

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

Volume 49 – issue 6 November 2020



Winter may be coming, but this great hobby doesn't stop -
If you dress for it, you can keep on detecting during the winter season.



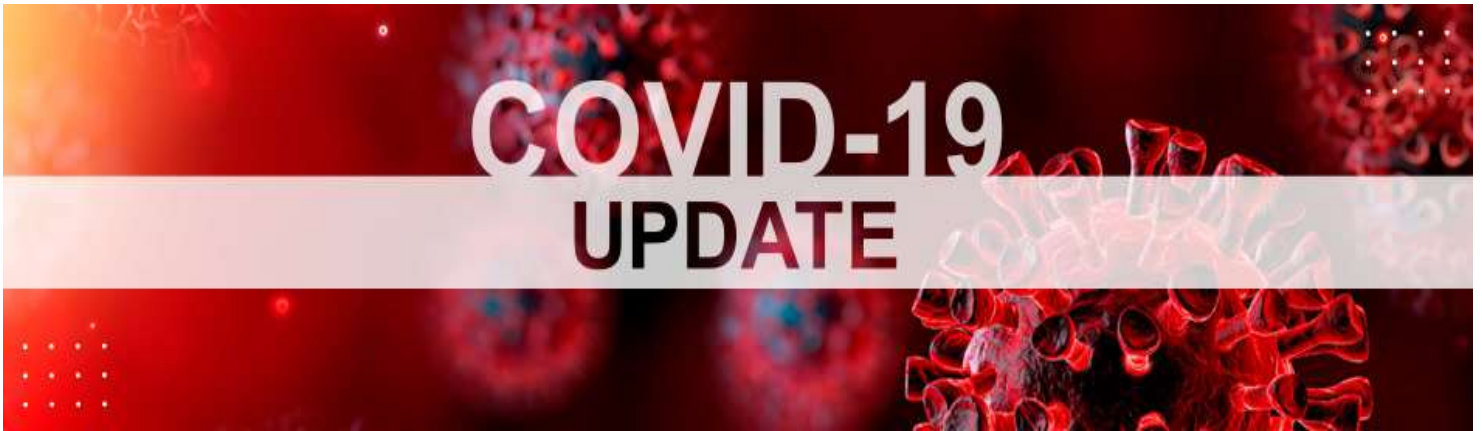
The Buzzer is published by and for the membership of the CMDC – Canada's oldest Active Metal Detecting Club.

Visit us on the internet @ www.cmdc.org.

CMDC CLUB MEETINGS STILL CANCELLED

As most of you know, the Calgary Metal Detecting Club was contacted by the Brentwood Co-op in March, and informed that they would be closing their meeting rooms until the Covid 19 crisis was over. We usually meet the first Tuesday of every month, but by the middle of April the Alberta government banned all meetings of over 15 people. With the second wave this virus seems to be getting, and infection rates in November of over 600 cases a day, the Co-op has still not opened their meeting rooms for public use. Our monthly club meetings are still on hold.

I am hoping that all of you have kept healthy through Covid 19 and have been enjoying the last good weather and nice days of the Autumn metal detecting season. Remember to be safe while enjoying the hobby - ensure safe distances and social distancing. We will send out more information when we have it - it will go out on the Facebook group page and by email. I look forward to seeing you at a future CMDC meeting.



CMDC CLUB HUNT UPDATE

The CMDC tries to get together for a club hunt one or two times a month from April until November. With the onset of Covid 19, and the concerns about contagion and social distancing, the CMDC cancelled its Club Hunts for most of the summer.

CMDC Hunt Director, John Paterson, planned a few club hunts in late summer and in the Autumn, with some careful looks at social distancing rules. Masks were to be worn at the beginning and end of the hunt, and whenever a club member was within 6 feet of one another. It worked out fairly well, and it was nice to be able to get out for a hunt together, and to see the great finds made by all the club members at the end of the allotted time. There were some pretty cool finds made at those last few hunts.

Of course, now that the snow has arrived, club hunts have ended for 2020. By the time Spring rolls around again, I am hoping we will have seen an end to this whole Covid situation. We are hoping that we will see the full continuation of the great CMDC Club Hunts when this Covid 19 situation finds a resolution – If things go well, our CMDC club hunts will continue in April of 2021.

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, send it in as a contest entry, and you could win a silver dollar. With the colder weather keeping us indoors, maybe now is a good time to try your hand at story writing. Take some time to sit down and write down an article about the hobby, or a fun story about your metal detecting experiences. Every story submitted for the Buzzer before December 20th, 2020, 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. This could be a great opportunity to teach 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 other detectorists. In the past we have had articles about how to use aerial photos to find hunt sites, cleaning coins, and online research tips. Write an article to pass on information and help out others in the hobby.

