

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

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Winter may be approaching, but this great hobby keeps on going -
Don't forget the CMDC will still be meeting every month during the winter season.



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.

2017 CMDC Sundre Seeded Hunt and BBQ

On September 23, 2017; members of the Calgary Metal Detecting club made their way to Jerry Leussink's rural property outside of the community of Sundre for the CMDC Fall Wind-Up and Barbeque. Approximately 18 detectorists participated in the event, and everyone who attended had a great time. Events included a seeded hunt, Games, Draws, and a 50/50 raffle. A few spouses and partners joined the party, and they had a good time, whether they were spectators, or active hunters. The hunt was held in a grassed area, which was liberally seeded with silver, foreign coins, tokens and jewellery.

Early on Saturday morning, hunters began arriving. Everyone was excited about the event, and by 10:00 in the morning, eager Metal Detectorists were ready to spend the day hunting up a storm. The weather was perfect, with blue skies and sunshine on a crisp fall day. Everyone who attended the hunt had a great time, and dug up multiple treasures. Hunt prizes included metal detecting gear, coins, and a draw was held for a new pin-pointer.

After the seeded hunt, everyone who attended was invited to enjoy a BBQ dinner, which included chicken, pork, Caesar salad, coleslaw, mini-potatoes, veggies and dessert. After a bit more hunting, there was more food, and then a campfire to round out the day.

Thanks Jerry and Marina Leussink and everyone else who worked hard to make this event a great time for all who attended, and to RadioWorld Central / GPS Central for their prize donations.



BUZZER CONTEST

Send in a story or article to "The Buzzer" and win a Silver Dollar

The time for the Buzzer Annual Story Contest is approaching fast. We want to hear from you with a story or article about our hobby. With the colder weather approaching, this is a great time to sit down and write something an article or story about your metal detecting experiences. There are two available options for the Buzzer Contest.



Option One - write a story about a favourite Metal Detecting recovery – the story can be a find from any year, past or present, or any category. You could also write a story about your most memorable hunt experience. The story only has to be two or three paragraphs, although longer is just as welcome. Provide a photo if you have one.

Option Two - write an article passing on information to help others in the hobby. It could be a write-up of tips for newbies, or about a special technique you use for cleaning recovered items, or researching tips to help out others in the hobby. In the past we have had articles about military items, cleaning coins, and online research tips. Write an article to pass on information, and help out others in the hobby.

Every person who sends in a story or article before December 15th, 2017 will have their name entered into a draw for a Canadian Silver dollar. That's right –the winner will receive a beautiful silver dollar!

Every entry will have a chance at the prize, so even if you think you can't write well - give the contest a try. If your story does show up in a future Buzzer, editing is provided free of charge. The winner will be announced in the January 2018 Buzzer. This contest is not just for CMDC members. We send out the Buzzer across the Country, and any interested reader is invited to take part. If you don't live in Calgary, the prize will be mailed out to you.

Send your story or article by email to kempp@telus.net with Buzzer Contest or Metal Detecting Story in the subject line, and you will be entered into the contest for your chance to win that silver dollar. Every article sent in gets a chance at the prize, so if you mail in more than one article, you will get a draw ticket for every story received.

As I am sure you have guessed, anyone who enters the contest will likely find their story published in some future issue of the Buzzer. Don't worry about spelling or grammar - editing is provided free of charge when necessary. Could there be a better result? Not only do you receive a beautiful Silver Coin – but you become a published author! Join in, and take part in this amazing opportunity.

Final date to make an entry is December 15th, 2017.

❄️❄️ Winter CMDC Meetings ❄️❄️

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club continues to meet during the winter months, to share some coffee and conversation about this hobby we all love. From May until November we have our "Finds of the Month Contests", but that isn't something we can really continue during the winter.

From December until March the CMDC has monthly themes the first Tuesday of every month, just like the rest of the year. Instead of bringing finds to display for voting of "Finds of the Month", the CMDC has decided on "Recovered Item Themes". CMDC members are encouraged to bring items to display that they have found through-out the year - or even in past years - that fall into the "Theme for the Month". Remember to look at your finds and see what you think others might find interesting and fall under one of the following winter "Themes of the Month".

DECEMBER ~ MILITARIA MONTH – Bring any items found during the year that have a military theme. This could include cap badges, military buttons, military cartridges, or veteran's memorabilia.

JANUARY ~ TOYS MONTH – Bring all those great toys discovered through-out the year, from any era. This theme can be expanded to items to do with childhood - a mickie mouse pendant, or early century radio show item, or a 1960s cowboy cap-gun are amazing displays.

FEBRUARY ~ SHOW AND TELL MONTH – Bring your favourite finds - Whatever fun finds or memorable items that you loved recovering during the year can be displayed. It can be anything from that flattened nickel found by the railroad tracks, to an old iron or kettle, or maybe that silly metal toy. Whatever items that gave you a thrill to recover, Bring them on in and share them with the group.

