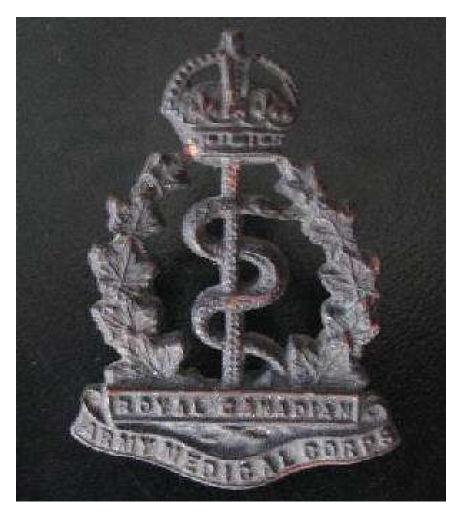
Calgary Metal Detecting Club



Volume 52 – issue 5 SEPTEMBER 2023



This WWII era Cap Badge was an entry for Best Relic Find of the Year in 2004.

FINDS OF THE YEAR VOTING COMING UP AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CALGARY METAL DETECTING CLUB. WHAT IS YOUR BEST FIND FOR 2023? JOIN IN ON THE FUN!!!

> 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 FINDS OF THE YEAR VOTING

Metal Detecting is such an optimistic hobby - we always hope to find a treasure, relic, or other cool find under our coil. We all know that the treasures are there to find, as we see during the CMDC "Finds of the Year" voting. Yes, now that Covid restrictions are ended – we will be having a vote for the Finds of the Year – coming soon!

In Spring of this year the club voted to change the annual banquet date from April until Autumn – so the CMDC "Finds of the Year" voting will take place at the CMDC meeting on the first Thursday of October. The Finds of the Year are always an exciting meeting for the Calgary Metal Detecting Club, as it is when club members bring out their personal bests for display. There are always some amazing items to view and vote on. With all the spectacular items that club members have recovered during the 2023 Metal Detecting Season, I am expecting this to be another great year for the "Finds of the Year" voting.

Remember to attend the October meeting, and to bring your best finds for voting. Each Club member can display one item in each of the basic categories of Best Relic, Best Treasure (silver and gold), Best Coin or Best Trinket. The votes are tallied, but the results kept secret until the CMDC banquet and awards dinner scheduled for the late October or early November.

Some Previous Finds of the Year

Metal Detecting is such an optimistic hobby - we always hope to find a treasure under our coil. The treasures are there to find, as is evidenced by these photos of "Finds of the Year" from previous Metal Detecting seasons.



Treasure FOTY for 2012



Treasure FOTY for 2008



Coin FOTY for 2012

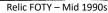


Trinket FOTY for 2003



Relic FOTY for 2012









2005 Trinket FOTY



2009 Coin FOTY



2004 Relic FOTY



2010 Treasure FOTY

Help Needed - CMDC Executive

We have a few new positions on the CMDC executive that require filling. Judy Taylor and Susan Durksen have announced that they will be stepping down from their positions on the executive. Susan holds the role of club secretary, and Judy has been the CMDC treasurer. Both have spent over 5 years in their roles, and it is time for other members to step up and take part in helping the club run smoothly.

None of the executive roles takes a significant amount of time, and we hope that our club members will seriously consider volunteering to step into these roles, and helping out. If you would like to assist the club with either of these roles on the CMDC executive, it would help us out a lot. Reach out to a current member of the executive if you think you would like to take on a role, or send an email to the CMDC website to express your interest.

We will also need to choose a new Buzzer Editor in the new year, as I will be stepping down from this role in the Spring of next year. I have enjoyed my 12 years as the editor of the Buzzer, but future plans for travel will limit the amount of time that I can spend writing the newsletter. I do plan on helping out with the Buzzer by sending in stories and articles that might be of interest to the club – but someone else will need to be at the helm.

2023 CMDC CLUB MEETINGS

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club is now holding "in-person" meetings at the Horton Road Legion on the first Thursday of the month. The meeting will start at 7:30. It is fabulous news that we have a place where we are able to get together again. The Horton Road Legion is easily accessible from Deerfoot Trail, MacLeod Trail and Heritage Drive. The Legion address is 9202 Horton Road SW. We have pre-booked meetings at the Horton Road Legion location for the entire summer. If there are changes and the meeting is not able to be held on the first Thursday of the month, the details will be published on the Facebook group and emailed out to club members.

