

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# THE BUZZER

Volume 44 – issue 4 July 2015

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Amazing Coin Spill recently recovered by CMDC member Brett Buchan.

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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).

# MY BEST COIN FIND

by PAUL BARKER



CMDC Member  
Paul Barker

This is a quick story about the 1908 \$5 Liberty Gold coin found in Calgary.

Since it was a school day, I did not want to hunt a school yard at 8 am - so I headed out to try my luck at a nearby toboggan hill and soccer field. I had hunted the field before without much luck and did not have high expectations. I was working my way over to the hill, and then heading to the soccer field. The morning sun began to warm the air and melt the frosty grass. The area was very scarce for targets, and had been heavily hunted by the local metal detecting crowd.



After searching along the east boundary line. I cut a diagonal across the soccer field. The signal must have been ~ 60 -70 on my AT Pro, but honestly

I do not remember the fine details. I cut the plug and I saw a flash as the coin fell back into the hole. To me it looked like a Loony (\$1 brass coin).

The weight was notably more than expected and as I bounced the coin in my hand I know I had something special, a GOLD COIN!

The American eagle and liberty head were stunning, as nothing shines like gold in the morning light! It is very rewarding to hold the unwrapped coin in your hand and let others hold the coin, seeing them discover it's beauty .



Paul Barker is a member of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club who has recently returned to the hobby - between this amazing gold coin find and over 50 rings - you can tell that Paul is enjoying this great hobby.

## WORLD WAR 1 CAP BADGE FINDS A HOME

On March 20th CMDC members Brett Buchan and Al Cotterhill were out for a day of detecting, Later that evening Brett made a Facebook Post in the CMDC group page, sharing his excitement about the finds he made during the hunt. Brett had brought some great recovered treasures to light, including some 1940s and 1950s coins, and a WWI Military Cap Badge that had been modified into a ladies Sweetheart Pin.



The brass Cap Badge was for the Canadian 63 Overseas Battalion out of Edmonton. The 63rd Battalion (CEF) was an infantry battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the Great War. The Battalion was formed on April 20th, 1915, and embarked for Europe on April 22nd, 1916. It provided reinforcements for the Canadian Corps in the field until 7 July 1916, when its personnel were absorbed by the '9th Reserve Battalion, CEF'. The battalion was subsequently disbanded in September of 1917.

Brett wanted to know more about his find, so he contacted the Museum of the Regiments, a local Calgary Museum housing information about Calgary's Military history. The response he got back from the museum indicated that the senior curator, Rory M. Cory, was excited about Brett's amazing find. His email to Brett stated:



" The badge is a WW1 badge relating to the 63rd Battalion out of Edmonton. I haven't seen this particular variety for the 63rd, so I believe it would have been a fairly early badge for the unit and thus relatively rare, yes. We would be quite interested in it for the museum collection if you are interested in donating it. Interesting to speculate how it got here – the 63rd were training at Sarcee Camp (where Westhills is now), so it's possible one of the soldiers from the 63rd lost it while on leave in the Bridgeland area."

In early April, Brett Buchan made a special trip to the Museum of the Regiments and donated the Cap Badge for the 63rd Battalion to the museum . It was a good day . Brett met up with with several old and current military members. All were very pleased with the find. Brett turned over badge to Rory Cory, and also met with the museum director. The director was very shocked and impressed that the badge had been made into a sweetheart pin. That made it even more interesting to him.

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## CORRECTION TO CLUB HUNT INFO

The CMDC Club hunt article in the May Buzzer published the wrong dates for hunts. We will have Club Hunts every month (until the snow flies). However, the dates published in the May issue of the Buzzer won't be the ones you should mark in your calendar. The hunts will be around the date listed in the May Buzzer, but not those specific dates. Keep your eyes on the CMDC Facebook group page for the actual dates, and we will be getting together for a grand old time.

As in past years, the weekend club hunts will alternate between Saturday and Sundays. This allows club members who have to work Saturdays and club members who attend Church both the chance to get together with the rest of the club, and enjoy our great hobby.



