

Cambridge show well organized, attended



Show CIRCUIT

By Jeff Fournier

A long-running coin show made its 28th appearance on the numismatic show scene on March 9.

Originally organized and hosted by the Cambridge Coin Club, the show was taken over by the Waterloo Coin Society (WCS) beginning in 2014. This year, several hundred people passed through the doors.

"For many, many years now, even when the Cambridge Coin Club was running the show, cash donations have been accepted for the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank at the front door, and we continue to do that instead of charging admission," said Brent Mackie, show chair.

ating; in fact, we have collected and donated several thousand dollars over the last few years," added Mackie, who noted there's a long list of club volunteers who assist with security at the show.

CCN columnist and a WCS member Sean Sinclair was roaming around the parking lot during the show, watching for any suspicious behaviour and ensuring there was no damage to vehicles or anyone loitering around them.

Other volunteers were wondering around the bourse and keeping an eye on the dealers' tables.

VOLUNTEERS ESSENTIAL

Mackie was able to talk to the dealers at the show



Alan Roy (left) and Len Trakalo pose for CCN at the recent Cambridge Coin Show, held March 9 at the Cambridge Newfoundland Club. Photos by Jeff Fournier.

By forgoing an admission charge, Mackie said, everyone is able to attend the show and enjoy everything it has to offer – no matter their age or financial means.

"On top of that, we also donate the club's profits from the show to top that up," said Mackie, who added a portion of the show's profits are also donated to the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA).

"Historically, people have been very, very generous coming into the show and do-

throughout the day as he made multiple rounds of the bourse.

"Aside from the odd little minor issues, which always come up no matter how well the show is organized, feedback from the dealers and the public has been consistently positive – not just today, but year over year as well."

Speaking of organizing the show, the WCS generally gets upwards of 24 volunteers to work on the day of the coin show. In terms of planning the show ahead of time, there



Left to right: Brent Mackie, chair of the Cambridge Coin Show, works alongside Waterloo Coin Society (WCS) Secretary Peter Becker and WCS President Maher Babbili.

are about six members of the executive who carry the greatest load.

SHOW BENEFITS

Coin shows such as the annual Cambridge event offer many benefits for the collector, Mackie said.

"One of the benefits of having a club-run show versus one that is privately run is that it helps support numismatics in your community," he said, adding the Cambridge show not only helps the WCS but also the local community.

"Anything we're able to generate from this show, from a financial standpoint, helps us give back to local collectors. Also, because it is such a highly regarded show, we get a lot of people out to the show and that helps us to keep the costs for the dealers' tables relatively low. It's a great show for people to come out to whether they are buying, selling or trading. We've traditionally collected several new members for our club at our show and have done so today as well."

The WCS offers membership discounts at its shows, where anyone who's signing up for the club can save \$5 off their \$15 regular membership fee.

"As an ongoing benefit of belonging to the WCS, the club helps our members by paying for the RCNA's 'Numismatic Correspondence Course,' both part one and the more expensive part two," said Mackie. "Any WCS member in good

standing who takes the course, completes its tests and submits the certificate of completion back to the club will have their \$65 cost of that course reimbursed to them."

Think about that deal for a moment – a \$65 value for only the cost of a \$15 annual membership. That's quite the bargain.

Mackie is also pleased with the location of the show – the Cambridge Newfoundland Club on Dunbar Road in Cambridge, Ont. – adding "we love it here."

And how does Mackie envision future Cambridge shows?

"I think we're in a pretty good position right now," he said, adding organizers made "a rather significant change a couple of years ago" by reconfiguring the dealer table layout.

Feedback from that change – not only from dealers but from members of the public and the club – has been "overwhelmingly positive," added Mackie.

"There's a very clear path around the room. There's less congestion than there had been in the past. Every dealer has their own back table now. Every single dealer table is a standard size."

As for future shows, Mackie said he's aiming to maintain the successful status quo.

"I think we have a pretty good recipe here at this point, and as they say, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.'"

Mackie also noted the show's concession booth, which is run by the Newfoundland Club, has a great selection of items at reasonable prices and is another plus for the show.

For anyone who would like to attend the next Cambridge Coin Show, it will be held March 14, 2020, at the same location on 1500 Dunbar Rd. in Cambridge, Ont. 🍁



Lorne Barnes (left), one of the dealers at the Cambridge Coin Show, poses with Royal Canadian Numismatic Association President Henry Nienhuis.