

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

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METAL DETECTING -

THE ORIGINAL SOCIAL DISTANCING OUTDOORS ACTIVITY

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.

SPRING CMDC CLUB MEETINGS CANCELLED

As most of you know, the Calgary Metal Detecting Club 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.

The CMDC meeting on April 7th, 2020 was cancelled. The meeting on May 5th, 2020 is also cancelled, and it seems likely that we will not be holding any meetings in June or July. 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 CMDC monthly meetings for a while.

All of you keep healthy and well. Get out and hunt – enjoy the Spring weather - but ensure safe distances and social distancing. 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.



SPRING CMDC CLUB HUNTS CANCELLED

As most of you know, the CMDC tries to get together for a club hunt one or two times a month. With the onset of Covid 19, and the concerns about contagion and social distancing, the CMDC has decided to cancel its Club Hunt get-togethers for a few months.

As CMDC Hunt director, John Paterson, so aptly put it: “Although we could probably set up a system for the Club Hunts where attendance could be staggered over a full week, thus limiting the actual number of hunters at a location on a given day, I've decided not to. Many of our members are either of an age or immune-compromised where they're susceptible to the covid19 virus. Apparently, we're also dealing with a 15-75% asymptomatic group who are infected and able to transmit the virus while showing no symptoms at all. I feel that it's better to err on the side of caution than to endanger our friends and families for the sake of digging up some bottle caps.”

Thank you, John, for making that tough call. It is important that we ensure that consider the safety of all the members in our club, especially those with compromised immune systems. We will get together for our group Club Hunts again when this all blows over (hopefully soon).

LOST CLASS RING RETURN



After more than 35 years, a Chalker High School class ring is on its way back to the original owner, thanks to metal detectorist, Walter Sescourka of Cortland, Ohio.

Walter Sescourka found the 1981 High School class ring while metal detecting with a friend in a Youngstown Ohio in summer of 2019. He decided that he would do everything in his power to return the ring.

Armed with the little bit of knowledge he was able to glean from the ring, he was hopeful that a return would be possible. The information he had from the ring was the graduation date (1981), the name of the school, and the initials engraved on the inner band. Using that information Walter

Sescourka was able to track the ring to Denise Heakin (nee Badanjek), who now lives in Jensen Beach, Fla.

In November of 2019 Walter Sescourka presented the ring to Heakin's brother, John Banajek of Southington Ohio, during the monthly meeting of the Tri-County Metal Detector's Club at the Austintown Senior Center.

Sescourka said the ring was found three or four inches deep, in proximity to a sidewalk and playground near Youngstown State University — where Heakin had attended school. John Badanjek said his sister lost the ring sometime in 1982 or 1983. He said that Denise Heakin was “shocked” to hear it had been found so many years later. Walter Sescourka figured that very few people had hunted the park, because if they had “they should've found it.”

Returning rings is not unusual for the Tri-County Metal Detecting Club, which has about 120 members, according to Tri-County Metal Detector Club President, Ray Borosko. “We return rings and jewelry,” Borosko said. “With the price of gold and silver, it is something that a lot of people that find these wouldn't do.”

Ray Borosko said that the Tri-County MD club is occasionally contacted by someone who lost a certain piece of jewelry. If they can give a general area where the item was lost, members of the club will go to the area and search for it. Borosko said that the club members enjoy returning long-lost property.

“They get more of a kick out of returning it than finding it,” Borosko said. He said in the past the club has also helped police departments locate evidence, and that many club members have donated historical items to local museums.

In order to return the ring, Walter Sescourka got in contact with Chalker High School, where a secretary referenced old yearbook photos to match the engraved initials. The secretary was familiar with families in the area, so she knew John Badanjek. The School secretary telephoned Badanjek, who confirmed the 1981 class ring belonged to his sister.

Sescourka said he was happy to return the ring. “Not everybody is keeping the stuff for themselves,” he said. “If it's returnable, I like to return it.”

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\*\*\* This Buzzer Story is based on a Newspaper Article that was published in the Austintown Vindicator in November of 2019.