## CMDC DISPLAY AT FAMILY FUN DAY

Early in March CMDC Publicity Director, Peggy Kemp, was contacted by Cal Schuler of the Spinal Cord Injury Association of Alberta. Cal wanted to ask the Club's help with their Family Fun Day event that was taking place in June. Peggy brought the event to the attention of the CMDC, and over the next two months details were finalized that the CMDC was to put on a metal detecting demonstration for a two hour period from 10am until noon on June 20th, 2015.

Family Fun Day is an annual event put on by Spinal Cord Injury Alberta held on the Rotary Challenger Park, as the park has been designed to be wheel chair accessible. Other organizations were also providing displays, including the CP Rail miniature train, HAWCs helicopter, the Calgary Stampede, the local Star Wars garrison, and the police and fire department.

June 20th arrived, hot and sunny. Club members arrived early to set up for the event. The CMDC put together a table of recovered items, and provided the opportunity for children (and adults) to try out a metal detector. We buried some coins in a cleared section of the local flower bed - and when people recovered a buried coin, they were able to take it to our display table and swap the recovered coin out for either a glow-stick bracelet or a world coin. Very few people chose the bracelet. By the end of the morning, the club had given out over 100 coins, and was now giving out both a coin and a bracelet to every participant.

The Spinal cord Injury Alberta association was grateful, and we received an e-mail from Cal Schuler indicating that the CMDC metal detecting display was a big hit, and to thank us for our generous contribution of time and energy. They are hopeful that we will be able to take part in their 2016 event. Thank you to CMDC members Al Cotterhill, Brett and Jeff Buchan, Lee Landgraf, Susan Durksen, Paul Barker and James Culver who volunteered their time, and helped make the CMDC presence at this event a great success.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Buzzer Story was written by CMDC member John Syrratt, and was originally published in the October 1999 issue of the Buzzer under the title "The Ring Never Made it to the Bride's Finger".

On one of those rare warm and sunny days in July, Elsie, a customer of mine , brought some family members to view the show suite where I work. We were talking about the weather and Elsie's' sister said they had just returned from the wedding of a cousin at the Japanese Gardens beside Henderson Lake Park in Lethbridge. I mentioned that I'd been to an outdoor wedding at Henderson Lake Park the week prior, and Elsie said that her cousins wedding was great, except for one thing - the ring-bearer lost the bride's ring.

Elsie said they got someone to search for it with a metal detector, but it wasn't a good one, and they couldn't find it. I told her that I visited Lethbridge often to see my son, Jay, and that I'd try to look for it the next time I was there.

I love projects like this.

We planned to go to Lethbridge after work on the Sunday night of the long weekend in August. Earlier I had searched the internet for info on Nikka Yuko Japanese Gardens (the official name). I found some pictures of the place and the phone number. When I called I told them that I was a member of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club and informed them of what I wanted to do. They were aware of the lost ring, and were happy to let me hunt for it. Jay and I booked a tennis game with some friends for 9:00 am on Monday, August 2nd - so I arranged to be at the gates of the Japanese Gardens at 7:30 am.



It was a beautiful morning, and Jay and I were excited about the hunt and the tennis game. We met the head gardener at the gate, and he lead us to the open green space behind the main building. It was a lawn about 100' by 78' running north and south from a walkway to a pond. We could see some impressions in the grass made by chairs from an event held the day before, but were not sure where the aisle for the wedding had been. We started to cover the west side of the lawn and work our way in to the middle. After only finding several copper pieces from some roofing work, we tried a different area - and came up with more junk.

