

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# The Buzzer

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**Thank You Jerry Leussink for all the work you have done as president of  
the Calgary Metal Detecting Club**

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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).

## Thank You, Jerry Leussink

In mid-June there was a meeting of the Calgary Metal Detecting executive. In keeping with Covid regulations, the meeting was held outdoors at a local Calgary park. As mentioned in past Buzzers, CMDC president Jerry Leussink recently moved to his property outside Sundre. With his new location, Jerry felt that he could no longer keep up with his role and responsibilities as CMDC president.

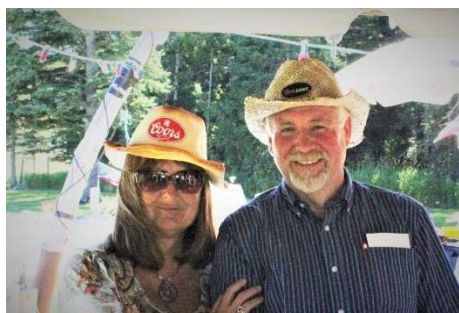
At the executive meeting in June, Jerry Leussink officially stepped down as president, and Brett Buchan was selected by the executive to step into the role. Jerry has been a leader not only as president but an ambassador of club and the hobby of metal detecting.. He is currently looking forward to spending more time with his lovely wife, Marina, and his family. Jerry intends to remain a member of CMDC and will show up at club events when he has time and opportunity.

Many members have experienced one of the hunts put on by Jerry at his home near Sundre over the years. The hard work and effort put out has made them a special memory for many CMDC members. Jerry was previously CMDC president in 2017 & 2018, and he stepped up for the club again when we were in need. We in the CMDC appreciate Jerry's commitment to the club, and the effort he put in to take on the role as president twice.

Thank you Jerry, for all you have done for the Calgary Metal Detecting Club. Thank you for being prepared to take on the role as CMDC president, and for all your work as an ambassador in the hobby, and a mentor to new detectorists.



2016 Club Hunt on Jerry's Sundre Property



Jerry & Marina Leussink

## Help Needed - CMDC Executive

Thank you Brett Buchan, who has stepped into the role as CMDC President, and Allen Billy, who is stepping into the role as CMDC Publicity Director.

We have a few new positions that have recently opened up, and we would appreciate CMDC members thinking about taking on these roles. Due to health concerns, CMDC Membership Director Dale Morasche has to step down from his position and focus on recovery and health. Iain Paterson also needs to step down from his role as CMDC Librarian.

None of the executive roles takes a significant amount of time, and we hope that some of the members will volunteer to help out. If you would like to assist the club with either of these roles on the CMDC executive, it would help us out a lot. If you decide that you might be interested, please reach out to a current board member, or send an email to the CMDC website to express your interest.

We hope that with the increased vaccinations and lower number of Covid cases, some of these restrictions will ease, and we will soon be able to get together for meetings, club-hunts, and other fun activities. Let's work together to make the 2021 a great year, and to make the CMDC the best club we can. Thank you all for your continued support of this great club.

## HAMILTON PANDEMIC RING RETURN

On a sunny Sunday afternoon in late July of 2020, Ashish Modi of Hamilton, Ontario was down on his knees in the sun-scorched grass of a school yard. He had already spent hours in the blistering heat searching for something very precious, and something that at the moment was almost the same colour as the dried yellow grass beneath his knees. Ashish had finished his work-out when he realized that something important was missing. While doing chin-ups on the cross bar of a soccer net, Mr. Modi found his wedding band pinched his finger, so he removed it for the rest of the work-out. He placed the ring in his pocket, and continued with his exercise. Modi did not realize that his wedding ring was missing until the work-out was over.

Ashish was panicking. He looked for the rings for hours in the heat of summer with no luck. He went home, and told his wife, who was very upset. Both of them felt a strong connection to the ring, as a symbol of their young family and 6 years of marriage. Ashish Modi returned to the field and spent the rest of the afternoon searching for the missing ring.

Modi went on Kijiji and rented a metal detector, but by the time he was able to retrieve the rental, the sun was almost down. There was no more time to hunt on Sunday. Ashish Modi returned to the field on Monday, but having never used a metal detector before, he didn't know what the machine was saying to him. All he found with the rental detector was a few bottle-caps and other trash items. From the field, Ashish Modi posted a last-ditch plea on Reddit asking if anyone had seen the ring.

