

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

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Metal Detecting - It's an All-Season Hobby!

The Buzzer is published by and for the membership of the CMDC – Canada's oldest Active Metal Detecting Club.

Visit us on the internet @ www.cmdc.org.

BUZZER CONTEST WINNER 2017

Our Buzzer Contest for December 2017 was won by Lyle Tremblay. Some of you may remember Lyle from some of the Rochon Sands hunts. He has participated in those hunts several times. Lyle has been detecting for many years a wee bit north of here. He makes his home, and hunting area, in and around Spruce Grove. Congratulations Lyle, and thanks for the great story.

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### New Lessons from Old Silver

Lyle Tremblay

After reading the latest edition of the buzzer, it made me think of the most unusual find I have ever made.

My wife has lived all her life in Spruce Grove and I asked her one day if there were any locations where one might go metal detecting and have a probability of finding old silver. She recalled the location of an old baseball field where they also had an old concession stand. She had said it was parallel and close to a line of spruce trees.

So off I went to the location, and sure enough, there were the spruce trees - but nothing else that would indicate that there once was a ball diamond there. I started farther away from the trees, not knowing the exact location of the stand and worked my way in closer. There was a fair bit of trash from over the years and I dug up quite a few pull tabs, nails etc. Then I got a solid but brief blip on my headphones.

I know my unit well enough that this was a signal to pay attention to. So I started to sweep from different angles and every now and then I would get a brief but strong signal indicating something was definitely there. Pinpointing indicated a target depth of approx. 5 inches so away I went digging. 4 inches down I hit a spruce 2inch thick tree root and thought – "what????"

I didn't see anything at all, and thought it must have been garbage or something else fooling with my machine. So I picked up my detector and started to swing it again. This time a very clear and strong silver signal started ringing off. Now I was definitely interested but still somewhat baffled as to what it might be. Out came the handheld pin pointer and it indicated something was there – but **underneath the root!**

At that point I was closing in on the target but still wondering how on earth it got there under a root. I got in with my fingers and eventually uncovered the reeded edge of a very well preserved 1953 50 cent piece. It was a great find that day and I learned something else in the process.

I will not ever let pre-conceived notions cloud my judgment about where coins "should" be found. While I still cannot fathom how this coin ended up where it was after fifty some years of being lost, tree roots are now on my hit list.



# **CMDC MEMORIES FROM 2017**



**CMDC Banquet - March**



**Spring CMDC Meeting**



**Brisk April Club Hunt**



**CMDC Club Hunt- Baker Park**



**June CMDC Hunt**



**Beach Hunt Crew**



**Fun Hunt**



**Water Hunt**



**September Beach Hunt**



**Seeded Hunt at Jerry's Place**



**Radio World Center Seeded Hunt in October**



**December CMDC Meeting**



Some amazing finds recovered by members of the CMDC during the 2017 Metal Detecting season..

## A Coca-Cola Memorabilia Story - or "Some Things do go better with Coke"

This story was written by Peggy Kemp, and with permission of Detectorist Paul Jefferson. Details were gleaned from Canadian Metal Detecting forum stories, and the entire article sent to Paul for pre-approval and an accuracy check. It was originally published in the Buzzer in 2009.

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Late in April in 2008 Paul Jefferson was happy to finally get out after a long cold winter in the Woodstock region of Ontario. It had been a long winter, and he was ready for another detecting adventure. The weather was cooler than earlier in the month, but still warm enough to allow his spade access into the rich earth.

Like most people active in the hobby of metal detecting, Paul had spent the winter dreaming about his hobby and researching sites for future hunts. This was the day that some of that research really paid off.

At one time a college had graced the top of the hill, but it had closed during the depression, and the property had not been used much since. The whole campus had become overgrown. The terrain was steep and the brush was thick, but Paul wasn't going to let a few obstacles stand in the way of a good hunt. He was sure that this old college campus had not been hunted before, and was hoping to come across some interesting finds.

By the end of the day Paul's treasures included spoons, a brass bridle sides-piece, part of a First World War trench lighter, and a 1910 counter-stamped Large Cent. He even found a newspaper-type stamp believed to have been used to personalize books and paper. Each one of these finds was enough to make Paul's day. He almost overlooked the 4 Coca-Cola advertisement match strikers that he dug out of the brush. The other finds that April day were so exhilarating that he considered them more of a "cool" oddment than a treasure.

It wasn't until much later that Paul began to consider suggestions people were making that the "coke" match strikes he discovered by the college might be worth something. In January of 2009 Paul thought he would test the waters, as some had suggested, by selling one of the Coca-Cola items on eBay. He had been hoping to purchase a better detector, and figured this could be a good way to raise some funds.

Paul was shocked when the first match-striker went for \$268.98, and decided to sell the others to finance his new machine. As he said at the time " That day was a great hunt ... to think that I found a counter-stamped LC and didn't really give these a lot of thought. "

One by one four Coca-Cola items disappeared on eBay. By the end of the sale, Paul Jefferson had received \$904.00, and a major portion of the desired funding for a new Minelab Explorer II.

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Another Quick Detecting Tip - Going out hunting after rain is a valuable metal detecting tip any detectorist should take note of. The wet ground improves conductivity, making it easier to find the most deeply buried targets. Although not every detector works well in wet weather, most of them have some form of rain protection. If all else fails, a sandwich bag over the detector electronics lets you keep on hunting, even when it is drizzling.

