

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

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This WWII era Cap Badge was an entry for the Calgary Metal Detecting Club Best Relic Find of the Year in 2004.

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



FINDS OF THE YEAR VOTING
at the
MARCH 01, 2015 MEETING.

March is always an exciting meeting for the Calgary Metal Detecting Club. We vote for our best "Finds of the Year" and there are always some pretty amazing items to view and vote on. With all the spectacular items that club members have recovered during the 2015 Metal Detecting Season, I am expecting this to be a great year for the "Finds of the Year" voting.

Remember to attend the March meeting, and to bring your best finds to enter into the "Finds of the Year" voting. Each Club member can display one item in each of the basic categories of Best Relic, Best Treasure, Best Coin and Best Trinket. The votes for Find of the Year (FOTY) are tallied, but the results kept secret until the annual awards dinner scheduled in April.

Looking Forward to seeing all the Amazing Finds at the March 2016 CMDC Meeting.
Remember to Bring your Best Finds of 2015 to the March Meeting!



Some Previous Finds of the Year

Metal Detecting is such an optimistic hobby - we always hope to find a treasure under our coil. The treasures are there to find, as is evidenced by these photos of "Finds of the Year" from previous Metal Detecting seasons.



Iain Paterson
Treasure FOTY for 2012
22 Kt Gold Pendant



James Belke
Treasure FOTY for 2008
Mother of Pearl Cameo



Wayne Teske
Coin FOTY for 2012
1921 Fishscale 5-cent piece



Dale Downing
Trinket FOTY for 2003
Hubley Derringer & Bullet



Jeff Budd-
Relic FOTY for 2012
137th Battalion WWI Cap Badge



2005 Trinket FOTY



2009 Coin FOTY



2004 Relic FOTY



2010 Treasure FOTY

Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

Metal Detecting is a hobby where most people act respectfully. Unfortunately a few bad apples have created issues in the United States, causing the hobby to be banned from public parks in a few areas. This can be avoided with a little bit of wisdom in how we enjoy our hobby.

Last year members of our local 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. Last summer I encountered the aftermath of this type of detecting, and spent a large portion of the time I could have been detecting cleaning up someone else's mess. Metal Detecting bylaws are affected by public perception of the hobby, but if we all abide by these basic "common sense" rules, it 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 enjoy. The hobby may be judged by our actions, and behavior.



Annual Awards Banquet

The next CMDC Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday April 09th, 2016 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 2015 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. The photos above are a pleasant reminder of the good times enjoyed by all who attended our last dinner in April of 2015.

Saskatchewan Metal Detecting Adventure

By Jim Hunchuk



CMDC Member
James Hunchuk

This Great Story was
CMDC Member Jim
Hunchuk's entry into our
December Buzzer contest.
Thanks for the Great Story.

In the infancy of the Internet and home computers, I never had a computer and I thought the myths of the World Wide Web were bunk and hooey. Therefore I had to resort to the more tried and true method of hunting the telephone books at the local Regina Library. I found what I was looking for in the Winnipeg Yellow Pages... Metal Detectors. There was one simple advertisement under the heading, but that was all I needed. I made the call and talked to the Gentleman who knew what I wanted, the transaction was made and I was told to wait for a week or so.

While I anticipated the call from the Greyhound Bus-lines Office, I reminisced about hunting my Great-Grandparents homestead with an inexpensive Radio-Shack Detector that my Uncle Dave had let me use when I was about 13 or 14. It was a great way for him to keep me out from under-foot while he did his chores and work on the farm in the wilds of Saskatchewan.

I remember searching the whole Orchard and Garden, close to the hedges of Carriganna and Catonia Astor, but the lawn surrounding the 70 year old homestead was my favorite, and the most lucrative. I soon learned to dig everything, as the no-frills detector had one tone and very little discrimination. I also learned that the early pioneers of the prairies, basically, just threw all of their refuse out the back door.

