

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# The Buzzer

Volume 49 – issue 2    March 2020

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

We may need a Mask to protect ourselves – but we'll be digging treasures in no time.

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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](http://www.cmdc.org).

## Annual CMDC Awards Banquet CANCELLED

The CMDC usually holds the Annual Awards Banquet in early April. This year the dinner was scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, but that has changed. As you know, Covid 19 has affected many aspects of our life and with the change in rules about social gatherings, our venue has closed, and our banquet has been cancelled. Our Awards banquet will be postponed until the Covid virus threat is over. At some point in the future when all this is over, we will have a get-together. It may be a summer BBQ, or a pot-luck picnic hunt, but it will happen.

This banquet is also the time to celebrate the winners of the Best Finds of the 2019 Metal Detecting Season, and to recognize our CMDC Member of the Year. We voted on these finds during the March 2020 meeting, and the winners have been tabulated. Wow, there were sure some amazing choices for best Finds of the Year. It was going to be a tight race in a lot of categories.

We are not sure how the presentation of the Finds of the Year and Member of the Year awards will play out – a decision will be made by the club executive when this Covid 19 situation seems clearer. Stay tuned for more information – it will go out on the Facebook group page and by email.



## April CMDC Club Meeting CANCELLED

As most of you know, the CMDC usually holds meetings at the Brentwood Co-op the first Tuesday of every month. Our club was contacted by the Brentwood Co-op, which has informed us that they are closing their meeting room for the foreseeable future. The Co-op meeting room will not be available for public use during the current Covid 19 crisis.

We know that the April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting is cancelled. It is more than likely that the May meeting will be in the same boat. We will keep you informed when we have more information, but this appears to be the new normal – especially as the province and the city have issued new regulations about social gatherings. I think we can assume that we will not be gathering for the monthly meetings for a while.

There have been conversations about club hunts held at different parks, or at the same park with staggered times. We will let you all know when a decision has been made. We are a strong club, and we will survive this crisis. All of you keep healthy and well, and I look forward to seeing you at a future CMDC meeting. We will send out more information when we have it - it will go out on the Facebook group page and by email.

March is a time when many new detectorists are outside experimenting with the brand-spanking-new metal detector they got for Christmas. Every few years we publish a Buzzer geared towards learning the hobby. I figured 2020 was a good year for that issue. One thing newcomers to the hobby find is that Detecting has developed its own lingo. Here are a few terms that you might hear in conversation around the Calgary Metal Detecting Club, or metal detecting in general.

## Mini- Glossary

CACHE - Coins or jewelry deliberately buried together. It may also a group 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 in the hole or on the 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, reusable shopping 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 want your Metal Detectorist 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.

# 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 over a decade ago, and I 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.**



## **BUZZER CONTEST WINNER 2019**

Our Buzzer Contest for December 2019 was won by Lynette Edison. Lynette sent in the fun seasonal poem, “12 Days of Christmas – Detecting Style”, which you might remember from the January 2020 Buzzer.

While new to the CMDC, Lynette’s joy in the metal detecting hobby makes her a definite asset to our club. She will be presented with her contest prize of a Silver Dollar at a future date when we are all able to gather again. Congratulations Lynette, and thanks for the great story.

**\*\*\*On the 12th day of Christmas my detector found for me - 12 balls of foil, 10 rebar ties, 9 silver dimes, 8 coins of clad, 7 crinkled beer caps, me 6 vintage pennies, Five Golden Rings, 4 metal washers, 3 children’s toys, 2 rusty nails, and a token by an oak tree.\*\*\***



# 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, someone dug up a modern (heavy) silver bracelet, and I pulled up a kitchen scale weight - 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.



## 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 best choice for "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 could go into the Treasure category instead. Upper Canada and Maritime Bank tokens and jetons were all considered legal tender, so they would be considered coins. The coin can be made out of any metal, and from any country. Any attempts to sneak in wooden nickels or Canadian Tire money will be frowned upon.

### BEST TREASURE – GOLD & SILVER

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 members in the past have brought in gold nuggets, and Silver Victoria Jubilee teaspoons. 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. Note that the club does have a gold-tester, so ask, and we can test if your item actually is gold. This year we divided this category into two sections (one for silver, and another for gold/platinum, etc). This was simply because we had so many exceptional silver finds, but gold always won the vote because of value. It seems to be working for our club.

### BEST RELIC

The CMDC considers relics as items over 35 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 35 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 35 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, fishing lures, or anything that just doesn't look old enough to be really considered a Relic. Think of such things as being "Relics-In-Training".

