

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# THE BUZZER

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This WWII Era Cap Badge for the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps Was recovered by a CMDC member during the 2017 Metal Detecting Season. What will we find this year? Looking forward to some amazing recoveries!

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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).

# Yahooo!!! The 2023 Metal Detecting Season is almost here!



March is a time when many new detectorists are excited about learning the hobby with the brand-spanking-new metal detector they got for Christmas. If you are new to the hobby check out the March 2022 Buzzer (files on Facebook, and on the CMDC website). It was filled with articles geared towards learning the hobby.

The CMDC will be starting to hold club hunts when the spring weather is such that the ground is warm enough to dig, and we don't have to wear parkas while we are out detecting.

So to both newcomers and those who have been around for a while - welcome to the 2023 Metal Detecting season. We hope you all find something amazing this year, and are able to get out and enjoy the hobby as much as we do!

## Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

The Metal Detecting Code of Ethics 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 dates back a long ways.

The future of our hobby is affected by public perception of it. If we abide by these basic "common sense" rules, Metal Detecting will be around as a hobby for our enjoyment for a long time. At least once a year we publish the Metal Detecting Code of Ethics in the Buzzer as a reminder that we all need to be responsible hobbyists.

- 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.**

# 2023 CMDC CLUB MEETINGS

Starting in December of 2022 Calgary Metal Detecting Club arranged for “in person” meetings for the club. We contacted our old location about CMDC meetings, and found that we would not be able to hold club meetings in our old (pre-Covid) location. The Brentwood Co-op had placed limits on numbers of permitted attendees that would not suit our club size. The club executive believed that it would be advisable to find a new location.

Unfortunately, our first alternate meeting place location has not been the most reliable. We are working on a replacement. We will continue to hold monthly meetings, but for the next few months they will likely be on-line (zoom) meetings. The meeting dates will be published on the CMDC.org website calendar, on the CMDC Facebook group page, and emailed out to the group. We still plan for outdoor club hunts to start as the Spring weather permits. The next meeting will be a zoom meeting on March 09, 2023.

I am hoping that the advent into spring brings you all some amazing finds to share at our meetings. I know I was looking at the patches of grass showing up through the melting snow and thinking about digging out my detecting gear and heading out on an adventure. Then it snowed again! Whether you are waiting until club hunts are re-established or have already dug out your gear and hit the ground running – stay safe, and healthy! We look forward to seeing you again at future meetings of the CMDC.

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## CMDC Website – A Whole New Look

Some members of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDc) have already visited the new CMDc website – Thank you to Jamie Schmidt for all your hard work updating our club website. The new format makes things look a lot more current and provides some great information. I think the new look of the website is fabulous!

The CMDc website provides a list of upcoming club events, club contact information, and has a few issues of the Buzzer. It also provides information about the CMDc, benefits of club membership, and provides a list of books from our club library available to CMDc members.

You can try it out yourself by visiting the website at cmdc.org. The website is still a work in progress. It is exciting to hear about all the possibilities – there is talk about adding photos and stories about amazing finds, an interactive calendar, and a possible private forum for member discussions. Keep returning and looking at all the fun changes taking place – I’m sure that we will see great things from the new CMDc.org website.



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# **An ODE TO THE LOWLY PULL-TAB**

**Jamie Schmidt – 2022 Buzzer Contest Entry**

Jamie Schmidt's entry into the 2022 Buzzer Story Contest is a great look at the Schmidt family's advent into the amazing hobby of metal detecting. Their adventure in metal detecting began in 2022 – as did special memories brought back by finding a "lowly pull-tab."

As the inaugural year of my family's metal detecting adventure comes to a close, I'd like to wade into shark infested waters and give a little love to the bane of many a detectorist, the pull tab.

Last Christmas we gifted my son a Bounty Hunter Tracker IV, the most entry level of metal detectors on the market short of buying one at Toys 'R' Us. An interest in gold panning had evolved to an affinity for old coins and metal detecting seemed a natural next step. I'd often thought treasure hunting would be fun myself, so we took the plunge in what seemed to be a perfect new family activity. If nothing else, it would get us out of the house and away from our myriad screens.

Of course, this being Calgary, our metal detecting debut had to wait for spring to remove the blanket of snow and warm the temperatures to something bare hands could tolerate. Anticipation grew with each notch the mercury inched above zero. Finally, in early May the time came.

