

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

Volume 47 – issue 3 May 2018



FINALLY - The sun has appeared, and the ground is warm!
Treasures are waiting for us! Let's go find them!

The Photo above was taken at the CMDC Fall Hunt in 2015 at Jerry Leussink's property in Sundre, Alberta.

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 dinner was held on April 14th, 2018. Once again, the Calgary Danish Canadian club catered and provided a room for our feast. The dinner was a roast beef buffet, with all the trimmings, including berry cheesecake for desert.

CMDC club members brought some excellent display cases to display their various "recovered items". It was a great way to see some of the methods others use to display items, which included everything from vases, repurposed brief cases, to picture boxes. Many of the items on display had also been submitted for the "Finds of the Year" voting.

The "Finds of the Year" for the 2017 Metal Detecting season were displayed and voted on during the March CMDC Club meeting. The winners were tabulated after the meeting, but everything was kept secret until the banquet. At the Banquet the 2017 CMDC "Find of the Year" winners were announced, and were awarded plaques, and prizes. FOTY Second Place winners were also recognized.

Our thanks and appreciation go out to GPS Central/Radioworld Central for their donated door prizes, and for providing a discount for our raffled metal detector. We also want to thank Andy Coward's business "Coins2rings2" for the donation of several handmade artisan coin-rings, and coin related pendants, and all the others who graciously donated items or requested door prize items from their employers. There was a special draw for a raffled Minelab X-terra 305 Detector, which was won by the Hoffart family.

In March we also use a special formula for selecting the individual who is the CMDC Member of the Year. This formula is spelled out in our club bylaws, which are available on our website. At the banquet it was a pleasure to recognize Ken Kittlitz for all his work for the CMDC, as the 2017 CMDC Member of the Year.

Every CMDC member took home at least one door prize, and most took home more than one. Overall, the whole evening was a fun night out. It was a great way to get together as a club, honour our members, and remember our guests, spouses/significant others who are often silent observers of this great hobby. CMDC guests at the banquet were all presented with a bottle of wine. The banquet was a super way to start off the 2018 metal detecting season! We are all happily looking forward to all the treasures to that are sure to be recovered in 2018.

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 2017 metal detecting Season. Congratulations to all of the winners! Thanks and appreciation go out to everyone who helped arrange this great event!

Treasure Find of the Year:

Find of the Year - Gold Nugget pendant, found by Jerry Leussink

Second Place - Gold and diamond ring, found by Paul Barker

Coin Find of the Year:

Find of the Year - 1871 Silver Quarter, found by Jeff Budd

Second Place - 1898 5-cent piece (fishscale), found by Brett Buchan

Trinket Find of the Year:

Find of the Year - Scottish Kilt Pin, found by Keith Hoffart

Second Place - Pellet Gun, found by Chris MacDonald

Relic Find of the Year:

Find of the Year - 1885 Medal, found by Tim Saunders

Second Place - Beaver "Confederation" Pin, found by Jerry Lesussink

New CMDC Sponsor, Andy Coward

Check out the back page of the Buzzer, where we list CMDC and Buzzer Sponsors. CMDC member Andy Coward has joined the ranks of our club sponsors with his coin-jewellery business "Coins2rings2. Andy also wrote the article below about his transition from a metal detecting, to a jewellery coin-ring hobby, and then to a new artisan business. Don't forget that Andy's wife, Bonna-Jean Campbell, is also a CMDC member and Buzzer Sponsor. Bonna-Jean is proprietor of a health and wellness business, as a Le-Vel independent brand promoter. Andy and Bonna-Jean have always been big supporters of the CMDC, volunteering on the Club Executive, making meals for events, and opening their home for gatherings, as well as many other areas. So, as we say on the back page of every Buzzer, please Support our Sponsors.

Metal Detecting - Merging Hobbies to Form a Business

By ANDY COWARD

CMDC Lifetime Member

Metal Detecting... A hobby I'll love and enjoy for all time. But what's the attraction? Well many have written about this topic and for every article there's a different set of reasons to explain this. You will have your own reasons, but for me I'll explain it as follows...

Ever since the age of ten, I've been a coin collector. I started with pennies and then nickels and from there it expanded into Specimen sets and collector coins. Around that time, I remember having a Radio Shack Metal Detector that beeped on just about everything metal. Fun, but not really practical to find the pennies I was looking for to add to my collection. I've collected on and off along the way but always go back to the allure of things crusty and old and things shiny and new.

