

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

Volume 44 – issue 2 March 2015



All those Metal Detectors lying in a row - anxiously awaiting the First Club Hunt of 2015 -

We're all ready to find Treasure!

Come on, Spring!!!! We're ready to go again!

(This photo is from the September Club Hunt & Radioworld Central Minelab SDC2300 launch Barbeque)

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



The March meeting of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club is when the club votes for "Finds of the Year".

Remember to attend the March meeting, and to bring your best finds for voting. Each Club member may display one item in each of the basic categories of Best Relic, Best Treasure, Best Coin and Best Trinket. All club members are allowed to vote for their favorite find in each category, and the winners will be announced at our annual awards dinner, which is scheduled in April.

There are always some pretty amazing items to view and vote on. With all the great finds seen on facebook and at club meetings this year, I expect this year we will all have some hard choices to make selecting the best finds of the 2014 metal detecting season.

Remember to Bring your Best Finds of 2014 to the March Meeting!



2013 Finds of the Year

The "Finds of the Year" for the 2013 Metal Detecting season were displayed and voted on during the March 2014 Calgary Metal Detecting Club meeting. The winners were tabulated, but were kept secret until the annual awards banquet, held at the Danish Canadian Club on April 15, 2014. The 2013 CMDC "Find of the Year" Winners were announced in each of the four categories, and each winner was awarded a plaque and an "engraved" Buck knife as a prize. Second Place winners were also recognized and awarded a prize.

- *Treasure:* 1st: Gold Ring with Diamonds & Emeralds (Jerry Leussink),
2nd: Silver Haida Ring (Fred Van Vaals)
- *Coin:* 1st: 1858 10 Cents (Jeff Buchan),
2nd: 1899 US Barber Dime (Rod Coppock)
- *Trinket:* 1st: 1950 Roy Rogers Lucky Piece (Andy Coward);
2nd: Badge (Jeff Buchan)
- *Relic:* 1st: Calgary Auto Club Placard (Iain Paterson);
2nd: 1919 1-Horse Wagon License (Jeff Buchan)



Jerry Leussink



Jeff Buchan



Andy Coward



Iain Paterson

CMDC "BEST FIND OF THE YEAR FOR 2013" WINNERS

Mini- Glossary

One thing that newcomers to the hobby find is that Detecting, like every other group, has developed its own lingo. Here are a few terms that you might here in conversation around the Calgary Metal Detecting Club, or metal detecting in general.



CACHE - Coins or jewelry deliberately buried together. A Cache may also be a cluster of lost coins (as in a coin purse).

CAN SLAW - Shredded bits of Aluminum - usually from pop cans ripped apart by a mower.

CLAD - Any form of modern money (ie. not silver)

CHATTER - Any sound from your machine that isn't supposed to be there. It may be caused by anything, including proximity to another Detector or by overhead power lines.

COIL - The part of the Metal Detector that senses the target - The bigger the coil, the deeper it senses.

COIN-SHOOTER - A hobbyist who likes to find coins, and hunts in areas that they might be found.

DETECTORIST - A common term used to describe a person who uses a metal detector.

DIGGER - The tool you use to dig with. Also can refer to the hobbyist using the detector.

DISCRIMINATION - A mode on most modern metal detectors to enable the user to ignore unwanted items.

DOUBLE D - A type of coil - It looks like two D's attached back to back

EDDIE - A Canadian coin with King Edward III on it - circa 1902 to 1911

FISHSCALE - tiny silver nickel - in use from 1839 until 1921. Half the size and thickness of a dime.

GEORGE - name for Canadian Coinage dated between 1911 and 1952 (Eras of King George V 1912 - 1936, or King George VI 1937 - 1952)

GRIDDING - detecting using a pattern as you walk along, most common is "straight" or "circular"

GROUND-BALANCING - Adjusting the detector to the mineralization in the soil at the current location to be hunted. This feature may not be available on every machine.

HALO EFFECT - A false high-tone target caused by an iron target oxidization leaching into soil around it.

HAPPY HUNTING (HH) - A term wishing another detectorist good luck & great finds.

HOT ROCK - A rock containing enough non-conductive mineralization that the machine targets them.

KEEPER - Something that you found that is worth keeping. Also referred to as a "FIND".

MACHINE - What a hobbyist will call his detector - as in "what machine do you use?"

MODE - A specific feature of your metal detector - discriminating out a metal type you don't want to dig.

NINE-TWO-FIVE (925) - A name for sterling silver. It is the percentage of silver to alloy in the item (92.5%).

PLUG - A hole carefully dug in the ground so dirt and grass are not harmed.

PINPOINTING - The process of reducing the target to a small area in which to dig, either before you dig. Can also indicate using a pinpointer to find a target within a plug.