We gathered up our gear, the Bounty Hunter, a knockoff pinpointer, a small garden trowel, and a plastic sifter, and headed to our community lake to see what riches our neighbours had lost in the sand. With no experience and even less knowledge to draw upon, we rushed to the empty beach, turned on our metal detector and just started swinging. In no time at all we got a tone. An odd tone, though we really had no way of knowing that yet, but a tone nonetheless. Excited, we dropped to our knees and started sifting the cold sand beneath the identified target. You know full well what we found.

The thing about that particular pull tab, and the half dozen more we found that first night, is the genuine excitement I felt at finding it. Sure, money would have been better. And we did find money, eventually. A penny, of course. But that pull tab was still something. It was something that'd been lost, okay, discarded, and we had found it with our magical machine. That was unmistakably cool, and it triggered a desire to find more.

As our new metal detecting hobby progressed through the spring and into summer, from our own outings in our community to club hunts around the city to the wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering near Sundre, we found many, MANY more pull tabs. Too many to count, really. And in that time, we too started to curse them. As our skills grew, we even started ignoring the telltale dual tone pull tabs typically produced in our Bounty Hunter.

Now, though, as winter pauses our hunting for a few months, I find myself reflecting on our first season and can't help but think that even the dastardly pull tabs were fun finds. They may not be worth anything, but each managed to trigger a small pang of nostalgia. For me, pull tabs are disposable links to moments of joy. They're evidence of a stranger's delight, and they remind me of similar moments when I held a tasty cream soda as a kid or a chilled lager as an adult.

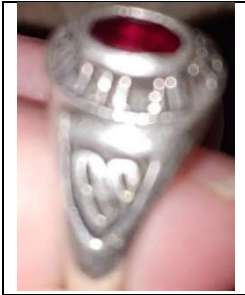
Sure, I now cuss under my breath when a dig is revealed to be yet another pull tab, but as I repair the plug and return to swinging, my mind travels back in time. I remember summer nights sitting around the campfire with my parents. I'm reminded of doing the exact same thing now with my own kids. I remember sleepless long weekends with all my friends, drinking beer, listening to music, and awkwardly trying to impress the girls camping next to us. I remember the house parties, the family BBQs, and the trips to the beach. I remember always fidgeting with the pull tab on my beverage can until it came loose, and I'd drop it into the can. Sometimes ... I'd toss it to the ground.

Not many other finds can do all that. Not other trash, certainly. Not even the good stuff. Relics can trigger wonder, but rarely is it as simple, or personal, as that produced by the most unloved of finds, the pull tab. Besides, they're not nearly as frustrating as the gold mimicking devil that is foil!

# Ring Return – Summer 2022

By PEGGY KEMP

In late May of 2022 I was out digging in a local neighbourhood park after supper – It was a beautiful late spring night, and close to sundown (around 9:00 PM). I was hunting an area of the park that I hadn't detected in a while. I was surprised at the amount of clad I dug up, but the find of the night was my first class ring. It was a silver 1980 SAIT ring with a ruby stone. My husband, Leon, and I decided that we would search out the owner and try to return the recovered ring.



The ring had initials (KP) and a last name. We searched the internet for that name around Calgary but were unsuccessful. We searched other school reunion websites like classmates.com – with no luck. Leon had the idea that we might be able to find some SAIT yearbooks. He was able to find a digitized copy of the 1980 SAIT yearbook available online. When we searched the pages of that yearbook for the last name, we found that the yearbook contained a photo that listed KP's first name (not just an initial) and provided a gender (female). A further search of google for the full first and last name revealed a family obituary for a parent, which listed relatives. The first name now had a different ending – so we had the current married name.

An internet search for KP's married name brought up both a linked-in and Facebook profile. We left messages in both locations. Eventually we got a response, and after a few messages and email, we were able to confirm that we had located the right person. KP was very interested in having her ring back.

In late June of 2022 Leon and I met up with KP in a restaurant on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW to return the rings. As an afterthought, I brought both the SAIT ring and silver ring with an engagement ring style, and a round-cut clear gemstone that I recovered about 50 feet away a few days after the first recovery. KP was astonished to see both rings. She was delighted with the SAIT ring, but also recognized the silver engagement ring, and put that one on her finger immediately. She was thrilled to get both rings back. The rings, along with other jewellery, had been stolen from her house over a decade before. The second ring ended up being an heirloom engagement ring that had belonged to KP's great-aunt. She was thrilled to get back her aunt's ring, which had much more sentimental value to her - even more so than the SAIT class ring.

