

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

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Just a reminder of fun & friends at club hunts during the 2019 Metal Detecting 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.

Calgary Historic Communities – Mission area

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 the Mission area can be found at the web address:

<https://www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Documents/Heritage-planning/heritage-walking-tours/heritage-mission-walking-tour.pdf>

This little tour includes details of some of the earliest settlers in the area, including details the early French-Canadian community of Rouleauville, the early Catholic Mission, and of some of early community homes. The brochure mentions early homes, churches, convents, and businesses. Most of the locations listed in the brochure date before 1900. The little walking tour 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 nearby possible hunt locations.

There are other walking tours brochures available for the historic neighborhoods of Inglewood, Conault-Beltline, 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".

The page that this walking tour was located on is filled with other historic resources for Calgary, and other areas of Alberta. It could be a valuable research tool. At any case, you may want to review some of the other historic resources available on the City of Calgary website at:

<https://www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Pages/Heritage-planning/Heritage-Publications-and-Links.aspx>

CMDC CLUB HUNTS

We are fortunate in the Calgary Metal Detecting Club to have the opportunity to hunt together during the Metal Detecting season. The CMDC has "Club Hunts" where all of the members have the opportunity to meet at a local park area, and hunt for whatever treasures they can recover. At the end of the hunt we get together to see what each of the members has discovered, and to vote on best finds of the day.

We have had some awesome club hunts during the 2019 metal detecting season. Thanks, and appreciation for all the hard work and effort of Brett Buchan, our CMDC Club Hunt director. It has been great to get together as a club, maybe learn a few new skills, and to see what all of other club members dig up.

Finds at the CMDC club hunts have ranged from silver rings, relics, interesting old toys, and some very nice coins. There are a few more official hunts left in our 2019 Metal Detecting Season. Pay attention to the Facebook group-page and remember that we plan for at least one club hunt a month – and more if we can. The next few club hunts are scheduled on the following days, depending on weather. Remember to save these dates on your calendar.

September 07, 2019 - September 21, 2019
October 05, 2019 - October 21, 2019
More in November? – dependant on fall/winter weather

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 lived overseas in 2014, was stunned and surprised in August of 2014 to get a Facebook message from someone in Winnipeg with a picture of the wedding band he last saw in 2002.

“I was really shocked - not just that somebody found it, but that somebody took the time to track us down and return it. That’s huge,” 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 an entire day trying to find it, but eventually gave it up for lost. Four years later, Winnipeg metal detectorist, Art Crane, was hunting Assiniboine Park, when he heard a tell-tale beep. He recovered the gold ring in a ditch alongside a road in the park.

The ring was inscribed with the year of the wedding (2000), and had the couple’s first names inside. Art Crane reported it to the park wardens, but they had no record of such a lost ring. So Art put it away, and the ring remained in the box of coins, key chains and rings Art Crane kept in his pickup truck for eight years, until summer of 2014.

The topic of lost rings came up at a family gathering, and Crane showed the lost wedding band he found in Assiniboine 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. He eventually found an old obituary which mentioned Helder Prazeres and his wife Julie. Justin typed Prazeres into Facebook and incredibly, the two strangers had a mutual friend. Justin Phillips sent a Facebook message to Helder Prazeres, asking if the ring was his.

“Hello Justin, I am actually speechless right now,” Prazeres writes back in the post, dated Aug 8, 2014. He described how he lost the ring, and arranged 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.” Mr. Prazeres said. The ring was sent from Winnipeg to Helder Prazeres, who was thrilled to have his wedding ring back on his finger, where it belonged.

The information in this article was gleaned from a story on the "Global TV" news-site in September 2014.

Returned Army Dog-Tags

Chad Vinck loves history. Vinck sits on the Peoria Arizona Historical Society board of directors. The history buff spends hours researching the area, and hours searching the land with his metal detector for clues and links to the past. Through the years he has found relics, toys, coins, antique car bits, and even marbles.

Recently Chad was detecting with a friend in the desert west of Gila Bend, Arizona. He wasn't having much luck, but that changed when he recovered something so unexpected that he made it his mission to find the owner. Vinck dug up a set of army dog-tags. “When I pulled it out of the ground, it was like digging up a gold bar. I was so thrilled,” said Vinck.

The dog-tags, lost in 1942, belonged to Army soldier James L. Thompson. The veteran of three wars lost his dog tags during WWII training in the Arizona desert. As soon as he got home, Chad Vinck began to research. His search eventually lead him to a family friend that connected Vinck with Thompson’s granddaughter, and through her, to Thompson’s son, Bobby.