CMDC Annual Awards Dinner

As mentioned earlier – last Spring the CMDC voted to move the timing of the club "annual banquet" from Spring until Fall. The CMDC "annual banquet" took a brief hiatus during all the "in-person" event regulations during Covid – and it is great to be able to get together again. I'm looking forward to it.

The CMDC Annual Awards Dinner is scheduled to be held in late October or early November of 2023. We don't have an official date yet, but plans are in the works. An email will be going out with costs, dates, and other details as soon as the club executive has things set up.

CMDC members will be able to invite spouses and other guests – Attending members will be able to get together for an excellent dinner and great conversation with some great people. This dinner is also the time to celebrate the winners of the Best Finds of the 2023 Metal Detecting Season, and to recognize our CMDC Member of the Year.

Stay tuned for more information – details will be announced shortly on the Facebook group page and by email.

METAL DETECTING TOOLS

You have your detector, and you are ready to go out for a hunt. The next question is – what else do you need to establish yourself in the hobby. We all have our favourite metal detecting tools, but here are some of the basics.

A DIGGER – You will need something to dig in the ground with. Most detector suppliers carry a variety of digging instruments that you can purchase. It all depends on what you are willing to spend. Some people hunt with a garden trowel, and others with a hardier version specifically made for metal detecting. In urban areas, it is best to use a "trowel-size" digger. If you are hunting rural areas, you may prefer a shovel or spade – but these are not recommended in urban parks.

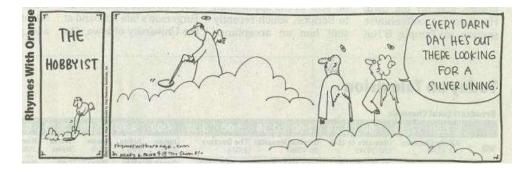
A PROBE - Many club members also use a "probe" to recover shallow targets. It is often used to probe the soil (hence the name) to locate a shallow target. If the target is shallow enough you can not only locate it, but you can also use the probe to gently work it out of the soil without using your digger. Some people use a special soft metal probe to prevent damage to valuable coins, while others just use a blunted screwdriver or awl.

A POUCH - Another useful item to have with you is an apron with several pouches. Many of the detector manufacturers have developed painter type aprons that work pretty well. My personal preference is a leather carpenter's apron. The cost for a pouch is minimal – in fact, they are often given away at events like the GPS Central Barbecue or other special hunt events. When you have a proper detecting pouch/apron, you can carry your finds, and have a place for your trash for carry-out. If it is designed properly, and if designed properly, will hold some of your tools.

A PINPOINTER - A pinpointer is a smaller version of a metal detector that can locate targets close to the surface, or within a hole. Many pinpointers will sound of for nearness, which lets you know which way to dig. A good pinpointer can be expensive, but it is definitely worth the extra money if you find this is the hobby for you. A good pinpointer will help you locate the target you are digging faster. That means you can find more time finding your "treasure" and less time digging it up.

HEADPHONES - A metal detector produces sounds as you detect objects. I recommend using headphones with your detector, especially when hunting in a park or crowded area. They serve several good purposes – first, they cut down on the amount of noise the detector produces. Let's say you are on a crowded beach or a playground, you will hear what you are detecting, but no one else will. That way you don't disturb the other people using the park. Second – they will help with deeper targets. Headphones help you hear faint sounds with clarity, like a whisper of sound from a deep silver target. Lastly, Headphones also use less battery power than the built in speaker on the detector. It will help your batteries last longer, giving you more hunting time, and saving on the cost of batteries.

Lastly, other items you can carry are a work cloth or rag. They are good for wiping dirt off of your hands, and off targets without damaging them. I use an old handkerchief. Drop cloths are also a good item. They can be used to contain the dirt that you are digging out of the plug, and to pour it back into the hole when you are done. I also carry a small spray bottle with water to give a quick clean to an exciting find that is covered in soil. Lastly, don't forget to carry extra batteries – and bug spray for those summer hunts.



Getting Started in the Hobby

If you don't have a "machine" yet (Metal Detecting lingo for your detector), decide on your price range. How much money and time are you planning to spend on this hobby. Another key is to figure out what type of hunting you what to do. You might like to hunt on the beach. You may prefer to hunt for old coins and jewelry. You might want to relic hunt in general, or you may to prospect for gold nuggets or meteorites. There are a wide variety of detectors for the types of hunting listed above. Shop around, and decide what you think is best for you.

