

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

Volume 40 – Number 1 JUNE 2011



BIGFOOT SPOTTED

Actually the photo is of CMDC member Jose Chong using his “Bigfoot” Coil at last year’s club hunt on St. Andrew’s Island.

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.

FAREWELL RANDY!



BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE!

Club President Randy Poirier will be leaving our fair province this month, and taking off for greener (or maybe just older) pastures. Randy has purchased a house in Ontario, and will soon be relocating to that area in early June. Randy will be continuing to enjoy the hobby of Metal Detecting in Ontario, where he hopes to be recovering much older “treasures” than are available in the “younger” province of Alberta.

We will miss you at the Calgary Metal Detecting Club, Randy, but wish you all the best in your future endeavours. I’m sure the entire CMDC will want to join you for a visit when we hear about those Colonial era and “War of 1812” goodies that will be among your future finds.

Randy has served as CMDC club president for 3 years, and held other positions on the CMDC executive before that. Andy Coward has taken over the position of president for the remainder of the year. People should be able to keep in touch with Randy using his email of: thesongman@shaw.ca .

FINDS OF THE MONTH CATEGORIES

You've found our great hobby, and had fun digging something up – Now it is time for the Calgary Metal Detecting Club meeting, and you are wondering just what category your treasure fits in – The CMDC has four categories that are voted on each month for “Best Find of the Month.” Each member may enter one item in each of those four categories – their own personal “Find of the Month.”

BEST COIN

Best Coin includes any piece of metal that represented legal tender for the nation or region in which it circulated. If the coin has been incorporated into a piece of jewellery, it should usually go into the Treasure category instead. The coin can be made out of any metal. Any attempts to sneak in wooden nickels or Canadian Tire money will be frowned upon.

BEST TREASURE

If it's made out of a precious metal (gold, silver, platinum) and isn't a coin, it belongs here. Gold rings, silver rings, gold bracelets, gold bars, gold dust ... you get the idea. Club member Lloyd Haywood actually brought in a gold nugget last year. The best way to tell is if your item is “treasure” is if it has a hallmark, but that isn't going to present in every case. Some jewellery is Artisan crafted, or was created in a country where hallmarks are not the norm.

BEST RELIC

The CMDC considers relics as items over 25 years of age. That doesn't seem very old, but Calgary is a fairly young area. If your item is a non-precious metal, is over 25 years old, and it's not a coin or piece of jewellery, this is where it fits in. Tokens, buttons, bullets, militaria, watches, tools, antique toys, medals ... anything that is over 25 years old is welcome.

BEST TRINKET

Any other item that you find can be entered under Best Trinket. This can include Costume jewellery, modern toys, newer tools, nifty gadgets or anything that just doesn't look old enough to be really considered a Relic. Think of such things as being "Relics-In-Training".

Metal Detecting in Edmonton

By JAMES BELKE



James Belke is a member of the CMDC who relocated to Edmonton in 2010.

Since my move to Edmonton I have been busy getting settled into the new house and hadn't had opportunity to get out treasure hunting until late September. On a fine September day I packed my gear and headed towards Old Strathcona, which is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Edmonton. I didn't have a specific site in mind, but hoped to find a demolition site or an old boulevard with potential. I came across a large empty lot that I imagine once housed turn of the century infill style homes. It had recently been demolished. This type of site holds potential but can be frustrating hunting if the demo was messy and left buried metal scraps.

After about an hour of hunting along the front edge of the property under spruce trees, I was approached by a man from across the street. He was curious as to what I was finding, and approached me to talk. To this point I had just found a handful of modern pocket change and had nothing noteworthy to show him. I complimented him on his beautiful 1920's era home and asked if he minded me hunting the outer perimeter of his yard. He invited me to go ahead and wished me "good luck"! I moved across the street and began searching between the city sidewalk and the old honeysuckle hedge that lined the front. Very quickly I had a good mellow sounding signal from deep under the hedge, in an area that was not grassed and easy to dig. At about 4" deep I unearthed a very nice 1927 small cent that foreshadowed good things yet to come! Within 15 minutes I had added a 1924 and 1926 small cent to my keepers pouch in addition to several pennies from the 40's and 50's. Sadly time had run out and I had to pack it in for the day.