The two men spoke over the phone. Thompson did not know that his father had military training in Arizona, but hinted he would like the dog tags as a keep-sake, and even offered to pay. Chad Vinck’s response was, “I will just give it to you.” He was glad to know they would be valued by a family member. The tags were mailed to Bobby Thompson in North Carolina. Mr. Thompson was thrilled to have this link to his father.

Vinck sent a few other items he found in the area to Thompson in hopes it would give him a link of sorts to his father’s past. The desert hunter calls searching the desert with his metal detector an “obsession” that teaches him about the past, while keeping him excited him about the future. “It’s about the adventure, getting out there with your machine and digging up the surprise that awaits you,” said Vinck.

This Buzzer story was based on an article out of the Peoria Arizona news in 2017.

This article was sent in by CMDC member Bill Jones. It is an article that he found years ago, originally published by Kellyco Metal Detectors. The article provides some great hints and clues about researching and searching out new areas to metal detect. The article has great info, but was slightly edited for size. Hopefully some of these tips will provide a step towards a great treasure.



12 WAYS TO FIND OLDER AREAS TO HUNT

While there are many different places hunt with your Metal Detector, the thrill of recovering older more coins plus holding in your hands different relics of the past will be something you will want to experience. Finding coins from the 17th, 18th and early 19th Century is a far greater thrill than you can imagine. The answer to finding older sites is "Research!" Where can you find research material?

1-Old maps - can be found in local libraries, or local history books. They show old roads, abandoned railroad stations, old school buildings, or points of interest that may no longer exist, or people have forgotten about.

2-Old newspapers contain a wealth of information on almost every page stories about holiday celebration on the town square park, or a carnival arriving in town (where did they set up?) and much more information.

3-Old Property Tax records show where older houses, farms, service stations, interstate bus stops, taverns etc. once stood. There are lots of old coins to be found in any of these types of locations.

4-School records can tell you where schools once stood. Find all the roads and paths that students took to get to school. Find out where the building or buildings stood, school playground areas, or lunch benches.

5-Local Historical Societies are a great resource containing valuable information on dozens of older events of your town from its very beginnings up till today. This is a valuable resource not to be overlooked.

6-Local Museums may have displays of historical interest as well as books on the areas history. Spend time with anyone that works in the museum, they generally are part "Historian." Listen to what they can tell you.

7-Senior citizens are a walking history of your town or city. Take the time to visit the Senior Citizen Homes and events. Make friends with those folks and listen to the stories they can tell.

8-Old police reports can pinpoint events that can turn into a "treasure" spot. Robberies of lake front homes many times ended with the thief throwing his loot into the lake if he was about to be captured. Police calls to businesses or homes that are empty lots right now.

9-Old Fire Department records can indicate where many building & properties once existed. Probably the best source for what once stood on now empty lots. Fire Departments also participated in many town activities such as picnics and parades. Where did the parades begin and end? Where were the picnics held?

10-Churches - church records will show where the earliest churches were established. Some no longer exist & were torn down or purchased for another business now on that spot. People spent time before and after church to picnic and join in many outdoor activities.

11-College(s) - start small and add more buildings from time to time. Lots of areas outside buildings, sports areas, student eating areas, picnic spots, etc. Colleges are also a depository of information about the towns and cities where they are located. Check the college library.

12-Library - we saved the best for last. No place has more information than the local library. Check with the Librarian who can direct you to a wealth of information about your town. (Or any neighboring areas) Libraries are the main "Depository" of information of all kinds, many times having a number of items discussed above, "old maps, old books, old records, newspapers, etc". Get a library card, it will really pay off!

RADIOWORLD CENTRAL HUNT & BBQ EVENT

On August 17, 2019 GPS Central / RadioWorld Central held their 4th annual seeded hunt event and BBQ. Detectorists from the Calgary and Edmonton area joined together at Elbow Park in Calgary for a timed hunt, which was followed by a BBQ lunch. This year there was a small registration fee of \$20, but the prizes and the coins seeded on the field were well worth that.

The staff of RadioWorld Central took the time to liberally seeded the hunting-field with silver coins and foreign coins. They also seeded a small set-apart area for young hunters, seeded with a few bigger targets, which was available to older detectorists after the event was concluded. The coins included silver dollars, Cayman Island silver coins, two gold coins, and a bit of "junk-gold". There were also specially marked Minelab tokens, which were exchanged at the end of the hunt for some pretty amazing prizes, including a Minelab Go-find detector, some small coils, and water-proof headphones. At the end of the event a raffle was held, and Lee Langraf was the winner of a brand new a Minelab Equinox 600 metal detector.

