

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

Volume 45 – issue 3 May 2016

CMDC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



Victorian Military Buckle



1898 50-Cent Piece

Both of these items were voted "Finds of the Year" by CMDC Members.

Congratulations to the winners of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club
"Finds of the Year" Awards for 2015, and the CMDC Member of the Year.

See story on page 1.

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.

CMDC AWARDS BANQUET

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club Annual Awards banquet was held on Saturday April 9th, 2016. The dinner was held at the Danish Canadian Club, who put on an excellent roast beef buffet, including several salads and vegetable choices, cheeses, and desert. The dinner was held in a private dining room, closed-off from the rest of the restaurant area. Our Thanks go out to Brett Buchan for working so hard and arranging the event.

Club members brought various "recovered items" to display, as well as the items that had been submitted for the "Finds of the Year" voting. It was great to see all the wonderful items, and all the innovative display ideas. Many of us came home with ideas for future recovery displays.

The "Finds of the Year" for the 2015 Metal Detecting season were displayed and voted on during the March CMDC Club meeting. The winners were tabulated, but were kept secret until the banquet. At the Banquet the 2016 CMDC "Find of the Year" Winners were announced, and were awarded a plaque. Second Place winners were also recognized. special thanks and recognition were also given to Susan Durksen and John Bowie for their help with the CMDC throughout the year.

Our thanks and appreciation go out to "GPS Central" and Hyatt Mitsubishi for the nice arrangement of door-prizes that they provided for our awards banquet, including GPS Central gift certificates, detecting equipment, coffee cups, cool winter hats, and other great items. Other Corporate donors included Michaels, and Crowfoot wine & spirits, Many Calgary Metal Detecting Club members also provided items for door-prizes and draws. There was a special draw for a Minelab Go-Find Metal Detector, donated by GPS Central, which was won by Andy Coward. Another detector draw was for a Teknetics Euro-tec, donated by the Calgary Club, which was won by Ken Kittlitz.

The whole evening was fun. It was great time to get out, and spend time with other club members and their spouses. What a great way to start of the 2016 Metal Detecting season!

And now for the moment, we've all been waiting for. Here are the winners of the CMDC Best Finds of the Year for the 2016 Metal Detecting Season. Congratulations to all of the winners! Thanks and Appreciation go out to Brett Buchan for all the time he spent arranging the event.

Treasure FOTY: 18K Gold Ring, found by Rod Coppock

Coin FOTY: 1898 50-Cent Piece, found by Brett Buchan

Trinket FOTY: British WWI Medal, found by Jeff Buchan

Relic FOTY: Victorian Military Buckle, found by John Paterson;

Member of Year: Rod Coppock



Rod Coppock



Brett Buchan



Jeff Buchan



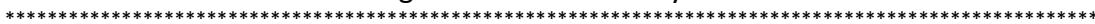
John Paterson



What wonderful display we had in place at the CMDC banquet - It was nice to see what treasures there are to find, and with Spring in the air, we'll soon be hard at work, making new discoveries for future display.



A good time was had by all!



A Watch from Waiparous

Ken Kittlitz supplied this story for the Buzzer Contest in December. It all started in with a call about a lost ring,. While Ken wasn't able to look for the ring, the loan of one of his metal detectors to Frank C. lead to a great recovery story. Here is the story in Frank's own words.

On Friday, November 27, 2015, two friends and I went deer hunting in the Waiparous area on the Sundry trunk road about 80 km from Calgary. We stopped at a cut line and went up over several hills and across a grassy plain before turning back and heading the 2 km back to the jeep. We stopped for a snack and drink at the vehicle. Nester asked me for the time and I looked at my wrist and said, "I don't have my watch." At that moment I didn't know what exactly had happened with it and we drove back down the road to hunt two more trails and hills.

While in the last area I began to realize my watch was missing and that I hadn't put it in my pocket or left it at home. I realized that I must have lost it as I had looked at the time on our first trail, last remembering a time of about 9:50 am. I had no idea what to do as there was about 8 inches of snow in the area at the time. My heart felt so low as I realized I might never find it again. The Rado watch was a very special anniversary gift from my wife and expensive as well. It must have cost her over \$3000.00 although she never told me its price. I prayed to the Lord and asked Him to help me find the watch.



I went home feeling miserable and broke the news to her as best I could. We talked it over and I said I would go back and try to find it. But how, with the snow? It then occurred to me that I might be able to use a metal detector to look for it. But how and where could I get such a device? The time was short and snow was expected by Monday. I decided to look for a website that advertised metal detectors in the Calgary area. I found some information but no phone numbers. Then I found your club name and two phone numbers. I called John and he referred me to Ken Kittlitz.

I was able to establish communication with Ken and during our conversation he offered to let me use his own metal detector. Had he not done this I don't think I could have found another one in the short time required to go and look for the watch. Ken gave me his address and I went over on Saturday and picked up his metal detector. Ken kindly showed me how to use it and lent me the instruction manual as well. I was very thankful that he trusted me and let me use his own metal detector. It is not often that you can find this type of kindness today.

