

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# THE BUZZER

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Just a reminder of the great fun we had at the "Fall Extravaganza" last year -

The next "Fall Extravaganza Hunt " is September 20th, 2014. Hope to see you there!

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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).

## Lost Ring Returned - via Facebook

WINNIPEG – A Winnipeg man’s lost wedding ring made a miraculous return, 12 years later and an ocean away. Helder Prazeres, who now lives overseas, was stunned last month to get a Facebook message from someone in Winnipeg with a picture of the wedding band he last saw in 2002.

“Really shocked not just that somebody found it but somebody took the time to track us down and return it, that’s huge something for us is really amazing,” Prazeres said via Skype from his home in Alvor, Portugal. Prazeres dropped the ring during a family picnic in Assiniboine Park in 2002. He spent a day trying to find it, but eventually gave it up for lost. Four years later, a Winnipeg treasure hunter armed with a metal detector heard a tell-tale beep, and found the gold ring in a ditch alongside a road in the park.

“It was from the year 2000 and it had the date that they were married and their first names on the inside,” said Art Crane. He reported it to the Park Police, but they had no record of such a lost ring. So it remained in the box of coins, key chains and rings he keeps in his pickup truck for eight years, until this summer.

The topic of lost rings came up at a family gathering, and Crane showed the one he found in the park to his son-in-law, Justin Phillips. Armed only with the two first names inscribed inside the ring, Phillips worked the Internet from his smartphone, eventually finding an old obituary which mentioned Helder Prazeres and his wife Julie. He typed Prazeres into Facebook and incredibly, the two strangers had a mutual friend. Phillips sent a Facebook message to Prazeres, asking if the ring was his.

“Hello Justin, I am actually speechless right now,” Prazeres writes back in the post dated Aug 8. He describes how he lost the ring, and arranges to have it delivered to his mother-in-law in Winnipeg. “I am still in shock, I thought I would never see that ring again.”

A longer version of this article was published on the "Global TV" news-site in early September.

## CMDC / EMDC Fall Extravaganza

On September 20th, 2014 members of the Metal Detecting community from different areas of Western Canada will congregate in the tiny hamlet of Rochon Sands on Buffalo Lake for the third Annual EMDC/CMDC Fall Extravaganza Hunt.

Last year's Fall Extravaganza was a lot of fun - The weather was a bit dreary, but that only meant the hunters were not overheating. Approximately 55 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 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.

This year the hunt will be even bigger and better - the plans for the event include 2 seeded hunts, childrens events, as well as a chance to get together with detectorists from all over the province. There are some great prizes for the hunt, including silver and gold coins, metal detectors, and some amazing door prizes. I hope you have already registered . There is an online registry, and more information available on the [abmdhunt.ca](http://abmdhunt.ca) website.





## Dating Canadian Military Cap Badges



This is a reprint of an article created for the Buzzer in 2011 - With so many great Militaria finds lately, it seemed like it might be worth another look.

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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## Calgary Historic Communities - Inglewood

If you are interested in historic Calgary communities - you might like to consider looking at one of the Historic Walking tours that are available on the city of Calgary website. For example, a brochure for a walking tour of Inglewood can be found at the web address:

<http://www.calgary-inglewood.com/files/Inglewood%20Historical%20Walking%20Tours%20Booklet.pdf>

This little tour includes details of some of the earliest settlers in the area, including details of some locations of the pre 1992 shanty-town on the East side of the Elbow river. The brochure mentions early homes, and businesses. Most of the homes listed in the brochure date before 1900. It gives details of where buildings are (or were, in some cases). It also provides a map for the building locations (by number) which might give detectorists some ideas of possible hunt locations.

There are other walking tours brochures available for the historic neighborhoods of Mission and Cliff Bungalow", Connault, and Parkdale, and Mount Royal as well as some information about early sandstone quarries. This information is available on the City of Calgary website, under the search of "Heritage Publications" or "Walking Tours".

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### **A DO-IT-YOURSELF SAND SCOOP**



With Rochon Sands just around the corner - I thought a last-minute sand-scoop might be a great addition to someone's Metal Detecting kit bag. Here is an easy home-made version using a Folgers plastic coffee container, although the large size peanut-butter container or laundry detergent container would work just as well. Just take your container and drill holes (slightly smaller than a dime) in it, and you have a sand-scoop that will work well for a couple of hunts.