Most of the detectorists who attended were from the Calgary and Southern Alberta area, but detectorists travelled to attend from as far away as Edmonton. At 10:00 am the time arrived for the event start, and soon there were many happy hunters as silver coins and other treasures made their way into pouches.

During the BBQ lunch Detectorists displayed some of their best finds in the categories of Relic, Treasure, Coin and Trinket. Prizes were won for best recovered item in each category, as voted on by the other detectorists who attended the hunt.

Minelab was also represented at the BBQ by their travelling equipment specialist Debbie Smikoski – who set aside an area to try out different Minelab detectors, and to give private tutorials to anyone who wanted to know their Minelab machine better. From what I could see, people got some great information from her.

All in all – this was another great GPS Central / RadioWorld Central event, RadioWorld Central provided lunch, backpacks, and swag to every detectorist who registered. Everyone who attended had a great time. The Calgary Metal Detecting Club is lucky to have RadioWorld Central as one of our club sponsors, and I continue to urge the CMDC members to continue the development of this great relationship by making sure to shop there.

**A Big shout-Out, and our thanks to George Valentine, and the staff of
RadioWorld Central and GPS Central for a great event.**

Places to Check Out

Old church's and school yards are a great place to check - think about it, just about every city has churches and schools as one of the permanent structures. 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.

You can also read the old newspapers (many are available on-line) for the social events page. They might list church or school picnic locations. Most of the times, these events would have taken place within a short buggy-ride of the school. They were also used by more than one organization.

There could be years of litter, especially if the place has been in use for over 100 years, but there will be something left to find. Be sure and hit those grass medians between the sidewalks and the street. Before parking lots, that is where people used to park for Sunday morning service. 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.

This article was written by CMDC member Allen Billy. As several of our members have encountered geo-caches, and not realized what they were, I think this article is a definite educational bonus. I am one of the CMDC members that has also geo-cached. If you recover a container filled with items, and a little log-book – you have probably found a geo-cache. These will probably not usually be buried, but may be very well disguised, or covered with leaves. If you do find a geo-cache, take a photo, remove or trade out one item, and leave the rest for the geo-cachers to find.

Geo-Caching Basics

As detectorists occasionally find metallic geocaches, travel bugs and geocoins while hunting for good signals, I thought an introduction to the hobby may be of interest. Several people in the CMDC already geocache, but this article is focussed on those who are relatively new to geocaching. As with metal detecting, the activity has its own language and acronyms.

Geocaching is a relatively new outdoor recreation created as a high-tech treasure hunting activity in 2000 when twenty-four satellites were upgraded and GPS pinpointing accuracy increased dramatically. A single website (www.geocaching.com) contains information on the sport and provides all the information a person needs to get started (registration is free). The site also provides coordinates for millions of geocaches (2,665 caches currently in Calgary, and one on the International Space Station) and is where people log the geocaches and travel bugs found.

“Geocaches” are containers hidden at specific coordinates and identified by a unique code (GC-----). The objective in the sport is to find the geocache using your GPS device and keen observation skills. Geocaches generally contain at least a log book if they are quite small, but larger caches contain trading items. If you find a cache, you can take something out of the container as long as you put something back in. Geocaches come in various sizes, very small (head of a screw size), to small tubes and film canisters, to Tupperware containers of different sizes, to ammo boxes, to very large boxes. Generally, caches are hidden, but never buried. They are often camouflaged to blend into surroundings, and also can be disguised as pieces of wood, rocks, chewing gum, dog feces, bolts, parts of fences or street signs. Some are easy to find, others are not. In some cases, you need to solve a problem to unlock the cache.

Some geocaches are in interesting locations. I have climbed a 60 foot tree to find one hidden in a branch, others are submerged in streams, some are in coral reefs or mountain tops. Some can be found indoors, in bars, restaurants, libraries and other structures. Still others can be found on remote islands. Geocaches can be found in most countries.

“Travel bugs” are items set loose in the geocaching universe and tracked over time as they move from one cache to the next. “TBs” carry a unique code (TB ----) and can be made from anything that will fit into a cache. TBS can be homemade (the tracking code is purchased and attached), others are purchased online and come with a tracking code. The code may be directly on the item, or on an attached chain or string. If you discover a travel bug, the find is logged and then moved to a different cache.



