



- mark o'neill, sun

An employee of Legendary Coins on Eglinton Ave. W. holds up two Elvis coins.

# Elvis money in the bank

OTTAWA (CP) — Elvis is in the building.

And you can take that to the bank, little darlin'.

The Royal Canadian Mint, that bastion of conservative money-makers, has tossed years of caution aside for the realm of black velvet paintings and Elvis salt and pepper shakers.

Yes, the mint is striking commemorative Elvis coins. In four poses, no less.

There's the early Elvis in a pose from Jailhouse Rock. "Rock and roll reign begins," reads the inscription.

Next is Elvis in Hawaii. "Elvis: today, tomorrow and forever," says the inscription on the second one-ounce silver coin.

Third in the series is a gold record commemoration — Elvis on a coin designed to look like a miniature record.

And the piece de resistance, the largest coin ever struck by the mint, is a massive 10-ounce silver commemoration with three likenesses of The King surrounded by an American Eagle with its wings spread. "Elvis, welcome to my world," it reads in classic simplicity.

Each of the one-ounce coins sells for \$69 while the giant 10-ounce Elvis, complete with velvet-lined wooden box produced by the mint, goes for \$325.

Mike Makri, owner of Toronto's Legendary Coins, came up with the idea.

"I've always been a bit of a coin collector and a lot of my friends are Elvis fans.

"They told me they couldn't get Elvis coins anywhere, no one sells them, so I contacted the mint, got the rights from Graceland and that was it."