On Sunday after church my two friends and I went back to two of the places that we had hunted. It had melted somewhat but there was still quite a bit of snow on the ground. Yes, we had the metal detector and I knew how to use it thanks to Ken. However, where would I look? Our trails were long and we walked in 3 tracks of footprints along the cut line and over the hills. We stopped first at the last spot we hunted and I looked around on the hillside. Then Nester told me, "Frank, you mentioned you didn't have your watch at the first place we hunted, further down the road." I said, "Yes." Then we headed there. That was the trail where we walked about 2 km along the cut line and there the snow was still thick. We got out of the jeep and walked around looking to see if it might be on the spot around where we had parked the jeep. We could see nothing. The guys said, "Let's get out the metal detector." So, we got it out and I started it.

I decided to look in the snow around the spot that we had parked the jeep and where our footprints still showed in the snow. I held the detector parallel to the surface of the snow just above it and moved around. There was absolutely no sound, just complete silence. It was eerie.



As I moved around I thought, maybe the metal detector is not working. As I was coming to the edge of where our footprints were next to some brush and a small tree stump, I called to Benet and Nester saying, "Guys, could you take

off your watches and put them on the snow so I can check and see if this thing is working?" Just as Benet began to remove his watch I came near the small stump that I had been sitting on and the detector began to beep loudly over the snow and grass next to it.

I pressed the zero-in button and it honed in on one spot. I could see nothing in the snow and grass. As I reached down and scraped away some snow I caught a glimpse of a fleck of gold and reaching down realized it was the bracelet of my watch. I reached further and pulled it up out of the snow and long grass next to the stump. The bracelet was broken and must have fallen off my wrist when I had brushed snow off the stump to sit on it. We were amazed, and rejoiced to find it. What a relief and what a joy to find the lost Rado watch! Without Ken being willing to lend me his metal detector we could not have found my watch. The Lord had answered our prayers by leading me to Ken, and then leading me to the spot that the watch had fallen off. Praise the Lord.

I do believe in the usefulness of metal detectors now. I have experienced what they can do. It must be exiting to go out and search for lost treasures. I found mine that Sunday afternoon, November 29, 2015, and my wife won't have to sorrow over the loss of her husband's beautiful anniversary gift.



Cache Hunting

Last year we ran a story about Bill Jones location of a cache - He found a hidden treasure trove of money (mostly pennies) that amounted to over 1600 coins. In locating that cache (pronounced "cash"), Bill crossed something off his wish list that is still on mine, and most other detectorists that I know. It is not a common find.

What is a "cache"? A cache can be many things, but is generally considered a collection of hidden items. In the past many people did not trust banks, or had no banks within a reasonable distance, so they would hide their valuables around their property. Those valuables might be anything, including a bag of bullion, a box of jewelry, a coffee can of loose change, a strongbox of paper money, or even a Aunt Jemima bank filled with silver dimes. A cache is usually not found in parks or ball fields but near old homes, caves, remote countryside, etc. Just remember that in past times, a cache was considered "safe-keeping". The people intended to find it again. It is most likely to find a cache somewhere close to human habitation, past or present.

Points to keep in mind when cache hunting include:

- A cache is usually buried one to four-feet deep. If you are hunting an area that you know a cache has been buried, adjust your metal detector for maximum sensitivity.
- There are a few general rules when searching for hidden treasures around houses. A person would usually hide their treasure in an area that they can see from a major window (bedroom or kitchen). They may leave themselves a clue, like a nail in a tree with the cache buried below, or a fence post that is taller than the rest.
- Caches are usually found in metal containers. These might include an aluminum or tin container, an old coffee tin, iron box, mason jar with a metal lid, or even a steel strong box. Note that all of these metals will be eliminated once you turn on your discrimination, even if there was a large amount of silver in the same metal container. If the cache is buried in a container made of any metal you have discriminated out, you will not hear the sound. Your detector will not emit a tone unless you're operating with the discrimination off.



Not all Finds fit in a Pouch

By Jerry Leussink (the spidy detectorist)



While on a winter escape with my wife Marina in Osoyoos BC , I intended to do as much detecting as my wife and the weather would allow! As most of you would agree we detectorists are always on the lookout for new or potential locations to swing. You know what I mean!!!

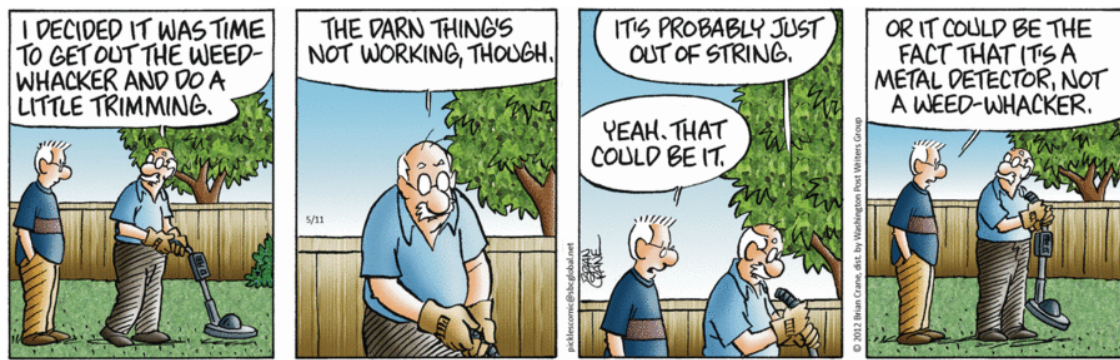
As fate would have it, there was a large lot with a few run down abandoned looking buildings across the street from our hotel /resort. I was quite intrigued by the property & inquired with hotel staff about the history. They were not sure what the property's history entailed, but said that it had been sold to a developer.