## Imagine The Finds!

No, that's not an exclamatory directive aimed at tempting your mind towards a treasure chest of jewelry and coins. Rather, it's a directive encouraging you to use your imagination to breathe some life into those items which have become or may seem like commonplace everyday finds to you. Just think, some of the objects you are digging up haven't seen the light of day in 50-100+ years. You are the first person to touch that object since it was lost or dropped!

As you uncover it and scrape the last remaining bit of soil off it, if you listen carefully, you can almost hear it take a breath. You have given it life. It is reborn. It has a story to tell you of where it came from, who owned it, and how it got there. Don't throw it in your pouch or apron. Take a minute and hold it in the bright light. It's a time machine, a portal to the past, and days gone by. How do you activate it? Simple. Use your imagination.

Close your eyes, tune out the sounds around you, and step through the portal. It's kind of like Alice through the looking glass. Do you hear the difference in the sounds you now hear? The sights have changed too. Did you hear the sound of the horse drawn buggy clattering down the cobblestone road? Did you hear the horse whinny as the model T drove past? The modern stop lights are gone. The neon signs that cluttered every corner are missing. Where are you? You find yourself in front of that old Victorian house you just got permission to detect. You had just found a "perfect pair" of harmonica reeds. You pulled them out of the hole where they had been buried for 90 years.

You held them up to the light, and you were transported magically through the portal. You see it all clearly now in an instant. You know the story of how they got there. You see Ma sitting on the porch swing. Junior and Pa are sitting on a bench out in front of that old house. Junior has his harmonica in his hand and is excitedly telling Pa about a song he has been practicing for his girl Jenny. It's called "Sweet Genevieve". Just then Ma calls that dinner is ready. Junior goes to slide his mouth harp into the pocket of his jeans, but in his hurry, it glances off the side of his pocket and falls into the thick grass. Later that evening after dinner, he looks for it in desperation, but can't find it anywhere. He can't remember where he dropped it.

Just then, the sounds of yester year begin to slow down and fade. Objects rush past you, and you feel yourself being transported again. You are back through the portal again, and find yourself kneeling next to that hole you just dug still holding the harmonica reeds in your hand against the bright sunlight. The objects have revealed their story to you. The mundane find has just taken on a new life. You gave it one. The people and place it was attached to has come to life again. How did it happen? You imagined the find.



## Lose a Hammer, Find a Horde

The man who discovered the largest collection of gold and silver coins of the fourth and fifth century found anywhere within the Roman Empire was at Hoxne St Edmunds Primary School this week.



Eric Lawes, who lives in Hoxne, brought his trusty metal detector to the school where he explained to Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from both Hoxne and Mendham Primary School what he did to find the Hoxne Hoard.

The pupils visited the British Museum in London last week where the hoard is now housed, so Mr Lawes' talk coincided with that.

Mr Lawes made the discovery when Peter Whatling, the farmer who owned the land where the hoard was buried, had lost a hammer and asked his friend, Mr Lawes, a retired gardener and amateur metal detectorist, to help look for it.

Found on November 16, 1992, the hoard consists of 14,865 Roman gold, silver and bronze coins, and 200 items of silver tableware and gold jewellery. In 1993, the Treasure Valuation Committee valued the hoard at £1.75 million, or £2.66 million in today's money.

Mr Lawes, who still pursues his metal detecting hobby, said: "I am very proud to tell these schoolchildren of what I managed to find in this area, and it always means a lot to me coming back here as I was at this school 83 years ago as a five-year-old."

Sadly, there is no word on whether or not the hammer was ever found.

