

## New counterfeit Nunavut \$2 discovered, expert says

A new counterfeit version of the 1999 Nunavut \$2 coin has surfaced, marking yet another troubling development in Canadian numismatics.

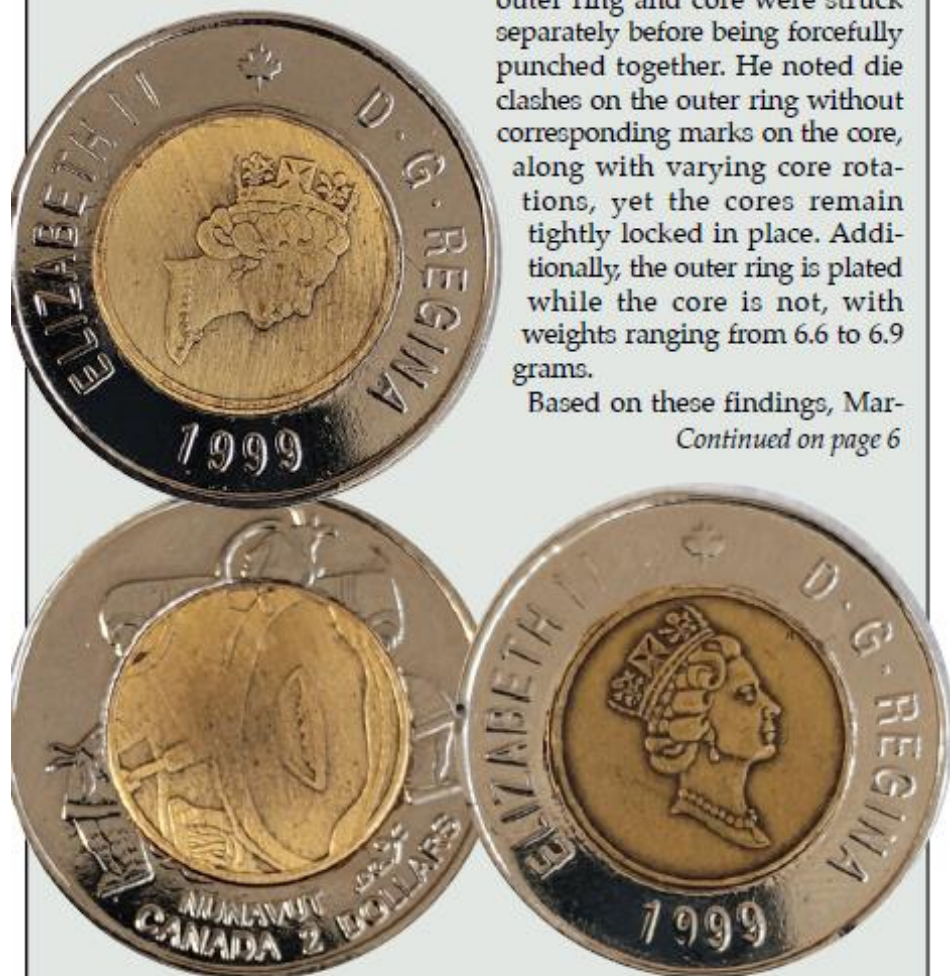
Counterfeit expert Mike Marshall, who has been tracking fake coins for nearly 20 years, recently examined six examples of the counterfeit and described it as one

of the poorest-quality fakes he has seen, aside from the infamous "Hawkesbury" variant.

"The effigy is horrible, and the design elements on the reverse are just as bad," Marshall told *Canadian Coin News*. The forgery process appears different from typical Royal Canadian Mint production methods, as Marshall believes the outer ring and core were struck separately before being forcefully punched together. He noted die clashes on the outer ring without corresponding marks on the core, along with varying core rotations, yet the cores remain tightly locked in place. Additionally, the outer ring is plated while the core is not, with weights ranging from 6.6 to 6.9 grams.

Based on these findings, Marshall

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A poor-quality forgery of a 1999 Nunavut \$2 coin, identified by counterfeit expert Mike Marshall, features inaccurate design elements, a separately struck outer ring and core, and plated surfaces. Weights of examined specimens vary between 6.6 and 6.9 grams, with all examples believed to originate from the Greater Toronto Area.

*(Photos by Mike Marshall)*

## Nunavut...

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shall suggests that the counterfeits are domestically produced, likely within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) rather than overseas.

"I do not believe these came from China," he said. "All examples I've seen or heard about have originated in the GTA, and

I doubt Chinese counterfeiters would go through such a labour-intensive process."

Marshall also criticized the response to Canada's growing counterfeit coin problem. He believes lenient sentencing for convicted counterfeiters has encouraged others to exploit the system, while the Royal Canadian Mint's reluctance to disclose the full scale of counterfeiting only emboldens crimin-

als. "Canadians deserve the truth," he said. "We have enough to worry about; the security of our monetary system shouldn't be one of them."

As for other counterfeits in circulation, Marshall noted that the infamous "Camel Toe" toonies are becoming harder to find across most of Canada, except in British Columbia, where sightings have actually increased in the past two years. ♦