

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# THE BUZZER

*Volume 41 - issue 3 JULY 2012*

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*April 27<sup>th</sup> - First CMDC Club Hunt of 2012*

The Finds may have been scarce, but a good time was had by all!

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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](http://www.cmdc.org).

## **HOW TO CREATE A TEST GARDEN**

Some of you who attend meetings have heard Andy Coward mention the concept of a “Test Garden” as a means of learning your machine. Most of you have probably never heard of a Test Garden outside of metal detecting, so here is a description and some basic instruction on how to create your own Test Garden.

A Test Garden can be created to help you learn the capabilities of your detector and educate yourself about what you intend to find. It will help you learn your machine, and the signals it gives when it encounters various metals and depths. A Test Garden will also help you understand the effects of ground minerals, moisture content, target angle, oxidation/rust, trash proximity, target defects, surface textures and provide practice in target pinpointing.

First of all, select the area and use your metal detector to find and remove every bit of metal from the area of your proposed test garden. The next step is to select the metal targets to “seed” your garden. Choose targets such as various coins (clad, copper and silver), a bottle cap, a pull tab, some lead, some can-slaw and other objects of different metals and a few nails. Also select a small jar filled with scrap copper and a large (litre or larger) tin-can. Note: Do not use your good silver coins in a test garden. Find the cruddiest silver coins you have – the ground won’t know the difference. Also, your Test Garden doesn’t have to be an exclusive use area – you can plant other items (like marigolds, tulips or pansies). If you are planting vegetation, we suggest something that stays low to the ground, and doesn’t prohibit swinging.

Bury all these objects in rows about two or three feet apart. You have to make sure you space the items well enough apart that the signals you are testing don’t overlap. Bury coins at varying depths, beginning at two inches. Continue, with the deepest buried about 10 inches deep. Bury another coin at about two inches but stand it on edge, another coin at about three inches, etc. If you want, bury some gold in the garden, but remember that this is a long term proposition. You aren’t going to be digging it up anytime soon. Bury the jar at twelve inches to the top of its lid. Bury the large can with the lid one to two feet below the surface. You can also plant a rusty nail next to a silver coin to see what that sounds like. This is a great use for some of the “trash-finds” that fill our pouches.

The next step is to create an itemized and detailed map or drawing of what you planted, and the depth the items are buried at. The target locations should be marked with colored non-metallic objects. Plastic or resin garden row labels will work fine, as will color wood golf tees, or plastic flags.

The purpose of the buried coins is to familiarize you with their characteristic sound. The jar and large can will help you learn to recognize "dull" sounds of large, deeply buried objects. Experiment with different sizes of search coils as well as different program settings of your detector. Your test garden is important because your success in scanning over it will be a measure of how well you are progressing and how well you have learned your equipment. Remember that you must make an accurate map and keep it up to date when you change and/or add to your test garden.

One of the biggest mistakes people make is to create the garden and try to use it right away. You have to let the garden rest a while. A recently buried item will respond differently from an item that has had time to affect the soil around it. Let your garden “mellow awhile, and give items time to permit a metallic “halo” to work into through the soil. This so called "Halo Effect" is a process where, over time, coins or other metallic objects become electrically more associated with surrounding earth materials and the molecules of metal begin to "leak" into the surrounding soil. Some of you may have tried to dig a great sounding silver sound, only to find a rusty nail – and then found that the “silver” sound disappeared as soon as the ground was disturbed. That is because of the “halo effect” of the rusted iron affecting the ground balance around it.

The information in this article was gleaned from several different sites, but the following web-sites can provide valuable hints about creating your own test garden.

[http://metaldetectingworld.com/test\\_garden.shtml](http://metaldetectingworld.com/test_garden.shtml)

<http://www.waynesthisandthat.com/metaldetecting.html>

## Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

Metal Detecting is being banned from public parks in areas of the United States because of a few detectorists who do not treat the land or the hobby with respect. This can be avoided with a little bit of wisdom in how we enjoy our hobby. One CMDC club member recently ran into another detectorist (not a member of our club) who did not replace plugs, fill in holes, and left his found trash on the ground beside the hole. This reflects badly on Metal Detecting. The future of our hobby is affected by public perception of it. I thought it might be a good idea to remind our members of the Metal Detecting Code of Ethics. If we all abide by these basic "common sense" rules, Metal Detecting will be around as a hobby for our enjoyment for a long time.

