

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# THE BUZZER

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Winter may be coming, but don't forget that this great hobby doesn't stop -  
The CMDC will still meet the first Tuesday of 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](http://www.cmdc.org).

## SIKOME LAKE HUNT 2018

On Wednesday, October 24, 2018, members of the Calgary Metal Detecting club made their way to Sikome Lake, for a "by permission" hunt of the drained lake-bed. All CMDC members knew that any "valuables" recovered at Sikome Lake on the day would be turned in to the Park "Lost and Found". These would be kept safe by the Fish Creek Provincial Park staff for a year. This is in order to give members of the public who lost a item of jewellery during the summer swim-season an opportunity to claim their lost treasures, if their item could be adequately described.

Around 30 Metal Detecting hobbyists showed up bright and early on that cool but sunny Wednesday morning to take part in the adventure. We waited eagerly to get in the gate - and we waited some more. At first we waited eagerly - and then impatiently. It took a while for the park wardens to show up to open the gate to the park area. As soon as the gates were opened we were off. A stream of hunters made their way to the beach, and to the drained lake-bed to scour the sand for treasures. We all look forward to this opportunity to search Sikome Lake after it has been drained, and the chance to recover the missing treasures lost during a summer of swimming and fun.

The weather stayed reasonably cool - which was perfect hunt weather. The sun heated up the area enough that those who were hot could take off a layer of clothing, but it was cool enough that nobody was overheated. As the hunt of Sikome Lake started, there was a frenzy of activity as each person raced to the area they believed items might have been lost. For some, they were looking for specific items lost in specific areas. Others wandered, going wherever they thought a treasure might be waiting. All in all it was a fun morning of detecting. Just after noon the hunt was ended, and we all gathered together to look over the items that each hunter had recovered.

There were multiple treasures located during the hunt, including 9 pieces of gold jewellery, along with 9 silver items, and 3 tungsten rings. Among the recovered treasures were wedding bands, silver rings, gold earrings, and bracelets. Other items dug out of the sand included toy cars and trucks, bits of costume jewellery, a rosary from Italy, and multiple coins and sunglasses. We also removed a lot of trash from the lake-bed.

After the hunt, the group voted on best finds. The wardens brought out the envelope filled with the recovered items from last year's hunt. Everyone who turned in a "treasure" last year received back any item that had not been claimed by the owners. CMDC members were thrilled to get back most of the recovered items from the 2017 Sikome Lake Hunt. Those who didn't get back their 2017 recoveries knew that their found items had been reunited with the original owner, and we are always delighted when that happens.

Everyone at the Sikome Lake hunt had a great time. We all owe a big thank you to Rod Coppock for setting it all up, and to the Fish Creek Park Wardens for access to the lake. We are already looking forward to next year's Sikome Lake adventure.



# BUZZER CONTEST

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

It's time for the Annual Buzzer Story contest. Try your hand at writing a story or an article for the Buzzer, and you could win a silver dollar. With the colder weather at hand, now is a great time to sit down and write down an article about the hobby, or story about your metal detecting experiences. Every story submitted to the Buzzer before December 15th will be entered for a chance to win a Canadian Silver Dollar coin. There are two available options for the 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 detecting / 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 entry will have a chance at the prize, so even if you think you can't write well - give the contest a try. The winner will be announced in the January 2019 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. In the past we have had submissions from CMDC "Ex-Pats" that live in Newfoundland, EMDC members, and other Alberta detecting hobbyists.

Send your story or article by email to [kempp@telus.net](mailto: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 most 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 get a chance to receive a beautiful Silver Coin – but you become a published author, and help the editor put out a better newsletter! Join in, and take part in this amazing opportunity.

Final date to make an entry is December 15th, 2018.

## ❄️❄️ Winter CMDC Meetings ❄️❄️

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club continues to meet during the winter months, to share coffee and conversation about this great hobby. From April until November we have our "Finds of the Month Contests", but that isn't something we can really continue during the winter months, so we have come up with other options.

From December until March the CMDC has monthly displays during the club meeting, which is still held the first Tuesday of every month, just like the rest of the year. Instead of a monthly "Finds of the Month" contest, the CMDC has chosen "Recovered Item Themes", one for each winter month. CMDC members are encouraged to bring and display recovered items along a specific theme. CMDC members can bring any items recovered through-out the year - or even past years - that fall under the "Theme for the Month". Remember to look through your finds and see what you think others might find interesting and that might fall within the guidelines for 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. Paramilitary items from groups like police, firefighter, and park warden items could be included in this theme.