Allen Billy's club keys travel-bug geo-cache – if you dig up these keys, you can log them into geocaching.com, and move them to a new area, to bury them again.



Existing Geo-caches disguised as rocks, and as chewing gum.



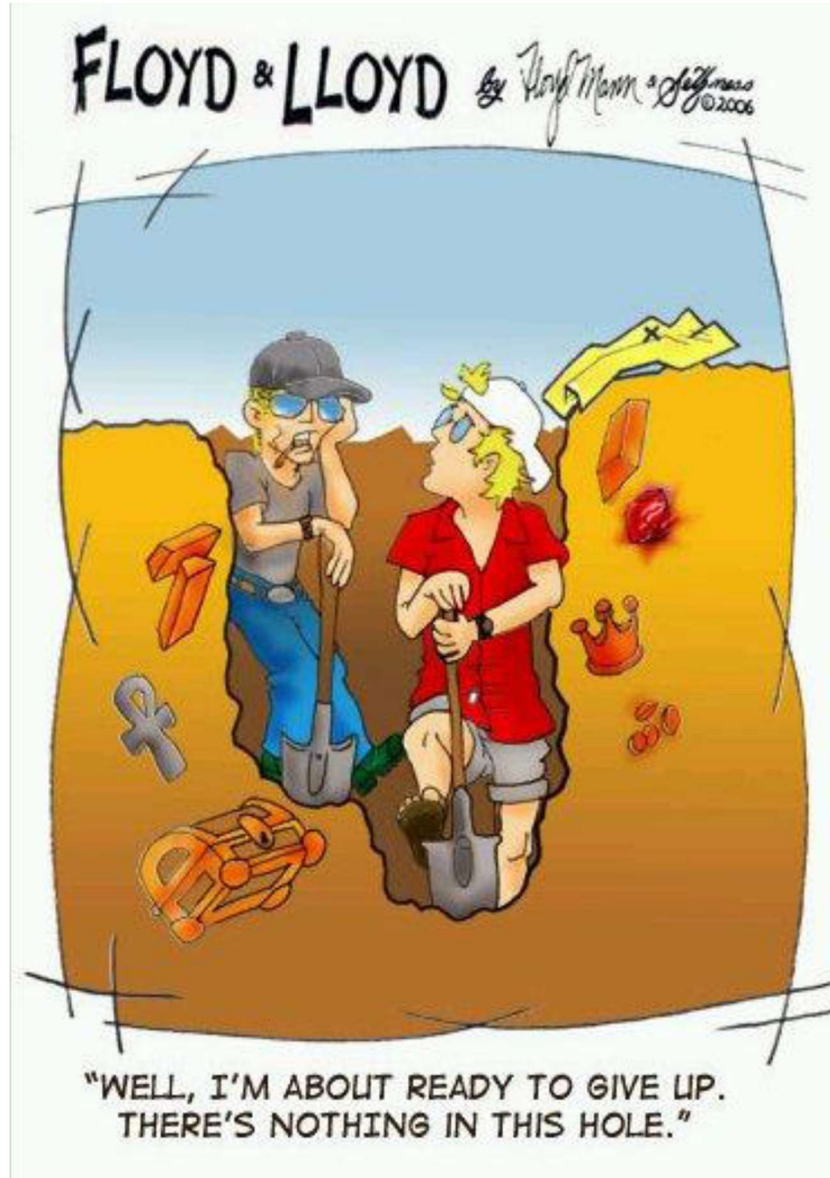
Geo-Coin – note the club has one in play – a Minelab travel bug owned by Iain Paterson may show up at club hunts.

Geo-Caching Basics - Continued

“Geocoins” are similar to travel bugs and are usually multi-coloured metallic coins that are placed in caches. As with caches, geocoins come in a variety of sizes: macrocoins (76 mm diameter), typical geocoins (25 mm diameter), microcoins (25 mm diameter) and nanocoins (13 mm diameter). Many of these items are nicely crafted and often disappear once placed in circulation.

Stealth is required when approaching the coordinates for a cache, as you don’t want the caches to be discovered by “muggles” (non-geocaching people).

Detectorists can find caches and travel bugs as these metal items can appear anywhere old coins and jewelry can be found. Bad weather can move caches from their original locations and muggles can disrupt and disperse caches. If you find any items with a GC or TB tracking code attached or imprinted, The original owners would appreciate it if the items could be put back into the geocaching universe. If you have any marked items in your “trinket” collection, I would be happy to help you learn about the item, where it has travelled, and if you like ... I could get it moving again.



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