A couple days later I had a vacation day booked and I was itching to get back to this yard, as well as the mostly unsearched demo lot across the street. After investing another hour in the side yard and coming up empty, I decided to cross the street and tackle the demo lots. For this hunt I concentrated on the side of the lot, grid searching the thin strip of old lawn that would have run between the house and the city sidewalk. The first 30 feet of lawn yielded many young Queen Elizabeth and George VI cents, along with a very interesting Dog Tag (#3333 dated 1937). Once I hit the half way mark I picked up a strong deep tone that was just too good to ignore, so I dug and dug and dug... I was close to recovering my first sleigh bell. After removing the dirt, I was thrilled to find the ringer still intact, and it made a nice brassy tinkle.

Searching carefully in a 10 foot radius of the bell I picked up several very iffy signals similar to the sound the brass bell gave. Since it was a demo site I decided to dig deeper holes in the hope I'd successfully recover a nice keeper or two. The first target turned out to be a crusty 1916 large cent, followed by a 1912 and 1914 large cent, all within a few feet of each other!!! Just when I thought it couldn't get any better my next finds along the side of the lot were a 1921 and a 1924 small cent followed by a Totem Mfg. Co. Ltd. "10" token and a 1936 nickel.

Sadly the sun was starting to set and it was time to head to the truck. On the way back I noticed that by the front boulevard a dirt path lead to the road where the demo crew removed the old sidewalk. My final reward for searching slowly and methodically was a rare 1913 broad leaf 10-cent silver found about 6 inches down. It was lost right next to the street curb and no doubt was hidden from past treasure hunters by sidewalk blocks laid on top of it!

=====

Irish Treasure Hunter Returns War Badge

A long lost First World War medal has been returned to its family home in Oving after being found on a remote beach in Ireland. It was picked up by keen treasure hunter Stephen Hunter, 28, who trawled through stacks of historical documents to finally trace it back to Edward Lewis Brunswick from the Aylesbury area, who died in 1975. He was then able to find Edward's son Roy, who is the oldest living ancestor of the war hero and was delighted to have the medal returned. Roy, 86, said: "I knew nothing of it until just now but obviously I am very happy to get it back. My father never really spoke about his army life to us so we never knew anything about that part of his life."

The search began with just a regiment number found on the Silver War Badge but through army records Stephen was able to find out who it belonged to. He then enlisted the help of fellow enthusiasts to go through birth, death and marriage certificates before they finally found a living ancestor. Stephen said: "We compared all the information with possible ancestors in the Aylesbury area and Roy's name came back every time. "We were lucky that Brunswick isn't a very common name but we still had to rule out others with different middle names."

Stephen has been using his metal detector for 10 years and often finds old coins and rings on the beaches. But this is the first time he has been able to trace anything back to a previous owner. He said: "I enjoy it because I find it a good way to relax but I have never done anything like this before. I am pleased now because it is a good symbol for people like me who enjoy metal detecting. "There has been a lot of bad press surrounding the hobby in recent years so it is nice being able to show that the hobby can be very rewarding and that it has its place when done responsibly." Story obtained from "the Buck News" website

THANK YOU DALE!

This is the first issue of "The Buzzer" in almost a decade that wasn't designed and put together by CMDC member Dale Downing. Dale has been very involved in the CMDC over the years. He held a term as Club President, and was not only the long term editor of the Buzzer, but was the designer and original webmaster of the CMDC website. We would like to thank Dale for all his great ideas and effort with the Club and "The Buzzer" over the years. His contributions to the CMDC have been greatly appreciated.



Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

I was reading through the Canadian Metal Detecting Forum earlier this month when this item about an incident in Windsor, Ontario caught my attention:

“Apparently some idiot was metal detecting at one of the local schools, and leaving huge craters. One of the students stepped into the hole as she was running and either sprained or broke her ankle. The police are now involved, as are the neighbours to watch for anyone metal detecting in that school yard.”

Metal Detecting Hobbyists who reside in Windsor are worried about a possible ban of the use of metal detectors in public areas, and all this could have been avoided with a little bit of common sense. I thought it might be a good idea to remind us all 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.

- Respect the Heritage Act. Do not damage or deface public or private property. Keep all ground disturbances to a minimum. Fill holes completely and replace "plugs" carefully.
- Uphold all existing laws of the Municipality, Province or State and Country.
- Seek permission before searching on private property. Inquire of any known valuables and/or keepsakes lost in the search vicinity and return the item to owner if found.
- Remove all litter from hunt area. Remove all trash found while digging, and dispose of it properly after leaving the area.
- Use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times. Promote and foster a good image in the eyes of the public. Strive for a balance between satisfying their queries and avoiding over-intrusion.
- Leave gates to property as found.
- Do not destroy property, buildings, ghost towns or abandoned structures.
- Do not tamper with signs, structural facilities, or equipment.
- Whenever a recovered item is identifiable, try to return it to its owner.

CMDC AWARDS BANQUET

The 2011 Calgary Metal Detecting Club annual awards banquet was held on May 04, 2011. It was a great success. The banquet took place at the Chappelhow legion. The Legion provided a nice prime-rib meal, as well as vegetarian and chicken options. The Legion also provided a small side room to hold our banquet in. It was a great evening, and an excellent turn out, with 24 members and guests in attendance. We regretted that life-time members Marion Lalonde and Mary Byer were not able to attend for health reasons.

The "Finds of the Year" for the 2010 Metal Detecting Season are awarded at the CMDC Awards banquet. There were prizes for each of the categories of "Treasure", "Trinket", "Coin" and "Relic". Every CMDC club member had the opportunity to display what they believe their best find of the year is in each of the four categories at our March 2011 meeting, where they were voted on by secret ballot. The winners of the awards were kept secret, and were not to be announced until the Awards Banquet.

Winners for "Finds of the Year" for the 2010 Metal Detecting Season:

Treasure: 1st prize winner: Kevin Niefer for an 18K gold and diamond "Lion's Head" ring. 2nd prize was won by Jose Chong for a 10 K Gold Ring.

Trinket: 1st prize: Peggy Kemp for a gold coloured pendant of garnet and cubic zirconia. 2nd prize was won by Kevin Niefer for a set of Brass Knuckles.

Coin: The 1st Prize was won by Wayne Teske for a silver 1886 Victorian 25-cent piece. 2nd Prize was won by Andy Coward for his 1913 (fish-scale) 5-cent piece.

Relic: 1st Prize: Wayne Teske for a NWMP badge (dated between 1873 and 1904), 2nd prize was won by Fred Van Vaals for an early 20th century lock.



Congratulations to
ANDY COWARD
Who was voted
"Member of the Year for 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 to the meeting room.

Please Support Our Advertisers

Rich's Ventures

Metal Detection & Location Services

Metal Detector Consignment & Repairs
Specializing in Confidential Searches ~ Pin & Line Locating
Lost Item Recovery ~ Environmental Cleanups ~ Gold Claims
Collectibles

Rich Hirschmiller
Detectorist for Over 35 Years

Ph: (403) 845-3718 Cell: (403) 846-6017
www.richsventures.com
Lost Something? We Travel!



Kevin Niefer

Finding Houses ... Creating Homes

Your **RE/MAX** Realty Professional

To view all Lynwood/Odgen & Riverbend listings
visit us on the internet

www.kevinniefer.com
or give us a call!
Telephone: (403) 720-9501

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

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 kempp@telus.net with METAL DETECTING in the subject area.