

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

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Winter may be close-at-hand, but don't forget that this great hobby doesn't stop -
The CMDC continues to meet the first Tuesday of every month - all year round.



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.

With winter fast approaching, I thought it might be a good idea to list some ideas for winter detecting. This hobby doesn't have to stop when the snow flies – a few members will continue detecting in warmer climates, but for some hardy souls – this hobby continues all year round, especially when a nice chinook brings us sunny weather, dry ground, and a place to dig.

❄️❄️ Toboggan Hill Detecting ❄️❄️



One area that can be detected during the winter season is locations that are set aside for sledding or tobogganing. As the winter weather allows, and that metal-detecting urge hits, and we can't possibly wait until Spring - it could be a good time to hit those steep slopes. This chilly weather fun can provide a bonanza of lost coinage falling out of pockets, not to mention jewellery lost by kids and adults sliding or tumbling down those toboggan hills.

The City of Calgary Parks page lists a selection of areas that are designated sledding hills. Take a drive on a sunny cold day and look at the park listed for your area. If you are a member of one of the lake communities, some of those neighbourhoods have built toboggan hills as part of their community park. Watch where the most popular spots are on the runs - look for the areas where people have the most mishaps, and where they gather together at the bottom of the hills. They may take their gloves off, and we all know when it's cold your fingers shrink and off comes the rings. If they are wearing necklaces and have a tumble there is a chance it will get broken and go flying somewhere in the snow. There is an opportunity for some excellent finds on a popular toboggan hill.

Of course, if you don't want to drive out yourself, you could just check out "Calgary Toboggan" or "Calgary sledding" on YouTube - that is if you don't get distracted by all the metal-detecting videos from areas where the ground is still soft, and the finds are still coming out of the earth



❄️❄️ Skating Rinks and Ponds ❄️❄️



Another area that can be great for detecting is community skating rinks, or ponds that are used for ice-skating. People show up for some cold weather fun with skates and must remove their mitts or gloves in order to lace them up. Items falling into snow may sink below the surface.

Some rinks and ponds will have fire-pits going with logs or benches to sit on. There may not be a lot of finds, but if that metal-detecting urge hits, the rinks or nearby fire-pits might be a good place to check out.

There might also be a commissary stand selling hot chocolate or warm coffee to those who are enjoying a nice winter glide on the icy rink. You never know what falls out of pockets when people are fishing for loonies or bills.

You can take a drive around your local communities and see if there is a skating area or a fire-pit set up. On a nice "chinooky" day, anyone feeling the urge to metal detect can go out and give your local skating area a try. You may be surprised at what shows up under your coil.

This is also a good place to check out in the summer. I remember one CMDC member finding the mother-load of silver coins when a relative pointed out to him where the old commissary stand used to be near a local skating pond. It was obvious that the area had never been hunted before as he pulled out silver after silver that had been lost in the 1950s and 1960s. Don't forget those old "berm style" rinks early Calgary communities had in many parks – they were in use during the era that silver was common in pocket change.

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 Canadian silver dollar. With winter weather at hand, this could be a great time to write an article about the metal detecting hobby, or to put together a story about your metal detecting experiences. Every story or article submitted to the Buzzer Contest before December 25th, 2019 will be entered a draw. The winner of the random draw will receive 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 for cleaning recovered items. You could pass on researching tips to help out others in the hobby. In the past we've had articles about military items, how to dig plugs, cleaning coins, and research tips. Write an article to pass on information and tips about metal detecting, or suggestions to help others in the hobby.

Every article entered 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 2020 Buzzer. This contest is not just for CMDC members. We send out the Buzzer across Canada, 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 Buzzer story 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 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. The more stories or articles sent in, the more chances you have of winning. If you send in more than one article, you will receive a "draw entry" 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 25th, 2019.

