

## IN MEMORIAM

**BELOVED LOONIE**

*Remembering the man who designed  
Canada's gold-colored dollar coin.*

Robert-Ralph Carmichael, the artist who designed Canada's celebrated \$1 Loonie, died in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, at the age of 78 on July 16. When Canada replaced its \$1 bank notes with coins in 1987, the Royal Canadian Mint initially selected a design featuring an aboriginal man and a voyageur paddling a canoe loaded with goods—a motif that paid tribute to the role of the fur trade in the nation's history. The master dies that were to be used to produce the new issue, however, were lost during transport to the mint's coining facility in Winnipeg.

Concerned that counterfeit issues might be made if the dies fell into the wrong hands, the mint chose Carmichael's rendition of a loon, a bird commonly found in Canada's lakes, to grace the coin's reverse. "The introduction of the one-dollar coin in 1987 was the most significant change to Canada's coinage system in over 50 years," the Royal Canadian Mint said in a statement. "Since that time, Mr. Carmichael's design has appeared on over 1 billion one-dollar coins. We thank him for his remarkable contribution in creating what has become a true Canadian symbol."



▲ The Royal Canadian Mint secured the rights to the Canadian dollar's "Loonie" nickname in 2006.

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