We thought that maybe the ring-bearer, being a kid, could have run around before the wedding started and lost it out on the edge of the walkway leading to the green space. We searched up and down the walkway on both sides to no avail. Jay suggested we give the green space one more quick search. At 8:50 am, just before we had to leave for our tennis game, one of the Garden's hostesses came over and asked what we were doing. I told her, and asked how the seating for the wedding had been arranged. She pointed it out to us, and with only 5 minutes before we had to leave, we started sweeping my detector quickly down the imaginary aisle. I swept and Jay probed. About 75' along I got a good hit and Jay immediately jumped into action probing the sod. Two seconds later he said "I've got it!!" There was the beautiful little white and yellow gold ring that never made it to the Bride's finger. We thanked God out loud and jumped up and down. The gardener looked over the fence at us in disbelief, "Is that the ring?" After a couple of photographs with the hostess, Jay, and the ring - we headed off to our tennis game.

I contacted Elsie's cousin and asked her what the ring looked like. She described it perfectly. I told her we had found her ring, and she just couldn't believe it. It had only been two weeks since they'd lost it. What a great day!

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# BASIC METAL DETECTING TOOLS

We are all new to the hobby at some point. Many people will pick up a Metal Detector, and think that is all that is required to succeed in the hobby. There are a few other basic pieces that are important when starting out. Here is an idea of some other basic tools that help out in the hobby.

- Headphones
- Digging Tool
- Pin Pointer
- Gloves
- Finds Pouch

These items are not required for the hobby. You don't have to have all these items to start out, but each one helps. It does make it the Metal Detecting hobby a bit easier once you have them. Take a minute and think about each one.

**Headphones:** Headphones are not required as detector's have a built in speaker, but they have definite benefits. Headphones require less power from your detector - which make your batteries last longer. Using headphones attracts less attention. That is a great benefit if you are detecting in a park that is well-used. Another benefit to headphones is that you'll be able to hear the signals better. Some targets produce very weak signals depending on how deep they are, and headphones help pick up on these very faint signals.

**Digging Tools:** There are many varieties of digging tools. Most people starting out in the hobby will pick up a gardening tool from the local hardware store. Most will soon move up to a sturdier digging tool such as the Lesche Digger, or other unit designed for metal detecting. A good sturdy "digger" is a great investment - it makes retrieving the target from the ground much easier, and they're built to last. I started out with a garden trowel, but realized after replacing several of them that using a digger designed for our hobby was a cost-savings in the long run.

**Pin Pointer:** A Pin Pointer is like a smaller version of your detector. The detector tells you there is something in the ground, and the Pin Pointer helps to locate the small object in the hole you dig. The Pin Pointer is a small hand-held device that beeps and vibrates when it gets close to the target. When looking for a coin sized object or perhaps something smaller ... a Pin Pointer makes all the difference in the world. I started out without one and it made the hobby very frustrating at times. If the target you are retrieving is close to the surface, the pinpointer will tell you exactly where to dig to make your hole small and discreet. The Pin Pointer will speed up your recovery time and make the hobby much more rewarding and enjoyable. Again you don't have to have one ... but you'll be glad if you do.

**Gloves:** Are really a matter of personal preference. Some people only use gloves if they are working through an area with a possibility of sharp objects, while others wear them all the time. Some people use thin plastic gardening gloves, while others swear by leather. Whether or not you use them all the time, there are some locations where gloves are a necessity. Be aware that gloves can protect you from rusty nails, clan slaw, and other sharp objects under the ground.

**Finds Pouch:** The Finds Pouch is where you put your new found treasures and your trash. You will dig some trash! An old buried coke can sound just like a coin, and a pull-tab can sound just like a gold ring. As a part of the Metal Detecting Code of Ethics we should remove the trash we find and dispose of it properly. a multiple pocket finds pouch will allow you to carry your tools, trash and good finds - all in separate pockets. So wear a Finds Pouch to put the trash and the good stuff in.

Now you are all set for the hobby - Bring your headphones. Put on your Finds Pouch (Don't forget bug spray and water). Bring your digger, gloves, and your pinpointer - and let's pound the earth in search of amazing treasures. They are there waiting for us.