MARCH ~ FINDS OF THE YEAR VOTING - March is reserved for voting of Finds of the Year. Each CMDC member can enter one item in the four basic categories of Relic, and share them Trinket, Treasure, and Coin for best "Find of the Year" voting. The CMDC club members will cast their votes, and select the best "Find of the Year" in each category.

APRIL ~ I know that we are all hoping for an early Spring ... April is the beginning of "Finds of the Month" voting. Finds made between November and April can be entered this month.

APRIL ~ ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET - The Finds of the Year voted for at the March meeting are displayed again. The winners who were selected by peer-vote during the March display of "Finds of the Year" will be announced and prizes presented at our April awards banquet.

TIP OF THE DAY

Don't be afraid to dig trash. Sometimes discriminating out signals seems like a good idea, but you run the risk of missing good finds. Remember a gold ring shows up as a pull tab or a chunk of tin-foil on most detectors. Also, cleaning out trash targets in an older area may bring out some better signals hiding below the trash.

Old driveways or parking areas can be great hunt locations, even if they are hard to dig. Sometime you can tell an old parking area or driveway from the landscape (there may building or sidewalk clues), and the type of ground. The ground around old parking areas will usually be very hard about 1 to 2" deep and have a dense concentration of small rocks. If you probe an area and find this, hunt it. Old driveways have shallow targets, as they cannot sink. Once you think you have found one, hunt the entire area on low sensitivity, as the targets should mostly be shallow. Keys pulled out of pockets or purses sometimes bring other items with them. Silver coins, jewelry and even an old hood ornament or car decoration can show up in places like this.

RADIOWORLD CENTRAL HUNT & BBQ EVENT

On September 30, 2017 the metal detecting community throughout Alberta were invited to an exciting seeded hunt event and BBQ lunch, hosted by RadioWorld Central and GPS Central. The seeded hunt event started at 11:00 am at Elbow Park in Calgary, followed by a BBQ lunch.

The staff of RadioWorld Central and GPS Central liberally seeded the hunting-field with silver coins and foreign coins. They also planted a set of gold earrings, and an actual gold coin on the hunting field. Most of the detectorists who attended were from the Calgary and Southern Alberta area, but detectorists travelled to attend from as far away as Edmonton. At 10:00 am the time arrived for the event start, and soon there were many happy hunters as silver coins and other treasures made their way pouches.

During the BBQ lunch Detectorists displayed some of their best finds in the categories of Relic, Treasure, Coin and Trinket. Prizes were won for best recovered item in each category, as voted on by the other detectorists who attended the hunt. Each winner was presented with several \$25 RadioWorld Central gift cards. Every registered detectorist was also entered for a chance to win a Minelab Xterra 305 metal detector, and a Minelab pinpointer.

It was a great event, but even more fun was soon at hand. RadioWorld Central arranged for a display of "Gold-Panning" with the assistance of the Alberta Gold Prospectors Association. Everyone who attended had a chance to try their hand at gold-panning, and took home the gold they retrieved from their attempt.

RadioWorld Central provided lunch, metal detecting pouches, gift cards, and some very cool swag with items from Minelab and Garrett Metal Detectors to every participant. Everyone who attended had a great time. The Calgary Metal Detecting Club is very fortunate to have RadioWorld Central as one of our club sponsors, and I urge the CMDC members to continue the development of this great relationship by making sure to shop there.

A Big shout-Out, and our thanks to George Valentine, and the staff of RadioWorld Central and GPS Central for a great event.



WW II Cap Badge Returned to Family

by JOHN PATERSON

This story was sent in to the Buzzer in October of 2016, and its entry into the November Buzzer seems appropriate, given that Remembrance day is just around the corner. Thanks to CMDC John Paterson for giving us this great story to remind us of the significance of the day, and for taking the time to ensure that a family received their precious bit of family lore, and symbol of Canadian military history back.



Back in the middle of March 2016, the ground was still mostly frozen but I just had to get out for a hunt. I had just picked up a new coil for my XT 505: an 18.75 kHz, 6 inch double-D coil - and I figured it would be perfect for a few junky areas in my neighbourhood. I headed over to the Tom Campbell hill, as the slope faces west and there was a fair chance that the upper slope would have thawed out enough to hunt.



Sure enough, there was a narrow band of unfrozen soil just along the crest of the hill so I started hunting through the bottle caps and pull tabs for treasure. After about 30 minutes I was cold enough that I started heading back to the car when I got a lovely silver response from something about 4 inches down. I cut the plug and a small badge fell from the bottom, and into the hole.