You are not limited to just one entry, so send in more than one article. 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 2021 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 have moved to new locations, 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. 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 20th, 2020.

WW II Cap Badge Returned to Family

by JOHN PATERSON

This story was originally published in the Buzzer November of 2017, but with Remembrance Day approaching on November 11th – I thought it was a great time to reprint this story. Thanks to CMDC member, 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.



Toys in the War Era

During the World Wars, even toys took on military applications, as a tool to interest young minds in what they could do to help win the war. Many young lads Christmas lists included toy soldiers, tank or jeeps, or a toy fighter plane. In some cases this was to feel close to the father away at war, but in most cases it was because radio plays and comics of the time were used for propaganda about the ensuing conflict.

Some of the popular radio shows of the times, like Orphan Annie, had her helping to catch Nazi spies. In comics, Captain America fought Nazis during World War II, but he was only one of many such comics. "Boy Commandos had a group of 12-year-old out to save the World, Wonder Woman, Batman and Superman fall had war-based story lines.

On the home front, toys also took on "war-based" story lines. Toy cars moved to toy jeeps and tanks. Model planes moved on from biplanes to WWII era type bombers and fighters. Toy cowboys moved onto soldiers molded from tin or lead. All of these are longed for items that any CMDC member would be happy to add to their collection.



CMDC Military Finds

Over the years many Military Items have been recovered by CMDC members. Remember that Calgary's first real settlement was as the result of the arrival of the Mounted Police over a century ago. Here are a few photos of Militaria recovered by the members of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club in the past. Some of these were kept by club members, and some were donated to Military Museums.



WWI Cap badge - Jeff Budd



Toy Military Cannon - Kenn Kittlitz



RNWP button - Randy Joy



WWI Cap badge - James Belke



WWI Cap Badge - Brett Buchan



WWII RCAF Button – John Paterson

World War II Dogtag return

During 1942 many areas in the United States of America opened up training bases. In Smith County, Texas, the sounds of mortars exploding and machine gun live-fire became a fact of life when Camp Fannin opened up north of the town of Tyler, Texas. This camp was dedicated to preparing young men to hopefully survive the war in Europe.

In 1944, a young soldier named Edward Buggert was one of thousands of soldiers cycled through Camp Fannin. Edward was from Detroit, Michigan, and this was his first time in Texas. His son remembered his father remark on the extreme heat encountered during the summer spent there. At some point during training in the munitions area, PFC Buggert lost a dog tag. He was issued a new one and went on with his training.

75 Years Pastor Sammy Draper of Tyler, Texas, was enjoying the solitude and love of the outdoors he found from picking up metal detecting as a hobby. Since the Camp Fannin closure in 1946, the 14,000 acres had been parcelled out, and the area was now filled with residences, businesses, and laboratories. In late autumn Fall of 2019, Pastor Draper was searching in a wooded area that was once a part of the old base.

Draper was enjoying a peaceful afternoon in the woods. He didn't have many finds in the area, so he was a bit surprised when he found the dogtag. "It was really a moment where I looked on it and saw his name. It kind of made the whole moment come alive, like you're part of that moment. You can look out through the woods and feel the history, and that's what has been really neat about metal detecting and the hobby," Sammy Draper said. "You really connect with that."

Pastor Draper knew that the likelihood that this soldier was still alive was slim, but Draper took the dog tag home and tried searching online for information about Edward Buggert. Unfortunately he came up blank. It was only later when he posted a photo of his haul to a metal detecting group that he struck gold. One of the responses told him about an organization created to reconnect veterans or their families with missing items.

Draper reached out to Angelo's Angels and Francesa Cumero to see if they could return the tag. Cumero started Angelo's Angels after a veteran contacted her family in 2006 because he had discovered the dog tag of her great uncle, lost during an offensive in the Pacific theater. "Within just a little while, she had the basic information of the veteran. He passed away in '87," Draper said. "Then she found information about his wife, who had also passed away, but through his wife's obituary found some living children."

With that information, Draper composed letters to Edward Buggert's family, and waited. It didn't take very long until one of Mr. Buggert's daughters responded. They were overjoyed to have this precious item back in their possession. More than three decades after their father passed away, his family never thought a little part of his life would find its way back to them. Edward Buggert survived the war although he was wounded in action in Germany in 1944. He eventually returned the USA and lived on for another 40 years.

Buggert's daughter said, "It's really wonderful that we have something that actually hung on our dad's neck," she said. "It took 75 years to find it, but God bless him he found it. And he actually took the time to get it back to us." Buggert's family got together to reminisce about their father and were very appreciative that Pastor Draper found a way to return their father's lost dogtag to them. The family meeting lasted well into the night, as the siblings shared fond memories of their father and the sacrifices he made for them and his country.