PINPOINTER - A small, hand-held metal detector used inside of the open hole/plug to help locate the target.

POCKET-SPILL - A bunch of coins lost from ones' pocket or purse. Often found in places where people congregated and sat on the ground (ie. picnic area or park).

RELIC - An artifact of the past. It may be anything that was used over 50 years ago.

RUBAR - a ferrous (iron based) item that is now "Rusted Beyond all Recognition".

SQUARE NAIL - A very old nail, usually hand forged - an indicator of pre-1880s construction.

SWING - The way you move your machine while detecting.

TARGET - Metallic Item in the ground, waiting to be dug. Also called a "FIND".

TOASTED - Badly corroded coin - usually a zinc penny or clad coin that is unrecognizable.

VICKIE - A coin from the Victorian era (1839 -1901). "Dominion of Canada" coinage was first minted in 1870. Victoria's reign ended in 1901.

WHEATIE - An American penny in use from 1909 to 1956. It has a sheave of wheat on either side of the text "one cent" on the reverse (tails) side, (hence the name). The previous U.S. penny was called an Indian Head.

HOW TO DIG A TARGET

Digging a proper "plug" is one of the most important things a new detectorist can learn. Even seasoned detectorists should pay attention to new methods of digging a proper plug, because the future of our hobby depends on it. It doesn't matter as much in rural areas, although you should still fill holes carefully. If you are an urban metal detecting hobbyist learning to dig a hole properly is an essential skill. Parks in many cities are being closed to detecting because of the perception that detectorists are causing damage to public areas. For the most part, the damage is not caused by serious hobbyists, but we are all tarred and feathered by the same brush. It is important that we learn to recover our targets in a manner that leaves no trace when we leave the area. The best way to do this is to learn how to dig your plug and refill your hole without damaging the root structure of the grass.

When digging in any grassy area that is cut or tended on a regular basis, push the digging tool into the ground 3 or 4 inches deep, this way you will get all the roots to the grass and prevent damage. Cut a plug of grass in a semi-circle and pry it upward with your digger leaving a hinge on the uncut side of the plug of grass. If a plug is not dug properly, it will cause the grass to turn brown in that spot, especially in the dry season. It does not matter how large of a plug you dig, but note that soil-moisture makes a big difference. The more moisture there is in the soil, the bigger you can make a plug. In very dry conditions, it is almost impossible to dig anything without damaging grass root structure. We recommend staying away from well manicured parks in Calgary during summer months, unless it has been raining recently. There are plenty of park areas that are not mowed or tended that still have great targets waiting to be found.

Use your digger to flip the "plug" up, and pinpoint to determine if the target is in the plug or in the hole. If your target is still in the hole, carefully dig out more soil, and use a "drop cloth" to pile your soil on. This keeps the dirt from soiling the neat grass around the hole and you can also grab the corners of the drop cloth and pass the dirt over top of your coil to see if the item was in the dirt you extracted from the hole. Some items people use as drop cloths are Frisbees, water-proof grocery bags, or actual cloths. Your target may be down pretty far, and this method allows you to dig very deep while keeping everything neat and orderly.



After you have retrieved your find, always remember to check your hole again. If the find was part of a pocket spill there may be another coin or item there. One CMDC club member once found 3 pre-1920 coins in the same hole. After you are satisfied there is nothing left to find, take the cloth to the edge of the hole and dump the dirt back in and pack it down. Then flip your sod "lid" or plug back down and stamp on it lightly a couple times to displace any trapped air, which will also start to affect the root structure. Do this properly and you can go back a week later and will not be able to tell where you were digging.

When you are done, you will have no excess dirt laying around, no worries about plugs turning brown, and most importantly no worries about anyone pointing a finger at our metal detecting hobby, and using brown patches as an excuse to close an area to metal detecting.

Also, carry a pouch and carry out any trash you dig. If you take the time to dig it up, you may as well remove it unless you want to keep digging the same trash every year, or causing your buddies to dig it later. Take the trash you find with you, and dispose of it either in a park garbage can or at home. While we can't always be perfect, at least we can try. Our motto should be "we only leave footprints behind". We should all try our best to adhere to that rule because the future of metal detecting in Calgary parks may depend on it.

CALGARY - HISTORIC PARKS

Near the community of Montgomery in West Calgary, across the river from Bowness lies a hidden gem of a park, full of history. Shouldice Park is a picturesque spot along a bend in the Bow River that has lots of picnic tables, benched viewpoints, trees, grass, and natural prairie grasses, making it a favourite spot for family gatherings on sunny summer evenings and weekends. Shouldice Park has been host to a few CMDC group hunts. It was at one of those hunts that Jose Chong found his beautiful "1912 Calgary Double Dray" wagon license. (It meant your wagon could legally have two horses). At the same hunt, Ken Kittlitz recovered a WWII era toy plane - which shows you the wide variety of history available in the park.

