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Can you spot the fake toonie?

Brant OPP have issued an alert about fake \$2 coins.

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A fake \$2 coin, shown at the top and bottom right in this photo, includes a cleft paw or “camel toe” on the polar bear and subtle differences in the Queen's portrait.

OPP photos

Can you spot the fake?

Ontario Provincial Police are urging the public to watch out for counterfeit toonies in pocket change after some fake coins were spotted in Brant County.

“A member of the public called Brant OPP to advise them of counterfeit toonies and now it’s your turn to spot the fake,” Brant Const. Jon Bueckert said Monday on X, formerly Twitter. “Stay informed and protect yourself from fraud!”

While the OPP shared the alert as part of a Fraud Prevention Month campaign, fake toonies have been circulating in the province for years, according to Brent W.J. Mackie, a Kitchener numismatist and treasurer of the Waterloo Coin Society, celebrating its 65th anniversary in 2024.

With help from Canadian counterfeit coin expert Mike Marshall, Mackie has documented all of the known counterfeits on his website, cameltoetoonies.ca.

Why are they called camel toe toonies?

You can spot the difference in the fake coins by the outsized toes on the polar bear’s right paw.

Mackie has documented other known varieties of fake toonies to look for, including the “Montreal Mint” toonies and the “Z Dollard” counterfeits first spotted in eastern Ontario in January 2022.

Mackie has found reports of counterfeit \$2 coins as far back as 2020, when collectors started seeing a wave of fake coins circulating in the Greater Toronto Area.

A disclaimer on cameltoetoonies.ca notes that the website is designed solely for educational and reference purposes.

It warns: “The collecting of counterfeit coins or currency is illegal and explicitly not condoned by this website.”



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