

COLLECTOR'S IN IT FOR THE MONEY

By Kelly Shiers, Staff Reporter

Michael Hackett has a stash of Canadian Tire cash he will never trade in for a brake job, camping gear or a hammer.

The first thing he does when he leaves a Canadian Tire store is to check the "money." And he's been known to ask relatives and friends for the chance to search their multi-colored bundles for rare bills.

While lots of people most likely have a few Canadian Tire coupons set aside somewhere at home, Mr. Hackett is a true collector.

In seven years, the Lower Sackville man has acquired about 200 different bills. The latest is due to arrive this week - a \$1 coupon for which he paid \$14.60 through a mail-order auction.

"I have no idea what condition it's in, but if I got a good one for that price, I did really good."

Mr. Hackett is not alone in his passion for the coupons. About 475 people across the country belong to the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club, says club director



Eric Wynne/Herald Photo

Sackville resident Michael Hackett has collected Canadian Tire money for several years.

Glenn Rodger. The club met in Bridgewater Oct. 17 during the Atlantic Provinces fall coin show.

People have turned to the bills in part because they're relatively accessible and inexpensive, Mr. Rodger says. His own collection has "a couple thousand" of the bills.

"It's very similar to collecting bank notes. The notes are numbered, there are different signatures and they're issued in different years and issued in series"

It's been 40 years since Canadian Tire's co-founder, acting on the advice of his wife, introduced the coupons to its gasoline customers. By 1961, the coupons were being issued in Canadian Tire stores also. And in 1995, the coupons were renamed Canadian Tire "money".

Not surprisingly, those 40 year old bills are among the hardest to find. "There were five or six issues' printed on bond paper and very few of those survived," Mr. Hackett says. All the other bills are printed on the same paper as real currency.

NEW SERIES DISCOVERED - CTC S-22A

by: Roger Fox



Discovered in early December 1998, this new series is really a continuation of the CTC S-16A \$2.00 coupon dated 1992 and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company. These new notes contain the signature of President and C.E.O. Mr. Stephen Bachand, replacing that of Chairman of the Board Mr. Hugh Macauley. Mr. Gerry Kishner's signature remains unchanged, as Chief Financial Officer in this new series.

At press time, the change-over has been narrowed down to 22,500 coupons - the difference between -
Bachand - 0002459456, the lowest so far
Macauley - 0002436956, the highest so far
Total 22,500



No replacements have been found so far, however, they will likely be similar to the CTC S16-Aa replacement coupons containing a prefix '9'

How many of the regular coupons have been printed in this series? According to a previous article in The Collector, there could be up to 4.8 million coupons. Whether they were all printed, or will be printed is also unknown at present.

These new coupons fit the same criteria as the CTC S17 series, also all dated 1992, and also interrupted by the launch of the 75th anniversary and subsequent CTC S-20 series. New/old stocks are being put into circulation where they had left off, and who knows what other surprises they contain!