This is where Steve Wilson enters the story. Steve is a detectorist who had been in the hobby for a few years. He contacted Ashish Modi and offered to help. Steve and Ashish texted back and forth and set a time of 7:30 the next morning to try and hunt for the missing wedding band. Ashish was becoming discouraged, but Steve Wilson encouraged him, stating in a text "If its out there, don't worry, I will find it."

Like most detectorists, Steve Wilson finds a special thrill in reuniting sentimental objects with their owners. He was at the school-yard field 20 minute early, and when Ashish Modi arrived, he found Wilson already searching through a patch of grass.

The two began a grid-pattern search of the field. Modi, using his rented detector, followed the lead of the more experienced Wilson. There's a skill to this," Modi said. "The one thing he did that I underestimated was how far the ring could have flung". Steve Wilson's grid search went beyond where Ashish Modi thought he has lost the ring. Wilson informed him that it's often difficult to find gold because its tone on metal detectors rings like the "trashy tone" often found with pull tabs and pop cans.

After an hour of searching, the pair reached their breakthrough. Wilson had pulled up a number of pull-tabs already, but dropped to the ground again, hoping for something special. This time he came up with a glint of gold in his fingers. "Does this look like what you lost?, Steve Wilson asked.

Modi said. "I just dropped to my knees, and I was like, 'Oh my gosh. This is amazing. I know we're in the middle of a pandemic, but are you against a hug?' It was Ashish Modi's lost wedding band, and he was thrilled to have back on his finger.

Wilson said helping people find that special something they lost is the dream for metal detector hobbyists. "I just really enjoy the hobby," Wilson said. "It brings me joy to find things, especially when it's something somebody lost, and return it to them."



This story is based on a news article in the Hamilton Spectator on August 04, 2020.

## Elongated Penny Souvenirs

When my kids were small, if I found a “elongated penny machine” on vacation, I would usually let them make one for themselves. It was a nice souvenir, and extra special, because they chose the design and operated the machine that created them. On a vacation in Florida, I visited an aircraft museum. One of the souvenirs I brought back from that visit was 7 elongated pennies, each stamped with the name of the museum, and with a picture of one of the historical aircraft that the museum deemed the prizes in its collection. Since that time I have found many elongated penny souvenirs while metal detecting, brought to Calgary from locations all over North America. Most members in the club have found an elongated penny, as it is usually an inexpensive memorial of a great vacation experience.

Elongated coin souvenirs date back over 100 years. The earliest known elongated coins were produced for the 1893 Colombian exhibition in Chicago. There were subsequent issues put out during famous events, fairs, and festivals until about the early 1960s. This is the period of elongated coin called the 'oldies'. These were rolled on what are called 'attended machines'. An employee would create the souvenir by operating the relatively complex machine, and cranking out the souvenir for you. Many theme parks and exhibitions operated similar machines, like Coney Island in New York.



In the 1960s there was the emergence of private rollers. This is called the time of the 'modern elongateds'. They would figure out a design, usually insets like the Ten Commandments or Burma shave or beam bottles - have it engraved and rolled out privately, and then issued out through mail order. You could often find them in the back of comic books or magazines. This was when the elongated collectors club, TEC, was formed by Dottie Dow, considered the grandmother of the hobby of collecting elongated coins..

The newer self-serve rolling machines that are more familiar to us, where you could roll your own “elongated penny” souvenir started in the early 1970s. By the 1980s they were widely distributed, and available at all sorts of tourist destinations. With the emergence of so many machines, the time period we are now in is called 'contemporary elongated' coins. The design is engraved with recessed relief (or debossed) onto a die ring and then the coin goes through 2 rollers to emboss the design.

Some people that collect like to use the older pennies because of their higher copper content. Other collectors like to use shiny new pennies. Whatever your preference, it is a fun souvenir and good way to save memories. If you want to clean the copper pennies you can use catsup or hot sauce or commercial products like NEVR DULL. This is not advisable for modern zinc or steel-based pennies, because it can remove what little copper is on them.