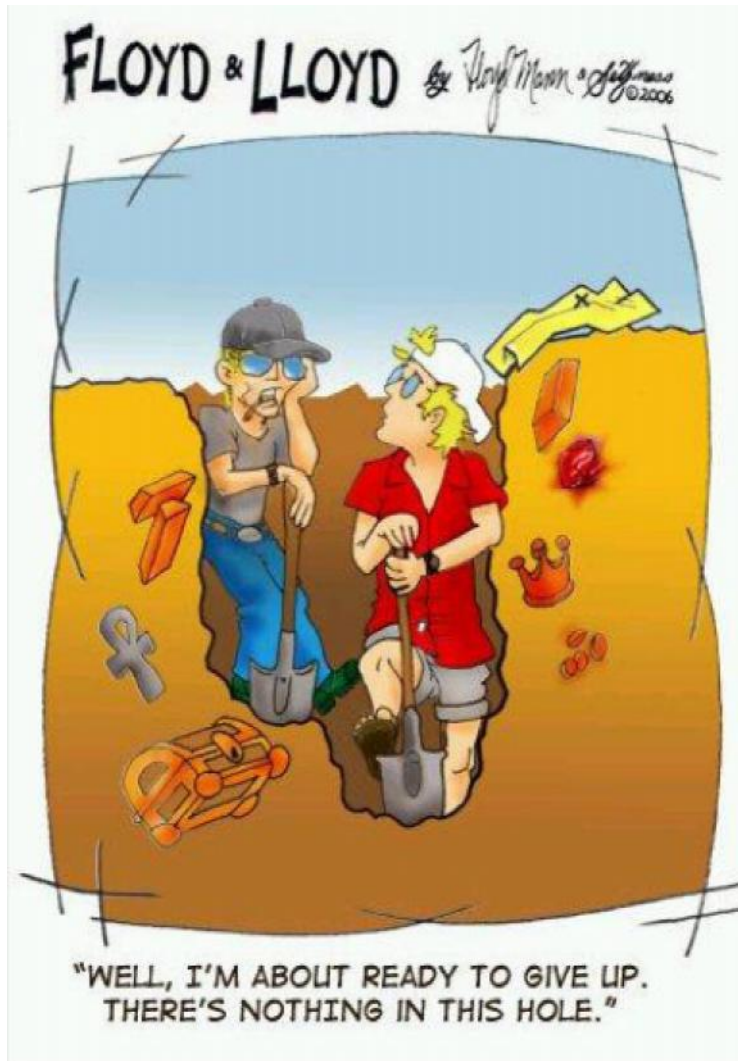
This article was published in May of 2011 in the "Diss Express" a local Newspaper in the county of Norfolk, England.

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## Places to Check Out

Old church's and school yards. OK I know this is a no brainer, but it is still worth mentioning. Think about it, just about every city has one dating back to the early 1900's, and maybe even late 1800's. If you have checked out the old Topographical or Railroad Maps of our area, old schools and churches are included in the details. We have one of these books of Maps in our CMDC Library. Sometimes the schools or churches have moved, or been built over. You can also read the old newspapers (many are available on-line) for the social events page. They might list Church picnics or School picnic locations. In almost every instance these events would have taken place within a short buggy-ride of the school. Now I realize that these locations may have been detected over and over. But with a little patience silver can be found. It might mean hitting ever square inch of those yards picking through trash, especially if the place has been in use for 100 years, but there will be something left to find. Be sure and hit those grass medians between the sidewalks and the street. Lots of churches are converting playgrounds into parking lots. Keep an eye out for new construction on old schoolyard or church sites where the lots may have been stripped of top soil. You never know just what might turn up in a dirt-pile.



Hmmm - Maybe they should have used a pin-pointer.

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## CLUB HUNTS

We have had some awesome club hunts during the 2014 metal detecting season. Thanks and Appreciation for all the hard work and effort of Jeff Buchan, our CMDC Club Hunt director. It has been great to get together, and the finds have ranged from gold and silver rings, through interesting old toys, and some very nice coins. There are two more official hunts left in our 2014 Metal Detecting Season. Pay attention to the Facebook Group page, and remember that we try to plan for the third weekend of the month, sometimes we run into complications.

If the weather hold we have a hunt in November. We are all hoping for a long sunny Autumn detecting season. Hope to see you at the next hunt. Remember, Miss a hunt, and miss a lot!!!

## 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

Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC)

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

## Cochrane Dental

311 1 St E, Cochrane, AB T4C 1Z3  
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Dr. Dwayne Hinz

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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.

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