

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

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FUN TIMES AT THE 2019 ROCHON SANDS SEEDED HUNT



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

ROCHON SANDS SEEDED HUNT 2019



On June 01, 2019, members of the metal detecting community met up for an exciting event. Detectorists from Southern B.C, Alberta and Saskatchewan travelled to the tiny hamlet of Rochon Sands on Buffalo Lake for the Rochon Sands Seeded Hunt. Approximately 50 detectorists participated, from the ages of 5 to 70+, with a few spouses and friends joining in to enjoy the day and to show support for the hobby.



The fun began early on a sunny Saturday morning. Volunteers arrived early and began by seeding the beach area. Before long the sand was filled with silver coins, prize-tokens, large cents, some jewellery, teaspoons, and huge amount of foreign currency. Many of the foreign coins seeded on the beach were over 50 years old, and some were well over 100 years old. By 9:30 am eager Detectorists were arriving at the beach, registering for the event, and looking forward to a day of friendly competition, and fun recoveries.



After a pre-hunt photo, excitement was in the air as people lined up, ready for the start of the first hunt. At 10:00 the contest began, and for the next 45 minutes, there was a frenzy of activity as each person searched for the seeded treasures. There were 40 teaspoons seeded over the beach, and a raffle ticket was traded for each spoon located. A draw was held during lunch, and the lucky teaspoon raffle ticket holder won a Canadian Mint Maple-leaf one oz silver coin.



After the morning hunt ended, a lunch was provided for everyone who attended the Rochon Sands community hall. Jerry Leussink served up a great meal, with beef, pork, chicken and vegetarian options. This was also a great chance to look at the prize table, and to get together for a meal and conversation with other hobbyists from all over Alberta. Raffle tickets and half-&-half tickets were also sold during the lunch break. It was a real bonus to have GPS/Radioworld Central and SMI Prospecting & Electronics on-site. Both companies were sponsors of the 2019 Rochon Sands event, and each company had great displays set up with some of the newest metal detectors, tools and metal detecting technology available for sale.



A few volunteers left the lunch early to make their way back to the beach, where the hunt area was re-seeded with more coins, tokens, and other "treasures". Before the main event started, a children's hunt was set up, available for all detectorists under 12. An area of the beach was seeded with silver coins, toys, abundant "spendables" and jewellery – most donated from club member "finds boxes". The kids had a great time.



By 1:30 the elder detectorists were lined up on the beach – ready for the second seeded hunt of the day. The hunt lasted for another 45 minutes. Detectorists were very busy as coils swung, shovels dug, and sand flew.

There were more thrilling discoveries before the happy hunters called it a day, making it back to the community hall to exchange their tokens for prizes, and to receive door-prizes. Hunters who located the small seeded brass tokens each received a Canadian Silver Dollar.

ROCHON SANDS 2019 - continued



Every participant was provided with door prize tickets when they registered for the event, and every hunter went home with several prizes, and a swag bag. The door-prizes included water bottles, bags, display cases, gift baskets, silver and proof coins, and numerous detecting related hobby-items. Many prizes were donated by CDMC & EMDC club members, and thanks go out to them.

We also very much appreciate Garrett Metal Detectors and SMI Prospecting & Electronics, who as Rochon Sands Seeded Hunt sponsors, donated Garrett diggers, detecting tools, detector related apparel/hats, treasure pouches and numerous detecting related hobby-items as door prizes / swag. Thanks also to Rochon Sands sponsor GPS Central / RadioWorld Central, for their donations of swag and several high-value gift-cards. It was great to have both companies present at the Rochon Sands event

After the main Rochon Sands events ended detectorists returned to the beach to continue looking for more silver coins and other missed items. By late afternoon the remaining detectorists started heading home, having enjoyed some fun detecting on a sunny summer day. All in all - the Rochon Sands 2019 Seeded Hunt was a good event - Congratulations and Thanks go to all the members of the CMDC that had a hand in the planning, and members of both the EMDC and CMDC who volunteered on the day. Metal Detectorists through-out Alberta are already looking forward to another great seeded hunt at Rochon Sands next year.

As a side-note on the historic area this hunt is held in, EMDC member Don Pahl recovered an amazing “wild” Victorian coin in an unseeded area near the beach. In a grassed area between the main parking area and the Rochon Sands community beach, he got a high silver sound. Digging carefully, he was astonished when he realized that his recovered coin was an 1898 Victorian 50-cent piece. Other fun wild (unseeded) recoveries included 1920s era fishing lures, a few other coins, and a bit of jewellery.