Some items on my personal metal detecting wish-list were to find and return a class ring, and to be able to return a sentimental jewellery item. Two things crossed off my wish-list in one day. Bonus!

I asked the woman who lost the rings for permission to share this story in the Buzzer. The woman had no issues, but did not want her identity revealed. I have used the initials KP in place of her name to honour her request. .



## Metal Detecting – a New Adventure

Gloria Conklin – 2022 Buzzer Contest Entry

Gloria Conklins short but sweet entry into the 2022 Buzzer Story Contest is a great look at remembering all the new adventures we look forward to as we start in on the hobby of metal detecting. Remember all the firsts – first coin, first ring, first relic – Here is hoping that Gloria finds some amazing firsts with her friends as they join the CMDC and our great hobby of metal detecting.

I'm new to detecting this year and I have recruited 2 people to join the club so far. This is one amazing hobby that I am so obsessed with. I enjoy the kindness of other members with all the help that I've been shown. I have found a few bracelets and some coins. Then again I never got out as much as I would have liked. I'm looking forward to spring do I can get out there

## **DANISH MUSEUM DISPLAYS METAL DETECTING FINDS**

The National Museum of Denmark opened a special exhibition in February of 2023. This exhibition is paying tribute, not to professional archaeologists, but to amateur historians armed with metal detectors.

Most Danish detectorists are thrilled to have their finds established as a museum display. Museum curators say that when the metal detecting became very popular in the 1980s, there were some “very wise museum managers who said “we need to work with these people.” A law was established in Denmark stating that historic find must be reported to the government, and handed over to museums, in exchange for a finders fee.

Hjalte Eadskaer Molgaard is a detecting hobbyist who works with Denmark’s national museum. He has been detecting for decades and says he has always loved history. While he has found many finds from the First and Second World War eras, he is thrilled to have one of his discoveries on display – a gold medieval ring featuring the face of Christ. This was a “find of a lifetime” for him, and he is excited that the Danish population can now see it.

Danish detectorist Ole Ginnerup Schytz is another detectorist who has a display in the exhibit. He was detecting a permission near the town of Vindelev when he discovered a Roman gold hoard that had been buried for 1500 years. The Vindelev Hoard is now going on display as a part of the exhibit. It contains almost one kilogram of gold items including large medallions and gold coins.

Museum Curator Line Bjerg hopes the exhibit may inspire others to pick up a metal detector. She says that this exhibition is an example of how history is being uncovered by ordinary Danes. Bjerg says “I want the audience to understand that our museum is being built by ordinary people”.

The “Hunt for Danish History” display opened at Denmark’s National Museum in Copenhagen on Saturday, February 4, 2023, and will run for a year.



## **HAMILTON “POP-UP” METAL DETECTING MUSEUM**

In January of 2023 a group of hard-core detectorists opened up a one day “Pop-Up” Metal Detecting Museum in Hamilton, Ontario. The “Pop-Up” event was held near the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Veterans Association Building. Two local detectorists, Mike Guarascia and Gary Write, organized the event, which featured finds by multiple detectorists around the area.

The free show featured hundreds of coins, rings, musket balls, pioneer axe heads and other relics found around the Hamilton area. It was also an opportunity for detectorists around Hamilton to meet up, and for local history fans to see some cool recovered items. The artifacts were not for sale – detectorists just wanted to get together, and to show off their collection of finds.

Mike Guarascia is the host of a local cable program called “Dirt Fishing”, and the author of a metal detecting book, “The Relic Hunter”. Mike explained that there are a lot of detectorists who only know each other online, but have never met, nor seen one another’s prized finds. His idea was germinated from the thought, “Why don’t we all get together and show our relics”. Others thought it was a great idea, and joined in.

Another of the local participants was Liz Cabral, who has a YouTube channel with nearly 6000 subscribers under “Digging Canuck”. She planned to bring a table full of relics, including a British regiment military badge lost during the War of 1812. Cabral said “There are so many historical objects in the ground that I think we can be busy for a very long time”.

