

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

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MARCH MADNESS IN THE CMDC



**READY TO FIND ALL SORTS OF TREASURES -
SPRING OF 2024!**

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.

Spring 2024 – Onward to New Treasures

Detectorists look forward to Spring every year, eagerly planning to see what treasures might find their way under their coil. March is a time when many new detectorists are excited about learning the hobby with the brand-spanking-new metal detector they got for Christmas. I was one of those detectorists, out trying to find thawed ground between snowbanks, and so excited to find ANYTHING! My first finds were mostly rusty nails and bottle caps, with a few trinkets to keep me hoping. This year we might have to wait a while to see green grass – as the recent dump of snow we had is likely to stay around a while, but green grass and thawed ground is just around the corner.

If you are new to the hobby check out the March 2022 Buzzer (files on Facebook, and on the CMDC website). It was filled with articles geared towards learning about the hobby, and metal detecting tips for new detectorists. The CMDC will be starting to hold club hunts when the spring weather warms up enough that the ground is soft and easy to dig – and when don't have to wear parkas while we are out detecting.

It looks like 2024 could be an amazing year for new hobbyists and for old-hand detectorists. We are all looking forward to the new Metal Detecting season. Last year we saw an amazing array of silver dollars, military cap badges, gold rings, cool toys and so many other treasures. I'm sure 2024 will be even better! We hope you all find something amazing this year and are able to get out and enjoy the hobby as much as we do!



The Metal Detecting Code of Ethics is a good common-sense approach to the hobby. A copy of the "Treasure Hunting" code of ethics was included with the instructions in the box with my first metal detector over a decade ago. We even publish it on our Facebook group page. I'm sure that most of us have seen version of the code of ethics, and are already aware of it. It is a good reminder for us as we enter the 2024 metal detecting season.

The future of our hobby is affected by public perception of it. If we abide by these basic "common sense" rules, Metal Detecting will be around as a hobby for our enjoyment for a long time. At least once a year we publish the Metal Detecting Code of Ethics in the Buzzer as a reminder that we all need to be responsible hobbyists.

Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

- I will respect private property and do no metal detecting without the owner's permission.
- I will fill all holes and replace all plugs neatly. I will leave my digging area just as I found it.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural and cultural resources, wildlife and private property.
- I will use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- I will make sure all gates are closed behind me.
- I will not litter. I will remove litter and trash recovered during my detecting, and properly dispose of all trash found.
- I will not destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I will not tamper with signs, structural facilities or equipment.
- I will return an item, by any means, if someone can adequately describe it.

Remember - We are an ambassador of a pastime/hobby that we want to protect and enjoy. The hobby may be judged by our actions, and behavior.

Blast from the Past

Paul Barker's 1908 Gold Coin Pendant



This article was about a beautiful (and rare) gold coin dug up by Paul Barker in May of 2015. The original story was published in the Buzzer in 2015. I know only a handful of detectorists that have dug up a gold coin, and this is a great recovery story of one of the few gold coins recovered in the Calgary area. I'm sure it is still one of Paul Barker's favorite finds.

This is a quick story about the 1908 \$5 Liberty Gold coin found in Calgary. Since it was a school day, I did not want to hunt a school yard at 8 am - so I headed out to try my luck at a nearby toboggan hill and soccer field. I had hunted the field before without much luck and did not have high expectations. I worked my way over to the hill, and then heading to the soccer field. The morning sun began to warm the air and melt the frosty grass.

The area was very scarce for targets and had been heavily hunted by the local metal detecting crowd. After searching along the east boundary line I cut a diagonal across the soccer field. The signal must have been ~ 60-70 on my AT Pro, but honestly I do not remember the fine details. I cut the plug and I saw a flash as the coin fell back into the hole. To me it looked like a loonie (Canadian \$1 brass coin).

The weight was notably more than expected and as I bounced the coin in my hand I know I had found something special, a GOLD COIN! The American eagle and liberty head were stunning as nothing shines like gold in the morning light! It is very rewarding to hold the unwrapped coin in your hand and let others hold the coin, seeing them discover it's beauty.