Thanks to Leon Kemp for taking all the photos of the event, and for volunteering as Marshall. More Photos of the Rochon Sands event are available on the Flickr photo-sharing site.



Metal Detectorist returns Godmother’s gold ring

Woodbridge, New Jersey, resident Daniel Jurgens has found hundreds of items underground — when he retired from the US Postal Service, he started Metal Detecting as a hobby. His most meaningful discovery might have been the old Claddagh ring he found in April of 2019.

One of Daniel Jurgens relatives introduced him to a friend, Michelle Osmond, who gave him permission to hunt her large yard. When Michelle agreed to let Jurgens roam the yard with a detector, she jokingly said she’d lost a gold Claddagh ring gifted by her godmother 25 years ago and wanted it back. The ring flew off her finger while she was playing baseball in the yard when she was 9 years old. It was a long shot, and a huge surprise to both of them, but Jurgens was thrilled to find and return the precious ring to Michelle. “Helping people is part of what makes being a “detectorist” rewarding, Jurgens said.

“My godmother passed away five years ago, and we were really close,” Osmond said. “It was so refreshing to have something she gave me again.” Osmond had received the ring as a gift after making her Holy Communion, and her godmother had it made with a pearl, Osmond’s birthstone, set in the heart.

History in the Palm of your Hand



A recent photo of a cool token recovery on our CMDC facebook group page of a 1927 60-year commemoration of Confederation token, and another recovered by CMDC member Matthew Wilcox last fall, remind us of another time and place in history.

The 1927 a 60th anniversary of Confederation token was presented by King George V to school-age children across Canada. The brass medallion obverse profiles were of King George V and his wife, Queen Mary. The coin reverse showed the Heraldic Shield of Canada. The Shield contained royal symbols from Great Britain and France, and a sprig of three Canadian maple leaves, representing Canadians of all origins. The Latin phrase "A Mari Vesque Ad Mare" (translated "from Sea to Sea") is near the bottom of the shield.



Another bronze token that most of us are happy to find under our coil is 1939 "Royal Visit" Token. In May of 1939, King George VI and his wife, Queen Elizabeth (later familiarly called "the Queen Mum"), embarked on an unprecedented visit to North America. This was the first visit of a reigning monarch visited Canada and the United States. It was intended to solidify Canadian and American support for Britain in troubled times. In 1939 the turmoil in Europe's political spectrum was evident. The Royal Tour ended in June of 1939. By September, Britain and Canada had entered the WWII.

To commemorate the Royal Visit, the Royal Canadian Mint struck three series of commemorative tokens. Bronze and silver 38 mm medallions created for sale to the public, and a 25 mm bronze token was distributed to Canadian school children. The Obverse featured the conjoined profiles of King George VI and his wife, and was the same profile used in the 1937 British Coronation Medal. The reverse, designed by Emanuel Hahn, shows a map of Canada and the train route followed by the royal couple. People across Canada drove for miles to line the train tracks hoping to catch a glimpse of the monarchs, but of course the planned stops were at larger towns and cities.

These tokens were valued by many school-children, and remain a tangible and important part of Canadian history. Other tokens given to Alberta school-children over the past century include tokens for the Canadian Centennial, the 1955 and 2005 Alberta Jubilee, and the Queens Coronation.

This story was sent in by EMDC member James Belke for our Annual Buzzer Contest in December of 2018 – James certainly had an excellent adventure while detecting on a winter vacation to Waikiki, Hawaii in December of 2017. It seems that Hawaii may be a great hunt spot for a nice winter break and return to the hobby. The story was written just before James return to Hawaii (with his machine) for another much-needed winter break.



A Waikiki Adventure

Like many in this fine hobby, I eagerly look forward to a winter get-away that allows me to pack my shorts, summer shirts, sandals, and Tesoro Tejon in search of sun, surf, and of course some silver & gold! As I write this short story my suitcase is packed and my passport is ready for my flight which departs in 36 hours for Honolulu and the beautiful beaches of Waikiki. I can't wait to see what the tourists and tides have in store for me this year...

