

Loon Dollars

J F Kennedy

Silver dollars were minted in Canada from 1935 until 1967. In 1968, silver dollars were replaced by nickel dollars as a cost-saving measure. However, nickel dollars never caught on with the Canadian public; they were minted from 1968 to 1987, but were not adopted by the vending machine industry or by businesses in general. So dollar coins were redesigned to a smaller size and lighter weight in 1987. To help with public acceptance of the new dollar coins, paper dollars were concurrently discontinued. The \$1 (loonie) and \$2 (twoonie) denominations have since become the most useful coins in everyday transactions.

Some Canadian coin collectors end their collection with coins dated no later than 1967. That was 40 years ago! Since then there have been many interesting circulating coins made and also (like it or not) a plethora of "collector" coins. Consider collecting a modern coin series such as \$1 loonies or \$2 twoonies!

Canadian Loon dollars are a great choice to collect as a modern date series. Loonies are easily recognizable by the general public – with their distinctive bronze color and 11-sides. As of 2007, Canada has been minting loonies for 20 years. In most years the now-familiar loon design is seen on the reverse side of the dollar coin, though occasionally it is replaced with a commemorative design.

A date series collection of loonies is fairly inexpensive to purchase in mintstate condition. Even the Non-Circulating Legal Tender (NCLT) collector coins can be found at prices for collectors of almost any means. Most of the collector coins look familiar to circulating loonies in size and shape, but have unusual reverse designs not found in pocket change. Unlike \$2 coins, there have been no solid-gold loonies issued (yet), so a "complete" date series is a fun possibility for collectors with a limited budget. Another alternative is to collect loonies broken out of proof sets; a complete set of proof loonies is a beautiful sight to see!



Loonies – Reverse Side (Including NCLT)

Date	Description	\$ MS	\$ PL	\$ SP	\$ PF
1987/88/89 /90/91/93 /94/95/96	Loon (1987 No PL / No SP / PF single)	5	5	15	10
/97/98/99 /2000/01	Loon Not issued for circulation	15 ¹	15 ²	15	18
		1999: 15 ¹	15 ²	15	28
/03/04/05 /06/07	Loon (No Specimen Loon in 2004/06)	5	5	15	15
1892–1992	Double Dated	5	5	15	20
1892–1992	Kids & Parliament Peace Tower (Commem.)	5	-	-	12
1994	Remembrance / War Memorial	5	-	-	12
1995	Peacekeeping	5	-	-	10
1997	Flying Loon (aureate bronze)	35 ³	-	35 ³	-
2002	Loon Privy / Center Ice (gold plated)	-	-	-	35
2002	Family of Loons	-	-	40	-
1952–2002	No Date on Reverse (Coronation 50 th)	3	4	15	20
2004/06	Test Token (three maple leaves)	-	15	-	-
2004	Nesting Loon / Elusive Loon	-	-	30 ⁴	-
2004	Olympic Loon (silver + color)	-	-	-	60
2004	Olympic Loon (aureate)	3	-	-	-
2004	Canada Goose	-	-	40	-
2005	Tufted Puffin	-	-	40	-
2005	Terry Fox	3	-	-	-
2006	Teddy Bear Privy / Baby's Lullabies (silver)	-	-	-	30
2006	Snowy Owl	-	-	35	-
2006	Flying Loon & Olympic Privy (aureate)	3	-	-	13 ⁵
2006	Flying Loon & Olympic Privy (silver + color)	-	-	-	40

- ① Issued in PL Set (Pliofilm *Uncirculated Set*) only
- ② 1997 Ottawa PL Set has a Specimen Finish
- ③ Issued in *Oh Canada Set* (MS) and *Specimen Set* (SP)
- ④ Issued in *Coin & Stamp Derivative Set*
- ⑤ Proof Flying Loon issued in *Going for Gold – Bookmark*. Encapsulated in goo.



Loonies – Obverse Side (Including NCLT)

Date	Description	\$ MS	\$ PL	\$ SP	\$ PF
1987/88/89	Tiara Portrait (1987 No PL/No SP/ PF single)	5	5	15	10
1990/91/92 /93/94/95/96 /2003	Crowned Portrait 2003:	5 2	5 4	15 15	10 15
/97/98/99 /2000/01	Crowned Portrait (not issued for circulation)	8 ¹	8 ²	15	18
1892–1992	Crowned Portrait + Obverse Double Date (Commemorative)	5	5	15	20
1994/95	Crowned Portrait + Obverse Date (Commemoratives)	5	5	15	12
1998/2000	Crowned Portrait + W Mintmark	10 ¹	10	-	-
1952–2002	Obverse Double Dated (Coronation 50 th)	3	4	15	15
2003/04/05 /06	Uncrowned Portrait	3	4	15	15
2003	Uncrowned Portrait + W Mintmark	15 ³	15 ³	-	-
2005	Uncrowned Portrait + Obverse Date (Terry Fox Reverse)	3	-	-	-
2006/07	RCM Logo Mint Mark	3	4		

- ① Issued in PL Set (Pliofilm *Uncirculated Set*) only
- ② 1997 Ottawa PL Set has Specimen Finish
- ③ Issued in *Coronation Uncirculated Set* (“WP” mintmark set)

Related Items (NCLT)

Date	Description	\$ MS	\$ PL	\$ SP	\$ PF
1997	Flying Loon (silver)	-	120 ¹	-	-
2006	Snowflake dollar (silver, colorized)	-	-	-	35 ²

- ① Same design as aureate bronze version, but larger diameter & sterling silver
- ② Loonie size & shape. Issued in *Winter Gift Set*. Encapsulated in goo.

Finish:	Mintstate = Lustrous	MS			
Finish:	Prooflike = Brilliant on Brilliant (aka NBU)		PL		
Finish:	Specimen = Brilliant on Parallel Lined Fields			SP	
Finish:	Proof = Ultra Heavy Cameo on Brilliant Fields				PF