2024 CMDC CLUB MEETINGS

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club holds in-person” meetings at the Horton Road Legion on the first Thursday of every month. The CMDC meeting will start at 7:30, and is planned to end by 9:00 pm. The Horton Road Legion is easily accessible from Deerfoot Trail, MacLeod Trail and Heritage Drive. The address for the Horton Road Legion is 9202 Horton Road SW.

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 Club Membership Renewals

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club usually looks for membership fee renewals starting in January. We are looking forward to the 2024 metal detecting season. I know we are all hoping for an early spring, so we don't want to forget that the CMDC membership fees are due. We will be taking payment for club dues at the next few in-person meetings of the CMDC – but arrangements can be made for “E-transfer” if that is your preferred method of payment.

The CMDC annual membership renewal cost is:

In-town membership	\$30.00
Out-of-town member	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$45.00
Out-of-town Family	\$35.00
Senior's Membership	\$20.00



METAL DETECTING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

I was looking through other detecting club's newsletters, and I came across the following “Tips for Success”. There were some good ideas that might translate into better finds for our Canadian hunting season.

"Scouting" might help zero in on caches of coins and other items. In the summer head out to parks, soccer fields, and local outdoors events. Check to see where the most people are playing, or picnicking etc. Take some pictures of the events with your phone (they can always be deleted later). One soccer field that I photographed showed the location of a temporary shelter set up where they sold refreshments. The next morning I came home with a huge amount of clad by detecting in front of and around this tent.

Save old pill bottles to take with you when you go detecting. Fill them half-full with water and add a few drops of detergent. When you find coins and items, put them in the containers to start the cleaning process. It makes it a lot easier to clean when you get home.

A great place to detect in the summer is near swimming areas in lakes and rivers. Don't forget to detect in the water. Rings can fly off when people are splashing and swimming, and sunscreen makes fingers slippery. The swimmer may not know when or where they lost the ring. Outdoor swimming areas can have poor visibility, so many rings go unfound, as they lie unseen on the bottom. The areas where people sun-tan can also produce jewelry, since people often take off their jewelry off to apply sun-screen or lotion and then forget about it, or it flies off their towel or picnic blanket when things are being packed up.

HISTORY LOST AND FOUND IN THE SCHOOLYARD

Over the past few years many CMDC members have recovered special historical tokens lost by schoolchildren over the years. As a special memento to celebrate important events in Canadian and Alberta history, special tokens were minted and presented to schoolchildren. Not all the tokens made it home to be treasured as a precious memento. We consider ourselves lucky when one of these long-lost tokens shows up under our coil.

Canadian tokens minted for schoolchildren include the 1927 “Anniversary of Confederation”, the 1939 “Royal Visit” of King George VI and his wife, the special token for Queen Elizabeth II’s coronation, and the Canadian Centennial token from 1967. Alberta also issued historical tokens for schoolchildren, including a token to celebrate 50 years as a province (1955 Alberta Jubilee token), for the 75th anniversary in 1980, and one for the province’s centennial in 2005. These tokens were valued by many schoolchildren, and remain a tangible and important part of Canadian history.

The 60th anniversary of Confederation token was presented by King George V to school-age children across Canada in 1927. The brass medallion obverse profiles were of King George V and his wife, Queen Mary. The coin reverse showed the Heraldic Shield of Canada. The Shield contained royal symbols from Great Britain and France, and a sprig of three Canadian maple leaves, representing Canadians of all origins. The Latin phrase “A Mari Vesque Ad Mare” (translated “from Sea to Sea”) is near the bottom of the shield.

The 1939 “Royal Visit” Token was minted in honour of King George VI and his wife, Queen Elizabeth (later familiarly called “the Queen Mum”), as they embarked on an unprecedented visit to North America. This was the first visit of a reigning monarch visited Canada and the United States. It was intended to solidify Canadian and American support for Britain in troubled times. In 1939 the turmoil in Europe’s political spectrum was evident. The Royal Tour ended in June of 1939. By September events had taken a turn for the worse, and Britain and Canada had entered World War II. One side of the coin featured the profiles of King George VI and his queen, and the reverse showed a map of Canada and the train route followed by the royal couple. Canadians drove for miles to line the train tracks hoping to catch a glimpse of the monarchs, but of course the planned stops were only held at larger towns and cities.