Buggert's daughter, Carolyne Holody, said "My dad's been gone for, it's going to be 33 years June 9. He died when he was 68, he had a massive heart attack at home, it was very sudden and we miss him every day," she said. "Just by Mr. Draper finding this tag, it's almost like our dad was saying hello to us from heaven."

Reflections – A One Year Detectorist looks back

This Article is from another newsletter – Allyson Cohan wrote this reflection of her first-year metal detecting for the NMDC newsletter the “Storm Watch” in September of 2010. When I read it, I realized that there is some great information that is still relevant. The NMDH is based out of Massachusetts. I located several similar newsletters on “Detectordiva.com”, most of which had a good story or metal detecting tip.



I’m officially one year into this hobby, (or should I say obsession) of metal detecting. A year is a short time, in comparison with some of the “hard core” detectorists out there. But if you ask some of my friends and family they might classify my enthusiasm as pretty “hard core” too.

Never being a history buff, or very interested in past events of my community (other than my genealogical pursuits), I’m amazed at how much my skills and knowledge have improved. Matter of fact, if metal detecting had been a subject in high school-I might have finally made the honor roll!

So, now that I’m “one year in”, what practical information have I learned that could be helpful to new detectorists out there? Well, for starters, get a pin pointer. My first month without one was maddening. It’s time consuming to sift through the dirt for a target, and you don’t want to leave that target behind it could be something good!

Dig most of it. I’ve read many articles and books on metal detecting where the advice to dig everything was very clear. Of course I didn’t want to dig everything, but I wanted to improve my skills, so I decided to dig, dig, dig. Many times I became frustrated, but some of my best finds barely made a flutter, and quite a few of those signals that screamed junk were actually some nice finds. Rely on your machine, but only to the extent that it’s telling you something is there. On that note, common sense goes a long way here. Do you want to spend an entire afternoon digging every pull tab signal in a trashy area? After a while, you’ll get to know what’s what—just give it time, and when in doubt—Dig!

Join a metal detecting club! The members are generally enthusiastic about digging in the dirt and coin cleaning. You can see what other people are finding, get help identifying an object, get tips on detecting, find new sites to detect, go on group hunts, and meet some truly awesome people. I learned a lot from club members, and it’s a great to be able to express and discuss your hobby with others who share your interests.

Learn the art of patience. Occasionally coins or jewelry will just jump out at you, but for the most part, you search.

Find the detector that works for you—to heck with what everyone else has. If you decide to buy a more sophisticated machine, be prepared for the learning curve. It’s taken me almost the whole season to distinguish some of the tones that come out of my machine, but I figure I only have to learn it once.

Finally, and most important. Research is key! Read books and articles on metal detecting and local history. If you want to find the old stuff, you’ve got to find the old places.

That about sums it up for year one. So if you’re a struggling “newbie”, have faith. With time comes success. I can’t wait to see what I learn (and find) in year two

HINTS ON CLEANING DETECTED COINS

Metal Detectorists who collect coins are always very careful about how they clean coins they have found. Many serious collectors are adamant that improper cleaning can lessen the value. However, we all know that dug coins are sometimes encrusted with dirt and materials from the ground, and proper cleaning will enhance their appearance and improve their value. Here are a few techniques that work and will not hurt the value of most dug coins.

Archaeologists in Europe who deal with ancient coin finds use the following two methods:

1. Soak the coins in distilled water for a day or two, and then put them in your freezer. The water penetrates the dirt and the ice crystals expand and break the dirt apart. It may take several repetitions of the process to remove all of the dirt; however, the coins are not damaged.

2. Lay the coins on a piece of wax after covering them with a layer of Elmers (or equivalent) white glue. Let the glue dry thoroughly and then pull it off the coins. A layer of dirt will be removed without damaging the coins and again several repetitions may be needed to completely clean them.



Another method used by many Metal Detectorists is "soaking in oil". While some will use olive oil, others find that high-grade mineral oil will work equally well. This method may take a while, as the coin may need to sit in the oil for several weeks in order to soften the crusty surface of the coin. Then it can be removed from the oil, and carefully cleaned using a soft brush and a toothpick. More than one repetition may be needed. If using this method, it is recommended to find a way to prop the coin up so that both sides of the coin are in contact with the oil.



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.

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<p>GPS Central & RadioWorld</p> <p>Central</p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment & tools. Visit them on the web at gpscentral.ca , or the store at:</p> <p>#8, 711 - 48 Avenue SE Calgary AB Canada T2G 4X2 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 email: cmdcclub@gmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CIR Realtor – Relocation Specialist</p> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Kevin Niefer</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;"><i>See Below</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">403-968-1496</p> </div> <p>To find out more information send Kevin an email @ kevin@kevinniefer.com, or give him a call at 403-968-1496</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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