After you buy a detector, study the instructions to get the most out of your new detector. Practice in your backyard by putting some coins/jewellery on the ground. Listen to the sound your detector makes as you pass it over the items. Try it with bottle caps/drink can pull tabs. Don't forget nails/scrap metal pieces. Listen to sounds they make. This gives you an idea of what sounds good and what doesn't. Once you are in the field, you'll find a lot of trash that you have to hunt through to find the good stuff.

Remember to have fun with it. If you get discouraged. Many people get discouraged at the amount of trash found by your detector. Most Hobbyists count on finding 80% trash to 20% of "Keepers". Count it as cleaning the environment and dispose of the trash you find in a garbage bin after you leave the area. You may hunt an area several times before you make any discoveries. Then again, your first time out, you may find a coin or piece of jewellery that will pay for your metal detector. I've heard stories about people buying one, then the first time they use it, they find a cool treasure. Personally, I like finding unique items – so some things that I consider a treasure others might not – like my dated dog-tag from the 70s.

Remember "you be you". Don't let others turn up their noses at the things that you like to find. Have fun with the hobby, and with whatever treasures you find. Enjoy yourselves and remember that everybody digs up trash – they just don't talk about that part of it. Share your treasures and the things that excite you about the hobby. That is what makes it all worth while!

Rare-Colonial Coin located in New Hampshire

A New Hampshire resident was pleased that his plan for metal detecting a rural permission worked out for him a few years back. The detectorist outlined his general method as research in the library until he believes there might be something in a location. Then he worked on getting permission from the landowner. If successful, he hunts the site, where he looks for the oldest tree in the area and bases his search around that spot.

In this case, what he dug up three inches below the sandy soil was a 3-pence coin from 1652. The coin is known as a "pine-tree" coin, because it has a crude engraving of the tree on the obverse. A few hundred of the coins were minted out of New England around that time in defiance of British law. Because of the coins rarity, in good condition an authenticated coin could be worth as much as \$15,000.

Some sites can be extremely busy at times. Work out when your preferred sites are being used and aim for the quiet times so that you are free to swing wherever you want. For example, sports fields are often used for Saturday morning sports events, or for training in the early evenings. Try heading out early in the morning, or before supper to hunt your preferred site when others are not around.

Cover the site from multiple angles. An experienced treasure hunter will cover the same ground many times from many angles if they believe that there may be a coin cache beneath. Different angles will give off different signals and ensure that you fill any gaps that were missed when you were trying to overlap swings.

Find of the Year Story - 2012 Coin of the Year

With Find of the Year Voting next Month, I thought that we all might enjoy "Blast from the Past" story about a past Find of the Year". Wayne Teske of the CMDC dug up a 1921 fishscale 5-cent piece in 2012, and it took the prize for "Coin of the Year". This is one of the rarest circulated Canadian coins – and we were all pretty excited when it was found.

1921 Fishscale 5-Cent Piece Recovery

The year is 1921. The city, Ottawa, Ontario. The place, The Royal Canadian Mint. Someone says "Dump the coins!" and almost 3.5 million silver Canadian 5 Cent pieces are melted down. The government has chosen to go with the cheaper and larger nickel format for the coming year. But wait, some people have already purchased the 1921 5-cent piece, and about 300 have gone into circulation.

Fast forward 90 + years. An avid Mine-Lab E-TRAC user goes over some of the same ground that he and another E-TRAC user have been pounding over for the last 2 months. So far 9 holes, no treasure. But wait, a repeatable signal in the coin range. Could be junk in this nail infested sight, but experience tells the detector to dig these signals. The plug is dug and removed. The soil is combed with a pinpointer. BReeeeeeep. And out pops a silver coin.

"But what is it"? the detectorist asks himself. It's small enough to be a "fishscale" 5 cent piece. A video camera is turned on as slowly the detectorist pours water over the coin. "Oh please, oh please" he pleads as the date on the coin is slowly revealed. **1921!**



A 1921 Fishscale! One of the 300 or so of these coins in existence. The Detectorist is knocked flat on his rear and proceeds to phone his friend who knows the value of such a coin. Possibly \$7000.00, depending on condition! Wow! What a great day!