- I will respect private property and do no metal detecting without the owner's permission.
- I will fill all holes, and replace all plugs neatly. I will leave my digging area just as I found it.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural and cultural resources, wildlife and private property.
- I will use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- I will make sure all gates are closed behind me.
- I will remove litter and trash recovered during my detecting, and properly dispose of all trash found.
- I will not litter.
- I will not destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I will not tamper with signs, structural facilities or equipment.
- I will return an item, by any means, if someone can adequately describe it.

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## METAL DETECTING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

I was looking through some American Metal Detecting Club newsletters, and I came across the following "Tips for Success". They are some basic suggestions about our hobby that might translate into better finds for our Canadian hunting season.

- "Scouting" really helped me to zero in on caches of coins and other items. I spend a weekend day going to parks, soccer fields, and local outdoors events. I check to see where the most people are playing, or picnicking etc. I will take a picture of these locations. Having a digital camera phone with a camera on hand is great for refreshing the memory the next day. One soccer field I visited yesterday had a temporary shelter set up where they sold refreshments. This morning I made out in the coin department by going in front of and around this tent.
- Save film canisters and/or pill bottles to take with you when you go detecting. Fill them ½ full with water and add a few drops of detergent. When you find coins and items, put them in the containers to start the cleaning process. It makes it a lot easier to clean when you get home.
- Where are some good places to find rings in the summer? One of the best places is in the water. Rings tend to fly off when people are splashing and swimming, and sunscreen makes fingers slippery. Since the swimmer may not know when they lost the ring, and they are hard to see at the bottom, many go unfound. The areas around swimming holes or where people sun-tan can also produce jewelry, since swimmers often take off their jewelry off to apply sun-screen or lotion, and then forget about it, or it drops out of a towel.

# 1921 FISHSCALE 5-CENT PIECE RECOVERY

By WAYNE TESKE



The year is 1921. The city, Ottawa, Ontario. The place, The Royal Canadian Mint. Someone says "Dump the coins!" and almost 3.5 million silver Canadian 5 Cent pieces are melted down. The government has chosen to go with the cheaper and larger nickel format for the coming year. But wait, some people have already purchased the 1921 5-cent piece, and about 300 have gone into circulation.

Fast forward 90 + years. An avid Mine-Lab E-TRAC user goes over some of the same ground that he and another E-TRAC user have been pounding over for the last 2 months. So far 9 holes, no treasure.

But wait, a repeatable signal in the coin range. Could be junk in this nail infested sight, but experience tells the detector to dig these signals. The plug is dug and removed. The soil is combed with a pinpoint. BRreeeeep. And out pops a silver coin.

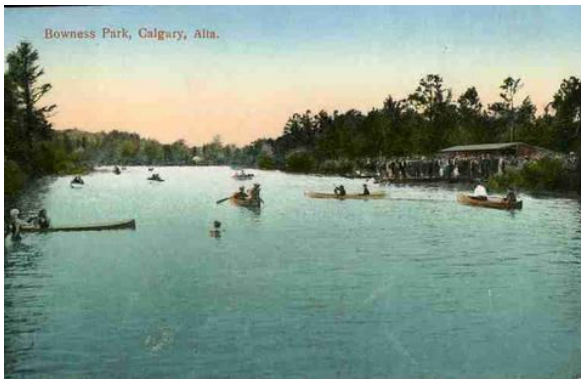
"But what is it"? the detectorist asks himself. It's small enough to be a "fishscale" 5 cent piece. A video camera is turned on as slowly the detectorist pours water over the coin. "Oh please, oh please" he pleads as the date on the coin is slowly revealed. **1921!**



A 1921 Fishscale! One of the 300 or so of these coins in existence. The Detectorist is knocked flat on his rear and proceeds to phone his friend who knows the value of such a coin. Possibly \$7000.00, depending on condition! Wow! What a great day, and what a great machine!

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Wayne Teske's recent find of a 1921 fishscale 5-cent piece is an amazing find, and is the third 1921 fishscale that has been recovered by a Calgary Metal Detecting Club member. The other two 1921 fishies were recovered at CMDC arranged club hunts outside of Calgary city limits, both in the 1990s. A 1921 fishscale 5-cent piece is considered the find of a life-time, and tops almost everyone's wish-list. This story was originally published on the on the Minelab forum web-site. It can be read on the forum at <http://www.minelab.com/consumer/success-stories/what-a-great-day>. The story has been republished in the Buzzer with the permission of the author. Wayne Teske is an avid Metal Detectorist, and has been a member of the CMDC for many years.



