

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# THE BUZZER

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Nice Day for a Hunt!

This photo was taken at the June Club Hunt, on June 25, 2011.

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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).



## Dating Canadian Military Cap Badges

Finding Military cap-badges or buttons is always exciting, but the next question is usually “how old is this?” The Crown design associated with the item is one of the simplest ways of dating a cap-badge or button. Most military badges and buttons will have a crown on top, and the design of the crown is an indication of the age of the cap badge and the sex of the monarch. Key dates in cap-badge dating are 1901 and 1952 as that is when the shape of crowns on badges changed. (It may help to think of male and female crowns). Not all military badges and buttons have crowns, but if they do, they are designated as QVC, KC or QC. While there may be a few exceptions to the rule, such as the Guelphic crown (family crown of Prince Albert) during Victoria’s reign, or a few QC type crowns during George VI’s reign – but for the most part, these are rarities.



A QVC is the name given to a crown design used during Queen Victoria's reign. The design is based on “St. Edwards Crown”, and there were several variations used on cap-badges or buttons during the reign of Victoria, including an angular crown, a rounded crown, and a more flat topped crown (shown below). Note that the QVC crown often has a very wide center-post and wide side-posts.

	<p><b>QVC</b> (Queen Victoria's Crown) indicates pre-1901.</p> <p>The RNWP button to the left showing the QVC was recovered by CMDC member Randy Joy in 2004</p>	
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The designation KC is the name given to a crown on a badge during the reign of Edward VII. This crown is a domed design, and quite different in shape to both the QVC and QC crowns. The KC was also used by all the Kings after Edward VII, so will be found on cap-badges and buttons associated with First World War under George V, and those associated with World War II under George VI.

	<p><b>KC</b> (King's Crown) indicates 1901-1952, and is also called a “Tudor Crown.”</p> <p>The WWI era cap badge to the right showing the KC was recovered by CMDC member James Belke in 2009</p>	
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The QC crown was used on badges and buttons after 1952 when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned. The design is based on the “St Edward's Crown” and is a dropped centre design. Unlike the QVC which has several variations, the QC badge used during Elizabeth the Second’s reign has changed very little. Note the side-posts and center post are of a much more delicate design than the QVC.

	<p><b>QC</b> (Queen's Crown) is post-1952.</p> <p>The Royal Canadian Legion pin to the right showing the QC was recovered by CMDC member Dale Downing in 2010</p>	
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# Metal Detecting in Edmonton

By JAMES BELKE



James Belke is a member of the CMDC who relocated to Edmonton in 2010.



The Edmonton Folk Music Festival wrapped up a few weekends ago and I spent several evenings picking up a pile of tent pegs, tarp rivets, pull-tabs and just over \$57.00 in modern coins! The festival is held each year in Gallagher Park which is located in Cloverdale, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Edmonton's river valley. As such, every square inch has been covered by metal detectors of every make and model, but as the saying goes, no site is ever hunted completely dry of its keepers. It was a nitro moment the other evening to pull one of the few remaining oldies from the depths!

Most surprising was the fact that this oldie was lying only about 10 feet off the main deck of the Cloverdale Community Hall on a heavily travelled path. All the Folk Festival goers trampled the grass as flat as a pancake and this obviously helped bring King Eddie 2 inches closer to my coil. Even with our bone dry conditions this oldie, that was about 6" deep, gave a loud and clear tone on my Tejon with each slow and steady swing and I would have guessed that it was a quarter at only 3" - 4" deep!

- For those of you who aren't coin collectors, King Edward VII reigned only 9 years, from 1901 to 1910. The first coin with his image did not appear until 1902. The 1901 mintage still used the image of Queen Victoria. This makes an Edwardian coin quite a rare and exciting find.

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## FOR SALE

Darlene Anderson is interested in selling her late husband's detecting equipment. Darlene and her husband, Walter, were quite involved in the CMDC in the 1990s and the early part of this century. They both were active in the hobby until health issues forced a slow-down to some of their activities.

Darlene has 2 machines for sale:

Garrett Ground hog with 2 sizes of coils available for \$350.00. Instruction video included.