In 1967 the “Canadian Centennial” medallion was minted. The front of the token shows the shield of arms of Canada, topped by the “Queens Crown”. The shield represents Canada’s early colonies with symbols of Britain (three lions), France (Fleur-di-lis), Scotland (rearing heraldic lion) and Ireland (harp). The shield also features a sprig of three Canadian maple leaves. The reverse of the token shows the stylized maple leaf selected to represent Canada’s Centennial. The medallions were mostly minted in copper or aluminum, although a few special tokens were minted in silver. The aluminum tokens were widely distributed at the thousands of Centennial events held across the country. Canadian schoolchildren were presented with copper tokens.

The Alberta 1955 Jubilee token was minted in copper, while the 75th Anniversary token was nickel, and the Centennial (2005) token was brass. The 1955 token shows the Alberta Coat of Arms framed by wild roses, while the back makes a statement about the Jubilee. The 1980 and 2005 both have the Alberta coat of arms on one side, and specially chosen designs to represent Alberta’s history and anniversary year on the other.



1927 Confederation Anniversary

1939 Royal Visit

1953 QEII Coronation

1967 Canadian Centennial

Spring is Sprung! Time for Club Hunts to begin!

We will soon be into April, and we are hoping that winter is far behind us – although in Calgary you never quite know when that last load of spring snow is going to hit. Most of us haven't had our detectors out during the winter, so this is a good time to get out your detectors and clean the coils and boxes, and get them ready for the coming metal detecting season. Put fresh batteries in, or plug the detectors in to get them charged and ready for the 2024 club hunt season.

Get out the owner's manual and re-read it. You can always pick up a few hints from the owners' manual. Check out your headset and make sure it's in good working condition. A good headset is worth its weight in gold especially if you're trying to hear those really deep silver signals.

The other thing you can do is mark your calendar, and plan to join the other CMDC members for our upcoming club hunt season. The Calgary Metal Detecting Club hold club hunts from April to October, with the possibility of an unofficial club hunts in November (or even in December) if the weather permits. Hunt director Wayne May is hard at work choosing areas for our club hunt extravaganzas, and already has some great places in mind. Rod Gow is also working on some areas for beach and water hunts for the summer season. The dates of the club hunts soon be published, but the locations will not be announced until shortly before each hunt.

As in past years, the weekend club hunts will try to alternate between Saturday and Sundays. This makes sure that club members who work Saturdays and those who attend church regularly both will have the chance to join in our CMDC club hunts. We are all looking forward for the chance to get together with the rest of the club and enjoy our great hobby. Remember to mark your calendar when those club hunt dates are published, and plan to attend our awesome CMDC Club Hunts.



CMDC Executive

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helps out the Calgary Metal Detecting Club by taking a roll in the clubs executive. There is a lot of truth to the adage that "Many Hands make Light Work". It has been a huge help to the Calgary Metal Detecting Club to have people willing to step in and take a part in making sure that our great club runs smoothly.

Susan Durksen has stepped down as CMDC secretary. This role is now open, and I encourage someone to step up and help out. The role consists mainly of taking minutes of club meetings for the official record, and being in charge of some limited correspondence. It should not take a huge amount of time, other than taking notes at club meetings and the time it takes to transcribe those notes. Reach out to a current member of the executive if you think you would like to part in this exciting opportunity, or send an email to the CMDC website to express your interest.

However, we have some great news. Two of the open positions on the CMDC executive have been filled. I would like to thank Jackie Gilluley and Amanda West for volunteering and taking part in the CMDC executive. Judy Taylor stepped down as CMDC treasurer after she took over an executive roll for another organization in Canmore, where she lives. Jackie Gilluley has volunteered to take over the roll from Judy. The role of CMDC treasurer will be transitioned to Jackie after transfer of bank rights and other paperwork is completed.