Bowness Park – 1920s



Central Park 1920s



Elbow Blvd Park SW (now Woods Park) 1930s



Elbow Park (now River Park) 1940s

The 1921 fishscale recovery shows the benefit of researching Calgary history. Knowing where people congregated in the past is a big step in finding where long-lost items might be recovered. The postcards above all date from the 1920s through the 1940s, and show Calgary Parks that were in use over 50 years ago. These postcards were found on the historical postcard archive of the Calgary Public Library. Another great place to locate historical photos is the Glenbow Museum photographic archive.

Glenbow Museum Photo Archive: <http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesPhotosSearch.aspx>

Calgary Library Postcard Archive: <http://cdm280501.cdmhost.com/cdm/landingpage/collection/p280501coll15>



## Metal Detecting Radio Show

I recently discovered that there is a radio show about Metal Detecting available over the Internet. Actually, “In the Corner with Dan” is a bi-weekly internet-based IPOD show called a “pod-cast” that you can listen to on-line, or download and listen to on your electronic device when you have time. The IPOD archive runs over a four year period of bi-weekly half-hour shows, and is aired by Metal Detectorist and author, Dan Hughes. Dan’s shows also have topics of baseball and old radio shows, but if you click on the topic “treasure” under categories, that will take you to the “Treasure Recovery” shows. Here is Dan Hughes’ short description of himself and his show:

“I’m a treasure hunter and a retired college broadcasting instructor. I do a biweekly podcast on treasure hunting. A recent podcast starts with a story about how I found 30 dimes in a small area. Then I list and explain the accessories I use when I’m treasure hunting, and I list some additional items that other people use..... A podcast is a radio show you can listen to on the internet whenever you want. Just check it out at <http://thetreasurecorner.com> .

## 1912 Annual Awards Banquet

The CMDC Annual Awards banquet was held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Kudos and gratitude go out to Andy Coward for arranging the event, and selecting a fine location at the Scotsman's Well Pub near the community of Evanston. The Calgary Metal Detecting Club held the banquet in a private area of the pub, and except for a bit of kitchen / bathroom noise, everything worked well. The meal was a nice buffet of Prime rib or chicken with all the trimmings, with some gluten free alternatives.

Our thanks and appreciation go out to "Middlesex Metal Detectors" for a nice arrangement of door-prizes provided for our awards banquet, including Garrett pouches and a Bounty Hunter box-set, as well as camera vises and a few other items. The club also provided a digging apron for every member that attended, as well as a few other door-prizes and draws.

Andy had put together a slideshow of various hunts and finds over the past 4 or 5 years that played on a screen during the meal, and we all recognized a few of the hunts we participated in, or items we had recovered. It was a great time to get together with other club members and their spouses, and to enjoy some conversation about this great hobby.

The "Finds of the Year" for the 2011 metal detecting season were displayed and voted on during the March CMDC Club meeting, held on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The winners were tabulated, and kept secret until the banquet. The CMDC "Find of the Year" Winners were awarded a plaque and a coin/coin-set prize. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winners were awarded a coin/coin-set prize

And now for the moment, we've all been waiting for. Here are the winners of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club "Finds of the Year" awards: Congratulations to all of the winners!

*Treasure: 1<sup>st</sup>: War Memorial ring (Jose Chong); 2<sup>nd</sup>: 14K Platinum ring (Kevin Niefer).*

*Coin: 1<sup>st</sup>: 1894-S Barber 50-cent piece (Joe Sullivan); 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1918-S 50-cent piece (Wayne Teske).*

*Trinket: 1<sup>st</sup>: WWII era Toy airplane (Ken Kittlitz); 2<sup>nd</sup>: Toy Gun (Alex Mioc).*

*Relic: 1<sup>st</sup>: 1912 "Double Dray" wagon license (Jose Chong); 2<sup>nd</sup>: Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Teaspoon (Claude Roy).*

*Member of Year: 1<sup>st</sup>: Peggy Kemp; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kevin Niefer*



*Ken Kittlitz*



*Joe Sullivan*



*Peggy Kemp*



*Jose Chong* was on holiday in Portugal – so no image is available of his awards.