# Internet Research Tips

By PEGGY KEMP

One of the tools that Metal Detecting hobbyists use for research is the Internet. There are many resources available on-line that can aid a hobbyist in researching where to hunt. The internet can also provide the ability to research and identify an unknown find. Some club members will recall that I often will share Internet sites that I have found useful. Below I have listed some web-site addresses that I believe would be helpful to others in the hobby.

One of my favourite sites for Alberta historical research is <http://ourfutureourpast.ca>. This site has multiple uses, as it contains aerial photographs, hundreds of books about Alberta communities and history, and old newspapers - all in digitized form. The site was an Alberta Centennial project to make information about Alberta history accessible to the public. The community books are searchable by word in chapter and in text. I have used these books to locate possible swimming holes, schools, parks and church locations from local history. The newspapers (some dating back into the 1800s) often provide information about lost items, but also contain details about social events held outdoors.

One of the best features of [ourfutureourpast.ca](http://ourfutureourpast.ca) is the aerial photo collection. Another site that provides access to aerial photos is the University of Calgary aerial photo collection available at <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/findairphotos>. Club members use the aerial photograph archives a lot - both to locate what was in an area historically, and to locate known roads and footpaths that indicate an area that might be worth hunting. I was able to locate the original sight of the Bow River School and the Hubalta train station using aerial photos.

A great research site to date a "found treasure" is the Canadian Archives site for old mail-order catalogues. In most of Western Canada, it was difficult to obtain merchandise. Only urban areas had stores with a large inventory, while smaller retailers carried only the basics. Around Calgary, these smaller communities would include the (now) annexed towns of Bowness, Forest Lawn, Renfrew, Albert Park, and Midnapore. Mail order became big business in Western pioneer society. Eaton's and Sears catalogues were a common sight in many Canadian homes (and outhouses). The Government of Canada collected and digitized old mail-order catalogues in a searchable archive, which can be located at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/mailorder/index-e.html>. This collection of digitized mail order catalogues will permit searching by item type, or by year, and shows digitized images of the catalogue pages. I was able to date a coin-purse to circa 1911, and a brass soap dish to the mid-1920s by its appearance in an Eaton's catalogue from that time.

I would also like to recommend <http://canadianmetaldetecting.com>. This is a metal detecting forum, but with a Canadian focus. It contains information about everything from the best cleaning methods, to catalogues of buttons, coins, and military items. If you have found something you can't identify, you can also upload a photo of that mysterious item, detecting hobbyists from all over the country are available with years of knowledge to provide help. Many elder hobbyists are delighted to use the forum to provide tips and advice to new-comers to Metal Detecting.

Knowing where people congregated in the past is a big step in finding where long-lost items might be recovered. The Calgary Public library provides a historical postcard archive, showing favorite sights and meeting spots in Calgary from 1900 to 1960. The Library also provides a link to postcard historical location using Google-maps. Sometimes old photographs will aid a hobbyist to discover where to hunt, or where not to hunt. I have found a great resource for finding old photographs by using the Glenbow museum photograph archives. The available photographs date back to earliest Calgary history, but the Glenbow archive also provides photographs other areas around Alberta. I used the Glenbow Archive to research parks in Inglewood, Shouldice Park, and where buildings stood at the Keith tuberculosis hospital (now Baker Park). These archives can be found at :

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

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



## 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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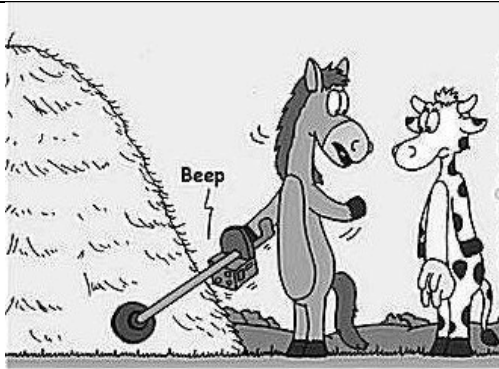
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The CMDC's yearly dues are:

In-town membership : \$25.00  
Out-of-town membership: \$20.00

Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC)

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



You were right: There's a needle in this haystack..

### 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.

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