Amanda West has volunteered to take over as editor of the Buzzer newsletter from Peggy Kemp. Peggy will be stepping down after 12 years as Buzzer editor in July of 2024, and Amanda will be starting her new role in September. Peggy still plans on helping out with the Buzzer by sending in stories and articles that might be of interest to the club.

Slumach's Gold – BC's Cursed Mystery Mine

Alberta's Lost Lemon Mine is not the only "lost mystery mine" in Western Canada – There is also the story of "Slumach's Gold Mine" - although the story behind both mines is associated with a murder. In the Lost Lemon mine, Frank Lemon is rumoured to have murdered his partner after finding the mine, and went mad before revealing the mine's location. In the case of Slumach's gold, a murder might be involved. Slumach was convicted of murder, but some say he was framed by people who wanted his gold for themselves.

Slumach's gold is a curious mix of fact and folklore. In the late 1800s an indigenous man known only as "Slumach" was found guilty of murder in New Westminster, BC. Slumach is said to have discovered a lucrative cache of gold in the Pacific Ranges of the Coast Mountains, near Pitt Lake. There are those who believe that Slumach was innocent, and convicted simply because racist attitudes of the time, and those that wanted to claim his gold. It appears like there might be some truth to this – as before Slumach was hanged, it is rumoured that he muttered a curse in the Chinook language that evil would befall anyone who went looking for his gold. Slumach is said to have muttered the phrase "Nika memloose, mine memloose, which has been translated by some to mean "No man who finds my gold will live to bring it out", but roughly means "When I die, my mine dies". Those who believe Slumach was framed state that there would be no reason to utter that curse on the gallows if gold had nothing to do with it.

The story of Slumach's gold was mostly local folklore until the 1930s, when the story was printed in a national newspaper. Since that newspaper article, thousands of prospectors have gone to the Pitt Lake area looking for gold. The story comes up again every so often, and some of the more sensational articles state that over 30 people have "died of the curse" while searching for the lost gold mine.

While some say Slumach's gold is a fantasy, others are adamant that is real. In 1939 an author named Jack Mahoney interviewed early pioneer's from the area, some of whom were alive during Slumach's trial. Those interviews portrayed Slumach as a middle-aged man who frequently came to Westminister with "a well-filled poke of nuggets", some walnut sized – and trading the gold for cash. Slumach's cabin was on Pitt Lake, which is why people believe that is the location of Slumach's gold-mine. Slumach never told anyone the location of his gold cache.

The location of the mythical mine remains elusive. Prospectors have searched the area for years – there are local BC newspaper articles about the search dating back to 1905 and 1915. Despite many claims and theories no one has found Slumach's lost mine, and its location remains a mystery. The allure of Slumach's Gold continues to captivate the imagination of adventurers and treasure hunters. The search for Slumach's hidden claim continues today, according to a CBC article from 2019. Every year prospectors travel to the Pitt Lake area searching for gold. It would not be easy to find. The terrain around Pitt Lake is rugged and extreme – the area has been called the roughest in the province. Pitt Lake is also the second largest lake on the lower mainland, and is a huge expanse. The lake is over 25 miles km long and 4.5 km wide in some areas.



Stave Valley (Pitt Lake in Background)



Pitt Lake



1890s gold panning

Saskatoon History Recovery



Yashi Rassi laughs that he has an interesting alter-ego. He is an insurance adjuster by day, but at night he becomes a “Metal Detective”. In 2013 Yashi Rassi picked up his first metal detector from a thrift shop. He thought it would be a fun hobby with his kids, but got bitten by the metal detecting bug. Since then, he has been actively finding trash and treasures – everything from pull-tabs and bottle caps to lost jewellery and toys. After work in warm weather seasons, Yashi Rassi is out detecting Saskatoon and the surrounding area. Yashi Rassi likes to find both modern treasures, and relics from Saskatoon’s past.