Turn back the clock to last December (2017) and you would find me up well before sunrise and out on the beach in search of lost treasures. It is a little as piece of heaven on earth to be out on an early morning hunt under the central Pacific stars and a setting tropical moon. The beaches of Waikiki are very busy and as a result are heavily hunted by both locals and tourists alike, so I find it strategically advantageous to be out at this quiet time and to also take advantage of any overnight tidal action that has sifted and sorted the beach.

The first few mornings of hunting last year only yielded the regular drops of coins, discarded tin foil, hair pins and such. Each day I ventured on new ground further away from my "home base" hotel, the Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach. Much to my surprise on the 4th day of my vacation I struck MD'ing paydirt. I found myself in front of the Outrigger Reef Hotel (sister property to the property I was staying at) where they had a row of palm trees planted in front of their beachfront restaurant. The overnight wave action had high tide waves reaching all the way up to their retaining wall.

To my good fortune the roots of the palm trees acted like a fishing net or strainer, catching and holding coins while the waves carried away the lighter and smaller sand. At first I thought my machine was giving false positives on rebar within the retaining wall, however, on my first test scoop of sand there were 2 sand encrusted coins rattling around in the bottom of the brass scoop! Big smile.... On scanning the sand from where I just dug the coins there was another loud positive tone. Another coin was under my coil... and another... and a foot away another and another. Quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies, my pockets were quickly getting very heavy. On a couple of target recoveries my sand scoop even captured and held 3 coins at once! Big grin...

As my hunt continued I couldn't help but ponder in amazement how no other treasure hunters had found this little stretch of metal detecting paradise. Was this the first night where that the tides were just right and the ocean naturally sorted out and deposited all these coins just for me? Had they slowly been accumulating with each tide and all other detectorists had passed them over thinking that they were just loud overload signals from the nearby rebar? By the end of my morning hunt I had scooped and sifted almost 100 coins, all of them were clad being dated 1965 and newer so my bucket list goal to find an old Hawaiian silver coin remained unchecked.

James Belke – WAIKIKI ADVENTURE - continued

The next morning I headed straight back to the same little 100' stretch of beach and to my surprise the night's tide had restocked my hunting ground with about another 60 coins, but again none of them old enough to be silver. Was the wave action only "just right" to carry and sort out the coins with the specific gravity of the lighter clad coins while the heavier silver coins and gold rings were all being transported and deposited elsewhere? Boy, if I could only find out where!

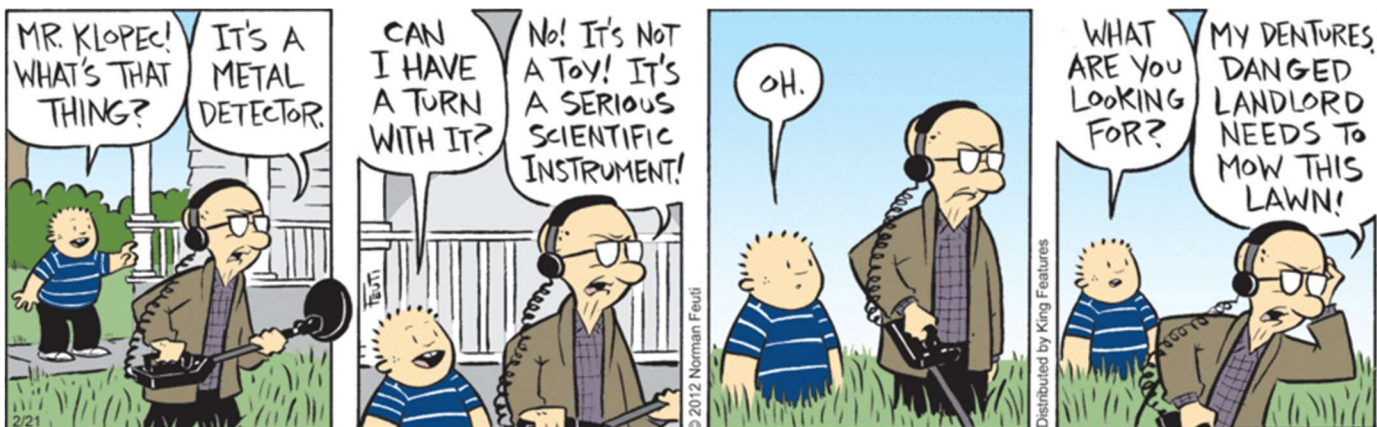
The last day of my holiday had now arrived and as soon as I awoke, I was drawn back to my Hawaiian honey hole. I still had a 1800's silver Hawaiian coin on my bucket list, so with a quick pace I made my way back to my favourite new hunting ground. Would there be more clad or was the night's high tide bringing in silver or gold for me today? I walked faster...