The detectorists agree that much of the joy of metal detecting is in the searching for, and recovery of, unique objects. While there is always a faint hope of finding something valuable, that seldom happens with most detectorists. Most recoveries have limited monetary value. The real joy for relic hunters is finding a bit of lost history and trying to research it to find out the story behind it.

## Celebrity Metal Detectorists

Recreational metal detecting has been around as a hobby since the 1950s. Over the decades many people have tried their hand at it and have recovered some amazing treasures. It is not surprising to find that a few celebrities and stars have been bitten by the metal detecting bug over the years.



Bill Wyman holding recovered coin

Bill Wyman is the former bassist for the "Rolling Stones" and is an avid detectorist. He even collaborated on the development of a light-weight detector for children. Wyman bought a manor house in Suffolk in 1968, and kept finding historic fragments around the estate. After Wyman retired from the Stones in the early 1990's, he bought a metal detector, and was instantly hooked. Since that purchase he uncovered layers of history on his land, including the site of a Roman homestead. Wyman's detecting finds have been on display at a local museum, and he has written a book about his favourite finds.



Hank Williams Jr.

Hank Williams Jr. is a well-known Country & Western musician. Hank has detected for decades – He bought his first detector in the 1960s. Williams has taken other musicians out to show them the ropes of the hobby, including Eric Church and Kid Rock. Hank Williams Jr. has detected areas around central Tennessee for years, and has an extensive collection of Civil War era finds he has recovered with his metal detector.



Mackenzie Crook

Mackenzie Crook, who plays Andy on the British comedy series "Detectorists", has been a part of the metal detecting community for years. Crook, who developed and directed the series, based some of the series on his own detecting experiences. Mackenzie Crook says that he doesn't get out detecting as often as he'd like but enjoys the hobby when he does. His best finds over the years were noted as a silver sixpence, a Georgian shoe-buckle, and some very early musket balls. "They're not going to make the British Museum," Crook said, "but it was exciting to unearth them."



Sterling Marlin

Sterling Marlin is a Nascar driver - and grew up in Columbia, Tennessee. He grew up in an area with a lot of history, and as a kid he and his friends could go about a mile down the road and find areas where soldiers camped during the Civil war. They "would use metal detectors and find buckles and buttons from their uniforms - things like that." Marlin has gotten back into detecting and has found civil war relics on farmland around Mechanicsville and Cold Harbor, Tennessee.

Other celebrity detectorists include Jase Robertson of Duck Dynasty, Actress Carey Mulligan, Kid Rock, model Lorna Roberts, and Mike Gentry.



## **Metal Detecting - Leave No Trace**

One thing that I can never emphasize enough is the importance of "Leave no Trace." If we are serious about maintaining our hobby, we should be careful of how the area looks when we leave. When we have finished detecting an area we should be able to look back over that park, and not see any evidence of where we were digging out our treasures. This is good for the environment and helps to maintain the good reputation of our metal detecting hobby.

A big part of this is making sure plugs are properly dug, and holes filled in. Nothing will ruin people's perception metal detecting than walking through a park and seeing "gopher holes" or rings of dried grass that someone left behind. It comes down to practice and knowledge – taking the time to learn the hobby. When I started metal detecting my holes were huge. I had a few members of the club take the time to give me some lessons in how to dig a proper plug, and how to retrieve objects with less damage. I stopped digging huge round circles out of the earth and started using hinged (horseshoe) plugs. My ability to pinpoint the target improved, and my holes became much smaller. Most members of the CMDC are happy to take a bit of time and teach digging techniques to someone starting out in the hobby.

Speaking of leaving no trace, that includes properly disposing of your recovered trash items. You are going to find targets - lots of them – and most of them will be trash. A rough estimate is that most of us will find 20% keepers to 80% trash items. You are sure to find some "treasures", but you will also find plenty of bottle caps, pull-tabs, and foil. It is a part of the hobby. I have gone into parks with my detector and found unsightly half-filled plugs with the "trash" sitting right beside the hole, even though there was a garbage can less than 20 meters away. If you dug it up, take the time to make sure that it goes into the trash barrel. I use a finds pouch with a designated trash area for that reason. I am not saying pick up every piece of trash or litter than you see on the ground - just use a bit of common sense and dispose of "non-keeper" target items. Think about it – if you were hunting the same park next year, would you want to hear that signal, and dig up that item again.