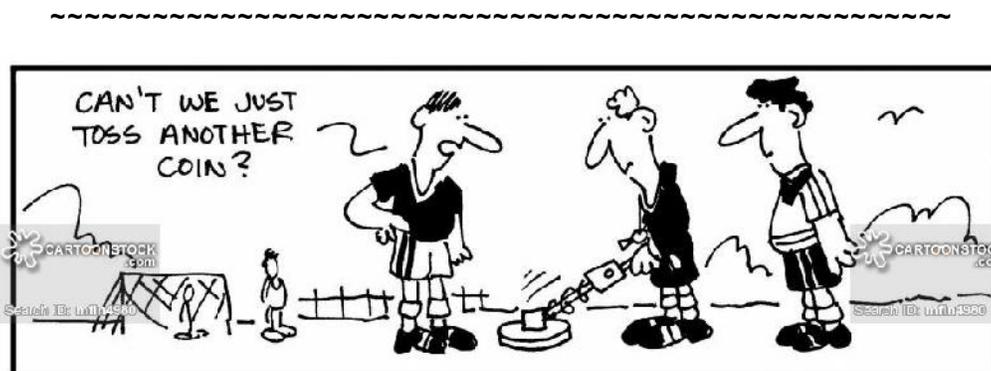
**JANUARY ~ TOYS MONTH** – Bring all those great toys discovered through-out the year, from any era. This theme can be expanded to items to do with childhood - childrens jewellery, baby items, radio/TV memorabilia, or a 1960s cowboy cap-gun would all create some amazing displays.

**FEBRUARY ~ SHOW AND TELL MONTH** – Bring your favourite finds - It can be any find that tickled your fancy, and that you considered a "favorite" find from the year. Maybe it was a relic found near your childhood home, or just a silly modern toy that made you laugh. 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 each of the four basic categories of Relic, Trinket, Treasure, and Coin, and display their personal best for "Find of the Year". The CMDC club members will vote for their favourite in each category, which will be tabulated to select the winner of "Find of the Year" in each category. The winners will be announced at the dinner in April.

**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 ~ CMDC DINNER & AWARDS NIGHT** - 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 annual April CMDC Banquet and Awards Night.



## WWII Compass Buttons

During World War II, the Allied Forces flew missions over Germany and the occupied countries of Western Europe. With the distinct possibility of being shot down, the armed forces had to consider providing their soldiers with a means of navigation through hostile territory. They also had to consider providing airmen with an escape arsenal that would not be detected and confiscated by their captors.

As the war progressed, these questions were brought to scientists and inventors, who came up with a simple, but effective, solutions. Maps were hidden in decks of cards, game boards, and in the linings of uniforms. They also created "compass buttons". The British were the first to invent this useful tool. One button on every Royal Air Force (RAF) tunic screwed off to reveal a miniature compass. There were British, Canadian and American versions of the compass buttons. The RAF and RCAF version was threaded, and the American version had a hinged cover.

Later, the military updated the compass, using suggestions provided by the escapees who had used them. The compass underwent various revisions and formats, including cuff links (scratch off the surface paint to reveal the compass), and trouser buttons (tying a string passed through the holes, then dipping the whole thing in water. The magnetized button would begin to turn, with a single yellow dot or smaller hole indicating north).



Military compass buttons are quite scarce. If you find a WWII military button that rattles when you shake it, or if the button has a yellow dot, it's possible you are holding an item that might have meant escape to a POW.

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## WWII Era War Nickels

Nickel became a critical war material for the United States and Canada during World War II, because of its use in airplanes, boats, and ammunition. Both the US and Canadian governments decided that "the nickel" needed to change. In the United States Congress authorized a silver alloy 5-cent coin, giving the Mint the authority to vary the proportions. In the end, an alloy of 56% copper, 35% silver, and 9% manganese proved suitable. The Jefferson silver war nickel was minted in October 1942. These US nickels are easy to identify because of the large "S" over the image of Monticello. The original "nickel" composition returned in 1946. So, check your finds if you dig an American war era nickel, to see if you have found one of these historic coins.