## Rochon Lake Hunt - Cancelled for 2020

Even before the Covid 19 outbreak, the Edmonton Metal Detecting Club (EMDC) decided that the 2020 Rochon Sands Seeded Hunt event on Buffalo Lake would not be happening this year. It takes a lot of work to pull off an event like this, and it seems like it is always a struggle to get volunteers to help plan and participate in the work that goes on behind the scenes. I know that last years event was a real struggle for Calgary, especially when two of the organizing committee ended up with health issues and family crisis situations shortly before the event. We will wait to see what the future holds for our great Rochon Sands multi-club event. We are hoping that this super-fun seeded hunt 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.



Rochon Sands Hunt – 2019



Postcard - early 1900s

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## DETECTING A TRASHY AREA

If you find yourself in a location where the soil itself or the surface is covered in litter you need to adapt your strategy. First of all, recognize that most urban areas are trashy - but if you have a hot spot that you think will yield results it may be worth the effort to hunt the area in spite of the trashy signals, or excess amount of garbage you know you will dig up..

In a trashy area it is a good idea to screen out iron and other non-valuable metals on your detector. Most detectors will have the option to discriminate out certain metals, like iron, or tinfoil. Unfortunately, pull-tabs and aluminum are in the same range as gold rings and bottle caps often overlap with some silver coins. Every detectorist will dig a certain amount of trash on every hunt. Don't be discouraged. Keep at it! Look at it as cleaning the environment as you remove garbage to take away. Remember that each piece of garbage you remove is a signal you will not hear the next time you are in that area.

If the targets are overwhelming, it may be a good idea to turn the sensitivity way down. Very often metals that you have screened out will still register due to varying compositions, especially if the sensitivity dial is cranked to the max. This may also lead to a false reading even if the detector recognizes this as a screened-out metal. Take sensitivity down and you will get less false readings.

Make use of a smaller search coil or even a "Sniper coil", if you have one. These are smaller coils that allow you to focus on smaller patches of earth beneath the coil and limit false readings. If you were using a larger coil for example, a diamond ring, 3 bottle caps and a doorknob could all be underneath the coil at the same time. Using a smaller coil will allow you to focus on each individual item and prevent the detector getting confused by the numerous targets presented in trashy soil beneath the coil.

This article was published in the July 2013 issue of the Buzzer. It was written by CMDC member, Joe Sullivan, who had remarkable success cleaning recovered coins. Joe Sullivan posted this on the CMDC Facebook group-page. I thought that it was great information on cleaning "cruddy" coins, so I asked Joe if I could adapt it into a Buzzer article. With the great coins found this year, I thought it might be time to reprint the article.

## Cleaning Old Coins

Here are the methods I use to clean 'Non-Key' and 'semi-key' date coins. To be clear, this method is only used for 'Dirty Coins' found while metal detecting that would be otherwise 'UN-gradeable'. I find that if you do it properly and take the right precautions you can actually keep the beautiful toning and make some coins look many, many times better!

Step 1: To remove the BULK of the caked on dirt, I boil hydrogen peroxide (3% usp, pharmacy grade) using the microwave and place my coin inside (or coins if the container is big enough, but never overlap), and let it sit until the HP cools to room temperature. You can flip the coin over once using rubber coated tongs, but I usually reheat and make sure that the other side is up instead, thus allowing easy equal cleansing of the coins. If the coin is REALLY dirty and leave a bunch of gunk in the H.P, just dump it out and use a couple more ounces of fresh solution instead (my preference actually). **\*\*Remember not to mix different 'alloys' of coins together (unless you're testing and messing about) as the copper WILL plate any Silver and even some bronze coins to a degree...\*\***

Step 2: Immediately take out the coin and drop it into a couple ounces of distilled water and give it a good rinse. I take the coin out, put it onto a 'microfiber' or VERY soft cloth and press down gently (don't rub) and inspect the coin to see if it needs an additional bath. If the bulk of the crud is gone, I go to step 3. If not, repeat step 1.

Step 3: Using baking soda, I sprinkle enough to cover the bottom of a small shallow glass. I then dunk the coin back into the distilled water and carefully place the wet coin(s) into the bottom of the glass (never overlapping). I then sprinkle more baking soda on top until the coins are completely covered and leave them there for about 15 minutes or so...