## The "Halo Effect" in Metal Detecting

Anyone who has detected in Calgary has experienced this. You are detecting an older area, and get a really nice "silver" signal – yet as soon as you start to dig – it disappears. While this might have been caused by human error, or flaws in the design of your metal detector – it is more likely to be that you have encountered the "Halo Effect."

In scientific terms, the Halo Effect is a conductive increase by the effect of oxidization of a long-buried iron object leaching into the surrounding soil, and causing a false signal (either a high-pitched tone or a coin-like signal). The "Halo" surrounding the target fools the detector into thinking that the object is non-ferrous and of high conductivity. In other words, the Halo Effect makes an old iron object sound like a really nice copper or silver coin. The effect is caused by target oxidation. In essence ions of rust from the ferrous object seep into the surrounding dirt, permeating the soil directly surrounding the buried object. Basically, the rust in the iron object makes "a bubble" of affected soil. This bubble is very fragile, and easily "broken", which is why it disappears when you dig it. The Halo effect is always associated with long term burial of an object, and with acidic soils.

The "Halo effect" disappears immediately after the ground surrounding the target is disturbed, due to shifting and displacement of the soil immediately surrounding the target. With a smaller object, even a probe might displace the halo bubble. Basically, you break into the bubble of rust-permeated soil, and the "False" signal disappears. That doesn't mean you should try to find the object – anything that is buried long enough to create the Halo Effect might have value as a relic. It could be a rusty nail, or it could be something cool and unique. It is worth a look to see what it is.

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## Metal Detecting - Leave No Trace

One thing that I can never emphasize enough is the importance of "Leaving no Trace." When we are finished detecting an area, we should be able to look back, and not see any evidence we were digging out our treasures. This is not only good for the environment, but it also helps to maintain the good reputation of our Metal Detecting hobby.

Of course, a big part of this is making sure plugs are properly dug, and holes are filled in. Nothing will ruin people's perception of the hobby of metal detecting than walking through a park, and seeing "gopher holes" or rings of dried grass that someone left behind. It really comes down to practice and knowledge. When I started in the hobby, my holes were huge. As I progressed, and observed others, I learned how to retrieve objects with less damage. I stopped digging round circles out of the earth and started using hinged (horseshoe) plugs. My use of pinpointing the target improved, and my holes became much smaller. Most members of the CMDC are happy to take a bit of time and teach digging techniques to someone starting out in the hobby.

Speaking of leaving no trace, that should include recovered trash items. You are going to find targets - lots of them. Some of them will be "treasure", but you will also find a lot of trash. Face it - you will find plenty of bottle caps, pull-tabs, and tinfoil. It is a part of the hobby. I have gone into parks with my detector and found plugs with the "recovered trash" sitting right beside the hole, and a garbage can 20 meters away. If you dug it up, you own it until you can find the nearest trash barrel. I use a finds pouch with a designated trash area for that reason. I am not saying that you should pick up every piece of trash you see lying on the ground - just use a bit of common sense. If you came back next year, you would not want to dig that item again.