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## Rochon Lake Hunt - Cancelled for 2020

After careful consideration the Edmonton Metal Detecting Club (EMDC) has decided that the 2020 Rochon Sands Seeded Hunt at Rochon Sands on Buffalo Lake is officially cancelled. We will wait to see what the future holds for our great Rochon Sands multi-club event. Events like this take a lot of planning, and volunteers to work properly. We are hoping that this super-fun event will take place again in the future.

Thank you for your understanding. If you want to see events like this in the future, please remember to raise your hand and volunteer.



Postcard - early 1900s



Rochon Sands Hunt - 2019

## 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. I also found a huge modern pocket spill (4 loonies and a toonie) under a tree in a different park.

When you plan to detect in a park – Stop for a moment and take a long look around the area. 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.



# 10 Tips for Beginning Detectorists

Once you've made the decision to buy a new metal detector and get home with it, you no doubt can't wait to get started with some detecting. Here are some important tips for newcomers to the hobby of metal detecting. Metal detecting is a lot of fun, and depending on what you find, can also be very interesting. For the most part, you will learn from your errors, but here are some helpful tips that will make life a little easier at the beginning.

**Tip 01. – Expect to find more trash than treasure.** You will probably encounter a lot of junk. You'll find a lot of cans and trash, and we mean a lot. But don't give up! This is just another part of the hobby.

**Tip 02. – Dig everything.** When you're just getting started, it's nearly impossible to know if a signal is a trash or treasure, so dig everything. You don't want to miss something good! A common rookie mistake is to only dig strong signals, but don't skip the faint sounds because they could be great finds hidden at greater depths.

**Tip 03. – The more you search, the more you will find.** Persistence is key when you are using your first metal detector. The more time you spend searching, the more likely you are to find something nice.

**Tip 04. – Slow down.** If you are moving too fast, you might miss something important. Don't try to dig your signal too fast, you can damage the relic. Also, you can hit some live ammunition of ordnance with your shovel. (not so much around Calgary).

**Tip 05. – Keep the coil parallel to the ground.** Sometimes you might have the tendency to accidentally lift your coil at the end of a sweep, but be careful to avoid this, as you are losing potential targets.

**Tip 06. – Clear the surface before you dig.** If you hear a signal, take a second to clear away the top layer of dirt before you start digging. Once the top layer is moved, use your metal detector to do another sweep. If the signal is gone, it was probably a small piece of trash or mineralization in the dirt and you need to move on. Sometimes it does happen that small relics like buttons are on the surface hidden in the foliage, as you remove debris - scan it.

**Tip 07. – One find often means two.** If you dig up something interesting, then spend some time searching in that area. Oftentimes, one good target indicates that people were there, and a careful hunter will locate other nice finds there.

**Tip 08. – Look for the local hot spots.** Search on Google.com, read some books about history, and talk to local people – elders to find out about historic places in your city and then start searching there. Use your imagination – anywhere people are likely to have left things behind, you are likely to make good finds!

**Tip 09. – Hunt after rain.** Wet ground is much better suited for metal detecting and it will make it much easier to find what you are looking for. Wet ground allows your detector to locate deeper targets, and will clear-up scratchy signals.



**Tip 10. – Be respectful.** Cover up your holes after you are done digging. Don't leave any trash behind. Be careful to respect the people and the land or you might find that you are no longer welcome to hunt in your favorite areas. When you dug up trash, take it with you and don't leave it behind. It will be one less false signal to worry with later.

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## LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Although cancelled until further notice, the Calgary Metal Detecting club usually meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the Brentwood Co-op store, 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. We will restart the monthly meetings after the Covid 19 crisis is over.

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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| <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p><b>Kevin Niefer</b><br/> <i>See Below</i></p> <p><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i><br/> 403-259-4141</p> </div> <p>To view Kevin's listings visit him on the internet @ <a href="mailto:www.kevinniefer@remax.ca">www.kevinniefer@remax.ca</a> – or give him a call at 403-259-4141</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BONNA-JEAN CAMPBELL</b><br/> <b>Brand Promotor</b><br/> <b>The Thrive Experience by Le-Vel</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing BURN<br/> BURN calories, BURN fat, and<br/> Ignite your body into Thermogenesis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing PROTEIN BARS<br/> Premium Nutrition – Sequential Bar Technology<br/> Lemon Meringue – Cinnamon Roll – Cookies &amp; Cream – Birthday Cake<br/> Check this out and more on my website:<br/> <a href="http://www.Thrivewithbjc.thrive2point0.com">www.Thrivewithbjc.thrive2point0.com</a><br/> Email: <a href="mailto:Thrivewithbjc@gmail.com">Thrivewithbjc@gmail.com</a></p> |
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