

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# THE BUZZER

VOLUME 41 – NUMBER 4 OCTOBER 2012

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Great Day for a Hunt!

This photo was taken at the EMCD / CMDC Fall Extravaganza on September 22, 2012

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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).

# SASKATCHEWAN TOKEN RECOVERY

By KEN BICKNELL

Winning Entry in the July Buzzer Contest

30 years ago when I found this, there were no computers to research finds. Going to the library, and finding a research book, was the only option. I was busy, bringing up 3 boys and being a father with cubs, bowling, baseball, football, soccer, etc. Finally, I can start metal detecting again and I have 2 sons and a pinpointer grandson, and a wonderful wife Lorna to do this hobby that we all enjoy. Now we can have the advantage of computers. Anyway, on to my story.

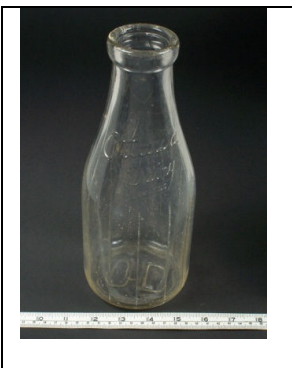
30 years ago my favorite hunt-site in Regina was at Wascana Park, which was the Saskatchewan legislative building circa 1902-present. It took 16 years to build because of the cyclone in 1912 when it was almost finished.



I went to the park 3 times a month with my 5000d Whites. Every time I went to the park, I would find a coin from the 20's or 30's. I did this for 2 years and filled my Whitman books in pennies, nickels, dimes. I also filled some 25 cent books, and the odd 50-cent book. I found so many dog tags from the 20's, and many badges.

Then you get some Tokens, and what do you do with these? As a member of the Regina Coin Club since 1963 I knew who to phone. At that time Scoop Lewery was the Mayor of Moose Jaw. He was in charge of our BIG penny club. So I called Scoop, and asked who would know about Tokens. He said Cec Tannahill would know about the tokens I found.

I knew Cec Tannahill wrote all the books on Tokens, and at the time he was the best expert around. I phoned him...the call goes like this.



“Cec, my name is Ken Bicknell and I have found some Tokens that are not in your current book . This is what I have - 2 tokens from the Lakeview Dairy, one token for 1 pint and the other for 1 quart, both in the same hole!!!”

Cec replied, “I have no record of these they are rare.”

So I said, “Cec, for history, put them in your next book of tokens.”

I sold the two tokens to him for \$25 each.

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Ken Bicknell joined the Calgary Metal Detecting Club early in 2012. Ken may be new to the CMDC, but as you can tell from this story, he is not new to our Metal Detecting hobby. This is only one of the amazing finds that Ken recovered in the 1980s while he lived in Regina. Congratulations to Ken for winning the July Buzzer Contest for a “Favourite Find”. Well done, Ken! .

## ❄️❄️ 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. The next two meetings (October and November) will have “Finds of the Month” Competitions, but from December until March the CMDC ceases the “Finds of the Month” contests. Instead the CMDC has 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.

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.



### **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 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.

## CMDC / EMDC Fall Extravaganza

On September 22, 2012; members of the Metal Detecting community from different areas of Alberta made their way to the tiny hamlet of Rochon Sands on Buffalo Lake for the first EMDC/CMDC Fall Extravaganza Hunt. Approximately 36 hunters took part in the hunt, and a few spouses and friends showed up to show support.

The fun began early on Saturday morning, with members and volunteers getting together to seed the playing area with silver coins, prize tokens and silver jewellery donated by members of both clubs. The beach was also liberally seeded with clad and a multitude of foreign coins (especially British two pence coins). Close to 1000 coins and prize-tokens were seeded in the beach for the hunters to find. By 10:00 in the morning, eager Metal Detectorists were arriving at the beach and looking forward to a day of fun and fine recoveries.

Hunters were each provided with Minelab shirts, hats, totes, and other loot, provided by Minelab Canada, who also donated an Xterra705 as a prize. After a pre-hunt photo shoot (see front page) the day was about to begin. The beach hunt started at 11am, with the blare of an air-horn. Within minutes sand was flowing through the scoops & sifters, and Silver coins and prize tokens were being retrieved and socked away. Silver jewellery was retrieved, and hunters were amazed by the sheer number of non-silver coinage popping out of the sand. At 11:45 the air-horn blared out again, and unfortunately the competition hunt had to stop.



The target identification contest followed immediately after. There were beginner and advanced level competitions for this part of the day. The beginner class had a hint list of possible targets, while the more advanced detectorists had no clue but their ears and knowledge of their machines to try and figure out the four targets. The targets hidden under the sand were intentionally masked by other items, much as any Detectorist would expect to find on a real recovery. A silver coin near a piece of tinfoil, or a rusty nail – but the contest ended up being so close that points were given for identifying the masking “trash” in order to declare a winner in both levels of the competition.