The Royal Canadian Mint also believed Nickel was better suited for war-use, and changed the composition of their 5-cent coins. The Canadian mint found the most suitable material for the coin was tombac, which is an alloy of copper, zinc, nickel and various other metals. The "Tombac Nickel" was minted in 1942 & 1943, and had a reddish tinge. In 1942 the nickel used the familiar Beaver design. In 1943 the mint developed the "Victory Nickel", rendering a patriotic "V for Victory" and a flaming freedom torch in place of the beaver. The usual rim beads around the edge were replaced by Morse code, reading "We win when we work willingly."

People complained about the similarity in colour between the tombac nickel and the penny, so tombac was replaced in 1944 and 1945 with chromium-plated steel, but still used the "Victory" obverse. 1946 saw a return to the nickel composition and the beaver design still in use today on our Canadian 5-cent coin.

## WW I Silver-Cross Memorial Returned to Family

This story seems appropriate, given that Remembrance Day is just around the corner. Many of our members have found Military items, a number of which have been donated to the Calgary Museum of the regiments. It is always great to hear when a precious military heirloom, sometimes the only memorial a lost soldier has available on Canadian soil, is returned to a family member. Last year this was the story of John Patterson's return of General Service Badge to family members. This year, we are sharing the story of a recovered memorial silver-cross medallion to the great grand-daughter of a soldier killed during WWI.

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The Silver Cross Memorial Medallion was presented to mothers or widows of Canadian soldiers who died on active duty. The Canadian government first issued the medallion in 1919, after the losses WWI. The medal is still presented to family members today, whenever a Canadian Soldier is killed in action. The "silver-cross" medallion is small (about the size of a toonie), made of silver, with a crown on the top arm of the cross, and maple leaves on the other three. The initials of the King served is present in the center.

In 2015, Jay Stone had a day off work. The Nova Scotia arborist has two hobbies that he loves He is a woodworker, and turns wood on a lathe to create items that he sells at the Annapolis Royal Farmers Market. His other hobby is Metal Detecting, and he loves to retrieve lost objects that put him in touch with the past. Jay decided that the day was great for detecting, and had permission to hunt an area with an "older House". There were not many finds around the house, which turned out to be from the 1950s, and not as old as he hoped. However, as he was walking along the property line beside a fence, he got a very good signal.

When he dug down to recover the target, Jay realized he had discovered a child's long-lost pirate treasure.



The little cache had a bunch of old coins and toys, and also a silver medallion in the shape of a cross, with laurel leaves surrounding the arms. Jay recognized the Memorial "silver cross", and realized that he had found something very special.

Jay Stone's first thought was to return the Silver-Cross to the family of the lost soldier, but a search of the name and military serial number engraved on the Medallion could not tell him much. He tried to research the name on the medal of Private E. D. Burns, without success. Stone told everyone about the medal, looking for help to reunite the medallion with the family.

It was a few months later, during his farmers market gig, that Jay Stone found the help he needed. He overheard some people talking about their volunteer work for the Cornwallis Military Museum. Jay approached them, and they were delighted to aid in his quest. They were able to research Private Burns, and discovered his enlistment record, which recorded his date of birth, religion, marital status, next of kin, and much more. After following the family record, and researching funeral records, they were able to find the pastor who performed the funeral service for Pte. Burns grandson. The pastor was able to put Jay Stone in touch with Darlene Harry, who was E. D. Burns great-grand-daughter.

Darlene Harry had heard few family stories about her great-grandfather. She knows her great-grandfather enlisted in the Nova Scotia rifles in 1915 at the age of 38, and was killed November of 1917 in Belgium. The family story was that he was killed while travelling to visit his brother, who was in a different unit. He was buried just outside Ypres. Mrs. Harry had seen one only one photo of her great-grandfather during her childhood. She says that she had always wondered about him, and hoped someday to visit his grave in France. Darlene Harry was delighted to have this memorial of her great-grandfather.

Jay Stone was delighted to see the silver-cross memorial medal returned to a descendant Pte. E. D. Burns. "It gives me goose-pimples" he said. "We're looking at a hero here. This man gave his life for Canada, and it's like he's coming back from the past."