Garrett Master-Hunter 1200 with 2 sizes of coils available for \$700.00.

Both units have instruction manuals. Darlene can be reached for more information at 403-652-3430.

Reasonable offers will be discussed.

# COCHRANE RING RECOVERY

By ANDY COWARD

This story dates back a few years. Early in 2009, the CMDC received a call from a person in a nearby town who had lost their wedding band over the Holiday Season. Andy Coward volunteered to take this one even though it was a bit of a drive (43 k). After playing phone-tag for about a week a meeting was set up to locate the lost ring. The story was forwarded by Andy a couple of months ago as a possible Buzzer article – and we thought this month might be a good time to use it. Andy published a longer version of this article, with a few more photos on the Canadian Metal Detecting Forum. The longer version can still be found there.

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I was watching the forecast since we had a spate of bad weather but it was looking good with a slight warming trend promising to drive the mercury above zero. GREAT! Things were a Go and I was itching to swing my Garrett 1350 for the first time in '09.

When Saturday came, I loaded my gear and finally hit the road at 11:30 to make it to the allotted location by Noon. It was about a half hour drive and I took a quick picture to document my arrival... After some questions I learned that it was a man's wedding band made of plain yellow gold. The site was a vacant town-owned lot and recent snow had left it pristine and ready for me to mess it up...



Well, I donned my gear and waded in, having to shorten my detector stem a notch or two due to the deep snow. It was about 10 inches deep most places, a flat lot as you can see. I got in three passes towards the fence and took a break. The fellow had headed off to do some chores and I said I would call if I had any luck. I proceeded with a fourth pass with reduced sensitivity along the fence going slow since I only had the standard coil with me. Up till now paying only close attention to signals in the right conductivity range and depth for the object at hand. Then having finished that I decided to work outward in the opposite direction from the "spot" starting where my previous sweeps had ended and moving at a right angle to my previous work.

After four or five sweeps (always keeping them overlapped slightly), I got the right frequency on my display... The audio was LOUD and didn't sound off at all like a pull-tab even though that's what the 1350 was displaying for conductivity. Up until now all targets had been mostly in the iron/foil low end and very deep. There seemed to be few surface targets (8-10 inches for my scans) that were loud and in the right conductivity. I pinpointed and then scooped snow and caught a glimpse of gold in the sunlight. A real HONKER of a wedding band...

After all that I phoned the gent and explained that I had found his band and that he should come and claim it. He was very pleased but I gather very sheepish for having lost it in the first place. So much so that he declined to have his picture taken but allowed me a picture of the ring back where it belonged...



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## CLUB HUNTS

We have had some awesome club hunts during the 2011 metal detecting season. Thanks to Andy Coward, our Club Hunt director for all the effort he has put in. It has been great to get together, and the finds have ranged from gold and silver rings, through double-dray wagon licenses and some very nice coinage. There is one official and one "if the weather holds" Club Hunt left in our 2011 Season. Our season is coming to a close, but I thought we could plan ahead by making sure these dates stay free. The dates are SET IN STONE, but the locations are tentative since sometimes we run into complications.

Saturday, October 15th - Mallard Point / Fish Creek Park SE

Sunday, November 13th - Bebo Grove / Fish Creek Park SW - Weather Permitting

Hope to see you all there. Remember, Miss a hunt, and miss a lot!!!

# RESEARCHING TIPS

By PEGGY KEMP

One of the tools that Metal Detecting hobbyists use for research is the computer. There are many resources available on the internet that can aid a Metal Detecting hobbyist in researching where to hunt. The internet can also be used to research and identify just what that “unusual” recovered item is. Some members who have been around for a while will recall that I often will share internet sites for I have found useful for research. Below I have listed some web-site addresses that I have used, and believe would be helpful to others in this great hobby.

The first web-site I would like to mention is <http://canadianmetaldetecting.com> . This is a metal detecting forum, but with a Canadian focus. It contains helpful information about everything from the best cleaning methods, iron electrolysis (to remove caked-on rust), to catalogues of buttons, coins, and military insignia. If you have found something you are not sure about, it also has a “what-is-it” section. If you upload a photo of that mysterious item, detecting hobbyists from all over the country are available with their years of “find knowledge” to offer information. The forum is home to many encouraging hobbyists, who freely provide tips and advice to new-comers to Metal Detecting.