It's always nice to end a hunt with a good find. When I got home and cleaned it up, I discovered that it was indeed, silver and was a General Service Badge from WW2. The Government of Canada web site had the following information:

1940 Award Criteria

On Friday, March 29th, 1940 Canada's Administrator in Council, W. Duff, signed Order in Council P.C.1022. This established the War Service Badge

"Service" Class. This was for members of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of Canada who have declared their willingness, or who have engaged, to serve in any of the said forces on active service beyond Canada and Overseas, during the present war, and who have been honourably ceased to serve on active service:

1. After not less than three months of continuous paid service
2. By reason of physical disability

So that was pretty cool. Then I noticed that, on the back, was a serial number, indicating that there should be a record of who received the award. The next day I started trying to get the badge back to its original owner. Initially I contacted Veterans Affairs as they had an Awards and Honours section and I thought that they might have a record that would tie a serial number with the recipient.

Unfortunately, Andre Daoust, who *is* the Awards and Honours department informed me that they don't have such a list and were usually tasked with replacing, rather than returning awards. He suggested that I contact them to see if they could help me. A quick visit to the Archives Canada web site told me that the information I needed wasn't available online, so I just gave them a phone call. I was told that I'd have to make a telephone appointment or come in person to the archives and talk to an archivist about the award lists unless, of course, they had been digitized and were available on-line. Unfortunately they hadn't been digitized. This is likely due to the fact that a number of the servicemen and women from World War Two are still alive and the government is loathe to release information about living people (WW1 veteran information is all digitized).

Luckily, my sister, who has lived in Ottawa most of her life, has a friend who regularly visits the Archives in the course of his research and she was able to put me in contact with him. Ian said that he'd be happy to add the service records to the batch of files he'd look at on his next visit, which was only a couple of weeks away.

WW II Cap Badge Returned to Family - continued

Ian emailed me back as he was looking at the record and told me that the General Service Badge #1451*95 was issued to G. J. Frost (not the real name), RCAF, service #R145551 on March 13, 1945. After a number of dead-end Google searches (initials alone are not enough), I called Andre Daoust at Veterans Affairs to see if he could add any information now that we had a service number. A couple of days later, he called me back to say that Graham J. Frost passed away in 1984 in Williamsburg Ontario and that his wife (for whom no name or location was recorded) had stopped receiving survivor's benefits after she passed away in 2000.

Although no internet records exist for obituaries from 1984, the Williamsburg cemeteries do list the names of the departed and the names of the next of kin. Graham John had been interred in plot X13 of the New Union Cemetery and his wife's name was Georgie P. A quick Google search of Georgie P. revealed that she had passed away in Ottawa and that she was survived by Philip of Scarborough, Heather of Halifax and Vickie of Sackville. Canada 411, before the advent of cell phones, used to be a very good resource. It no longer is; no phones were associated with the children in the locations given. I had to resort to Google and Facebook

As the eldest child, I decided to track down Philip first. I discovered that he had been a writer for the Huffington Post, but was on medical leave due to a battle with cancer. I then found that he had passed away in 2014. This was disappointing in that I thought that he would be very pleased to have the badge back. On the off chance, I checked his Facebook page and found both Heather and Vicki listed on his Friends List.

At that point I sent Heather a message on Facebook. I also noticed that her profile picture showed her performing a christening wearing United Church vestments. On the chance that she was a practising member of the clergy, I tossed Heather Frost United church into a google search and discovered that she was the minister at St. John's United Church in a small Ontario town.

At this point, the simplest thing to do was to phone St. John's church and speak to her directly. Unfortunately she was out of the office for the day but the church staff, after a long explanation on my reasons for wishing to talk to her, gave me her phone number. So I phoned Heather... and left a message. Two days later, not having heard anything back, I phoned during office hours and went into a bit more detail about why I, a total stranger, was calling her from Calgary Alberta.

It turns out that she (and her sister, who was visiting at the time) thought that they were being set up for some kind of scam so they didn't contact me. It took a bit more explaining to win her over, after which, she was very excited to have a piece of their father's history returned to the family. I posted the badge away on April 22nd and now it's back with the proper owner's family – 71 years later. Hopefully they won't misplace it again.

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BY CANTÚ AND CASTELLANOS



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> <p>In-town membership : \$25.00 Out-of-town membership: \$20.00 Family Membership \$40.00</p> <p>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC) c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2</p>
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>Kevin Niefer <i>See Below</i></p> <p><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i> 403-720-9501</p> </div> <p>Your RE/MAX Realty Professional</p> <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</p>
<p>Cochrane Dental</p> <p>311 1 St E, Cochrane, AB T4C 1Z3 403-932-5498</p> <p>Dr. Dwayne Hinz</p> <p>Find us on the web at cochranedentists.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">YOU COULD BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do you have an interesting story, idea for an article, or a comment that you would like to see in "The Buzzer".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Write it down and email it to kemp@telus.net with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.</p>