Up until 1921 the 5-cent piece was about half the size and half the thickness of a dime. This makes it one of the hardest coins to find with a metal detector, and also makes it a much sought after coin on many a detectorist's wish list. Canadians who used the coins thought the early 5-cent pieces resembled the scales of a fish because of their tiny size, and gleaming silver appearance. That is how the 5-cent piece got the nickname, "fishscale".

In 1921 the 5-cent piece was changed to the current size and made of nickel (hence the name). That year both sizes of the 5-cent piece were released by the mint, but most of them were the larger size "nickels". The number of the fishscale silver 5-cent pieces released in 1921 was small, and they are very rare. There have only been a handful found by metal detectorists – and those have all been recovered in Western Canada. Amazingly, three of these coins have been recovered by members of the CMDC – one 1921 fishie was dug within Calgary city limits, and two from areas of Southern Alberta close to Calgary.

Metal Detecting and Meteorites

Over the last few years there have been several sightings of meteors streaking across the sky over Alberta. Although most of these meteorites burn up in the atmosphere and never make it to earth, there are some exceptions. Most of us have heard of the "Whitecourt Meteorite Crater". Of course you cannot detect in the vicinity of the crater, as it is now a designated historic and scientific location, but a couple of members of the club made the trek north to hunt some of the surrounding area a distance away from the crater. The terrain was pretty rough and it was hard detecting, but they came home with a dozen shards of meteorite.

In 2019 another glowing fireball was seen over Alberta, with bits of meteorite were thought to have landed around Camrose. With the increase in meteorite sightings caused by CCTV cameras, there is a lot more interest in the possibility of finding meteorites. The University of Alberta released some information on how to identify a meteorite. You can find more information on this at their website "Ualberta.ca/science/meteorites".

- Check if the specimen feels unusually heavy for its size. Many meteorites (typically iron meteorites) are quite dense and feel heavier than most Earth rocks.
- **Test the specimen's magnetism using a standard fridge magnet.** Nearly all meteorites contain ironnickel metal and attract magnets easily.
- **Check for holes or bubbles in the specimen.** A true meteorite will not have any holes or bubbles at all. If your specimen does, it's likely slag or some other stony matter.
- Examine the outer-layer of the specimen for a thin, black, eggshell-like crust. When a meteor falls through Earth's atmosphere, the outer surface of the rock melts, forming what's known as a fusion crust.

Of course, a metal detector is one of the best ways to locate a meteorite. In fact, scientists used metal detectors to investigate for meteorites in and around the Whitecourt Crater. Here are a few tips on how to use your metal detector to look for meteorites if you suspect one may have landed near you.

First – turn off your iron discrimination. The most common meteorites usually made up of an iron-nickel amalgam. If you have discriminated out iron, you will not be finding any meteorites.

Unless you are detecting for a long-buried meteorite, you won't need a huge coil. If you are hunting the site of a possible modern meteor-fall, the bits won't be deep under ground. It is known that meteorites usually break down into small pieces falling in a debris trail. The meteorites located by the CMDC members that travelled to Whitecourt to detect for meteorites were mostly the size of a dime. In fact, for a modern meteorite event, the shards will likely be on the top of the ground. Remember that the locals around the meteorite landfall near Lloydminster in Saskatchewan a dozen years ago were able to find many meteorite bits as eyeball finds. While some of the meteorites were larger, most were smaller than a loonie. Using a "normal-size" or smaller coil in a circumstance like that might be helpful.

Note that meteorite landfalls are often quite spread out. if you are going to be detecting over a large area around a possible landfall – you want to use a light detector. Finding a metal detector that is light enough that you will be able to prospect for meteorite pieces comfortably over a longer period of time will increase your chances of locating something.



The meteorite examples above were all found in Western Canada

Bracelet Return – 75 years later

It was a beautiful day in August of 2019, when Joan Balser decided to get out of the house for an afternoon of her favourite hobby. Joan dug out her metal detector, and headed out to a popular beach near Ottawa. That decision ended up leaving Joan with a great recovery story. After 74 years on the sandy bottom of the Ottawa River, a bracelet lost at Brittania beach was dug out of the sand, and returned to its owners family.