Arriving at my destination, to my dismay the first few swings of my coil were silent. Oh no, was I going to be shut out on my last day on the island? Had someone observed my success on one of the prior mornings and beat me to the treasure or had they stumbled on it as I had 2 days earlier? Within a couple of minutes the answer was clear. While much fewer in quantity, the tides had deposited about 40 more post 1965 clad which were now landing in my scoop.

Much to my surprise, the one and only pre-1965 coin was a 1900 US V nickel. When I first pulled it from my sand scoop it had a half moon shaped encrustation of sand and coral attached to the top edge of the coin, making it appear as if Lady Liberty had some alien growth protruding from her head. With a little pressure the sand broke off cleanly, exposing a relatively well preserved and now beautiful Lady Liberty. This is my oldest coin recovered from the islands.

My quest for old Hawaiian silver will continue in just a couple of days and I'm already dreaming of the treasures to come!

Mahalo and Mele Kalikimaka!



Dating Canadian Military Items via Crowns

With Keith & Janet Hoffart's recent recovery of a Military Button, and other recent Military items, there were some conversations about the differences between Kings and Queens crowns. It seemed this might be an appropriate article this month. Note that there are even differences between the QVC and the QEC (QC) currently in use. Victoria's crown usually has much thicker side-bars.

Finding Military cap-badges or buttons is always exciting, but the next question is usually "how old is this?" The Crown design associated with the item is one of the simplest ways of dating a cap-badge or button. Most military badges and buttons will have a crown on top, and the design of the crown is an indication of the age of the cap badge and the sex of the monarch.

Key dates in cap-badge dating are 1901 and 1952 as that is when the shape of crowns on badges changed. Not all military badges and buttons have crowns, but if they do, they are designated as QVC, KC or QC. There may be a few exceptions to the rule, such as the Guelphic crown (family crown of Prince Albert) during Victoria's reign, or a few QC type crowns during George VI's reign – but for the most part, these are rarities.

A QVC is the name given to a crown design used during Queen Victoria's reign. The design is based on "St. Edwards Crown", and there were several variations used on cap-badges or buttons during the reign of Victoria, including an angular crown, a rounded crown, and a more flat topped crown (shown below). Note that the QVC crown often has a very wide center-post and wide side-posts.



QVC (Queen Victoria's Crown) indicates Victorian reign - 1840 through 1901.

The RNWP button to the left showing the QVC was recovered by CMDC member Randy Joy in 2004



The designation KC is the name given to a military item crown, starting during the reign of Edward VII. This crown is a domed design, and quite different in shape to both the QVC and QC crowns. The KC was also used by all the Kings after Edward VII, so will be found on cap-badges and buttons associated with First World War under George V, and those associated with World War II under George VI.



KC (King's Crown) was in use from 1901 through 1952. It is also called a "Tudor Crown." It was in use during the reigns of Edward VII, George V and George VI

The WWI era cap badge to the right showing the KC was recovered by CMDC member James Belke in 2009



The QC crown was used on badges and buttons after 1952 when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned. The design is based on the "St Edward's Crown" and is a dropped center design. Unlike the QVC which has several variations, the QC badge used during Elizabeth the Second's reign has changed very little. Note the side-posts and center post are of a much more delicate design than the QVC.



QC (Queen's Crown) Reign of Elizabeth II is post-1952 – present.



The Royal Canadian Legion pin to the right showing the QC was recovered by CMDC member Dale Downing in 2010



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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<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>Kevin Niefer <i>See Below</i></p> <p><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i> 403-720-9501</p> </div> <p>To view Kevin's listings visit him on the internet @ www.kevinniefer.com - or give him a call at 403-720-9501 Email: kniefer@calgaryrealestatepros.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BONNA-JEAN CAMPBELL Brand Promotor The Thrive Experience by Le-Vel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing BURN BURN calories, BURN fat, and Ignite your body into Thermogenesis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing PROTEIN BARS Premium Nutrition – Sequential Bar Technology Lemon Meringue – Cinnamon Roll – Cookies & Cream – Birthday Cake Check this out and more on my website: www.Thrivewithbjc.thrive2point0.com Email: Thrivewithbjc@gmail.com</p>
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