

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

Volume 50 – issue 6 November 2021



**METAL DETECTING -
STILL THE BEST 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.

CMDC CLUB MEETINGS

As most of you know, the Calgary Metal Detecting Club was contacted by the Brentwood Co-op in March of 2020, and informed that they would be closing their meeting rooms until the Covid 19 crisis was over. We would meet the first Tuesday of every month, and hoped these closures would not last for long. However, it is November 2021 – almost 18 months later – and Covid is still running rampant. The Co-op has still not opened their meeting to more than a handful of people at a time. Our in person monthly club meetings are still on hold.

In mid-September we tried our first Zoom meeting as a trial run. Over the course of the night, I think we had over 30 people in attendance, including some CMDC ex-pats who would not be able to attend otherwise. I am thrilled with how it turned out, and think that meeting was a good indication that until our “In Person” meeting space is available to us, we have a way that we can get together. Look forward to more information about CMDC Zoom meetings in the future.

I am hoping that all of you have kept healthy through Covid 19, and that you have been able to enjoy a fabulous 2021 metal detecting season. Winter may put the hobby on hold for some of us - other hardy souls will still be out there digging in the snow. Remember to be safe while enjoying the hobby or living your “everyday lives” - ensure safe distances and social distancing. We will send out more information on the new Zoom meetings when dates are set. It will go out on the Facebook group page and by email. I look forward to seeing you at a future CMDC Zoom meeting, and also in person when we are able to do that again.

SPECIAL ZOOM AWARDS MEETING

Speaking on Zoom meetings, we want to let you know about a special Zoom meeting that we will be having on November 8th, 2021. As mentioned, the last “in-person” meeting of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club was March of 2020. At that meeting we voted for the “Finds of the Year” for the 2019 metal detecting season, intending on presenting the awards at our annual “awards banquet” that April. By April of 2020, the Pandemic of Covid 19 ruled that out. Further CMDC Meetings and the upcoming awards banquet were cancelled.

At the time, we thought this would be a short-term postponement, but we are nearing the end of 2021 (over 18 months later), and we have still not heard who the winners were. But Grab your Hats – thanks to Zoom – we have a way of getting together to announce the winners of the “Finds of the Year” contest.

At 7:30 PM on November 8th, 2021 – we will be having a Zoom meeting to finally announce those winners. The 2019 award winners for “Finds of the Year” in the categories of “Best Coin”, “Best Treasure”, “Best Relic” and “Best Trinket” will be announced. The link will be emailed out in early November to all paid members of the CMDC. Please try to attend. It was a long time ago, but I remember there being some pretty spectacular metal detecting recoveries displayed at that March meeting. It's also nice to get together with fellow detectorists. I am looking forward to hanging out with you all by Zoom, and to finding out the winners.



BUZZER CONTEST 2021

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

It's time for the 2021 Annual Buzzer contest. Write a story or article for the Buzzer, and submit it for a chance to win a silver dollar. Every story or article received between October 15th and December 20th, 2021 will be entered into a draw for a Canadian Silver Dollar. That's right – you can write more than one article, and have multiple chances to win. With the colder weather keeping us indoors, this might be your best 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, 2021 will be entered into the draw 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 as many stories as you want. 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 2022 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.

You not only get a chance to win that dollar, but you could become a published author. Every story that is entered will likely be 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.

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 automatically be entered into the draw – and get a chance to win that silver dollar.

Final date to make an entry is December 20th, 2021.