Joan Balser was detecting in waist-deep water just off Brittania Beach. She had already been in the water for almost 3 hours, and was getting pretty tired, but a loud hit under her coil gave her a renewed burst of energy. Joan dug down almost 15 centimeters through the sandy bottom of the Ottawa River and pulled up a silver bracelet. After a good cleaning, Balser was able to make out the name "Wanda Hutchings" engraved on the bracelet. She also found the words "Elmwood School" and "Rockcliffe Park". On the back of the bracelet, in cursive, was the name "Denny".

Joan Balser did a bit of research and discovered that Elmwood was a private school for girls in Ottawa's Rockcliffe Park neighbourhood. Joan Balser was able to locate some yearbooks for the school, and found that Wanda Hutchings was a student there in 1944. Britannia Beach was a popular outdoors recreation area in the 1930s and 1940s – many people took the streetcar out to the area for picnics and swimming.

Joan had been a detectorist for many years – but this was the first time that she found a piece of jewellery with a whole name etched on it. She decided that he wanted to return the bracelet to the original owner, and if that wasn't possible, to her family. She took her search to social media, and posted a picture of the bracelet and Wanda Hutchings picture from the Elmwood School yearbook on a local Facebook group for Ottawa area history enthusiasts called "Old Ottawa Past".

People were responding to her request within minutes. It didn't take long before others took on her search, including some who used their genealogy hobby to uncover more information. They discovered that Wanda Hutchings died in 2011 at the age of 82, and that her married name was Philpott. Someone was able to find an obituary, which listed Wanda's family members. Joan Balser was able to discover Wanda's daughter's name, Wendy Philpott. Others who knew Wanda, began to contact her daughter, and show her the post.

Less than 12 hours after making the first post, Wanda Balser was able to find out about the original owner. She was also able to locate Wanda Hutching's daughter, and return the recovered silver bracelet to Wendy Philpott. Wendy Philpott was amazed at how many people worked to return the bracelet to her. She said that her mother often spoke of her love for Britannia Beach and talked about taking the streetcar out there on many occasions. Joan Balser was happy to be able to return the bracelet. It wasn't long before she was back out with her metal detector, hoping to find another precious memory to return.

<u>Recovered Ring – inside the dog</u>

Karen Woolley in Nottinghamshire was distressed when she couldn't find her diamond ring. The ring was a family heirloom with multiple diamonds and gemstones. Karen knew that it has been on her bedside table, but now was missing. Karen and her husband Steve hunted high and low for the ring, and then suspicion fell on their three-month old puppy, Barney.

Karen was an avid detectorist and ran for her metal detector. They were stunned when her little pooch started to beep around the stomach area. "It's a bit of an odd thing to use a detector for" said Karen. "I really didn't expect it to work, but we were desperate to find the ring. Its more than 100 years old and has been passed down in my family for generations." The local vet recommended surgery for the small poodle cross, as he felt it unlikely the dog would pass the large ring with multiple sharp edges without injury. Both the ring and the dog came through the operation successfully, and were returned to the Woolley home. Karen still wears the ring but makes sure it is safely put away in her jewellery box when it is not on her finger.

Detectorist Gold Treasure in Norway

Norway's largest "historic gold find" in over a century was uncovered earlier this year by 51 year old Erlond Bore. Mr. Bore purchased a metal detector in Spring of 2023 after his doctor told him that he needed to be getting a bit more exercise.

Erlond Bore has recovered a few odds and ends, and was happy with his new hobby. He asked permission to hunt a local farmer's land on Rennesoy Island in Norway, and went out for a few days over the summer. Bore wasn't finding as much as he liked, so he thought he would change his strategy. He thought that he would use his imagination to find a better place to detect. As he looked out over the landscape, Bore asked himself "If I was here a long time ago, where would I have been?" His eyes were drawn to a hill on the property.

Mr. Bore decided to move to higher ground. After detecting for a bit, he though about heading down the hill and calling it a day. He was on his way home when his detector started beeping halfway down the hill. As Erlond Bore dug up the dirt, he couldn't believe what he found. "At first I thought it was chocolate coins or Captain Sabertooth coins" Bore said in a press release. (Captain Sabertooth is a fictional pirate popular in Norwegion children's literature). Instead Bore unearthed nine gold pendants, three rings, and 10 gold beads. There were over 3.5 ounces (100 grams) of gold. He took a photo, and sent it to nearby experts.