Step 4: This step is pretty critical when it comes to 'touching' the coins with any kind of 'cleaning tool' to "finishing" the cleaning process. I use different brushes on different coins, but the process is basically the same. I use a High-quality VERY SOFT tooth brush - dip the end into the distilled water, hold the coin firmly (making sure it is well coated with Baking Soda) and very gently & evenly, wipe in a 'tiny' circular motion to pull the last bit of surface gunk off the coin. I try and avoid the 'high spots' as much as possible and stick to the 'worst parts' of the coins. Don't let the coin get too 'dry'. If need be, dunk the toothbrush in both the distilled water and the baking soda if needed. **\*\*Now when I'm not too sure about using a toothbrush on a semi-key date, I'll use a 'Fibreglass brush' instead (similar to the kind you use to clean car vents with). They tend to be much 'softer' than even the 'softest' toothbrush. You can actually be a bit more aggressive with this kind of brush. From what I can tell @ 30x magnification, this type of brush leaves no discernible scratches on the surface.\*\***

Notes: Having stated the above, I have found that not all coins tend to respond 'exactly' the same way using the above method for largely environmental reasons (fertilizers, acid grounds, etc..). **\*\*Alternatively, one could skip the Peroxide (it does act as a very mild acid) and use hot distilled water (always use distilled) for a pre-soak with a mild soap (I normally use "Dove" brand..). Either way Mileage may vary, but it's GREAT practice to mess around with some 'Non-KEY' dates to get used to the idea of actually 'cleaning' a coin.**



Before

After

Finally... Some coin collectors or coin buyers are of the opinion that cleaning a coin makes it less valuable. I find that notion 'silly', especially as one can send a coin away to be 'cleaned professionally' and that seems to be 'OK', but if this is a coin you want to sell – you are better off not cleaning it, or having it professionally cleaned.

# What is Treasure?



I have a vivid memory of a funeral and burial of a dime store cast metal soldier who literally lost his head in battle. I was seven or eight and the burial was conducted in my side yard with all the proper respect. Using one of my mother's soup spoons as a shovel, I struck something metallic. It was a coin; a British penny of King George dated 1757. I was hooked! For my birthday I requested a pirate costume. Pirates find Treasure and I wanted to be one. I still do.

What is Treasure? Is it that Mythical mason jar of gold coins or a huge 10 karat diamond ring or perhaps that bronze Viking plaque proving a pre Colombian settlement in Stamford, Connecticut? Or could it be something else?

Could you ever eat Treasure? Ages ago my young cousin and I went fishing at a Town Reservoir that is now off limits to fishing. The lake has an earthen dam at least 100 feet high above the valley floor below. Access to the top was up a steep set of steps made from railroad ties. Halfway up the hill I noticed something. Alongside the steps on the grassy slope was a six foot square patch of ripe wild strawberries each about the size of a nickel. Fishing was forgotten. 50 years later I can still taste the sweetness of those berries with the morning dew still on their leaves. Years after I looked for them at the same place but I never found them again. That was treasure.

There is treasure for the eyes and heart, too. On a bottle hunt along a deep woods trail in Westchester County, New York, I came upon the only blooming Lady Slipper orchid I have ever seen. It was breathtaking! I left it untouched hoping it would reproduce. That was treasure.

There are treasures that just seem to put a smile on your face. Late one night I was driving the back roads to the Danbury Yard where I worked Metro North's third shift. I stopped to watch a scene. I saw a young red fox, a kit, not much bigger than a squirrel. The fox had a dead bird in its mouth; it was probably its very first kill. That fox was so proud of its trophy that I swear it strutted alongside the road hoping the world would see. That is a treasure.

My father known as "Wolfie" smoked a pipe for the better part of his 75 years. Every Christmas his grandchildren honor his memory by hanging one of his pipes on the Christmas tree. The room seems to fill with the smell of pine and "Prince Albert" tobacco. That is treasure.

So what is a Treasure? I say it is whatever you find that makes you happy and created a lasting bit of joy in your heart. Don't get me wrong, a Twenty dollar Double Eagle gold piece would be very nice, too!



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This article was wswritten by Bill Cameron of New Hampshire, and found on Detecting Diva's site at Detectingdiva.com. It seemed like an appropriate story for us treasure hunters at the CMDC – may we rnjoy every aspect of this hobby, find treasure in all its forms and enjoy each valuable experience.