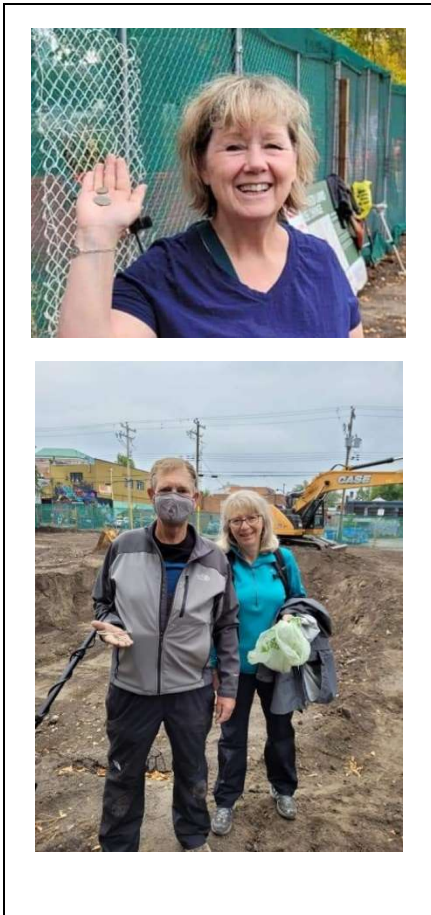
SPECIAL CLUB HUNT – ON A CENTURY OLD PERMISSION

By Brett Buchan



On September 12th 2021 – A very special club hunt was held. As only a few people signed up for the club hunt, Brett Buchan arranged for those who attended to be able to hunt on a property with a lot of history, and a lot of possibility – Here is a recounting of the day from those who were involved, sent in by Brett Buchan..

With the permission from Lesleigh Russel,,Aaron Bailey and Edan Lindenbach ... Calgary Metal Detecting Club members got to do a hunt of six 100-year-old home tear outs. Ken Kittlitz and I worked on getting permission for this location over a few months. After a few phone calls we were excited, as we have had great hunts in the area before.



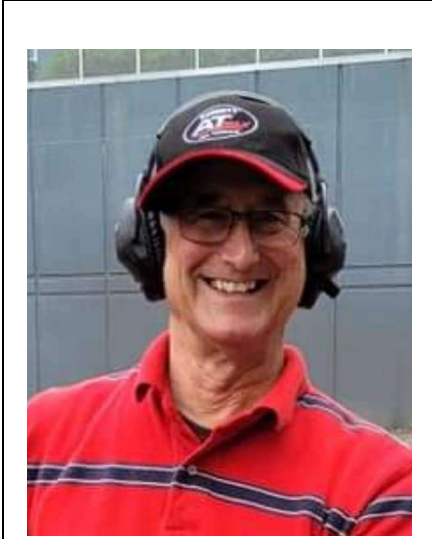
Due to covid and the size of the area, we decided to have a limited number to keep with distancing. Recently the ground had the top foot of soil removed. Expectations were high after finding Large Cents and fishscales on a hunt prior to dirt removal.

The day was perfect, even with a couple short visits of rain. Ten CMDC members began hunting around 9:30 am, and it did not take long for coins to be found. For the next 3 hours the hunt was on, and about 35 coins were found. Lynette Edison found her first Large Cent ever. I enjoyed spending some time with Lynette, helping with some tips on her detector. I'm glad she had a wonderful day.

Lynette Edson - *"With much guidance from the master detector I really enjoyed the day. It had been frustrating in the past not really sorting out how to read my machine but now I feel like I've got a handle on it literally - haha. I was elated to find a 1915 large penny. That, of course, was the highlight of the day. After the last dig of finding nothing but beer caps I was quite ready to call time of death on the hobby. However I have a much brighter outlook today. Many thanks Brett. The club has an amazing group of folks at the ready to help. I'm ready to get going again and hopefully have a few finds as well as enjoying the company of this great lot of people"*

[Story Continued on next page](#)

SPECIAL CLUB HUNT - Continued



Micheal Morrand was the top hunter of the day bringing in a handful of beautiful coins. I will remember his big smile.

Michael Morrand - *"I would say the hunt site held great expectations because of it's historic location. Once I saw the site and you explained how much topsoil was removed, it heightened my expectations even further. The site did not disappoint, 1919 Large Cent (my first), 1939 & 1950 nickels, 1943 quarter, 1938 & 1942 pennies made this the best hunt ever! I also had a relic, discovered today while cleaning my muddy stuff. I found a medal from Calgary central school, early 1900s. Thank you again for sharing your permission."*

It is always great to hear a fellow member's, like Judy Taylor's, excitement on finding a coin from other side of the lot .