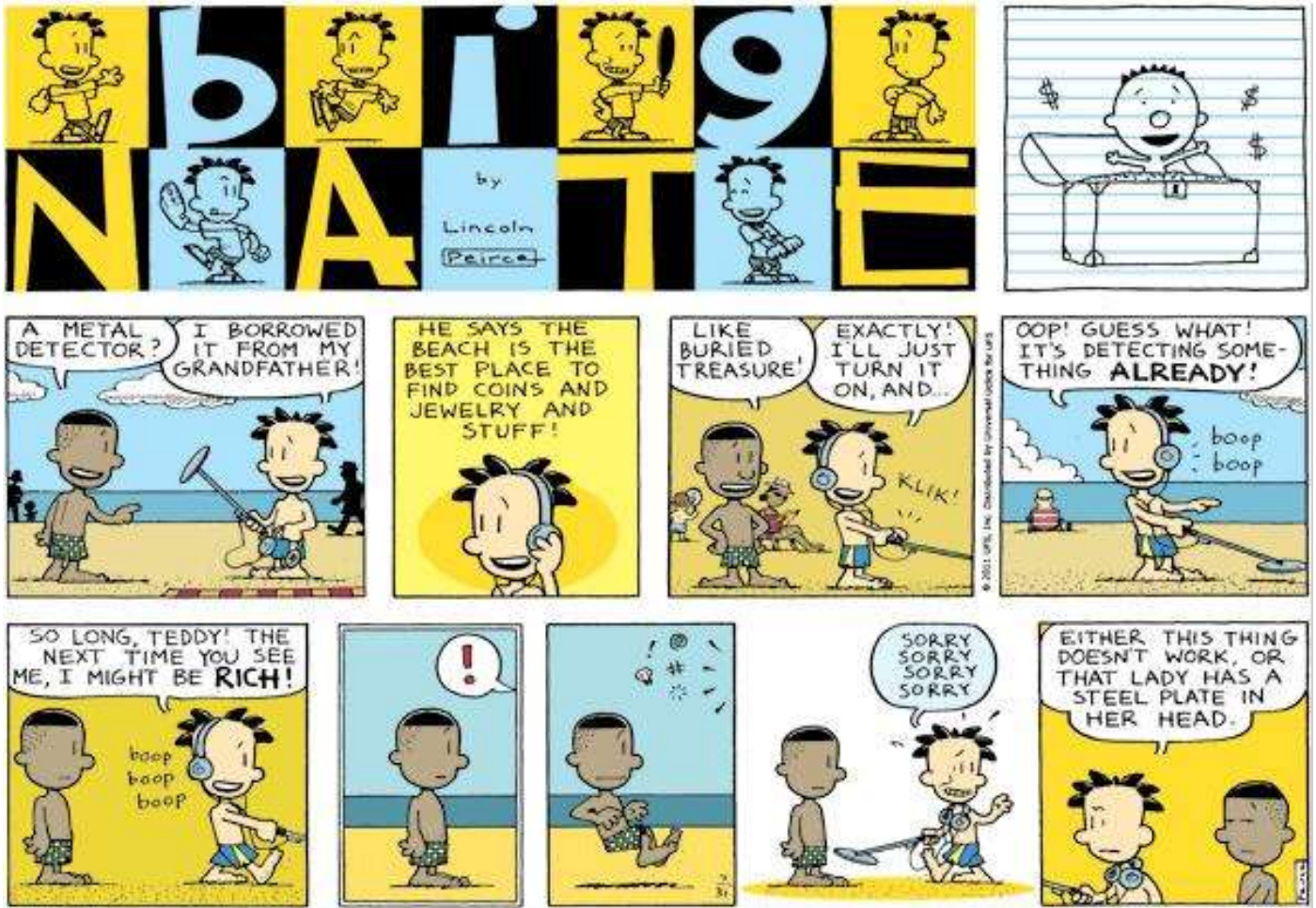
It's easy to leave people with a good impression of our hobby, especially as we practice and become more skillful. It's like golf or hockey - you will never get any better without practicing and learning from others. Then someday you will look back at the end of a hunt through a park, and you know that no-one will know just where you dug that silver dollar in your pouch.

# Metal Detecting - Great Tips

Dig those targets that don't sound good or that you believe to be trash. By digging the trashy signals, you will be getting those items out of the way for your future hunts at that site. Some of those 'iffy' signals might be good targets. More than one gold ring I have recovered was an iffy signal that I thought was likely to be a pull tab or sizeable wad of tin foil. Yellow gold often sounds like a pull-tab – and white gold can sound just like foil.

A great way to practice pinpointing is to take a large piece of cardboard and tape a coin to the cardboard. Then, flip the cardboard over where the coin is on the underside, and place the cardboard in an area free of other metal items. Attempt to pinpoint the coin through the cardboard. When you are satisfied that you have the coin pinpointed, poke a pin through the cardboard where you believe the coin to be. Then, flip the cardboard over, and see how close you pinpointed the target. After a few times doing this, you will be able to figure out where the "sweet spot" for pinpointing is on your coil.

If you are a water hunter then you know how hard it is to see your coil when it is under water. To counter that problem, you can put a dab of white or yellow paint on the tip of your coil. This will make it easier to see your coil under water. It will also make it easier to visually pinpoint your target before you attempt to recover it with your scoop.



