

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

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

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 06, 2018
CMDC MEETING.**

The March meeting of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club is when the club votes for "Finds of the Year". We will be voting on the Best Items found during the 2017 Metal Detecting season.

Remember to attend the March meeting, and to bring your Best Finds from 2017 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 can vote for their favourite recovered Item from each category, and the winners will be announced at our annual awards dinner, 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 of the Best recoveries from the 2017 metal detecting season.

Looking Forward to seeing all the Amazing Finds at the March 2018 CMDC Meeting.
Remember to Bring your Best Finds and Recoveries from 2017 to the March Meeting!



Annual Awards Dinner

The next CMDC Annual Awards Dinner is scheduled to be held on Saturday April 14th, 2018 at the Danish Canadian Club of Calgary (same location as last year). CMDC members and their guests are invited to get together for an excellent dinner and great conversation with some great people. This dinner is also the time to celebrate the winners of the Best Finds of the 2017 Metal Detecting Season, and to recognize our CMDC Member of the Year.

The cost for the dinner will be \$30.00 per person. You can purchase tickets at the March and April CMDC meeting. Stay tuned for more information - to be announced on the facebook group page and by email. The Danish Canadian Club address is 727 - 11 Avenue SW, Calgary.

Here is a list of the Finds of the Year winners from the 2016 season that were awarded at the 2017 CMDC Annual Dinner last April.

2016 Treasure FOTY:

Find of the Year - 22K Gold Ring, won by Ian Paterson (Second - Gold Coin Pendant - Jose Chong).

2016 Coin FOTY:

Find of the Year - 1883 Barber Dollar, won by Tracey Neal (Second - 1905 5-Cent Piece - Clayton Blancher).

2016 Trinket FOTY:

Find of the Year - Merry Widow condom case, won by Iain Paterson (Second - Maple Leaf Pin - Jeff Budd).

2016 Relic FOTY:

Find of the Year - Military ID Tag, won by Jose Chong (Second - 1916 RCMP Badge - Iain Paterson).

CMDC 2016 Member of Year: Peggy Kemp

Mini-Glossary

One things that newcomers to the hobby discover 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 lawn-mower.

CLAD - Any form of modern money (ie. not silver). I've heard it stands for "Coins, Lost and Dirty".

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 grade of 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 it helps keep the public perception of our hobby in a good light. 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 some cities are being closed to detecting because of the perception that detectorists cause 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

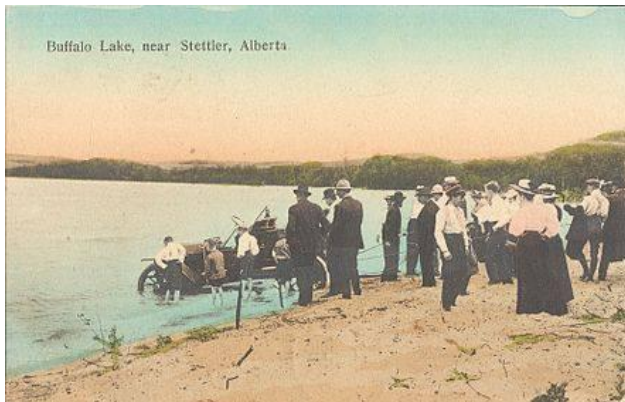
Nestled along a bend in the Bow River near the community of Inglewood in the near Southeast lies the beautiful picnic area called Pearce Estate Park. William Pearce was a prominent figure in Calgary's development. He arrived in Calgary in 1874, working as for the Canadian government for over 30 years; first as a land surveyor, then as an inspector of the Dominion Lands Agencies, and eventually as superintendent of mines. William Pearce donated a portion of his estate to the City of Calgary as a Park in the mid-1920s. Much of the rest was purchased at a later day, and developed into a wetland.

The 80 hectare estate originally hosted a 15 room sandstone home (no longer present) called the "Bow Bend Shack", which contained irrigated gardens, tennis courts, and hosted many parties over the years. There are photos in the Glenbow Archives of swimming parties held along the river on the estate before the weir was built. William Pearce encouraged Calgarians to plant trees, and lead by example in developing his estate into a beautiful forested area. The area closest to the river was donated as parkland, but much of the estate was in use by the family until the land was sold in the late 1950s. However, the area where the house was located is now underwater as part of the "wetlands" section of the park.

The Glenbow Archives also has photos of picnics, sleigh rides, and a WWI era military encampment somewhere on the Pearce estate. While I have hunted there and never found anything earlier than the 1960s, other detectorists have discovered items from much earlier. As we always say, no place is ever totally hunted out. Who knows what lays waiting for our recovery.



ROCHON SANDS SEEDED HUNT - 2018



Exciting News - the next Rochon Sands Seeded Hunt is fast approaching. The Hunt is scheduled at the Village of Rochon Sands on Buffalo Lake - and is to be held on Saturday May 26th, 2018..

