

# City artist's 'simple classic' design appears on silver dollar

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Canada's newest legal tender, a 1984 silver dollar, is dedicated to Toronto's 150th birthday, and the design on the reverse side of the coin was created by a Mississauga resident.

David Craig, a 39-year-old illustrator and part-time teacher at Sheridan College, was one of 60 artists from across the country who submitted designs for the new silver dollar.

The search for the design began early last year, with the selection of the coin theme. Ten or 12 themes were presented for consideration to the Master of the Mint and the Royal Canadian Mint board of directors. The theme chosen by the group was then offered to Cabinet for approval.

With Cabinet approval, the call was sent out to Canadian artists from every province to submit designs. A list of designers invited to present work is recommended by national museums and art galleries.

When all the designs are received, they are allotted a number and checked to make sure they bear no identification. The select committee then begins the task of choosing the winning design.

"Initially, I considered scores of different ideas," said Craig. "But finally, I realized that what would work best would be simple, classic themes — a place of meeting, fur

trading, a shape to represent Toronto."

The coin's foreground depicts an Indian paddling a canoe across Lake Ontario, a reminder of the Indian origin of Toronto. In the background, the Royal Canadian Mint's meticulous engraving highlights the Toronto skyline, and even the minute details, such as individual panes of glass, have been carefully reproduced.

"The skyline with the CN Tower was the obvious yet pleasing shape, and a lone Indian in a canoe symbolized the fur trade," explained Craig. "I think this combination of shapes works well and produces a design of sufficient clarity and classic simplicity to appear on a coin," he added.

The artist's works have included illustrations for books and magazine covers, the cover of the 1983 Canadian Football League programs, the Molson's Tennis Challenge poster and Alberta's 75th Anniversary poster. The 1984 silver dollar is the first coin he has

designed.

The coin, which is 50 per cent fine silver, and 50 per cent copper, is available by mail order from the Royal Canadian Mint and through numismatic dealers.

Mail order prices for the "proof" (frosted features with brilliant field), is \$16.95, or \$11.95 for the "brilliant uncirculated" version.

To order your 1984 silver dollar, designed by David Craig, contact The Royal Canadian Mint, Silver Dollar, P.O. Box 470, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8V5.