In Junior High, I took an interest in Photography and Photo Developing along with a smattering of Industrial Arts, learning processes for manufacturing things from wood and plastic. In Senior High this extended to outdoor Living and the age of Electronics, which I carried on into a Career in at the Post Secondary level.

From there things got set aside while Family life took a leading role in my spare time. Personal computers came along and started to infiltrate the way people lived their lives. Once my kids got older and video games, along with the internet of things, became a way of life, along came smartphones and inexpensive cameras that could take photos as good as the pro's.

Around this time, divorce came along and I realized I needed to make some changes in my life - I needed a hobby that would get me outdoors more and enjoying what nature had to offer. This got me interested in macro photography (specifically flowers) and the decision to buy my first REAL metal detector. It was an ACE250 and I got it used from a member of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club who bought it for his wife, but she didn't like it and consequently had no interest. That's how I came to find the CMDC. The ACE250 turned out to be a great starter machine and the rest is history as they say.

Metal Detecting brought together so many of my interests into a SINGLE activity - Outdoors, Electronics (science of detection), History, the mystery of the unknown, photography, digging in the dirt, coins, collecting, smartphones, internet and social media, research, discovery, a Club to support (it was slow-moving at first, but I decided when I joined that I wasn't going to let it stay that way!), new friends and new people to meet.

Metal Detecting - Merging Hobbies to Form a Business (continued)



Then one day while hunting in Bowness Park lagoon, after the snow had melted but before it was filled with water, I dug up from the muck... a ring. It was old and obviously made from copper, but curiously it had a shaped penny attached to the top of it to display proudly the effigy of George V, King of England and the Commonwealth. WOW - that's cool!

So what did I do? What does every detectorist these days do? G.T.S - or GOOGLE THAT (STUFF). What I found when I googled "coin ring" was a whole new and intriguing hobby!

So intriguing, that I thought to myself "this is for me - I need to try that !" - So I DID !

A year and a half later - and lots of new tools etc. along the way - Here we are! I'm pretty good at making these "Coin Rings" and with help from my wife, have decided to try to make a business out of it ! And so was born "coins2rings". A hobby - turned business - that was born from several other hobbies and interests developed through the course of the decades in my life.

So, if you're still reading this and haven't flipped to the next article, I'll ask YOU..... Where have YOUR hobbies taken you? And how did they lead you to YOUR metal detecting activities? If you stop to think about it, I'll bet there's an interesting story or two there as well... I'm looking forward to hearing about them!

Thanks for reading!



Andy Coward
CMDL Lifetime Member
Owner and Crafter - coins2rings



Alberta Military ID Bracelet Returned

Len Switzer was only 21 years old when he was killed in World War II, flying over Europe. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), stationed in Britain, when the Wellington bomber crew he was a part of was shot down over Europe in February of 1943. Young Len was from Alberta. He grew up near Sunnybrook, Alberta (near Leduc).

Fast forward over 60 years to 2001, and you would find Metal Detecting hobbyist Rod Edwardson enjoying some time-out with his machine. He was searching in an old school field in Edmonton. A silver sound rang up on his machine, but very faintly. Rod was hoping for an older silver coin, and started digging. He dug down almost a foot before he recovered one of his most memorable finds. Rod Edwardson recovered a small silver ID bracelet. When cleaned, it revealed the crest of the Royal Canadian Airforce, along with the words "Len Switzer", and his Canadian Military service number.

This would start a 17 year quest to return the priceless object, that only ended this February, in 2018. Over the years Rod Edwardson searched for information about the young flyer. He had articles published in local Alberta newspapers, and chased down leads, with no success. Rod always hoped to be able to return the bracelet - if not to Switzer, to his surviving family members.

In January those newspaper articles paid off. Cathy Parsonage was doing a Google search on her younger brother, Leonard, when she discovered the article about his namesake. The newspaper story, published in 2015, included a photo of the ID bracelet. Cathy realized that the ID bracelet must have belonged to her Uncle Len, who died before she was born.

Cathy Parsonage contacted Rod Edwardson, and within a month, plans were made for a trip to Alberta. In February of 2018, Rod was thrilled to reunite that bracelet with a member of Len Switzer's family. Cathy was delighted to see the bracelet, and wants to include it in a family history scrapbook, so that her Uncle Len is not forgotten. Rod's desire to return the ID bracelet was finally fulfilled after almost 2 decades. Edwardson stated that he thought of the young airman and his family every November, when Remembrance Day rolled around. It is believed that the bracelet was lost just prior to Len Switzer's deployment to Europe during leave.