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# BUZZER CONTEST

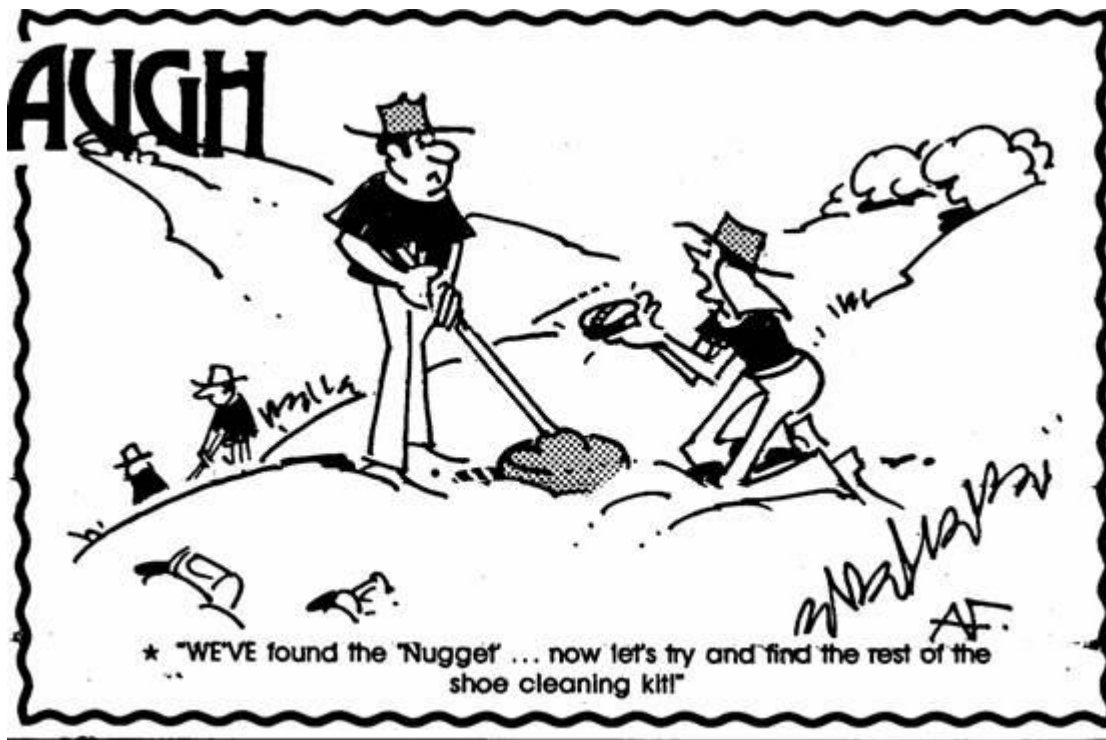
## WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FIND?

We have a New Buzzer Contest for CMDC members. Write a story about your favourite Metal Detecting recovery – in any year, or any category. It only has to be two or three paragraphs, although longer is just as welcome. Tell where you found it, what it is, and why it is your favourite find of all time. The winner will receive a prize at the August CMDC club meeting, and will have their article published the October issue of the Buzzer. Send your story by email to [kempp@telus.net](mailto:kempp@telus.net) with Buzzer Contest in the subject line. The contest entrants will be judged on content, originality, and passion for the hobby. Provide a photograph of the item and area of recovery for extra credit.

Caution! There is an ulterior motive to this contest. The editor is not providing this contest out of the goodness of her heart....if she even has a heart. As you may suspect, anyone who enters the contest may find their story published in some future issue of the Buzzer. Could there be a more dastardly and nefarious scheme for increasing Buzzer content? Remember, you have been warned!

Final date to make an entry is July 31st<sup>h</sup>, 2012. You have to be in attendance at the August meeting of the CMDC to receive the prize.

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## 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 to the meeting room.

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The Club's yearly dues are:

In-town membership:	\$25.00 CDN
Out-of-town membership:	\$20.00 CDN
Buzzer subscription fee for non-members:	\$10.00 CDN

Send cheque or money order to:

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2

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### **YOU COULD BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR!**

Do you have an interesting story, idea for an article, or a comment that you would like to see in "The Buzzer". Write it down and email it to [kemp@telus.net](mailto:kemp@telus.net) with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.