## Calgary Park History - Bowness Park

Bowness Park one of Calgary's oldest parks. It consists of nearly 30 hectares of land in a well-treed area, situated on the south bank of the Bow River in the community of Bowness. The site is comprised of a relatively flat and long island separated from a residential neighbourhood by a narrow channel, and accessed via a bridge from 48 Avenue NW. The park has gravel and paved trails that follow the natural contours of the landscape. The park has open vistas to the north bank and provides direct access to the Bow River. Bowness has seen a lot of use over the last 100 years. It is considered a "replenishing park" as you have a chance of finding old and new items in the same area. Within the past decade I have seen some amazing finds come out of this park – newly lost gold and silver rings, and old coins like Andy Coward's 1905 Barber Silver dollar, and a 1921 fishscale 5-cent piece recovered by Wayne Teske.

Bowness Park has been in use as a picnic area and recreational site by Calgarians for over 100 years and has evolved through time with the community's needs. Although the park was established by the City of Calgary in 1911, photographs in the Glenbow Archives show that it was in use as a picnic area in the late 1900s. The park was developed in 1912 as an urban trolley park. In the late 1900s and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, these parks were much in vogue throughout North America. Beautiful picnic and recreation areas were created at the end of streetcar lines. These "trolley parks" were publicized by streetcar companies to increase their ridership by encouraging families to use their services on weekends.

Bowness Park was initially conceived by John Hextall, a Calgary solicitor. Hextall planned to develop the Bowness area as a high-end suburb known as Bowness Estates. In 1908, Hextall purchased a large area of the Bowness Ranche property, which included two islands that would later become Bowness Park. Later, in 1911, the Hextall Agreement was signed with the City of Calgary. This agreement saw the transfer of the islands and a bridge to the City for development as a park in exchange for the extension of streetcar service to the area by 1912.

The park originally contained picnic areas, shelters, and camping cabins carved out of the island landscape, filled with rolling grasslands and trees. In 1914, a man-made lagoon with adjacent shallow pond, and connecting canal was constructed, which served as a skating rink in the winter and swimming in the summer. The cabins were removed in the 1950s when the park transitioned into a "day-use" area.



Boating in Bowness Park (1920s)



Lagoon swimming area



Day use during the 1950s

During the park's height of popularity Bowness park transitioned into a recreational and social hub that was very popular with Calgarians. The Park continued development, with boating and swimming in the lagoon, later access to a deeper main swimming pool, and was very popular for skating parties. Facilities to support park activities included a boat rental, dance pavilion (1919), a carousel (1919), and a teahouse (1923). The carousel was later given to Heritage Park, where it is still in use. Bowness Park even had music playing over the lagoon, and the lagoon hosted Canada's first floating fountain (1928). The park also hosted a miniature railway ride and an amusement park (closed in 1988). Bowness Park is still in use today as a popular picnic area, with boating and walking trails.

Back on the beach Elmer was thinking to himself -  
"now where did I set my detector down at ?"



## LOVE TOKENS



Lyle Tremblay's Dime  
Love-Token

I was recently contacted by a fellow detectorist from an area near Edmonton who had found something he thought was curious. Some of you may recall Lyle Tremblay from our Rochon Sands hunts. Lyle had been looking through some unsorted finds from the previous year and noticed that one of his finds was a Victorian dime with an etched design on the obverse, and an insert for a pin attached on the face of the monarch. The dime could have been minted from the 1870s – 1901. It was definitely circulated. Lyle was curious, having not encountered anything similar previously – he shared a photo with me. When I saw the photo, I recognized that it was something amazing. I realized that Lyle Tremblay is one of the only detectorists in Alberta to have recovered something on many wish lists – He had recovered a "Love-Token."

A Love-token is a coin that has been sanded smooth on one or both sides, and then the flat surface burnished to a high-gleam. The coins were then hand-engraved with a picture or a design. The designs could be as simple as a monogram or picture or could have very complex decorative engraving. These coins were made as keepsakes or mementos, intended as a special gift for someone close to the maker. A love-token usually includes a name or monogram of either the maker or the recipient. Love-tokens were common mementos in the Victorian and Edwardian era, although they fell out of favour soon afterwards. They were highly valued because of the amount of work that went into making them. Some were formed into bracelets, pendants, or watch-fobs, and some into small brooches or pins, like Lyle Tremblay's love-token..

