

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

Volume 42 – issue 3 March 2014

The First CMDC Club Hunt of 2014 - Ready to find Treasure!



The First Annual CMDC Winter Club Hunt

A much needed respite from a long cold winter

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.

FINDS OF THE YEAR VOTING

Spring is just around the corner, as well as a whole new year of metal detecting. March is always an exciting meeting for the Calgary Metal Detecting Club. That is when the CMDC votes for our best "Finds of the Year". This year there should be some particularly nice finds, as the club hunts showed everything from Victorian coins, gold rings, and amazing relics.

With all the spectacular items that have been rescued from oblivion during the 2013 Metal Detecting Season, I am expecting this to be a great year for the "Finds of the Year" voting. Remember to bring your best finds for to the March meeting for the CMDC for the "Finds of the Year" voting.

Each Club member can display one item in each of the four categories of Best Relic, Best Treasure, Best Coin and Best Trinket. The votes results will be kept secret until the annual awards dinner scheduled in April.

2012 Finds of the Year



We have had some pretty amazing finds in 2013, and I am looking forward to seeing them at the March CMDC meeting - but I thought that this would be a great opportunity to recall some pretty amazing finds from previous years. The photos above represent the best finds of the 2012 Metal Detecting Season. It just goes to show you that even after all the years that the CMDC has been in existence (over 40 years) there are some wonderful things waiting to be found. I'm sure that I'm not the only one anxiously awaiting Spring and new finds.

2012 Treasure: 1st: 22 Kt Gold Pendant, that was recovered by Iain Paterson)

2012 Coin: 1st: 1921 5-cent silver fishscale nickel - found by Wayne Teske

2012 Trinket: 1st: Toy Cannon found on a club hunt by Ken Kittlitz

2012 Relic: 1st: 137 Battalion WWI Cap-Badge recovered by Jeff Budd)

CMDC FIRST ANNUAL WINTER HUNT

By BRETT (Gopher) BUCHAN

On January 18th the Calgary Metal Detecting Club held the first ever Winter Club Hunt. After two months of planning by Brett "Gopher" Buchan - a soccer field on John Laurie Park was seeded with 200 coins from all over the world. Among the coins were American half dollars, Canadian half dollars, Canadian Large Cents, Fishscale nickels, and numerous foreign coins and tokens. A grand prize of a metal detector was also donated by Jeff "Badger" Buchan.

On January 17th (Field seeding) Albert "Walrus" Cotterhill and the Gopher seeded the field on a warm Chinook morning. The field was covered in snow and ice from 2 inches to 2 feet deep. Most coins had to be dropped and stepped on as throwing them was like watching a curling stone skim across the ice. In order to mislead members they walked for a hour around the field after seeding coins making false tracks.



January 18th was a beautiful warm sunny day, and at 10:00 am, Club members were ready to hunt. Many excited members arrived early and enjoyed a coffee and donuts donated from Bob Conlon, James Culver, and Bill Jones. CMDC members were anxious to detect, most members still having imprint of coil on their face from sleeping with their detector the night before.



At 10 am everyone lined the field and the hunt was on. The metal detector hibernation was over! It did not take long for members to start collecting the bounty under the ice and snow. There were 120 coins found by 14 members and family members during the two hour hunt. The hunt was like a family gathering as people stopped throughout the day to have conversations and help some of the younger people out with tricks of the trade . Some coins were easy to find and recover, but others had succumbed to the winter weather. Peggy Kemp described finding her fishscale 5-cent piece as being like it was "hidden in a ice cube".

Some detectors like Garrett worked really well in the conditions, and others struggled with the cold and the trash beneath the ground.

CMDC Winter Hunt (con't)

Everyone found something and the day was filled with conversation and laughs under the 13c Chinook winter day. At the end of the day everyone joined to show their findings. Prizes were awarded by draw to Tracy Neal, James Culver, and a few others. The moment had arrived for the grand prize winner of the metal detector.



The coin was a 1971 American Kennedy half-dollar found by Andy Coward..found (or planted) hahaha. Like making your pet chase a light around the floor Andy Coward was led to the coin as Gopher pretended to make a video of him for FB. Andy was as excited as Ralphie wanting his Red Ryder BB Gun for Christmas.

Brett "Gopher" Buchan went in to the truck. and to everyone's surprise. the detector was a Toys R Us plastic detector. The laughs were enjoyed by everyone as Andy played with his award bringing the first annual C.M.D.C Winter hunt to a close.



A few club members have been back since, and have reported finds of buffalo nickels, large cents, and many foreign coins. There still may be a few out there waiting for the hardy winter hunter.

16th Century Coin found in Victoria

Bruce Campbell was just enjoying his new hobby of metal detecting when he and a friend were out on the Gorge in early December of 2013. It was low-tide on the mud flats, and Campbell's metal detector was working overtime.

It was a great day for detecting. Campbell was thrilled to have found an 1890s Fishscale 5-cent piece. He found a few other coins, and was just about to call it a day when he dug down in the blue clay and pulled out an unusual black coin.