The area has been in use since the late 1800s. At one time it was a fine "ranch home", hosting tea-parties and polo matches. One of the first residents of the land was a British gentleman by the name of Oswald A Critchley. He created a ranch on the land, and photographs are available with the land being used for a polo-match from that era. In 1906, the Shouldice family purchased the land when Mr. Critchley returned to England. They farmed it for many years. James Shouldice donated 100 acres along the Bow River for use as a park in 1910. This was years before the community was annexed as part of Calgary, but many people from the city travelled out to make use of the park. After Mr. Shouldice's death in 1925, the farmland near the existing park sat vacant for many years. The Shouldice family donated more of the family land to the city of Calgary for use as parkland in the 1960s.

The community of Montgomery was formed circa 1910. Most people don't know that the original name of the community was "Shouldice Terrace". The name was not changed until 1943. The Canadian Postal Service requested the name change because another town in Alberta used the name "Shouldice", and sometimes mail got misdirected. The community agreed, and the name Montgomery was chosen to honour Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, a celebrated British military officer who played an important role in WWI and WWII.

Gradually, the town grew to surround the area of Shouldice Park, and the land was often used for picnics, play-area, fishing, and camping. In the early part of the last century, there was a street-car travelling out from Calgary to Bow Ness with a stop at Shouldice Terrace that permitted people from all over the Calgary area to make use of the parkland. The City of Calgary has developed part of the area into modern athletic parks, but there are still areas west towards Shouldice Bridge that have been preserved as natural parkland, and some areas that remain much the way it would have been found 100 years ago.

The Glenbow Museum photographic archives have photos showing use of Shouldice Park in the 1920s, as it was a very popular spot.



Jewish Literary club Picnic



Normal School excursion

and
both from the 1920s.



Annual Awards Banquet

The next CMDC Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday April 11th, 2015 at the Danish Canadian Club of Calgary (same location as last year). CMDC members and guests are invited to get together for an excellent dinner and great conversation with some great people. This banquet is also the time to celebrate the winners of the Best Finds of the 2014 Metal Detecting Season, and to recognize our CMDC Member of the Year.

Stay tuned for information about dinner costs and ticket availability - to be announced shortly on the facebook group page and by email.



Metal Detecting Tip



Another great place to hunt for those elusive pocket spills or lost jewellery is under shade trees. In fine weather during the summer months we all like to escape to spend time in the great outdoors. Calgary has some great parks with shaded areas. Often these tree-shaded areas are the best spots for family picnics, or for sitting down and relaxing with a book,.

Many hunters have recovered some of their favorite items while digging in the ground beside a huge shade tree. Some person long ago sat to enjoy a summer's day many years ago, and was not aware of the treasure lost, sitting there waiting for our recovery.

My own best Relic find (a Victorian Mourning Locket) was located in North Glenmore Park, right beside a huge poplar tree. When you go to a park, imagine where people would congregate during warm weather, and check those places first.

You may be surprised at the treasures that turn up in your pouch at the end of the day.



Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

Metal Detecting is being banned from public parks in areas of the United States because of a few detectorists who do not treat the land or the hobby with respect. This can be avoided with a little bit of wisdom in how we enjoy our hobby. Last year members of the club encountered other hobbyists (not members of the CMDC) who did not replace plugs, fill in holes, and left found trash on the ground beside the hole. This reflects badly on Metal Detecting. The future of our hobby is affected by public perception of it. 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.

- I will respect private property and do no metal detecting without the owner's permission.
- I will fill all holes, and replace all plugs neatly. I will leave my digging area just as I found it.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural and cultural resources, wildlife and private property.
- I will use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- I will make sure all gates are closed behind me.
- I will not litter. I will remove litter and trash recovered during my detecting, and properly dispose of all trash found.
- I will not destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I will not tamper with signs, structural facilities or equipment.
- I will return an item, by any means, if someone can adequately describe it.



Remember - We are an ambassador of a pastime/hobby that we want to protect and we will be judged by how we act and respond.

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.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

RadioWorld Central

Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment & tools.

4120 8th Street SE Calgary
AB Canada T2G 3A7
403-239-1400

TOUCHWOOD ENTERPRISES

Touchwood Enterprises ...Edson 780-723-2943
www.touchwooddetectors.com

Prospecting & Metal Detecting Equipment
Email: neilrd@telus.net



Kevin Niefer

See Below

Finding Houses - Creating Homes
403-720-9501

Your RE/MAX Realty Professional

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

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

Cochrane Dental

311 1 St E, Cochrane, AB T4C 1Z3
403-932-5498

Dr. Dwayne Hinz

Find us on the web at cochranedentists.com

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 STORY in the subject area.