## More Great Hunting Tips



Dig those targets that don't sound good or that you believe might be trash. By digging the trashy signals, you will be getting those items out of the way for your future hunts at that site. Some of those 'iffy' signals might actually be good targets like a ring or other jewelry items. One gold ring I found last year was an iffy signal that I thought was just another pull-tab. Imagine my surprise when I opened the plug and saw a gold ring laying there!

A great way to practice pinpointing is to take a large piece of cardboard and tape a coin to the cardboard. Then, flip the cardboard over where the coin is on the underside, and place the cardboard in an area free of other metal items. Attempt to pinpoint the coin through the cardboard. When you are satisfied that you have the coin pinpointed, poke a pin through the cardboard where you believe the coin to

be. Then, flip the cardboard over, and see how close you pinpointed the target. After a few times doing this, you will be able to figure out where the "sweet spot" for pinpointing is on your coil.

If you are a water hunter then you know how hard it is to see your coil when it is under water. To counter that problem, you can put a dab of white or yellow paint on the tip of your coil. This will make it easier to see your coil under water. It will also make it easier to visually pinpoint your target before you attempt to recover it with your scoop. Of course, this will only work in lakes or rivers with clear (not murky) water.

Some sites can be extremely busy at times. Work out when your preferred sites are being used and aim for the quiet times so that you are free to swing wherever you want. For example, sports fields are often used for Saturday morning sports events, or for training in the early evenings. Try heading out early in the morning, or before supper to hunt your preferred site when others are not around.

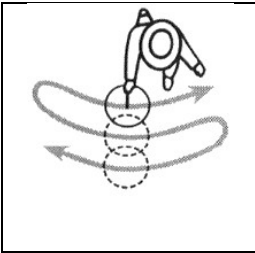


## You Might be a Detectorist

- If you'll step over a penny on the sidewalk, but will dig six inches for a dirty penny
- If you mark your calendar to go to the fair on the day after the fair closes.
- If you plan your family vacations around places that are good to detect.
- If your detector has a name other than the one the manufacturer gave it.
- If you've ever offered to mow a vacant lot for permission to hunt it.
- If you have to explain to people all summer, why your ears are so white
- if your car is ten years old, but you have the latest detector.
- If you are driving by a park or an old building and start to say "that looks like" and your kids finish the sentence "a good place for a hunt" with you.
- If you carry a bulk pack of batteries around in all your cars and sometimes on your person!
- If your spouse buys you detecting accessories for your anniversary and it makes you tear up.
- if you can drive through the city and recognize older areas by house architectural design, or get excited when you find parks that you haven't hunted yet
- if you have to take your own magazines to the doctor's office because they don't keep treasure hunting magazines in the waiting room.
- If your weekly survival money (i.e.: coffee, lottery tickets, fast-food) is paid for in the clad you dug
- if you come home from work and check "Today's Finds" on the MD Forums before checking the mail.
- If three weeks into winter, you are checking out metal detecting videos on you-tube because you are already in withdrawal
- if you look for a 'headphones jack' on your weed-whacker.

# Tips & Techniques for Detecting

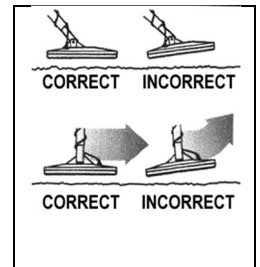
Operating a metal detector to achieve the best performance from it and to increase the likelihood of finding targets requires some basic and easily learned skills. The following is a description of the basic operating techniques for the metal detector.



The most basic detecting technique and the first that operators need to master is sweeping. This is the moving of the search coil from side to side across the ground in order to find buried targets. This diagram shows the sweeping motion and illustrates how the ground area is covered.

*When sweeping, you should* slightly overlap each sweep so as not to miss any targets. The movement used should be an arc, rather than a pendulum - with the coil parallel to the ground at all times. With each swing, move ahead slowly, being careful not to miss areas.

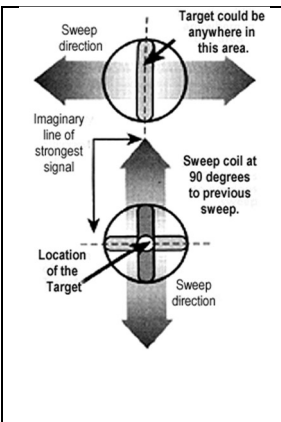
Always keep the search coil parallel to the ground to prevent the loss of detection of deep targets. Operators sometimes tend to lift the coil at the end of each sweep (like a pendulum). Where possible this should be avoided because it will cause a loss of detection depth and is actually a lot more work.