Campbell headed home and posted photographs of his finds on the Official Canadian Metal Detecting website. He showed his finds, and asked for help identifying the strange silver coin. "I thought everybody was going to ooh and ah over the 1891 nickel, and it turned out I'd made a discovery that was a little more important than that," he said.

"Some of the guys started saying, 'That's not just any old coin. That's an English hammered silver coin,'" Campbell said. "And as I was doing cleaning on it, I posted updated pictures." Another member of the forum informed him that it was a rare English shilling from 1551-53, issued during Edward VI's brief reign.

Some believe that the coin was "trade-silver" making its way from Eastern Canada, or north from Mexico - while others suggest it might be proof that Sir Francis Drake explored the B.C. coast in the late 1500s - 200 years before the arrival of Capt. James Cook. No matter how it got to Victoria - it is the find of a life-time for Bruce Campbell.

CALGARY COIN CLUB RUNNING SCARED

By ROD COPPOCK



This tongue-in-cheek article written by long-time CMDC member Rod Coppock is fiction. However, one has to wonder with the number of pennies recovered by CMDC members last year, and the onslaught of children while detecting - whether there might indeed be something behind it. Hmmmmmm. Could it be? Nawwww.

Having recently gone undercover as a new member of the Calgary Coin Club (CCC) I was shocked to find out that paranoia is running rampant among the membership. The recent decline in the price of silver has many of the members re-evaluating their retirement plans. Most of them have invested their life savings in gold and silver coins and some of them are coin dealers. The latest threat to their vast store of wealth is the discontinued use of the Canadian penny. For years, the price of silver has been buoyed by the loss of millions of pennies in public parks across Canada which has effectively camouflaged the hoards of old silver coins hidden mere inches below the surface.

A presentation to the CCC by Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC) president Andy Coward in 2013 inadvertently alerted them to the imminent danger of the silver market being flooded with thousands and maybe even millions of old silver coins that are expected to be found by metal detecting enthusiasts across Canada in the coming years as the earth is cleansed of the remaining pennies.

It is now feared that the price of silver could be further depressed, possibly never to recover. There was much discussion and some heated debate as to what needed to be done to protect coin collectors from this imminent threat, especially in Calgary, which has a very active and growing metal detecting club. With improved technology being introduced into metal detectors each year, surely it would only be a matter of time before finding old silver coins would be as easy as picking daisies on a warm summers afternoon.

A number of possible solutions were proposed, among them were :

- Hire school children and possibly retirees to pester the metal detectorists during their hunt to distract them from their task.
- Build high voltage transformers close to all city parks to disrupt the metal detectors .
- Corner the market on AA batteries.
- Lobby the city to turn all city parks into off leash parks, surely those metal detectorists would stop hunting .
- Seed the city parks with thousands of pennies gathered from CCC members, their families and friends.
- Lobby the city build barbed wire fences around all city parks and deny access to any person carrying a metal detector.

Well, after lengthy discussion and much consternation among the membership, it was decided that the most expedient and effective action would be to seed the parks with as many pennies as could be gathered. (I had often suspected that this had happened in the past, but now I am convinced of it).

One of the CCC members recalled that Mr. Coward had told them in his presentation, that each month during the summer, the members of the CMDC gather en mass to scour one of the city parks to retrieve as many silver and possibly gold coins, as they can before the onset of winter. Mr. Coward also indicated that the CMDC has a person designated as a "Hunt Director" and it is the responsibility of this person to decide which parks will be their target. It was thought that if perhaps the CCC could find out who this person is in 2014, then with a little persuasion (maybe a roll of Vicki's) a list of those parks could be obtained beforehand. With the list secured, it would only take a night time visit to these parks a few days before the allotted dates by members of the CCC, to foil the CMDC invaders in their pursuit of silver.

Calgary Coin Club (con't)

It was a long meeting, going well past the allotted time and into the late hours of the evening (most CCC members are usually home and in bed by 10 pm).



I am presenting this information to the members of the CMDC in strict confidence as I am sure that if this information became public knowledge, that some highly visible public figure, such as Jessie Ventura, would be all over it like dirt on an old penny and my cover would be blown.

I fear that the members of the CMDC may be in for another long summer of digging up thousands of pennies which may continue to mysteriously appear in our plugs long after their official demise.

I will continue to monitor the meetings of the CCC and may need to report back to the CMDC at a later date.

Oh , by the way, as devious as they are, the CCC tried to buy my allegiance into their "CLUB" by letting me "win" the door prize of a mint set of 1964, you guessed it, Silver coins!!!!. Surprise, surprise. I am not that easily converted.

The Author wishes to assure the reading public that any resemblance in this article to an actual meeting of the Calgary Coin Club is entirely coincidental.

CMDC 400th Meeting

The January meeting of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club was a special anniversary. It was the 400th meeting of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club. We had a great turn-out, and a great time, despite the weather! January's winter display theme was toys, and we also had some pretty cool displays. Getting together in the middle of winter for some fellowship and conversation about a great hobby - That is why we are still going strong after 40 years.



Winter Metal Detecting Humor



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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The CMDC's yearly dues are:

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

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