In Autumn of 2016, Yashi Rassi was exploring a residential park when he found an extraordinary bit of Saskatoon’s history. At the time the news story was written in November of 2016, this was Yashi’s most exciting find to date. He was thrilled to dig up a relic from Saskatoon’s early history – a 1912 imprinted iron roadside sign for “Railway Street”. Of course, there hasn’t been a Railway Street in Saskatoon for many years. It was originally a very short street in the Idylwyld neighbourhood, which ran parallel to the railway tracks. Using old maps from the area, Rassi and his friend, Walt Degenstein, were able to determine that the park area where they were digging was at one time the tail-end of “Railway Street”.

“A lot of people think you’re going around looking for coins”, Rassi says of the hobby, “but its not just coins we’re after – we’re after history.” Yashi Rassi admits that finding coins and treasure a pretty exciting part of the hobby – but he also likes relics. “Sometimes you find an object and you have no idea what it is ... we try to investigate it.”



Dirt-Fishing Ruminations

Metal Detecting has also been called “Dirt Fishing” – and that is not too bad a description. Metal detecting and fishing enthusiasts have a lot in common. Both groups have favourite spots to partake of their hobby, and both hobbyists use specialized equipment to maximize results. Each group also loves to get away outdoors to pursue their hobbies.

Metal Detecting and fishing are also both about what lies underneath the surface. Both hobbies are looking for “great treasures” – with fishing it about big fish underneath the surface of the water, and with detecting it is about what mystery metal object lies underneath the surface of the earth. The biggest difference is the size of the object – you must release undersize fish, but with metal detecting there is no “size-standard” that must be met. There is also no throwing the find back. With detecting, whatever you find (trash or treasure) should be carried away as a keeper, or to be disposed of properly. There is no catch and release in metal detecting.

When you go fishing, you need to purchase a license. Metal detecting doesn’t have that requirement, but that doesn’t mean you can detect wherever you want. While some locations, like Great Falls, require permits – there are often rules and bylaws that must be followed. It is recommended to review the town or city bylaws to find out the rules for your area. Note that in both fishing and metal detecting, trespassing onto private property to partake of the hobby is illegal.

Finally – with both hobbies, it is about “learning your sport”. As you practice fishing or metal detecting, you learn the hobby and your “catches” improve. You can talk to other hobbyists and learn some tricks, and learn your equipment. With detecting, you learn through experience about how that “particular sound” might be a solid gold or silver find. As you “practice” the hobby you gain new skills and improve. Compare a better cast to a better swing, or knowledge about where a fish might hide to knowledge about spots that might be good for detecting. With determination and perseverance, those better finds are coming your way.

