanta and then 1:15 to WPB.

Tony Swicer
FUN- VP & Club Liaison