One of my favourite sites for Alberta history and research is <http://ourfutureourpast.ca> . This is a site that has multiple uses, as it not only contains Aerial photographs, but hundreds of books about Alberta communities and history, and access to old newspapers, all in digitised form. The website was an Alberta Centennial project to digitize information and make it accessible to the public. The community books are searchable by word in chapter and in text. I have used both aerial photographs and community books to locate old parks, railway stations and church locations from early years of East Calgary history.

One of the best research web-sites available to discover information about a “recovered treasure” is the Canadian Archives site for old mail-order catalogues. This is a Government of Canada site, has a searchable archive, and can be located at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/mailorder/index-e.html>. In early Western Canada, it was difficult to obtain merchandise. Only urban areas had stores of any size, and smaller centers carried only the basics. In the Calgary area, these smaller communities would include towns like Bowness, Renfrew, Forest Lawn, Albert Park, and Midnapore. Mail order became big business in Western society. Many items purchased in early Alberta history came through the mail. Easton’s and Sears catalogues were a common site in many Canadian homes, particularly around Christmas. This mail-order catalogue web-site lets you search by item, or by year, and shows digitized images of the catalogue pages. I was able to date a brass soap dish to the mid-1920s by its appearance in an Eaton’s catalogue from that time.

Sometimes old photographs will aid a hobbyist to discover where to hunt, or where not to hunt. I have found a great resource for finding old photographs by using the Glenbow museum photograph archives. These can be searched at <http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesPhotosSearch.aspx> . The photographs date back to earliest Calgary history, but the available photographs also show other areas around Alberta. This archive was used to research where buildings stood at the Keith tuberculosis hospital (now Baker Park), as well as what areas were in use as parks in Inglewood 50 years ago.

FLOYD & LLOYD by Floyd Martin & Jeff Hesse ©2006



"OK, NOW DID WE PACK EVERYTHING?"

Hmmm – somehow the Shouldice Club Hunt comes to mind.

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## ❄️❄️ Winter Themes ❄️❄️

With November fast approaching, it is with reluctance that we recognize that the Calgary Metal Detecting season will soon be at an end – although I know there are a few hardy souls that go out detecting every month of the year, and come out with some great finds, even in the \*\*\*winter\*\*\*. Our club continues to meet during the winter months, to share some coffee and conversation about this hobby we are all so addicted to. However, from December until March we give up on “Finds of the Month.” Instead the CMDC has selects monthly themes, and club members display items found through-out the entire year in that fall into that category:

DECEMBER ~ MILITARIA MONTH – Bring any items found during the year that have a military theme. It could be a cap-badge or military button – or that cigarette lighter with a military emblem on the side. Perhaps you found a military issue cartridge or shell. Bring it on in.

JANUARY ~ TOYS MONTH – Bring all those great toys discovered through-out the year, from any era. In the past we have had cast iron horses, lead soldiers, old radio show memorabilia, cracker jack toys, and a whole army of “hot-wheels”. We have had toys dating from the 1880s all the way to 2010.

FEBRUARY ~ SHOW AND TELL MONTH – Whatever your favourite finds were during the year, bring them on in and share them with the group. Some people will bring one or two special items, others will bring a box-full – it is all up to you.

MARCH ~ FINDS OF THE YEAR VOTING - March is reserved for voting of Finds of the Year. Each club member is entitled to choose one item for Club “Find of the Year” in the four basic categories of Relic, Trinket, Treasure, and Coin. We display them in March, when club members make their choice, and vote for Best Finds of the Year. The winners 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 to the meeting room.

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The Club's yearly dues are:

In-town membership:	\$25.00 CDN
Out-of-town membership:	\$20.00 CDN
Buzzer subscription fee for non-members:	\$10.00 CDN

Send cheque or money order to:

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2

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## YOU COULD BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR!

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 [kemp@telus.net](mailto:kemp@telus.net) with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.