

HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER

A Timely Suggestion for Helping Scottie Rescue Abroad

by Lee Netzler

The following events recently took place while I was vacationing in Canada. This story is true, and with luck, other chapters will be written so that the tale continues.

It begins with our annual autumn vacation. This year we plotted out a 4,200 mile driving route to tour several north central states, including plans to drive into Canada from western North Dakota. Indeed, our travels followed our plan, and in early September we entered Canada at Port Oungre at the Saskatchewan border. Over the next week we crossed Saskatchewan northwestbound and entered Alberta east of Edmonton. We continued west to Jasper and then south through Calgary, finally exiting Canada at the Carway border station where we re-entered the U.S. into Montana.

As usual, when we leave Canada we have some unspent Canadian currency (and a few unused Canadian postage stamps) left in our pockets. I generally figure out our currency needs pretty well, so what isn't spent doesn't amount to a lot of money. Still whatever is left after re-entering the U.S. isn't spendable here. So, that motivates me to cross the border with as little Canadian currency as possible, since tossing the "left-over" paper money and coins into a drawer and just forgetting about them after returning home isn't a very good solution.

To rid myself of some of the money, I have even devised one trick to spend the last of the coins I have in hand. I stop for gasoline before leaving Canada and purchase an amount of gas that equals the amount of change I have left. In this case, I counted my Loonies and Toonies, as the Canadians jokingly refer to their large one and two dollar coins, and added to the smaller coins I had, the total in coins amounted to \$4.26. So, I stopped and bought enough gas to "use up" that amount of change—actually purchasing \$14.26 worth. So, I was able to pay out all of the change in my pocket and a ten-dollar bill as well.

That still left the dilemma of how to use the remaining Canadian paper money. It didn't seem like a good solution to stop at the duty-free shop at the border to spend it on things I really didn't want, and it didn't seem sensible to simply dump it into a drawer after getting home. Unlike other times that I visited Canada, this time the question about the Canadian currency nagged at me. Perhaps that was a good sign, because it forced me to mentally wrestle with the problem until I finally discovered a solution.

After crossing the border back into the U.S., I still had the Canadian paper money (and stamps) in my pocket. The question of what to do with them continued to bother me. Then, out of nowhere, an idea popped into my head: Why not donate the cash and stamps to a Scottie Rescue fund—a *Canadian* Scottie Rescue fund? The wheels were turning in my head, and I reasoned that all I had to do was to find a contact person for the Canadian Scottie Rescue organization, and I could simply mail it to them.

Enthusiastic about the idea, I contacted the STCA National Rescue Coordinators, Daphne and Marshall Branzell (e-mail: scotswind@aol.com). Daphne kindly furnished me with the name and e-mail address of the Canadian Scottie Rescue person to contact, Cheryl Lang (e-mail: ldairy@sk.sympatico.ca). Cheryl is the contact person for western Canada. She and her partner, Linda St. James, (e-mail: puki@gryndlscot.com), who is the contact person for eastern Canada, are both available through the Canadian Scottish Terrier Club's Rescue Internet address (e-mail: rescue@canadianscottishterrierclub.org).

After a few e-mail exchanges with Cheryl, I obtained her postal mailing address and I am writing to her. The envelope contains a short letter to Cheryl, and the Canadian currency and postage stamps that are a donation to support the Scottie Rescue efforts of our friends across our northern border.

I believe I have finally solved the nagging question of what to do with the left-over Canadian money. I am even hopeful that others crossing our international borders may choose to follow this example. And, I am enough of a dreamer to think that perhaps this could even be fashioned into some sort of a network of "International Friends for Scottie Rescue." Why not? After all, this scheme would work for *any* two countries that use different currencies.

I feel a lot better now about how we have "spent" the last of our Canadian dollars. And I am sure of one other thing—this was a border-crossing incident I will not forget.