Judy Taylor " *My day was awesome. I found my first Large Cent and my first silver coin that wasn't seeded. Brett gave me some pointers, and I am sure that is why I had such good luck"*

This was second chance at site for Danny Morrison. In a previous hunt before the removal of the dirt he managed a couple of deep fishscales...

Danny Morrison *"It's great to be a part of the club, and get a chance to hunt early settled home sites in the area. It was incredible to be able to find the items I did, and to witness others finding amazing things. I think everyone had a great time. I'd like to thank the two members who provided this permission - Ken Kittlitz, and club prez Brett Buchan."*



WORLD WAR 1 CAP BADGE FINDS A HOME

On March 20th, 2015 - CMDC members Brett Buchan and Al Cotterhill were out for a day of detecting, Later that evening Brett made a Facebook Post in the CMDC group page, sharing his excitement about the finds he recovered. Brett was happy with the recovery of some 1940s and 1950s coins, but was more than thrilled when he dug up a WWI Military Cap Badge that had been modified into a ladies Sweetheart Pin.



The Cap Badge was for the Canadian 63 Overseas Battalion out of Edmonton. The 63rd Battalion (CEF) was an infantry battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War. The Battalion was formed on April 20th, 1915. It provided reinforcements for the Canadian Corps in the field until the unit was absorbed by the '9th Reserve Battalion, CEF'.

Brett wanted to know more about his Cap Badge find, so he contacted the Museum of the Regiments, a local Calgary Museum housing information about Calgary's Military history. The response he got back from the museum curator, Rory M. Cory, indicating some excitement about Brett's amazing find. His email to Brett stated:



" The badge is a WW1 badge relating to the 63rd Battalion out of Edmonton. I haven't seen this particular variety for the 63rd, so I believe it would have been a fairly early badge for the unit and thus relatively rare, yes. We would be quite interested in it for the museum collection if you are interested in donating it. Interesting to speculate how it got here – the 63rd were training at Sarcee Camp (where Westhills is now), so it's possible one of the soldiers from the 63rd lost it while on leave in the Bridgeland area."

In April of 2015 Brett Buchan made a special trip to the Museum of the Regiments and donated the Cap Badge for the 63rd Battalion to the museum . It was a good day . Brett met up with several old and current military members. All were very pleased with the find. Brett turned over badge to Rory Cory, and also met with the museum director. The director was delighted to find that the badge had been made into a sweetheart pin. That made it even more interesting to him.

Calgary Military History

Brett Buchan's Cap Badge was a great find – but it is only one of many Militaria finds recovered locally. Calgary has a long Military history, starting with the arrival of the NWMP. Calgary sent units to fight in the Riel Rebellion, the Boer War, and both World Wars, and hosted numerous training camps. The Camps were built on what was considered the city "outskirts", but most are now city limits. There were also air training centers near Glamorgan, near Shepherd, at the current Airport, and near Renfrew. Only last year the CMDC arranged a hunt at the Airdrie Airport, which was at one time a WWII training center.

CFB Currie and Base Sarcee are no longer active Canadian Forces bases, and private property – but there were military training camps in other locations, including near, Pearce Estate Park, Glamorgan, Signal Hill, Inglewood, and near Baker Park. There are Calgary Reserve Forces units that are still active. We are sure to have more military items still waiting for our coils. It is not as uncommon as one might think. I know of at least 10 members who have recovered various military badges and buttons. I hope more of these special finds are recovered soon.