Metal Detecting Tips

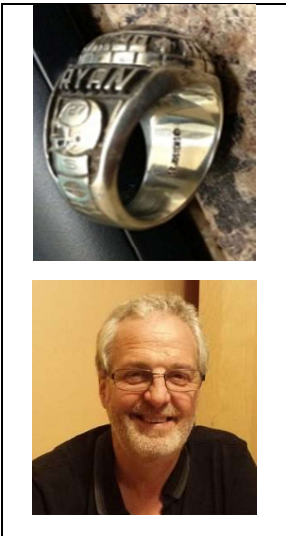
Have Reasonable Expectations - You are going to find targets, lots of them. Don't expect that every target will be long lost treasure. Patience and positive thinking are important if you want this to be a rewarding hobby. Know when you go out that you will find something to take home most days. It may not be gold, silver or a relic. Sometimes it may be just enough clad for a coffee, or some unique and interesting new thing. Every time I find something odd, and don't know what it is, I am fascinated to research it, and find out what that unique item is. Having a positive attitude will help you appreciate every new find!

A reality in this hobby is that we dig up a lot of trash. It's an unfortunate part of metal detecting. But hey - we are cleaning the environment every time we put the garbage, we dig up into a trash can. I carry a finds pouch, with one section for trash and the other for coins and "good" finds. While we find people leave behind trash, remember that the presence of trash is an indication that someone was spending time in the area. It shows that there might be lost or odd "good bits" for us to recover. Another tip is to learn your detector. When you know your detector well enough to know what to dig, you can dig up some cool items. Little did I know when I was discriminating out pull-tabs how many gold rings I may have missed. Remember a gold ring reads in the pull tab area of most detectors, many relics are found under iron signals, and silver sounds like copper.

Gold Ring return in Drumheller

This story is a blast from the past – originally written and published in the Buzzer in September of 2013. Iain Paterson gave permission for the story to be published and shared with other CMDC members. The original article was submitted to Iain for approval prior to publishing, and the original details of the find were shared on the CMDC Facebook group.

Iain Paterson's job took him to Drumheller in late July of 2013. He brought along his metal detecting for some Rest and Recreation after his work-day ended. One evening after he dropped off his tools, he headed off to spend some time hitting a local park with his detector.



After about 45 minutes of not finding anything, Iain noticed a boulevard across the street, so he and his detecting buddy gave it a try. There really wasn't much to find at first - then Iain got a 62 on the AT-Pro. Normally that indicates a pull-tab, but there is always a chance that it is a ring.

Iain started digging, and BOOM out pops a chunky grad ring from 2000 - the details on the ring were for a "Ryan", who played football under # 27. At first it appeared silver, but the AT-Pro number was too low for silver. Iain cleaned it up and looked closely. 10K white-gold! The Jostens ring also had some engraving on the inside band. but it wasn't readable.

Iain Paterson knew this ring meant something to somebody, so he tried to do some research at the local High School - unsuccessfully. The next day Iain took the ring into the plant and found a couple of guys that looked like they might have graduated about the same time. They didn't remember a Ryan, but one of them recalled that his sister had a yearbook from that year. The next day he came in and provided the name

"Ryan Conley."

The funny part was that the plant manager was also named Conley. The workers asked if his son ever played football, and about his jersey numbers. They found the ring belonged to the manager's son, and that Ryan's class ring had been lost over a decade before. The manager was a little shocked to see it again - but really happy. Iain Paterson's comment on the incident was simply "It's really cool to return something like that."

Iain Paterson accomplished something that is on most of our wish-lists – the return of a lost item with sentimental value to the original owner. Well done, Iain!

WWII ID Bracelet Return

In February of 2017, French metal-detecting hobbyist Matthieu Delamontte made an unusual recovery. He had a nice silver sound in a field near Normandy that he had a permission on. When he dug it up, he found a sterling silver American ID bracelet, that had been lost during the "D-Day" invasion.

On June 7, 1944 Army sergeant John Hill had landed in France. Somewhere along the way, he lost the silver ID bracelet given to him by his mother prior to being shipped overseas. The bracelet had his name on the front, and his army serial number on the back. This was a common gift from parents of servicemen in the United States and Canada.

Matthieu Delamontte worked at a D-Day museum, and wanted to return the ID bracelet to the original owner, if possible. With the assistance of a local librarian, and access to the internet, Matthieu was able to discover that John Hill survived World War II, and returned to the United States after the war. Further research discovered that John Hill was still alive. Delamontte and the Librarian were able to track Sergeant Hill down to his current residence north of Syracuse, New York.