It's easy to leave people with a good impression of our hobby, especially as we practice and become more skillful. It's like golf or hockey - you will never get any better without practicing and learning from others. Then someday you will look back at the end of a hunt through a park, and you know that no-one will be able to tell just where you dug that silver quarter or gold ring in your pouch.



## **Metal Detecting without a Pinpointer**

If you don't have a pinpointer yet, it may be difficult to locate the target before you dig. There is another method for selecting your "dig spot". You can "Cross Check" or "X-Check" the target area. Swing the coil from left to right and from top to bottom over the target area. Loudest point is center of the target. Then swing again at a 90-degree angle. This should allow you to center in on your target. Where the two swings meet is the "X", and the find should be close to the center of the X.

Another method is to "Coil Check" your find. Once you have a good target signal, you can edge your detector back until you no longer hear the signal. If the find is shallow, the target should be right in front of the coil. Move your estimation back, depending on the depth of the target.

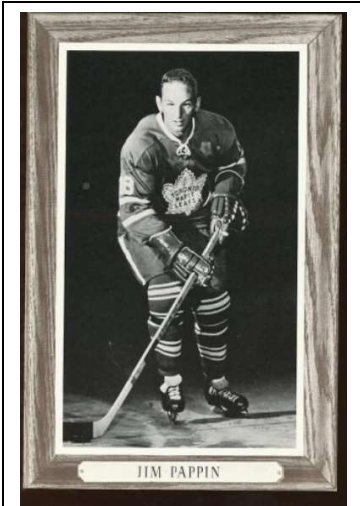
Once you have used the Cross Check or Coil-Check method, use a probe to locate coins. This is better for targets three inches or less. Once the clad coin is located, you can use the probe to pry them up out of the ground, but only if you are sure that the coins are clad. If you are in an area where you suspect there might be silver – you can still probe to detect the location of the coin, but then use your digger to make a hinged (horseshoe) plug as prying the coin out of the ground might damage silver.

Read the manual for your metal detector and find out what features it has. Most modern detectors have a feature that allows you to hone-in on target location. If you were not provided with a paper copy - check online. Most metal detector manufacturers provide online copies of manuals for their detector models.



## 1967 Maple Leafs Stanley Cup Ring Return

The last time the Toronto Maple Leafs won the Stanley Cup was in 1967. The Leafs have not won the Stanley Cup since - some Leafs fans believe that is because there is a "curse" on the team due to the trade of famed Leaf Jim Pappin to Chicago at the end of the 1967 season – right after he won the winning goal in the playoffs. This is similar to the "curse of the Bambino" in Baseball. The "curse of the Bambino" was said to be the result of trading Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees, which some say caused an 86-year drought of the Boston Red Sox winning the World Series.



1967 was an exciting year for the Leafs. Maple Leaf Jim Pappin had a great hockey season, culminating in scoring the winning goal for the Leaf's victory in the 1967 Stanley Cup. During the playoffs, Pappin led all scorers with seven goals and 15 points during the 12-game playoff run. This was Jim Pappin's second Stanley Cup with the Leafs – the first was in 1964. Every Player in the 1967 Cup was presented with a gold championship ring with a 1 KT diamond in the maple-leaf insignia design.

Pappin was surprised and bitter when at the end of the 1967 season, the Leafs traded him to the Chicago Black Hawks. He no longer wanted the Maple Leaf championship ring presented by the team that he felt betrayed him. Pappin gave it to his wife's father, Peter Kyrzakos. Instead of representing an amazing victory, the ring had become a reminder of disloyalty. "I was traded to Chicago in '68. I hated everything to do with the Leafs, so I gave the ring to my father-in-law," the 67-year-old Pappin told the Toronto Star in a 2004 newspaper article.



Kyrzako had a winter vacation home in Vero Beach, Florida, and lost the ring sometime during the 1970s. "He never told me he lost it," said Pappin. Unable to find the Stanley Cup heirloom, and distraught over the loss, Pappin's father-in-law hired detectorists and divers to try and find it. Eventually Kyrzako gave up the search. Kyrzako asked to borrow former teammate Eddie Shack's ring, and took it to the same jeweller who crafted the original to have an exact replica made. Pappin only found out about the missing ring in 1982 after divorcing his wife, when Kyrzako explained the story and gave the replica ring back. The two maintained a close relationship until Kyrzako's death.