Old Style "Networking" Research

This article was originally used in the Buzzer a few years back, but it still makes a lot of sense. When my husband was in school, his family was transferred to England for a year (long ago). One day his school friend pointed out the window of the bus and said "that is where the bombs from the Stuka hit", passing on information he had from his parents and grandparents. I know someone who heard about an RMCP camp on the family homestead from stories told by his grandmother. One CMDC member told me that they recovered multiple silvers because of an uncle's recollection about an old concession stand by the skating area in a local park. My own recovery of a gold ring was based on information my daughter gave me about where kids hung out at her old school during lunch-hour.

This may prove valuable to Coin, Cache, and Relic Hunters. Make a list of your family members or friends who are over 60 years old, and who grew up in the area you are in. The reason for this is simple - When they were kids, teenagers, and young adults, cities, towns, and surrounding areas were much different from what they are today. They may know the locations of school yards, churches, encampments, parks, sports areas, swimming holes, or even old roads, paths, work-camp locations, etc.

50 to 100 years ago the area you live in looked much different than today. Those folks would have heard stories from their relatives. You might have access to historical data going back over 100 years. There are other ways to contact people in this age group. Family reunions, senior citizens groups, church, stores, libraires, or meeting places. Maybe you know someone in a rest home who would be grateful for a visitor, and gladly talk about the past. Use your imagination and soon your information sources will become endless.

More often than not these places will exist someone's memory, not as a written record. Always have a map handy when talking with someone about locations from "days gone by." That way you can mark the general locations and then cross check this data with other people in that same area. If you don't have a map, then paper and pencil to draw one will work.(These days google maps on your cell phone works).

In a farming area, it never hurts to stop at a farmhouse and ask directions (even though you aren't lost). You may even find yourself with a cup of coffee, some ice water or tea, and maybe a sandwich, for your trouble. While you are there, mention what your interests are, the response may surprise you. I have had offers to ride down the road and show me a spot just like what I was hoping to find when I started out that day. In some cases, they even ask if I would like to hunt their place, or ask me if I would look for a lost item.

Look closely around those farmhouses or old community halls. I have seen relics, insulators, and other items used as door stops, or maybe just laying around the porch, at the end of a flower bed, or around the outside of an old, abandoned shed or barn. I have even offered to clean out and haul away that old "JUNK" in order to clear the way for my metal detector. Regardless of what is left behind for your metal detector to sniff out, I will already have some valuable "JUNK" in the back of my truck. Learn to SEE, not just LOOK! Become a name dropper, if you know someone in the area. I have used this ice breaker many times over the years. Use the name of someone you know from the same area.

It never hurts to take a minute and lend a helping hand to some in need of it. That person as a rule will be grateful and tell you anything you want to know or refer you to someone else that can put you on the right track. I have learned of many new (untouched) locations just for helping to carry a little firewood and stacking it on the back porch. By the way - pull tabs, gum wrappers, and other undesirable items, as a rule aren't a problem with these types of locations.

In closing just remember - there are more valuable items yet to be found, than the sum total of everything found to date. The more creative you become the better your chances of finding your fair share. Let us all practice good Metal Detecting & Treasure Hunting etiquette so that not only us, but those who come after us may enjoy the thrill of the find for many years to come.

This article was gleaned from Tom's treasure planet. It was modified and adapted to make it more suitable for Canadian detecting.

Irish Treasure Hunter Returns War Badge

A long lost First World War medal has been returned to its family home in Oving, West Sussex, after being found on a remote beach in Ireland. It was picked up by keen treasure hunter Stephen Hunter, 28, who trawled through stacks of historical documents to finally trace it back to Edward Lewis Brunswick from the Aylesbury area, who died in 1975. He was then able to find Edward's son Roy, who is the oldest living ancestor of the war hero and was delighted to have the medal returned. Roy, 86, said: "I knew nothing of it until just now but obviously I am very happy to get it back. My father never really spoke about his army life to us so we never knew anything about that part of his life."