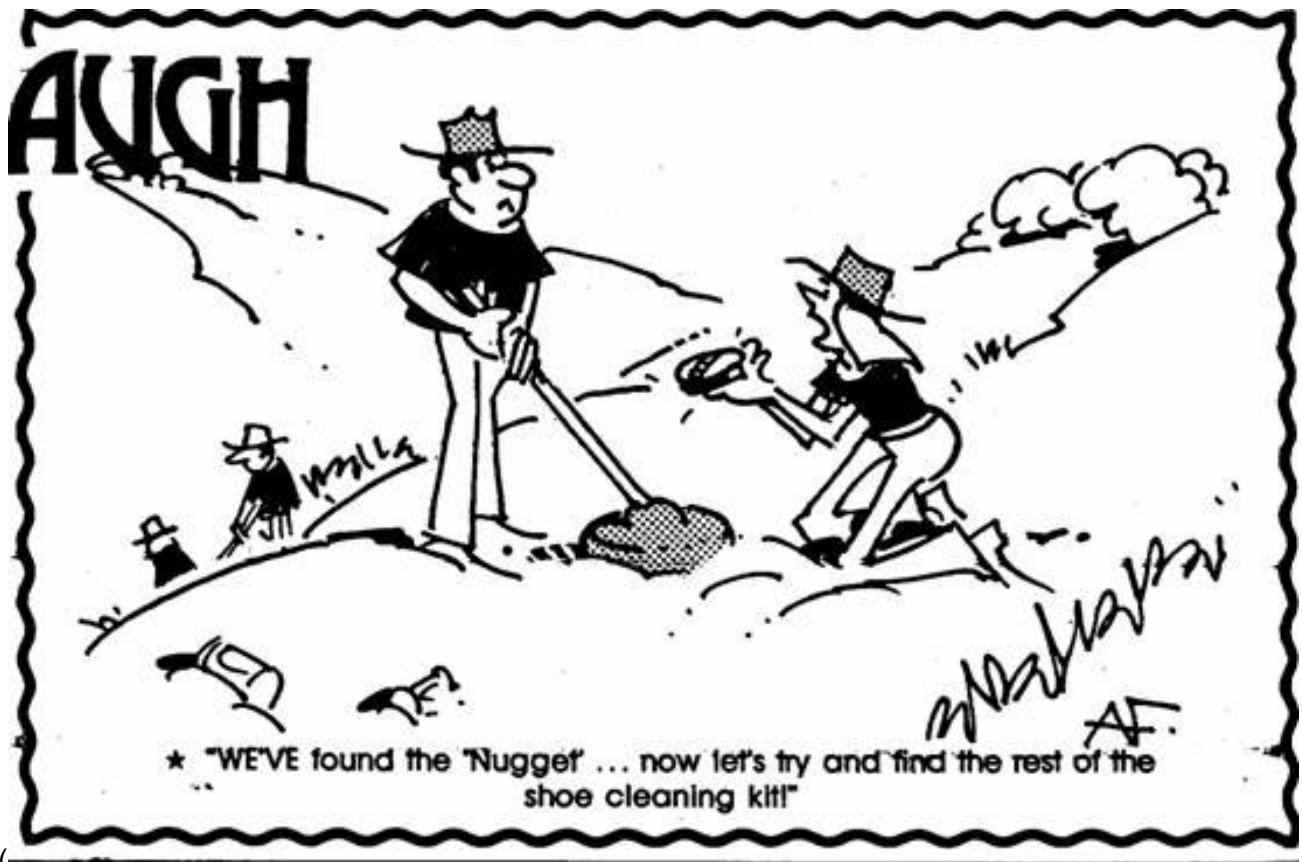
British Record Gold Nugget Found

Richard Brock was hoping for a few treasures when he drove almost four hours from Somerset to a metal detecting rally in Shropshire in early March of 2024. Brock is a long-time detectorist, with over 35 years experience. He would be the first to tell you that the day did not start off well. Brock arrived at the rally over an hour late, only to find that his favourite detector was not working.

Luckily, Mr. Brock brought along his spare detector. He wasn't happy with what he had to use, as it was what he called a "dodgy older detector". "It was only half working. Richard Brock said. "At first I just found a few rusty old tent pegs". About 20 minutes later Richard Brock dug up something that no one was expecting – he recovered a 64.8 gram (2.3 oz) gold nugget buried about 6 inches under ground. The nugget is the largest found in Britain, although larger nuggets have been recovered in Scotland and in Wales. The nugget, now named Hiro's Nugget, is expected to fetch at least £30,000. at auction (approx. \$51,400. CAD).

Brock was quickly surrounded by fellow detectorists from the rally, all hoping to recover a similar treasure. Gold nuggets are found in the British Isles, but usually recovered only in Scotland and northern Wales. Hiro's nugget was found near the site of an old train track bed, containing stones shipped from other areas. It is thought the train bed may have contained stone that originated in Wales. While Shropshire is not far from Wales, it is a fair distance from the areas associated with gold prospecting.







LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

<p>GPS Central & RadioWorld Central Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment & tools. Visit them on the web at gpscentral.ca , or the store at: #8, 711 - 48 Avenue SE Calgary AB Canada T2G 4X2 403-239-1400</p>	<p>The CMDC's yearly dues are:</p> <p>In-town membership: \$30.00 Out-of-town membership: \$25.00 Family Membership \$45.00</p> <p>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC) c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2 email: cmdc.club@gmail.com</p>
<p>CIR Realtor – Relocation Specialist</p>  <p>Kevin Niefer <i>See Below</i> <i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i> 403-968-1496</p> <p>To find out more information send Kevin an email @, or give him a call at 403-968-1496</p>	<p>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 with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.</p>
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