But I did find many great artifacts from the past lives that touched that old house. A lipstick case lost by the big Elm tree that would have been my Mother's Aunt Marilyn's, a Canadian Quarter that was used as target practice by her Uncle Charlie and his 22. My uncle Dave's toy DC-3 Airplane that was bigger than my hand, many old coins, large Pennies, many silver coins from the early half of the century and quite a few U.S. coins from the crew hired out of Minot, North Dakota to help build the original farm house. Pretty interesting items for young boy to find... All with the aid of the magical Metal Detector.

Now all I had to do was wait for my own to arrive... Patience... one of the detectorists greatest traits. I had that, so I should be OK. Finally, the call came, Saturday morning. I raced into Regina, picked up a large box marked "Fisher C-Scope" and a small fortune's worth of AA cell batteries. This was going to be great ! When I got home the whole family feigned interest, but secretly thought I had lost the plot. I read the instruction booklet from front to back and a few pages twice, just to make sure I knew what I was doing. The first place I wanted to detect was my own yard, our house was the third oldest structure in Balgonie. The old stone Church and one other house was built in 1902 and our house, the old Greenall house, was built by the Greenalls in 1903.

I figured that there had to be some history lost in that big old yard, based on the findings in my Great-Grandparents yard, well, at least I was hopeful... 10 feet out the back door I found a 1943 U.S. penny, a good strong signal and I only dug up about 2 square feet of my lawn. My pin pointing skills had suffered over the intervening years, so I vowed to try harder and pay more attention.

My next signal was just as sharp, just under the drip line of the old Fir tree in the front yard, no lawn to dig up, just prickly needles. I found the 5 Cent Trade Token under about 6 inches of soil and roots, but I was thrilled as I knew that local Trade Tokens were quite rare.

Hunting a Trashy Area

If you find yourself in a location where the soil is full of trashy material, or the surface is covered in litter, you need to adapt your strategy. First of all, recognize that most urban areas are trashy - but if you have a hot spot that you think will yield results it may be worth the effort.

In a trashy area that you plan on hunting only once, you may want to use higher discrimination. It may be a good idea to screen out iron and other non valuable metals on your detector. You can select this on your detector keypad. Most detectors can discriminate out iron, and most low frequency metals. Unfortunately some pull tabs are in the same range as gold rings and bottle caps often overlap with some silver coins. Every detectorist will dig a certain amount of trash on every hunt. Don't be discouraged. Keep at it!

In a trashy area with deep iron, It may be a good idea to turn the sensitivity way down. Very often metals that you have screened out will still register due to varying compositions, especially if the sensitivity dial is cranked to the max. This may also lead to a false reading even if the detector recognizes this as a screened out metal. Take sensitivity down and you will get less false readings.

Make use of a smaller search coil, or even a "Sniper coil", if you have one. These are smaller coils that allow you to focus on smaller patches of earth beneath the coil, and limit false readings. If you were using a larger coil for example, a diamond ring, 3 bottle caps and a doorknob could all be underneath the coil at the same time. Using a smaller coil will allow you to focus on each individual item and prevent the detector getting confused by the numerous targets presented when a trashy area is beneath the coil.

Of course, if the area has potential or is an area you plan to hunt often - just dig out the trash. It can be time-consuming, removing the trash from a planned hunt-site, can provide opportunities for great finds. You might discover whispers of silver, or small relics, that have been veiled by the other signals. In some cases deep, high quality, targets might have been disguised by trashy signals closer to the surface. By removing the trash, those good signals can be received, interpreted, and those great finds recovered.

Treasure Hunting Quotes

*"There comes a time in every rightly constructed boy's life that he has a raging desire to go somewhere and dig for hidden treasure." Mark Twain.
(For some of us, that raging desire doesn't end until we are 90, or older)*

"Metal Detecting is the modern man's way of going treasure-hunting. Instead of following red "X's" on pirate maps, you can use your metal detector to scan the ground for valuable items , like old coins, relics, jewelry, and gold nuggets." J.J. McGregor.