JEWELLERY MARKS

When we find a piece of jewellery that has a hallmark it is pretty exciting. TREASURE!!! The next question is almost always 'What does this mark mean?' The most common Marks or Stamps are used to identify things like Metal type, Carat Weight, and sometimes Country of origin or designer. .

The Hallmark will be in a different place dependant on the type of item found. In rings and bracelets the mark will be found on the shank (in the side of the item closest to the skin), with chains the mark is most often found on the clasp, brooches or pins on the back, and earrings often on the hook or stud. Pendants or charms will usually have a mark on the back, or on the clasp.

The standard hallmark shows the amount of gold in the piece, and the Karat Weight of the Metal. If you look you'll usually see the Karat Stamp. 10k, 14k, 18k or 24K are the most common marks used for gold. The K on gold rings stands for Karat Weight, which is the system used to describe the percentage of pure gold an item contains. The higher the karat number, the higher the percentage of gold in your gold jewelry.

24K gold is pure gold. This is very soft metal, and hard to work into lasting jewellery. 24K items are very rare.	12K gold contains 12 parts gold and 12 parts of one or more additional metals, making it 50% gold.
18K gold contains 18 parts gold and 6 parts of one or more additional metals, making it 75% gold.	10K gold contains 10 parts gold and 14 parts of one or more additional metals, making it 41.7% gold
14K gold contains 14 parts gold and 10 parts of one or more additional metals, making it 58.3% gold	9K gold contains 9 parts gold and 15 parts of one or more additional metals.

10K gold is the minimum karat that can be called "gold" in the United States. Anything lower than 10K cannot legally be called a gold item in the United States. 9K is the minimum karat that can be called "gold" in Canada, Britain and parts of Asia. European gold jewelry might also be marked with numbers that indicate their percentage of gold, such as:

18K gold marked 750 to indicate 75% gold	10K gold marked 417 for 41.7% gold
14K gold marked 585 for 58.5% gold	9K gold marked 375 for 37.5% gold

Other markings that you might on a gold ring or other piece of gold jewellery could be GE for Gold electroplated, GF for Gold filled (Usually has a fraction i.e. 1/20 10K GF), GS = Gold Shell, and GHE for Heavy Gold Electroplate. In order to be marked GF, at least 1/20th of the weight of an object must be gold. Gold is not the only precious metal that is marked. Silver is another precious metal that has metal marks.

925 (92.5% silver) = Sterling	STERLING, STR or STER for Sterling Silver.
950 (95% silver) - fairly rare	835 - Silver (83.5%) - More common in Europe.
TAXCO or MEXICO for Mexican Silver, usually 925.	COIN or 800 for Coin Silver (80% silver)

Other Metal Marks on jewellery could include TUNGS for Tungsten, S.S. or St. Steel for Stainless Steel, or PD for Palladium. You'll also run across Titanium, Stainless Steel, Tungsten, Sterling Silver, or Platinum. Common platinum markings include PT (Atomic Symbol), IRID. PLAT, or PT 900

Hallmarks are a different type of Jewellery Mark. They are generally used on artisan or high-end jewellery, silverware or gold items, more commonly in North America and Europe. A row of symbols on a piece of jewellery will indicate the Metal type, Manufacturer, Country or Assay Office, and Date of the created item. These are marks agreed upon by countries for identification of gold and silver objects. For example, in the picture below, the Hallmark Anchor indicates UK manufacture, specifically Assay office of Birmingham, the Lion indicates sterling silver, and the "m" indicates the year the item was created. The other mark is for the manufacturer. There are also specific hallmarks for gold.



You can find more information on European Hallmarks at : http://www.theassayoffice.co.uk/commemorative_marks.html , and <http://www.silvercollection.it/DictionaryEUHallmark.html> some Silver hallmark information from all over the world can be located at <http://www.925-1000.com/index.html> .

James Belke's Hallmarked Gold Ring

When you find an older piece of handcrafted jewellery that include precious metal hallmarks - it is amazing what you can find out. European Hallmarks of the past few centuries not only included information about the metal content, but about the country of origin, the maker, the date of manufacture, and sometimes even the city your item was made in.

EMDC member James Belke found a beautiful gold ring water-hunting after the Rochon Sands hunt a few years back. When he cleaned the mud off, and the gold shone through, James noticed that it had a series of hallmarks. James was able to research, and tell a lot about the life of that little piece of jewellery. Here is his story of that special ring find.

