

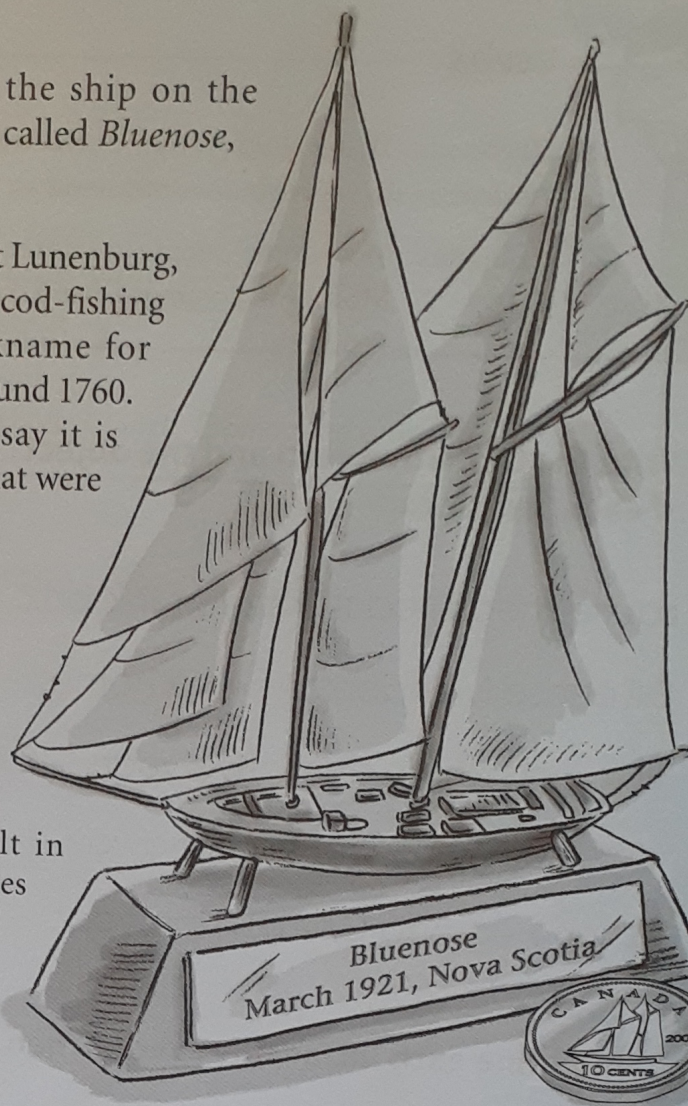
Have you ever wondered about the ship on the Canadian dime? It is a schooner called *Bluenose*, Canada's most celebrated sailing vessel.

Bluenose was launched in March, 1921 at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. It was both a racing and a cod-fishing vessel. In fact, "Bluenose" is a nickname for Nova Scotians, and has been so since around 1760. No one really knows why, but some say it is because of the purplish-blue potatoes that were once widely grown in the province.

Bluenose had the largest mainsail in the world. It was 49 metres long and weighed 258 tonnes. Its mainmast was 38 metres high with a sail area of a whopping 1036 square metres! Its crew comprised five officers, 12 deckhands, and a cook. The schooner was built in response to the fact that the United States had won the trophy in the annual International Fishermen's Race in 1920. The following year, our *Bluenose* won the trophy back and remained undefeated for 17 years!

Bluenose was a hard-working vessel. Besides its racing and fishing duties, it also served as a showboat, representing Canada at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933. But later, new boat designs made fishing schooners obsolete. Despite attempts to keep the ship in Canada and preserved as a national institution, our *Bluenose* was sold to a company in the West Indies in 1938. It became a "tramp schooner" – a cargo vessel sailing the waters of the Caribbean Sea.

Despite some misfortunes over the course of its career – it sank in 1946 when it struck a reef off the coast of Haiti – *Bluenose* was depicted on a Canadian postage stamp and put on our dime in 1937, becoming a little bit of history in our pocket. Then in 1955, the schooner and its captain Angus Walters were inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame. In 1963, the beloved schooner was back as *Bluenose II*, an exact copy of the original. It now belongs to the government of Nova Scotia and acts as a goodwill ambassador, to remind us of Canada's greatest sailing vessel.



Bluenose