While individuals were competing in the target identification, others were permitted to return to the morning hunt area to search for more of the various seeded items. Then the hunters all moved to the Provincial Park for a delicious barbecue lunch. Jim Pindur and his helpers really outdid themselves. The meal was great! The Edmonton & Calgary clubs finally got a bit of time to spend chatting with others who enjoy the hobby, swap a few treasure stories, and to put a face and voice to a few friends met over Facebook. It was a great time.

After lunch, the Edmonton Club declared the winners of their raffle, with the proceeds to go as a start-up nest egg for the coming year. Then the numbered-tokens recovered during the morning hunt were awarded with a table full of hunt-prizes donated by sponsors like Minelab, Garrett, Golden Horseshoe Detector Sales, Heritage Metal Detectors & Canadian Treasure Seekers and Touchwood Enterprises. There were also numerous other prizes donated by the members of both clubs.



The Garrett Ace 250 was won by Dori Hunt & the Garrett Pro Pointer was won by James Belke, both of the EMDC. The Garrett prizes were donated by Heritage Metal Detectors (Calgary) and Canadian Treasure seekers.

The Minelab X-Terra 705 was won by Quentin Dyck from the CMDC, and was presented by Neil from Touchwood Enterprises on behalf of Minelab, and CMDC member Lorry Pacheco won the Fisher F2 detector from the Edmonton Club raffle.



The event concluded with a beach full of people making sure that no coin was left unturned, and seeing what else had been left behind by years of activities on the beach. We were all amazed to find Edwardian through George VI coins in areas of the beach that had not been seeded, including fishscale 5-cent pieces, large-cents, and various silver coins – as well as at least one gold ring (way to go Jim!). Leon Kemp took many photos of the Fall Extravaganza, which will be published on the “Flickr” photo-sharing website shortly.

This success of the inaugural Fall Extravaganza is due to the hard work of volunteers from both the Calgary and the Edmonton Metal Detecting Clubs. I want to express a resounding “Well done!” to Jim Pindur, Ken Bicknell, Rod Coppock, and all the other members of the organizing committee for creating an excellent weekend of fun, friendship and finds. Thanks to the members of both Clubs who had a part in arranging an absolutely amazing day. This was one of the best days this summer! Thank you all!

Plans are already in the works for next year’s Fall Extravaganza.



## METAL DETECTING VIDEOS



You may not realize it, but at the CMDC we have a “youtube celebrity” in our midst. I would recommend any club member to take some time and view Kevin Niefer’s “youtube” videos.

Kevin’s most recent entries are the stories of two ring-rescues near Calgary, one somewhere north of Sundre, and the other a ring rescue in a river north of Cochrane. For the Sundre recovery, Kevin made a video about the two hour drive Northwest to recover a wedding ring lost by the groom during a “mudball” fight with his new wife. The video is well worth the watch –even just for the gorgeous scenery. Kevin was successful in his ring- recovery in a very messy and trashy area.

The other video is about a river rescue in some fairly swift moving water near Waiparous (north of Cochrane). The young husband had been married just over a year. Obviously, the ring had been swept a ways downstream by the current. Both of the videos show Kevin’s dedication to the hobby, and to recovering important sentimental objects for people. In both cases, Kevin was successful, and the result was a very happy groom. Well done on returning both of these very important rings Kevin!

Kevin’s videos provide some local color to the metal detecting video scene, including areas in Ogden and Sikome Lake. Kevin also has downloaded videos about metal detecting experiences during trips to areas like Vancouver and California, as well as the pilot-project for a proposed Metal Detecting show called “the TV Metal Detective”. I always check for more of his videos anytime I am on “youtube”.

There are many other great metal detecting videos on the internet, but it is great to find someone local who is so knowledgeable about the hobby. It is also great to find something to watch that presents items that we can find locally. Thanks for all the work you do to present our hobby in a positive manner, Kevin!

# BUZZER CONTEST

## FAVOURITE METAL DETECTING PHOTO

We have a New Buzzer Contest for CMDC members. This issue our Buzzer contest is asking you to send in your favourite metal detecting photo. The photo can be of a find, about a find, or maybe just a picture of club hunt, or solo-hunt. There should be a short (or long) description of when the photo was taken, and what the story behind the photo is. Tell us why this photo is important to you. It only has to be two or three sentences, although longer is just as welcome.

The winner will receive a prize at the November CMDC club meeting, and will have their photo published the January 2013 issue of the Buzzer. Send your as photo as an attachment by email to [kempp@telus.net](mailto:kempp@telus.net), with Buzzer Contest in the subject line, and descriptive info in the body of the email.

Final date to make an entry is October 31st, 2012. You have to be in attendance at the November meeting of the CMDC to receive the prize.



## 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:

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|---|-------------|
| In-town membership:                         | \$25.00 CDN |
| Out-of-town membership:                     | \$20.00 CDN |
| Buzzer subscription fee<br>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 [kempp@telus.net](mailto:kempp@telus.net) with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.