

Great Canadian Roadshow makes a stop in Moncton, collectibles wanted



This display gives an idea of what The Great Canadian Roadshow is looking for.



Collectibles such as vintage toys are some of the most sought-after items.

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say 'oh I was thinking of throwing this away, but you know I thought I would bring it down here and take a look' and it turns out to be quite unique," he said. "That's the fun part and we do research ... We're looking into whatever is out there and if we see something that we don't have a buyer for right away what we'll do is we'll research it that night and ... we'll try to find the collectors for that."

Merle MacLeod of Moncton brought a German officer's dagger from the war years to be looked at by roadshow staff yesterday. After the item was examined and it was determined there was a collector who would buy it, MacLeod was offered \$200 for the war collectible, but decided not to sell it.

"Because it has more sentimental value to me than that," said MacLeod, a veteran of the Gulf War. "I'll just probably pass it on to my son who is in the military as well."

Murray said despite not having purchased the item, MacLeod's visit wouldn't be seen as a failure.

"It's successful because we saw something that was really neat. That's the whole thing," he said. "Coins are coins and there's a lot of coin people that purchase that and jewelry and stuff like that. But it's when you see the really unique, the neat things, that's what makes the job fun."

Meanwhile, Gail MacFarlane of Moncton was able to sell some old coins she had at home and she was pleased with the experience.

"I figured I may as well get rid of (the coins), they're not doing any good in the jar," she said.

"I just find the service is excellent. I know the woman we dealt with ... she was wonderful. She tells you what it's worth and where to go with other things instead of here. I find it's really interesting, it really is. And some of the things that you see here, I've never seen before. It's really amazing."

The Great Canadian Roadshow is a Canadian-owned company and is based out of Ontario. There are teams stationed in British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec and the Maritimes who do regular shows in those provinces. After this week's show in Moncton, the Maritimes

team will be off for a week before going to Halifax for two weeks.

The company is also community-conscious, as they have partnered with Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. When an item is sold, staff ask the seller if they would like to donate a part of the proceeds to the foundation. Every dollar that is donated is matched by the company and thus far they have raised over \$85,000 for Heart and Stroke, with a goal to have that total reach \$100,000 by the end of the year.

Downey noted that a recent surge in popularity in shows like Antique Roadshow and Pawn Stars has added to the popularity of the Great Canadian Roadshow. However, she said that unlike shows like Antique Roadshow, their company does buy items, rather than simply giving appraisals and offering insurance.

Although not every visit ends in a sale, Downey said they are still happy for anyone to come in

with an item, even if they are just curious about its value.

"A lot of people are still attached to things and they just can't really let them go, but at least they know the value behind them. If we can't buy it the most we want to do is help people and inform them what they have," she said. "I love it because every city you go, every single day, there's always something new, there's always a treasure that has been hidden and locked away in the attic or basement."

■ **The Great Canadian Roadshow is taking place at Future Inns Moncton at 40 Lady Ada Boulevard, off Mapleton Road. Admission is free. The event is open until Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about the Great Canadian Roadshow or becoming one of their buyers is asked to call 1-800-746-0902.**



Dan Morand, a buyer/agent, assesses a spoon at The Great Canadian Roadshow on Monday.



People brought everything from coins to pottery, dolls and guitars and jewelry on Monday when The Great Canadian Roadshow came to Moncton.

Seagull stuck in mud of drained Jones Lake, slowly dying of dehydration

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drained for up to five weeks. Somehow, the seagull became mired in the gluey, gooey lake bottom over the weekend. It is not clear if the bird is sick or injured but it clearly can't move from the spot near the centre of the lake where it has sat ever since.

In her frustration, Arsenault tried to rescue the bird herself. On Sunday night, with a 60-foot (about 20 metres) length of rope tied around her waist and rubber boots on her feet, she set out across the soggy lake bed. But like the victim she was trying to rescue, she soon became mired in the muck and unable to move.

"It's very thick mud," she said. "Just like glue."

The bird could be seen yesterday in obvious distress, trying to free itself less and less often as its



This seagull has been stuck in the mud of Jones Lake since Sunday.

strength waned.

The bird would extend its wings and flap madly, and then just sit there for long periods of time. There is no water near it for it to

drink and obviously nothing for it to eat.

"What if it was a person out there, someone's child," she asked, noting that two children were play-

ing in the mud the previous evening.

"And we don't even have the equipment to go out and save them."

The Moncton Fire Department has long wanted a boat or hovercraft to help it deal with just such a case. Ironically, when a water rescue is called for in Moncton, the fire department has to either borrow a boat from the Riverview Fire Department or call in the neighbouring firefighters from across the Petitcodiac River.

While there is no water in the lake, a boat could come in handy because in cases of deep mud that characterizes the lake when it is drained, it is often possible to push the boat out to someone, or some animal, that has become stuck in the mud.

During the rescue of a woman in the Petitcodiac River in December

2007, the Moncton Fire Department's Zodiac was extensively damaged by the jagged ice and ultimately found to be unsafe for use. It has never been replaced despite the department explaining to city hall that a boat is an important piece of equipment for a city with a big river bordering it, a downtown lake, a recreational lake in Irishtown Nature Park and a spare reservoir between McLaughlin Drive and Elmwood Drive in which a man drowned years ago.

Nor does the Codiac Regional RCMP have a boat.

Rod Higgins, the city's general manager of parks and leisure services, sent a full complement of staff to the lake yesterday to see what might be done to help the exhausted, starving and dehydrated bird. As of suppertime yesterday however, the animal was still wallowing in its misery.