Never thinking he'd see the original again, Pappin wore the replacement. As they say, "time heals all wounds", and over the years the ring had come to represent a high point in his hockey career. It was decades later that Jim Pappin was contacted by Florida treasure hunter Mark DesErnia. In 2007 Mark DesErnia had started a career as a "Beach Treasure Hunter". One afternoon he found himself neck-deep in the Gulf of Mexico with his underwater metal detector. The detector told him he had a great target. He hoped for Spanish gold, and instead he found a 1967 gold Stanley Cup Championship ring. "When I first saw the ring it looked like the Virgin Mary," DesErnia said, "so I thought it was a religious artifact."

DesErnia was a "full-time" treasure hunter. He spent his days searching for valuables on Florida's many public beaches with his metal detector. He wasn't making a lot of money and hoped there might be a reward for the return of the ring. He also thought Pappin should have it. "I've been wearing (the ring) and trying to put myself in his shoes," said DesErnia. He read about Pappin's long career in hockey after researching the ring on the internet. DesErnia thought, "what a great moment that must have been for him and the team."

DesErnia contemplated putting the ring on eBay and was shocked when a sports memorabilia collector offered him \$20,000 on the spot. He knew that wasn't the right thing to do, and contacted Jim Pappin with the news. Pappin was thrilled and gave DesErnia a large reward for the return of the ring. Pappin was happy that it all worked out in the end. Pappin had three children, and gifted his son, Arne, with the 1967 Stanley Cup original ring, his daughter Mary with the replica, and his daughter Merrill with the Stanley Cup ring he was presented with after the 1964 Stanley Cup victory. Jim Pappin passed away last year at the age of 82.

## Hunting Local “Micro-Sites”

Sometimes detectorists get frustrated when they hunt a popular park that has been hunted a lot over the years. It seems to get harder and harder to find “older” treasures in these types of parks. There is a remedy – try hunting some smaller parks and small search areas have probably not been hunted as often. There are even occasions with a smaller park that you hit a “virgin area” that has never been hunted before.

One example is a small park near our old Brentwood Coop meeting place. We were astonished when a detectorist coming into our CMDC meeting with a freshly dug Indian Head penny. He arrived early for the meeting, and went out to a small green-space park a few blocks away. The park was a tiny green-space without even a bench or playground. It had obviously not had been detected often. Another club member decided to detect a small area that was part of a pathway to a 1950s school, and came away with \$20.00 in clad coins, and a few silver coins that were found a bit deeper. He is pretty sure he hit “virgin” territory.

So how do you find these sites? It doesn't take a lot of work – just keep your eyes open. Every time you drive through an area, look for those small green areas where lots of people have walked. It might be a tiny tot-lot type park, a well used pathway, or a long green area next to a busy road. After a while you develop the habit of searching for possible hunt sites. The only thing it costs you is the time to detect a bit later on. Start looking for areas that others might overlook, but that might be brimming with opportunity. Store up those locations in your memory, and when you have a spare hour or two – try detecting them. You might hit the jackpot.

This works well, especially in early Spring or late Fall. When we get home from work – most of us are going to have the maximum of an hour to hunt before it gets too dark for metal detecting. This is the perfect time to hit those small parks that are only going to take 20 or 30 minutes to detect. Who knows? Maybe that Indian Head penny is waiting for you.

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## The “Halo Effect” in Metal Detecting

May detectorists have been fooled by this - you are detecting an area and get a really nice “silver” signal. You start to dig, and the “nice” signal disappears, and the target ends up being an old rusty nail. It is not uncommon – it's happened to all of us. What you have encountered is the “Halo Effect.”

In scientific terms, the Halo Effect is a conductive increase by the effect of oxidization of a long-buried iron object leaching into the surrounding soil. The metal has started to “halo” out, and permeate into the surrounding soil, causing mineralization in the soil. As the oxidation is absorbed into the surrounding soil, it can create a “false signal” (either a high-pitched tone or a coin-like signal). The “Halo” surrounding the target fools the detector into thinking that the object is non-ferrous and of high conductivity.

The Halo Effect makes an old iron object sound like a really nice copper or silver coin. Basically, ions of rust from the ferrous object seep into the surrounding dirt, permeating the soil directly surrounding the buried object, and causing “a bubble” of mineralization. This bubble is very fragile, and easily “broken”, which is why it disappears when the soil is disturbed during the digging process. The Halo effect is always associated with long term burial of an object, and often happens with more acidic soils.