"We always go out looking for old coins because that is our favorite thing to find, but it's always the other weird items that come out of the ground—guns, rings, unique jewelry, tools, and so on—that are the most interesting and surprising." Tim Saylor

An update on the 1921 50-Cent Piece.

Last month's Buzzer article about the recovery of a 1921 50-cent piece may have had a less than stellar ending. According to some facebook entries on the Edmonton facegroup page, It is now believed that the recovered coin is not an original. The 50-cent piece is not thought to be a modern replica, but one dating back decades, and perhaps even 50 or 60 years. Still, It was still an exciting recovery of an "old" fake, and a great story.

12 WAYS TO FIND OLDER AREAS TO HUNT

While there are many different places hunt with your Metal Detector, the thrill of recovering older more valuable coins plus holding in your hands different relics of the past will be something you will want to experience. Finding coins from the 17th, 18th and early 19th Century is a far greater thrill than you can imagine. The answer to finding older sites is "Research!" Where can you find research material?

- 1- Old Maps - can be found in local libraries, local history books, they show old roads, abandoned railroad stations, many times school buildings and other points of interest that either no longer exist, or people have forgotten about.
- 2- Old Newspapers contain a wealth of information on almost every page Stories about holiday celebration on the town square park (May no longer exists) Carnival arriving in town (where did they set up?) and much more information.
- 3- Old Property Tax Records show where older houses, farms, service stations, interstate bus stops, taverns etc.. once stood. Lots of old coins to be found.
- 4- School Records not only tell you where schools once stood. Find all the roads and paths that students took to get to school. Find out exactly where the building or buildings stood. School playground areas, where outside lunch benches were... etc.
- 5- Local Historical Societies are a great resource containing valuable information on dozens of older happenings of your town from it's very beginnings up till today... A valuable resource not to be overlooked.
- 6- Local Museums usually have displays of historical interest as well as many books on the area's history. Spend time with anyone that works in the museum, they generally are part "Historian." Listen to what they can tell you.
- 7- Senior Citizens are a walking history of your town or city. Take the time to visit the Senior Citizen Homes and events. Make friends with those folks and listen to the stories they can tell.
- 8- Old Police Reports can pinpoint events that can turn into a "Treasure" spot. Robberies of lake front homes many times ended with the thief throwing his loot into the lake if he was about to be captured. Police calls to businesses or homes that are empty lots right now.. etc.
- 9- Old Fire Department records can indicate where many building & properties once existed. Probably the best source for what once stood on now empty lots. Fire Departments also participated in many town activities such as picnics and parades. Where did the parades begin and end? Where were the picnics held?
- 10- Churches - church records will show where the earliest churches were established. Some no longer exist & were torn down or purchased for another business now on that spot. People spent time before and after church to picnic and join in many outdoor activities.
- 11- College(s) - start small and add more buildings from time to time. Lots of areas outside buildings, sports areas, student eating areas, picnic spots, etc. Colleges are also a depository of information about the towns and cities where they are located. Check the college library.
- 12- Library - we saved the best for last. No place has more information than the local library. Check with the Librarian who can direct you to a wealth of information about your town. (Or any town if you want to search out sites in neighboring areas) Libraries are the main "Depository" of information of all kinds,, many times having a number of items discussed above, "old maps, old books, old records, etc". Get a library card, it will really pay off!