I woke up the Saturday following Rochon sands, and decided on the spur of the moment to take a drive out in the country and test out my new Tiger Shark at Buffalo Lake. I had only had opportunity to use it once since I had purchased it and that was in a children's playground down the block. I thought it would be interesting to see how it responded on both the dry beach sand with the possibility of "cleaning up" the seeded coins from the club hunt, and also trying the Tiger Shark in the water.

When I arrived at the beach I was a little disappointed to see evidence that the entire beach had been gridded off and hunted by another serious treasure seeker. I could see grooves up & down the beach in perfect rows where the sand scoop had been dragged behind the hunter. No worries, experience told me that I would be using a differently tuned machine and had all day, so I could go slow and steady. No site is every completely hunted out, right? I also knew that I really wanted to warm up on the dry sand to test drive the Tiger Shark and it's discrimination feature before hitting the wet sand, and perhaps wading into the water if it wasn't too cold.

I started the day with no particular pattern, just walking about like a drunken sailor on the beach and happily digging lots of brass .22 shells and rusty nails. I kept telling myself that where there is tiny brass there is also tiny silver and gold so every shell casing was one scoop closer to a keeper. Then my luck started to change as every so often I would hit one of those seeded foreign coins, so I continued to be hopeful that a deeper silver would turn up in my sand scoop. It wasn't long before a 1916 fishscale and rusty nail showed up in the same scoop in the top 2" or 3" layer of sand! Next, up popped a 1935 nickel from about 4". Then a 1947 dime seeded in a sea of nails! After a quick lunch break and decided to check out what was left behind in the kids hunt area... lots of the junk jewellery, several natural dropped modern coins. There was also a 1911 fishscale that turned up in the area.

It was time to hit the shoreline and check out how cold the lake was. Brrrrrr, too cold... I sensed that there must be gold or old coin drops within the 2' either side of the water line so I kept my feet warm and dry and got into a good swinging rhythm sweeping into and out of the water's edge where the black sand and lake weeds lay. I was thinking how pleased I was with how stable the Tiger Shark was moving in and out of the water and across the black sand line and bumpy weeds on the beach when suddenly the silence was interrupted with the sweet, mellow quack from the Tiger Shark... This 22K wedding band gave a clear and consistent signal (quack) at about 8" - 9" deep about a foot off the shoreline of Buffalo Lake.



The row of hallmarks shows that the ring is from Britain, and if I'm interpreting the hallmarks correctly, this is the oldest dated item that I've ever dug... and is the first ring found with my brand new Tesoro Tiger Shark! If I am understand correctly, the Hallmark reads as follows - Maker is "WS" (perhaps W. Spurrier & Co or Wm Simpson, or ???), the crown and 22 would denote 22K gold (used from 1844 thru 1974), followed by the anchor which stands for the assay office in Birmingham, England. After that there is a worn "P" which appears to be the date mark for 1864. Lastly is duty mark for Queen Victoria which was in use from 1837 - 1890. I believe that the ring dates from 1864, since none of the other dates would match to Queen Victoria's reign.



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

<p>GPS Central & RadioWorld Central</p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment & tools.</p> <p>4120 8th Street SE Calgary AB Canada T2G 3A7 403-239-1400</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The CMDC's yearly dues are:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">In-town membership :</td> <td>\$25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out-of-town membership:</td> <td>\$20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Membership</td> <td>\$40.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDCC) c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2 email: cmdccclub@gmail.com</p>	In-town membership :	\$25.00	Out-of-town membership:	\$20.00	Family Membership	\$40.00
In-town membership :	\$25.00						
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<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Kevin Niefer <i>See Below</i></p> <p><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i> 403-720-9501</p> </div> </div> <p>To view Kevin's listings visit him on the internet @ www.kevinniefer.com - or give him a call at 403-720-9501 Email: kniefer@calgaryrealestatepros.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BONNA-JEAN CAMPBELL Brand Promotor The Thrive Experience by Le-Vel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing BURN BURN calories, BURN fat, and Ignite your body into Thermogenesis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing PROTEIN BARS Premium Nutrition – Sequential Bar Technology Lemon Meringue – Cinnamon Roll – Cookies & Cream – Birthday Cake Check this out and more on my website: www.Thrivewithbjc.thrive2point0.com Email: Thrivewithbjc@gmail.com</p>						
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