The “Halo effect” disappears immediately after the ground mineralization surrounding the target is disturbed. With a smaller object, even a probe might displace the halo bubble. Basically, you break into the bubble of rust-permeated soil, and the “false signal” disappears. That doesn't mean you shouldn't try to recover the target – anything that is buried long enough to create the Halo Effect might be a great relic – or it might just be an old rusty nail. You won't know until you dig it. So even if the “false signal” disappears, there is still a chance that it could be something old, cool and unique. It is worth looking for the target – just to see what it is.

## Calgary Historic Parks – Tom Campbell’s Hill Park

Tom Campbells Hill Park is located Northeast of downtown, above the Calgary Zoo parking lot. The hill has been called by that name since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It got the from a big billboard advertising a local hat manufacturer in town. Tom Campbell made men’s hats, and seemed to specialize in cowboy hats, although other hat types were available. .

The land was designated as a park by the City of Calgary in 1991. It is a favourite walking and dog-walk area that is made up of mostly natural prairie wild grass, with a few popular trees. The park is busy most of the year. Tom Campbell’s hill was used as ranch land and as a hunting area in the early days of Calgary. Later, from the mid-1950s until the mid-1980s – the area was part of the Calgary Zoo. It was used as zoo pasture and exhibits for some of the exotic species, including mountain goats and camels. The walkways around the zoo pasture areas were open to the public during that period, so items may have been lost during that time.



You might not think that ranch land has a lot of potential for historic finds – but the park also held a popular shortcut walkway to a local factory in the valley that was located near the current site of the Telus Sparks center. It was used by the local communities of Bridgeland, Riverside and Renfrew as a picnic area and play-area. It was also a popular area of the zoo for viewing animal exhibits for many years. Many people climbed the hill just to see the wonderful view of the Calgary downtown city-scape. I was on a CMDC club-hunt at Tom Campbell’s Hill Park when 1950s silver coins and early 1900s musket-balls were recovered. My recovery was a key-chain from the early 2000s.



## LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Although in person meetings are being scheduled for the upcoming months – we will not be holding them in our usual location. Due to limits in meeting size, the CMDC will be moving locations. The meeting dates will be published on the CMDC.org website calendar, on the CMDC Facebook group page, and emailed out to the group. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <p><b>GPS Central &amp; RadioWorld Central</b></p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment &amp; tools. Visit them on the web at <a href="http://gpscentral.ca">gpscentral.ca</a> , or the store at:</p> <p>#8, 711 - 48 Avenue SE Calgary<br/>         AB Canada T2G 4X2<br/>         403-239-1400</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The CMDC's yearly dues are:</b></p> <p><b>In-town membership:       \$30.00</b><br/> <b>Out-of-town membership: \$25.00</b><br/> <b>Family Membership           \$45.00</b></p> <p>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC)<br/>         c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE<br/>         Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:cmdc.club@gmail.com">cmdc.club@gmail.com</a></p>                                                                                                                                       |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CIR Realtor – Relocation Specialist</b></p> <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/>             403-968-1496</p> </div> <p>To find out more information send Kevin an email @ <a href="mailto:kevin@kevinniefer.com">kevin@kevinniefer.com</a>, or give him a call at 403-968-1496</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>YOU COULD BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR!</b></p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:kempp@telus.net">kempp@telus.net</a> with <b>METAL DETECTING STORY</b> in the subject area.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>SMI PROSPECTING &amp; ELECTRONICS</b></p> <p>The SMI Prospecting &amp; Electronics web site offers a wide range of products to metal detectorists, gold-panners, prospectors, and other outdoor enthusiasts.</p> <p>Based out of Langley BC, SMI Prospecting provides an on-line presence. Visit them on the web at</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><a href="http://smi-elec.com">smi-elec.com</a></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                               | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANDY COWARD</b><br/> <b>Custom Coin Jewellery</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>COINS2RINGS</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Facebook - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/coins2rings2">coins2rings2</a><br/>             IG - <a href="https://www.instagram.com/coins2rings">@coins2rings</a><br/>             Email <a href="mailto:coin2rings2@gmail.com">coin2rings2@gmail.com</a></p> |

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