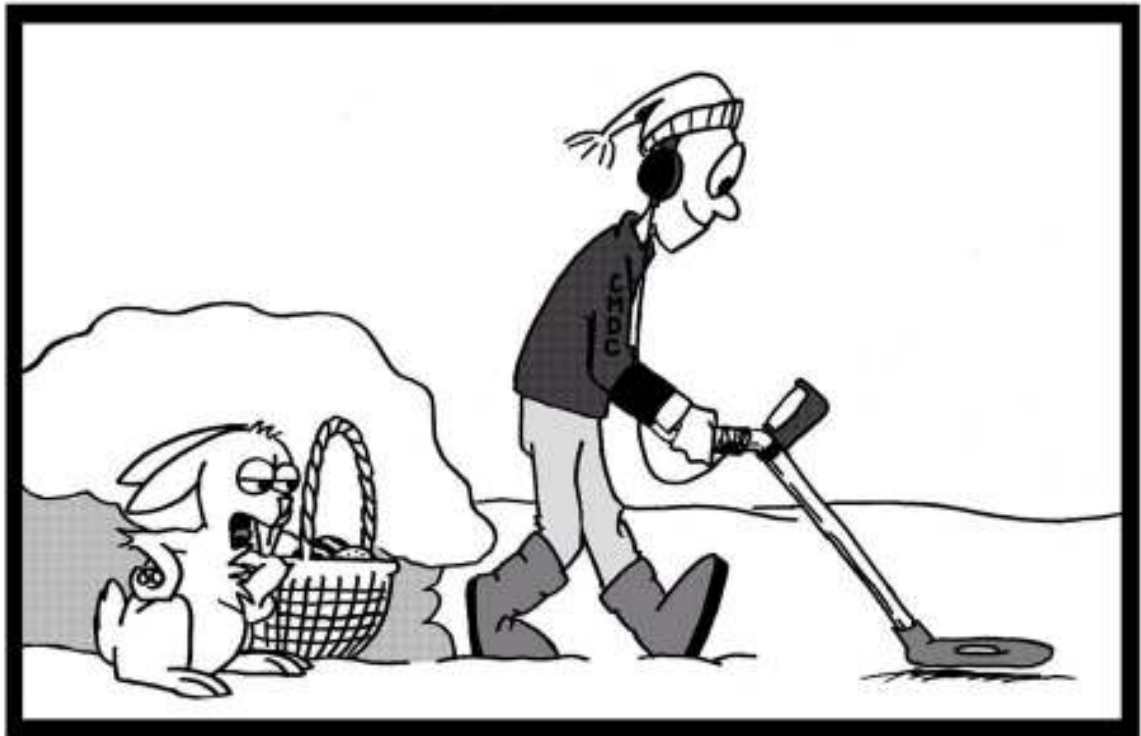
HINTS ON CLEANING DETECTED COINS

Metal Detectorists who collect coins are always very careful about how they clean coins they have found. Many serious collectors are adamant that improper cleaning can lessen the value. However, we all know that dug coins are sometimes encrusted with dirt and materials from the ground, and proper cleaning will enhance their appearance and improve their value. Here are a few techniques that work and will not hurt the value of most dug coins. Archaeologists in Europe who deal with ancient coin finds use the following two methods:

1. Soak the coins in distilled water for a day or two, and then put them in your freezer. The water penetrates the dirt and the ice crystals expand and break the dirt apart. It may take several repetitions of the process to remove all of the dirt; however, the coins are not damaged.

2. Lay the coins on a piece of wax after covering them with a layer of Elmer's white glue. Let the glue dry thoroughly and then pull it off the coins. A layer of dirt will be removed without damaging the coins and again several repetitions may be needed to completely clean them.

Another method used by many Metal Detectorists is "soaking in oil". While some will use olive oil, others find that high-grade mineral oil will work equally well. This method may take a while, as the coin may need to sit in the oil for several weeks in order to soften the crusty surface of the coin. Then it can be removed from the oil, and carefully cleaned using a soft brush and a toothpick. More than one repetition may be needed. If using this method, it is recommended to find a way to prop the coin up so that both sides of the coin are in contact with the oil.



"DARN! EVERY YEAR IT GETS HARDER
AND HARDER TO HIDE THESE THINGS!"

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

Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC)

c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE
Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2



Asking Permission is Safer than asking forgiveness

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.