While sweeping, do not forget to listen for signals, especially faint ones. Beginners often dig only the very loud target signals, when in fact the faint signals may be a deep or small target.

Once you have detected a target, you can avoid digging a large hole by pinpointing the exact location of the target. Use the following method for pinpointing using a Double D search coil. Due to the nature of the Double D search coil, the strongest detection is achieved along a straight line from heel to toe through the center of the coil.

When the target is detected along the sweep line, draw a line at right angles to it, through the center of the coil. Turn 90 and move along the line just drawn until you detect the target again. Again, draw a line through the center of the search coil. Where the two lines meet is where the target lies.



Once you have pin-pointed the target, clear the surface material and check the hole again for the signal. If there is no signal, then the target is amongst the surface material. In this case, search the area until you have located the target. If, however, the signal is still there, remove a few inches of soil from the surface of the ground. If the target is not visible, sweep the coil over the hole again. The signal should become louder. If it does continue your digging. You can also use a pinpointer - but using a pinpointer in conjunction with the method above will cut down on digging time.

Take care of how you dig. A swift blow to an object with a digger could deface a valuable coin or gouge a piece of jewellery. If the object is not clearly visible you might need to scan the soil which has been dug up, so be sure to pile the soil carefully while digging. There are two methods of scanning this soil: Spread the soil out, then sweep the coil over it to locate the target. (Be sure that there is no object buried in the ground below the soil). Lay the coil on its side near the hole. Pick up a handful of soil from the pile and pass it across the coil. If there is no signal, then place the soil in a second pile away from the first and grab another handful of soil. Continue this process until you receive a signal; the target is now in your hand. Sift through the soil until the object is located. A third method is to use a "pinpointer" if you have one.

Once the target has been recovered it is a good idea to run the detector over the hole again to make sure that there are no other targets to be found. Once a target has been found, there is a high chance that more targets are close by, so it is advisable to search the surrounding area extremely carefully.

**Remember, always refill any holes dug, and take found trash with you.**





# Why go Metal Detecting?

Some people think this is a simple question - Why do people go metal detecting? What is so exciting about playing in the dirt? As someone who loves this hobby and actively detects, this is such a hard question to answer because there's so much to say.

The first thing to understand is that different people have different reasons to detect. Here are just a few more of the common reasons:

- The love of history and thrill of being able to hold something in your hands that hasn't seen the light of day in 50 or 100 years.
- The love of coin collecting. The love of finding coins or tokens, whether they be older Victorian or Edwardian coins, silver coins, or more modern coins like wheat pennies, or war era nickels.
- The thrill of digging a lost bit of jewellery – pulling something from the ground that might have been lost forever.
- The love of being active and in the outdoors. Believe it or not, metal detecting can be a fantastic form of exercise.
- And of course, financial gain from selling your finds (gold/silver jewelry) or even gold nuggets.

Personally, my interests lie in the first four categories – as do most metal detectorists I know. In fact, very few people I know are in this hobby for financial gain. Their finds are often more meaningful to them than a few extra dollars in their pockets. Contrary to what a lot of people may think, people who metal detect are often history buffs and collectors who enjoy finding their “special items” under the earth, not buying them on eBay.

For others it is about the unknown – You don't know what you will find when you head out detecting. Some people know what they hope to find. Others have researched an area well enough that they might even know what they “expect “to find there is still a thrill of the unknown, and a special anticipation, that is a reason that some detectorists love the hobby.

Regardless of why you detect, or what you love to find, Metal detecting can also be extremely addicting – especially when you find yourself digging up items from your wish-list – be it coins, rings, or relics.



"I think he misinterpreted the metal detector analogy in your 'seek and ye shall find' sermon!"





I SAID 'YES' TO PRETENDING THE VACUUM CLEANER IS A METAL DETECTOR. I DID **\*NOT\*** SAY 'YES' TO DIGGING HOLES IN THE CARPET! !!

## 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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