## Winter Detecting

So you think that the Metal Detecting season is over once the snow begins to fly - that may not necessarily be true. Some members of the CMDC do consider metal detecting a three season activity, hunting with their detectors in Spring, Summer, and Autumn - but others detect year round. Many detectorists put away their detector as soon as it gets cold enough that snow stays on the ground, hibernating inside, planning to get back into the hobby during a winter vacation, or at first thaw. Others are out detecting in the snow, in all seasons.

We don't have to stop detecting just because the weather is a bit cooler. Even if you can't actually dig the ground during most of the winter, you can still be involved in metal detecting during the winter months. You can hunt for treasure in the snow, even when the ground is frozen. Places like sledding hills, ice skating and hockey rinks, light displays, and other winter gathering areas can lead to a number of finds. Detectorists can still find "snow-drops" of lost items like jewelry and coins. Remember that items easily fall out of people's pockets during winter activities, and with the shorter days, many people do not notice. You can find lost items all winter long with your metal detector! I know some hobbyists are out in wooded areas winter, searching for places where there is a lot of leaf litter and diggable earth, even in December and January. We can also help people who have lost keys or sentimental items in the snow. However, if you are going out for a MD hunt during the winter, make sure that you dress for the weather, and that someone knows where you are heading!

If it's just too cold for you, and you don't think that metal detecting outside when the temperature is below freezing sounds like a fun idea, that's OK. You can still enjoy the hobby. That doesn't mean that we shut detecting out of our mind. There are still chinooks!!! You will find some of us watching you-tube videos about hunts in warmer climates with envy all winter long. Winter is also a great time to research the area you live in for possible hunt sites. You can research places that you want to detect once the weather warms up. Many successful metal detectorists research and plan before they head out into the field. You can look for places that were well traveled, or where activities like picnics took place in the past. Perhaps you can even locate an old house or long-lost swimming hole. Information on your area can easily be found online with newspaper digitization, or at places like the local historical society or the library. Longtime residents of the area can also be excellent resources.

Although digging the earth may not be possible until Spring thaw, you can still have a Detectorists positive attitude, and get ready for all those great treasures you are going to find when the weather warms up! By researching during the winter, and preparing for possible metal detecting hunts in warmer weather, you are setting up your spring, summer, and fall metal detecting season for success. With the right attitude, and preparation, all your treasure hunts become more successful.

Don't put your metal detecting equipment away when the weather turns. Use these tips to find ways that you can keep up your hobby all year long, no matter what mother nature throws at you!



## 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

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| <p><b>GPS Central &amp; RadioWorld<br/>Central</b></p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment &amp; tools.</p> <p>#8, 711 - 48 Street SE Calgary<br/>AB Canada T2G 4X2<br/>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: 5px;">In-town membership :</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">\$25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Out-of-town membership:</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">\$20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Family Membership</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">\$40.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDCC)<br/>c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE<br/>Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2 <span style="float: right;">email:<br/>cmdccclub@gmail.com</span></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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| Family Membership                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | \$40.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                      |         |                         |         |                   |         |
| <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"><b>Kevin Niefer</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>See Below</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i></b></p> <p style="margin: 0;">403-720-9501</p> </div> <p>To view Kevin's listings visit him on the internet @<br/><a href="http://www.kevinniefer.com">www.kevinniefer.com</a> - or give him a call at 403-720-9501<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:kniefer@calgaryrealestatepros.com">kniefer@calgaryrealestatepros.com</a></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BONNA-JEAN CAMPBELL</b><br/><b>Brand Promotor</b><br/><b>The Thrive Experience by Le-Vel</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing BURN<br/>BURN calories, BURN fat, and<br/>Ignite your body into Thermogenesis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing PROTEIN BARS<br/>Premium Nutrition – Sequential Bar Technology<br/>Lemon Meringue – Cinnamon Roll – Cookies &amp; Cream – Birthday Cake<br/>Check this out and more on my website:<br/><a href="http://www.Thrivewithbjc.thrive2point0.com">www.Thrivewithbjc.thrive2point0.com</a><br/>Email: <a href="mailto:Thrivewithbjc@gmail.com">Thrivewithbjc@gmail.com</a></p> |                      |         |                         |         |                   |         |
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**WE NEED STORIES.** 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](mailto:kempp@telus.net) with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.