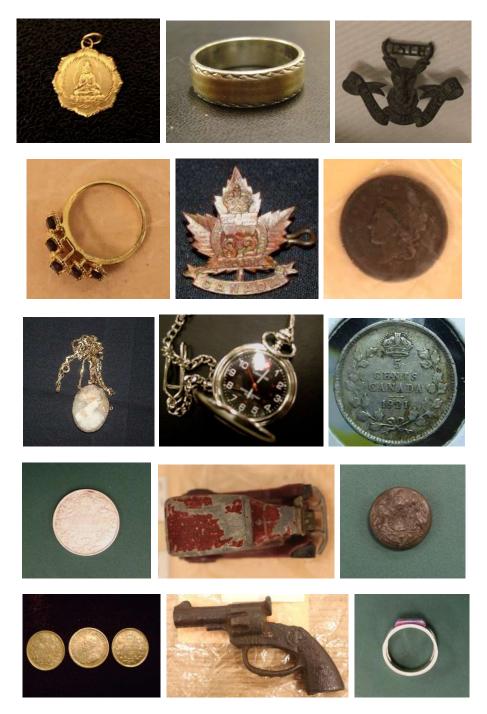
As per Norway's Cultural Heritage act, any relic finds dating before 1527, and any coins from before 1650 are considered property of the state. The act states that anyone who discovers a treasure item will receive a finders fee, split between the landowner and the finder. When Mr. Bore turned over the treasure, he caused quite a stir. "This is the gold find of the century!" stated Ole Madson, director of the museum of archaeology at the University of Stavenger in Norway. It is the biggest historical gold find in Norway since the 19th century.

Archeologists believe the treasure dates from 500 AD. Local historians say that the artifacts come from a particularly difficult time in Rennesoy history, when crop failures, famines and plagues hit the region particularly hard. Archaeologists believe that the jewellery were most likely hidden by the owner, who could not return to retrieve it, or were left as an offering to the gods during the bleak period.

Bore was happy to have brought these beautiful bits of history back into the public eye. He plans to continue with the hobby of metal detecting, and hopes that more treasures will come his way.



If you have been on some of the Metal Detecting forums you know that there are always going to be people who think that there is nothing to find in Western Canada. Our history may not go as early as areas of Ontario or the Maritimes – but there is still a lot of history, and a lot of targets that will end up under our coil. We in the CMDC know that there are many different types of cool objects that we can dig up. There are treasures to be found under the ground in Calgary. Take a look at what some of our members have pulled up in past years.



All of these items were recovered in Calgary by members of the

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

HINTS ON CLEANING DETECTED COINS

Metal Detectorists who collect coins are careful about how they clean coins they have found. Some serious coin collectors are firm believers that any cleaning will lessen the value. However, detectorists know that sometimes dug coins are 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 should not diminish the value of most dug coins. Archaeologists in Europe use the following methods with ancient coins.

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 Elmer's 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 detectorists is "soaking in oil". While some will use olive oil, others find that high-grade mineral oil works well. This method takes a while, as the coin may need to sit in the oil for several weeks in order to soften the crusty surface on the coin. When it is removed from the oil, clean it carefully using only soft items (a soft brush and a toothpick work great). 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.

METAL DETECTING



What my friends think I do.



What my boss thinks I do.



What my parents think I do.



What society thinks I do.



What I think I do.



What I actually do.

PerceptionvsFact.com

LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Although in person meetings are being scheduled for the upcoming months – and held at the Horton Road Legion, planned for the first Thursday of the month. The meeting dates will be published on the CMDC.org website calendar, on the CMDC Facebook group page, and emailed out to the group. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

GPS Central & RadioWorld	The CMDC's yearly dues are:
Central	In-town membership: \$30.00
Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment & tools. Visit them on the web at gpscentral.ca , or the store at:	Out-of-town membership:\$25.00Family Membership\$45.00
#8, 711 - 48 Avenue SE Calgary AB Canada T2G 4X2 403-239-1400	Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC) c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2 email: cmdc.club@gmail.com
CIR Realtor – Relocation Specialist Kevin Niefer See Below Finding Houses - Creating Homes 403-968-1496 To find out more information send Kevin an email (@ kevin@kevinniefer.com, or give him a call at 403-968-1496	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 emai it to kempp@telus.net with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.
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SMI PROSPECTING & ELECTRONICS	COINS2RINGS
The SMI Prospecting & Electronics web site offers a wide range of products to metal detectorists, gold- panners, prospectors, and other outdoor enthusiasts.	
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