Although it is traditionally accepted that most love-tokens were given by a beau to a girl, they extended far beyond those boundaries. Love-tokens were also given to family members or close friends in honour of a special relationship. In the Victorian era these tokens were also created to commemorate historic events, or a significant family event like a birth, engagement, or confirmation.

The most common coins used were silver, as these were softer and easier to engrave. Although copper coin tokens are found, it was considered "gauche" not to use a precious metal coin when the love-token was intended as a gift, although some very intricate large cent tokens have been found. Gold coins were rarely used, as they were considered much more valuable for use as currency. It is believed that all of the coin images below are love-tokens made from Canadian (fishscale) 5-cent pieces.





## Metal Detecting Displays

You have been out and about, and with any luck, you have recovered some cool things. Now you might be wondering what you are going to do with them – We've all been there. One question that often gets asked is "How can I display / store these treasures. A lot of detectorists will create small displays for their "special finds" and investigate some way of storing or archiving for their finds.

Coin Shooters (metal detectorists who like finding old coins) will often take a page from coin collectors for archiving their finds. They will purchase one of the many varieties of "coin binders" and use that as a location for their coin finds. The binder will fit easily on an existing bookshelf and comes equipped with plasticized pages filled with coin size pockets. This makes storing your finds very easy and helps keep them organized. You can sort them by date found, or you can put them in by type, date, and/or mint mark – either way, they are very easy to flip through. Some detectorists will purchase a new binder annually and restart their display every year. These binders will also work for smaller pieces of jewellery like earrings, small rings, or pendants.

Many people will use one of the methods favoured by many of the detectorists in the CMDC, and use "tackle boxes" or "crafting supply" cases. It is a good, reasonably inexpensive way to display finds. It makes it easy to organize finds, because most tackle boxes typically have different compartments that will allow you to separate them as you wish. Better tackle boxes will also have removeable dividers, so that any size of find can be inserted. Some people will purchase a new tackle-box every year, while others will move their finds into another type of storage and start their collection in the same tackle box every year.

We also have CMDC club members that have invested in shadow boxes for their finds. These are regularly on sale at "Michaels" craft center. They are usually a box with a clear top. Some will be a single unit, while others will have multiple boxes and display ideas available. I have seen shadow boxes with several levels. They can also be intended to lay flat or designed to be placed on a wall as a display. You can also buy ring and jewellery display cases intended for retailers. These will show many types of finds in a clean and organized fashion. One of the more interesting box displays I've seen was an old oak store-counter display from the 1930s reused, and filled with coins and relics.



Some detectorists use extra-large jewellery boxes as a storage unit, and display. I have seen these in many sizes. I have even seen a top end jewellery box that stands almost a meter tall, and has several sections for hanging pendants, and multiple slider drawers for rings and earrings. Most will at least have drawers for jewellery finds that would also fit coin capsules or smaller relics.

Having a full-fledged display case may not be for everyone depending on your living situation as they can take up quite a bit of space. However, if you want your finds on display, and have room for a display case – they can be interesting and can deliver a real "wow" factor while displaying your treasures. Some people will purchase china cabinets – others smaller nick-nack displays that can sit on a bookcase or hang on a wall. These types of units are more for display than storage, as they will leave your finds out on permanent display for all to see. You will not want to display every find, so you will probably need a storage alternative as well.





My personal favourite display is a finds jar. In my case, I have a vase in my living room that I use for some of my finds. My more precious gold and silver jewellery finds are not there, but interesting relics, metal odds and ends, some bracelets, chains, brass items, and oddities all found their way inside. A little shake of the vase, and it is an entirely new view of the display any time I wish. It sits on a bookshelf in my living room, and whenever my kids come to visit, they look to see if there is anything new.

## LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Although cancelled until further notice because of Covid 19, the Calgary Metal Detecting club had been meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the Brentwood Co-op store, located just off Crowchild Trail between Charleswood Drive and Brisbois Drive N.W. You would enter the store and go down-stairs (door by the Bakery) to find the meeting room. We will restart the monthly meetings after the Covid 19 crisis is over.

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