"it is incredible, because it is very rare to find something like that," Delamontte stated. The two men were connected via Skype so that Delamontte could ask about Sergeant Hill's time in World War II Normandy, and tell John Hill his own story of the bracelet's recovery.

Delamontte shipped the memorable bracelet back to John Hill in Spring of 1917, and that precious remembrance of a mother's love and concern for her soldier son was once again in John Hill's hands, over 70 years later.

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 (ie: coffee, lottery tickets, fast-foods) 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.

New Jersey WWII Medal Returned to Family

Audra Thomas of Union Beach, New Jersey, is a technology worker by day and bass player by night. She also likes to play in the dirt. In March of 2015 she was using her metal detector in Thompson Grove Park in her home town, when she found several World War II medals, and some jewellery. She knew that she had found somebody's treasure. "I was in shock," said Thomas, who had recently discovered the dog park. "First thing I said was, 'I have to find out who these belong to.'"

The name on the medals was still legible: Sal Santovasco, U.S. Army. She scoured the Internet and Facebook, tracking down Santovasco's brother, who gave her the phone number of Jea Santovasco, Sal Santovasco's daughter.

Santovasco said her father served in the Philippines during World War II; he passed away suddenly in 1988, leaving her the medals. "He gave them to me, he could have given them to my brothers, any one of my four brothers," Santovasco said of her father. "He gave them to me, that meant so much to me, especially as a girl."

The two met up to return the medals in late March of 2016, and Jea Santovasco was thrilled. "Oh my god, this is beautiful," Santovasco said. "I can't believe I have these back." Santovasco said someone broke into her Manalapan, NJ, home more than two years before, and swiped her jewelry and the medals. She had been searching for them ever since. Audra found the three medals caked in leaves and mud a few feet from the water's edge of Thompson Grove Park, a popular off-leash dog area. She works near the park and was metal detecting on her lunch break.

Thomas had one more surprise for Jea Santovasco when they met Saturday morning. Along with the medals, she found a gold necklace with a red and gold pendant bearing an angel. This pendant had also been a gift from Jea's father, purchased for her daughter's first Christmas shortly before Sal Santovasco's death in 1988. Of all the items stolen, these were the most important to her. She was stunned and overjoyed at their return.

Thomas started metal detecting 15 years before and became a history buff along the way. She is now a member of BRAVO, a non-profit focused on preserving New Jersey's history. Thomas mostly finds old coins, Revolutionary War items, and jewelry that she usually posts on Craigslist's lost and found. She displays a few of her favorite historic items in a case at home.

Thomas said she's found World War II medals before, but never tracked down the owner. This time, everything aligned. "I was just in the right place at the right time," said Thomas.

For Better or For Worse®

by Lynn Johnston



❄️❄️ 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 for displays. Club members are encouraged to bring items they have found through-out the year - or even in past years - that fall into that category: Remember to look at your finds and see what you think others might find interesting.

DECEMBER ~ MILITARIA MONTH – Bring any items found during the year that have a military theme.

JANUARY ~ TOYS MONTH – Bring all those great toys discovered through-out the year, from any era.

FEBRUARY ~ SHOW AND TELL MONTH – Whatever your favourite finds were during the year, 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 club member is entitled to choose their best finds of the year to display. Each member can enter one item in the four basic categories of Relic, Trinket, Treasure, and Coin for best "Find of the Year". The CMDC club members will cast their votes, and choose the best find in each category.

APRIL ~ ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET - The Finds of the Year voted for at the March meeting are displayed again. The winners of the March vote for *Finds of the Year*, will be announced and prizes presented at our April awards banquet.



LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the Brentwood Co-op store which is located just off Crowchild Trail between Charleswood Drive and Brisbois Drive N.W. You have to enter the store and go down-stairs (door by the Bakery) to find the meeting room.

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The CMDC's yearly dues are:

In-town membership : \$25.00
Out-of-town membership: \$20.00
Family Membership \$40.00

Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC)
c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE
Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2 email:
cmdclub@gmail.com



Kevin Niefer

See Below

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