The Rochon Sands Spring hunt sounds like a great day out. The plans for this event include 2 seeded hunts with hundreds of silvers and prize tokens, with a fun contest/ skill test between hunts, and a catered lunch (BBQ Pork on a bun). There will also be a 50/50 draw and a raffle.

Camping will be available at the Rochon Sands Provincial Park, but you may want to pre-register, as this event will draw people from all over the province. Hotel accommodations are available in the nearby community of Stettler, which is only a 20 minute drive away.

The cost for the event is \$65.00 for EMDC/CMDC members, and \$75.00 for non-members. Lunch only guests will be charged \$12.00. Registration is available by mail or by e-transfer, and anyone who pays by March 17th, 2018 will have their name entered in a draw for a 1 oz silver coin. you can send eTransfer registration fees to: ryanfdery@gmail.com or mail a cheque payable to Ryan Dery at: Unit #207, 592 Hooke Road NW, Edmonton, AB, T5A 5H2 .

I hope to see you all there, as this is a wonderful time to get together with other detectorists from all over Alberta, and promises to be a great hunt. A brochure is available at both the EMDC and the CMDC facebook group page, but if a Buzzer reader is not on facebook, and would like one, send either club an email and one will be sent out to you.

Swing Low - Swing Slow - Metal Detecting Tip

PRACTICE SWINGING YOUR DETECTOR - The way you swing your metal detector is just as important as choosing the right settings. The popular metal detecting saying "low and slow" is about keeping the metal detector coil as close to the ground **without** touching it as you can, and swinging it slow enough to allow it to process what is beneath it. For example, if you swing too fast, the metal detector will not pick up smaller targets because it did not have enough time to pick up the disturbance in the ground. Too fast and you can miss smaller targets, or deeper ones - thus no target will be heard. Additionally, if you swing your detector coil too far off the ground - then that is depth you are losing if it were closer.



METAL DETECTING GO-KIT

Most Hobbyists have set-up a Detecting "Go-Kit" or "Tool Belt" that they keep stocked - to grab-and-go whenever they find time to set out for a "hunt". Beginners in the hobby wonder what a "Go-Kit" would look like for them - here are a few items that you will find other detectorists using.

Some detectorists use a shoulder bag, but around Calgary it seems that a lot of detectorists set this up in a workman's "Tool Apron". The contents of these kits will vary from person to person, but the basics remain the same. The apron (with pockets) has a built in finds pouch, and trash pouch. Remember that you will never, ever go out detecting and not find something (trash or treasure).

You will need your basic array of tools - usually this will include a digger, probe, and pinpointer. Some people will also carry small saws (for tree roots). While some people use a simple garden trowel as their digger, others swear by the "hard-core" units developed for the hobby. The probe can be anything from a soft brass probe, to a screw-driver or awl. I personally use a scratch awl that has been filed to a rounded tip. It goes in the hardest dirt very easily. A drop cloth to keep your digging area clean is another great item to include. Spare batteries are a must. I also carry a magnet for a quick "silver" check.

It is always good to be prepared for the weather. Carry a hat, bug spray and sunscreen for sunny days. If the weather might change (Hey - its Calgary), carry clear plastic bags to protect your detector and your finds on rainy days. It is a good idea to use gloves to protect yourself from sharp objects in the ground. Everyone has an opinion on this - some don't like gloves, some use leather gloves, while others use plasticized cotton. Find out what works best for you.

A lot of people will pack a magnifying glass or jewellers loupe to examine recovered items closely. They may also carry a small container for "special finds" to make sure that great item isn't damaged. I usually carry a couple of plastic "grocery bags" in case the area is so trashy that my "garbage pouch" is overflowing. Another thing to carry is water. You don't want to dehydrate, but note that "foo-foo" juice will also clean off a find enough to see details on a recovered item that are otherwise unavailable until you get home.

No matter where you are hunting, don't forget your cell-phone. It's can be a life-saver if something goes wrong - but cell phones also have cameras. If you find that one of a kind item - you might want to be able to take a photo in situ, or a video of the recovery.



Bad Metal detecting Humor

- ❖ Some gold wanders into a bar - and the bartender yells, "AU - get the heck out of here!"
- ❖ For sale. Golden Retriever, had for nine months, has yet to retrieve gold. Should have just bought a Metal Detector!
- ❖ What did the old coin say to the metal detector? Don't take that tone with me!



Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

The Metal Detecting Code of Ethics has been around a long time, and is a good common-sense approach to the hobby. I remember seeing it included in the instructions that came with my first metals detector almost a decade ago, and know that it is much older than that. 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

GPS Central & RadioWorld Central

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

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 403-239-1400

The CMDC's yearly dues are:

In-town membership : \$25.00
 Out-of-town membership: \$20.00
 Family Membership \$40.00

Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC)
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 Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2



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