The search began with just a regiment number found on the Silver War Badge but through army records Stephen was able to find out who it belonged to. He then enlisted the help of fellow enthusiasts to go through birth, death and marriage certificates before they finally found a living ancestor. Stephen said: "We compared all the information with possible ancestors in the Aylesbury area and Roy's name came back every time. "We were lucky that Brunswick isn't a very common name but we still had to rule out others with different middle names."

Stephen has been using his metal detector for 10 years and often finds old coins and rings on the beaches. But this is the first time he has been able to trace anything back to a previous owner. He said: "I enjoy it because I find it a good way to relax but I have never done anything like this before. I am pleased now because it is a good symbol for people like me who enjoy metal detecting. "There has been a lot of bad press surrounding the hobby in recent years so it is nice being able to show that the hobby can be very rewarding and that it has its place when done responsibly."

This Article was obtained from "The Buck News" website.



WINTER SEASON DETECTING

Winter season is almost here – many people will pack their detecting gear away, and spend their time researching spots for next year's metal detecting season. Others will get their metal detecting "winter fix" by watching YouTube videos. But there are detectorists who refuse to pack it away, and will continue in the hobby throughout the winter season.;

"What?" Some of you are asking – "I can metal detect in winter?" Of course, an easy answer would be to travel someplace warm for the winter months – but most of us don't have this option. The short answer is YES, you can metal detect in winter. It is not easy, but it can be done. In fact many members of the club go out in winter on public service hunts, finding lost keys, phones, or jewellery lost in the snow.

There are some adaptations to be made if you want to be successful at metal detecting in the winter, but it's possible to winter detect - no matter where you live in the world. With a few adaptations and a bit on ingenuity, you can metal detect in the snow. If the snow is deep, your detector won't penetrate the ground as far. The best solution is to wait for a chinook, or to find areas where snow drifts haven't piled up, or where the wind has blown the area clear. On South facing hills the soil stays softer a lot longer and warms up a bit earlier.

There are three main concepts to focus on when detecting in the winter. The first answer is obvious, if you live near a large body of water that retains enough heat not to freeze over. You can detect those type of lake areas with appropriate winter gear, and waders or a wet suit. However, that might work near the Shuswap or Okanagan, but that isn't going to work very well around Calgary.

The second answer is to "Embrace the Snow". Go detecting near winter areas where items are likely to be lost, like a skating rink or a sledding hill. These places will often have objects dropped around them, or lost rings from cold fingers. Maybe you know of an area that has some sort of winter activity, a winter festival or lights display. With this type of detecting you aren't trying to dig through the dirt – just looking for surface finds – those lost below the snow but above the ice-bound soil.

The third answer is to look at detecting in wooded or forest areas or under trees. These types of locations - where the leaf mulch can cause enough insulation to keep ground temperature warmer than surrounding areas – might still be diggable. Some CMDC members have gone into wooded areas at temperatures of around -10 to -15 and found that the soil under the trees / bush areas was still diggable.

Another thing to remember is that the cold weather is going to drain your battery life at a faster rate. Be sure that your detector is fully charged before you head out to your spot. If you need a break to warm up, have a car charger handy so you can get a few extra minutes of juice while you thaw for those modern "USB charge" detectors. For older models, be sure to pack plenty of extra batteries.




Remember to dress for the weather if you are going out – wear a winter weight coat, winter boots - and don't forget hats and warm gloves. Bring a cell phone with you in case you need to make a call for help. It is also helpful to make sure that you have something to kneel on to keep your pants dry.

Winter metal detecting isn't going to be the easiest or most comfortable experience, but it can be rewarding. Like many hobbies, it's trial and error. There is no guarantee that you will find treasures – but there are no guarantees for that in the summer, either. However, you may find that it is even more rewarding when you find something valuable on a long cold winter day rather than on a perfect day in the summer!

LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Although cancelled until further notice because of Covid 19, the Calgary Metal Detecting club had been meeting 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 would 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

<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: cmdclub@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>Kevin Niefer <i>See Below</i></p> <p><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i> 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>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: small;">"We'll find the money for that. My guy is on it right now."</p> </div>
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