My spidy detector sense told me to just go ahead and detect the lot , and that I wouldn't be arrested for swinging. The lot was giving up more than enough coins to keep my interest , but nothing really old! After awhile my curiosity, and my must go & check out the old buildings urge, got the better of me! I thought it may have been an ice cream shop at one time, but soon discovered through things left behind , that in fact it had been a club house and snack shop for a pitch & putt.

The little shack was quite trashed inside, and I later found out it had been used by a well known homeless man. During my explorations , I discovered what appeared to be an almost new scooter. It was hidden in a small electrical panel room with old shelves & other debris piled around it. My thought immediately was, "This bike was stolen! I'm outta here!!!! "

I decided the next day that I would report my discovery to the police, and they immediately checked it out. They called me to confirm the serial numbers matched a bike that had been reported stolen. The bike was returned & the owners were very, very happy. I was thanked for my help in this recovery.





Antique Toy Hunting with a Metal Detector

There is a world of difference between the toys of today and those from a century ago. At the turn on the 19th century, toys were constructed mostly of metal. There were more solid and sturdy than today's plastic counterparts. Antique metal toys are highly desirable and collectible throughout the world. Because of their durable construction, they can often be scooped up by collectors in mint condition. Surprisingly, antique metal toys may be worth thousands of dollars. Just visit an auction house and you'll see how much rare old milk trucks, sleighs, cars and other metal toys go for.

The most common way to collect antique toys is by purchasing them at flea markets and antique shops. However, you can also locate antique metal toys with a metal detector. Metal detecting hobbyists have discovered thousands of toys buried just inches below the ground's surface. Common finds are old lead soldiers and cast-iron cars. Metal treasures are scattered all around us, just waiting to be found! Antique hunting with a metal detector is a great way to locate valuable toys to collect or sell. Where should you begin to hunt for them? You can do a little research in the local history section of your library to locate areas that were once populated by children.

Types of Antique Metal Toys

Tin Metal Toys: From the early 1800's until about 1940, tin was the metal of choice used to create toys. It could be lithographed and was bendable enough to make trucks and other play vehicles and houses. Some antique tin toys had parts including wind-ups & friction. According to Schroeder's Antique Toys price guide, a tin horse-drawn milk delivery wagon with an opening front sells for \$1400. today. A 7 3/4" street railway car with 6 passengers is valued at \$200.

Cast Iron toys: Realistically modeled and carefully detailed cast-iron toys were popular from the turn of the 20th century until about 1940. Some of the cast iron toys were more than 20" in length and very heavy. Many were vehicles patterned after actual models seen on city streets at that time. Horse-drawn carriages are highly collectible and valuable. Other sought-after antique cast-iron toys are airplanes, bots (including paddle wheelers and riverboats), construction vehicles and fire engines.

Lead Toys: Lead toys had their heyday well into the 20th century. Children collected and played with cowboys & Indian, war heroes, soldiers and toy cars. Manoil toy soldiers and figurines are well-know antique lead toys that are valuable today. Lead toys were very popular until concerns emerged about lead poisoning, and they were banned from production.

Steel Toys: Steel sheets began to be used for the production of toys in the late 1930s. This is when Matchbox and Model cars made a splash in the toy market. Steel die-cast cars were great because of their level of intricate detail. Steel allowed for the design of opening doors, trunks, and hoods. The time frame of steel toys gave way to the age of plastic.

Pot-Metal Toys: Pot Metal is a colloquial term that refers to alloys of a low melting point that were used to make fast, inexpensive castings. There is no metallurgical standard. While the mix rarely includes iron, the amalgam can include many different metals, such as zinc, lead, copper, aluminium and tin. Recovered toys made of pot-metal might include 1960s cowboy guns, shovels, action figures, cars, badges, or many other toys that are cast. The ability of a toy to survive underground largely depends on the metal alloys used to create the pot-metal base.

Antique toys are considered relics, so a metal detector suitable for relic hunting is ideal. It is important to determine if the soil you will be hunting has heavy mineralization. If so, choose a detector with automatic ground balance or manual ground balance. The next consideration is the frequency of the detector. A detector with a lower frequency will target metals such as iron and steel better than a detector with a higher frequency. Your metal detector should be able to accept both large and small coils, depending on ground conditions and terrain. Remember the right accessories are also helpful. For Instance, headphones can help you indicate shallow or deep targets.



This Article was discovered on www.metaldetector.com. There are several other articles on that site that provide excellent reading.. The article has been edited for size, and some content. A section was added for "Pot-Metal" toys.

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)

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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.