## Detecting Older Homes

When you have been given permission to hunt an older home, there are several areas you may want to focus on, because there is a likelihood of bringing you a good find. It is always a good idea to hunt by the curb of a house, especially if there is no visible garage. Generations of families getting in and out of cars or buggies along the curb may provide some very old dropped coins. Search along the sidewalk leading up to the house, as that is the area where most of the people would have walked, carrying items which may have dropped.

The back yard of the house was a congregation spot for many families. Parents would sit out, and children would play, so it is always a great place to hunt. Always hunt under trees, as a great shady place to sit or to play. It is a great to find some of those old tootsie-toys or tin tea set dishes. I always tell people to look for the telltale signs of a clothesline. Usually clotheslines went from the back door to a tree or a high post. If there is a tree in the back yard, hunt between that and the door. Old fashioned washing machines did not strip coins out of pockets, and when the clothes were hung to dry they fell out, and settled on the ground underneath the line. I have seen over 20 coins found in an older yard under where the clothes line would have been.

If the house is old enough, there may have been an outhouse. If you know where that was, another area to search is the line between the door and the outhouse, an in an emergency people may have loosened their clothes, and dropped items along the way.

Many early settlers did not trust banks, and hid their money in the yard outside the house. Look for a fence post that is visible from what would have been the kitchen window, or a rock fence with a stone that is "different". When the homeowner needed some money, he "had a fence to mend" and no one was the wiser. You might also look for a nail in a tree, and hunt the area between that nail and the door, or the window. Don't ignore those larger targets that a lot of guys pass over. A jar of coins in a mason jar is going to sound off like a larger target.

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### \*\*\*Toboggan Hill Detecting\*\*\*



One place that can be detected during the winter season is areas set aside for sledding or tobogganing. As the winter weather allows, and that metal-detecting urge hits, and we can't possibly wait until Spring - it could be a good time to hit those steep slopes. This chilly weather fun can provide a bonanza of lost coinage falling out of pockets, not to mention jewellery lost by kids and adults sliding or tumbling down those toboggan hills.

The City of Calgary Parks page lists a selection of areas that are designated sledding hills. Take a drive on a sunny cold day and look at the park listed for your area. Watch where the most popular spots are on the runs, watch where people have those mishaps, and where they gather together at the bottom of the hills. They may take their gloves off, and we all know when it's cold your fingers shrink and off comes the rings. If they are wearing necklaces and have a tumble there is a chance it will get broken and go flying somewhere in the snow. There is an opportunity for some excellent finds on a popular toboggan hill.

Of course, if you don't want to drive out yourself, you could just check out "Calgary Toboggan" or "Calgary sledding" on YouTube - that is if you don't get distracted by all the metal-detecting videos from areas where the ground is still soft and the finds are still coming out of the earth.

As a side note, try your luck at shopping mall parking lots. Check out those snow piles from plowed lots.





## Winter Detecting Tips



People do not usually associate metal detecting with winter, but for some hardy souls, it is just a part of the life-style. You only have to look at the Edmonton Club and Calgary Club facebook group pages to see some pretty amazing finds being recovered in December and January. That includes CMDC member, Matthew Wilcox's, recent recovery of a 1910 silver dime.

Reading up on some winter digging tips, people recommend digging under trees, and in heavily wooded areas where the soil stays looser. I also want to note the CMDC contest going on. There is a gold ring hidden by our CMDC hunt director, with a few clues leading up to its recovery. As far as I know, that ring is still waiting to be found.

In winter, like summer, there are treasures to be found, and there are people who need our help to locate missing items. Several of our members have taken time out of their busy lives to locate a missing ring, pendant, or set of keys lost in the snow.

Calgary is fortunate in its winter weather - we get some nice chinooks and very sunny days in the winter. In fact, CMDC member, Andy Coward, found one of his favorite rings in a snowbank in early January. If you do plan on metal detecting during the winter, there are a few basic rules for warmth and safety.

It is important to dress for the Weather. Be prepared not only for the immediate weather, but also for forecasted weather. This is important. Remember – this is Calgary - and changeable weather comes with the territory. Before you go out for a winter hunt, familiarize yourself with the signs of hypothermia. Watch yourself, and those you hunt with. Make a plan to take a break someplace warm if someone's health seems at risk.

This common sense rule applies both summer and winter - let someone know where you are going. Either hunt with a partner, or let someone know where you plan to hunt. This is especially important if you are headed someplace without any people around.

Another common sense rule in any season is to have a cell phone with you, with fully charged battery - especially on a trip to an isolated area. In the case of an unexpected event like getting stuck in the snow, or being injured - it is important to have a way to get help.

Winter treasure hunting might be best suited for recovery of surface or near surface finds. Frozen earth requires vigorous digging. If you are trying to retrieve a deeper object in winter, it is not only difficult, but the effort could damage your potential find. If you find the digging is too hard, make a note of landmarks or take a GPS location. You can always come back when the weather is warmer, and the ground softer.

Spring will be here soon. It is only four months until the beginning of our monthly club hunts. While winter doesn't necessarily mean the end to our season – if you don't want to brave the cold, remember that this is a great time to do research for future hunts. As mentioned in the previous article, many great hunt locations are the result of research time during the cold season.

## LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the Brentwood Co-op store which is located just off Crowchild Trail between Charleswood Drive and Brisbois Drive N.W. You have to enter the store and go down-stairs (door by the Bakery) to find the meeting room.

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The CMDC's yearly dues are:

In-town membership :       \$25.00  
 Out-of-town membership:   \$20.00  
 Family Membership           \$40.00

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**Write it down and email it to [kempp@telus.net](mailto:kempp@telus.net) with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.**

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