

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# *The Buzzer*

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**1912 Double Dray Wagon License**

**Found by Andy Coward in 2012 - History Saved after 100 years in the Ground.  
This meant that your commercial wagon could have TWO horses.**

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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).

# 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 starts 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 membership is due for renewal. If you haven't got a chance to pay your membership fees, now is a good time. The 2024 metal detecting season has started, with meetings to share your exciting finds, and planned club hunts for our paid members. 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:

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



## 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. We are pleased to have some new executive members who have agreed to help out the Calgary Metal Detecting Club. A big "Thank You" goes to Amanda West, who will be taking on the roll as Buzzer editor in September. Another big "Thank You" goes out to Jack Gilluley, who has taken on the roll as club treasurer.

The role of CMDC secretary is open, and we would like to thank Susan Durksen for her 10 years in that role. She has done a great job. The role consists mainly of taking minutes of CMDC meetings for the official club record, and being in charge of some limited correspondence. It should not take a huge amount of time, other than taking notes of the minutes at club meetings and the time it takes to transcribe those notes.

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. Reach out to a current member of the executive if you think you would like to part in this exciting opportunity, or to help out the club in any other way. You can also send an email to the CMDC website to express your interest.

## Coin-Shooting Tips

One of the most common things people use their metal detectors for is searching for coins - otherwise known in the hobby of metal detecting as "coin shooting". Coin shooting can be a good way to enjoy your hobby while making a bit of cash at the same time. Some people hunt primarily for old silver coins, while others like to find clad (coins lost and dirty). If you get out frequently enough the amount of clad can add up, and you can pay for your metal detector within a few years. There are several tips and trick for metal detecting coins that will help you recover more coins.

1. Know your machine and how each coin reads under your search coil. Do a bench test and learn how it reads audibly and on the visual read out (if you have one).
2. If you are truly coin shooting, discriminate out everything but coins...coin-shooting is about using your time effectively. If you are hoping to find any nickels, make sure you don't discriminate them out. On a lot of metal detectors, nickels read much like a small aluminum piece.. Metal detectors like the AT-Pro allow you to discriminate out individual items and be selective of your targets.
3. Decide if you want to waste time digging up pennies. Newer pennies are worth one cent. What is your time worth? Keep in mind that pennies made before 1984 are solid copper and worth between 3 & 4 cents each!
4. Use a pinpointer. Many coins are small and can be hard to find in a pile of loose soil. A pinpointer like the Garrett Pro-Pointer is a good option.
5. **DOUBLE CHECK YOUR HOLES!** This may be the most important rule to recovering lots of coins metal detecting. I have dug several times and found a coin only to check the hole again and recover, one, two, three, or more in one hole. Just last weekend I dug a penny signal and eventually ended up digging out 13 pennies (I kept digging hoping there was some silver in the hole). One time I dug a hole with two dollar coins and seven quarters! This is known as a coin spill and they happen frequently. Double check your hole and make sure you recovered all of the valuables!
6. Check the dates on the coins you recover...it can be very telling of an area. Typically the older the better. Even if you are finding pennies, it can tell you what era the property was most heavily used. For instance if you are in a park and only finding coins from the 1990's and newer you may not have much luck finding silver coins, which date pre-1964. However, if you find Wheat Pennies or other coins from the early 1900's you are much more likely to find silver coins.
7. Don't scuff the coins or clean them too much. You can literally destroy a valuable coin by trying to over-clean a coin. It is wise to consider anything you dig up from the ground to be in "poor" condition. However, silver can be cleaned up nicely and assuming it wasn't circulated too much, silver coins can be in great condition. It is recommended that the harshest cleaner you use on coins be either straight water or water with a little soap. Also be careful digging if you think you targeted a silver or gold coin...a small trowel or spade can put a significant scar on soft silver or gold.
8. Know a coin dealer you can stop in and visit to give you information on coins. It can take time to learn the values of all of the many coins out there. These guys do it for a living and stay up to date on current pricing.

This article was located on the website <http://highplainsprospectors.com>. With so many excellent Coin Finds found by CMDC members during 2023 - I thought some coin-shooting tips might be a great inclusion in "The Buzzer." The article was altered slightly for space and Canadian applicability.



## BRONZE AGE HOARD FOUND IN ENGLAND



John Belgrove with his rally finds

John Belgrove was looking forward to having more time for his hobby. He was in his early 60s, and retired from his job as a pensions consultant. In 2020, Belgrave had been longing for more time to pursue his hobby of metal detecting, so he planned to start attending metal detecting rallies. Belgrove decided to make the trip from his home in Purley (Surrey) to a metal detecting rally near Sherborne in Dorset.

While Sherborne was only 130 miles away from Purley, with the British Road system the road trip took over 2 and a half hours. For a charge of £20, John could spend the day hunting “virgin ground” that had never been detected before. There were a group of 40 or 50 other detectorists at the rally, and Belgrove

remembers everyone being quite excited about the possibility of some amazing finds in an area rich with Roman and Celtic history.

Over the course of the day John became separated from the main group of detectorists. He noticed a small hill and headed toward higher ground to try to spot the rest of the detecting party. Halfway up the hill, Mr. Belgrove’s detector mad a very clear signal indicating copper or bronze. When he dug down, he uncovered a hilt of a rapier sword dating back to the middle bronze age. The rest of the 2 ft rapier was dug out in short order. It had been deliberately broken into three pieces.

John was thrilled with that find, and following detectorist protocol, he detected the hole again. This was not the only item – there were more finds waiting to be recovered. Mr. Belgrove also located a bronze axe head, as well as a heavy bronze bangle bracelet. After investigation by the British Museum, the items were dated to approximately 1400 BC. Historians were quite excited by the find, as only two similar rapier swords had been discovered in Britain previously, but both were incomplete. This was the first complete rapier recovery.

Belgrove said: “I knew when I saw the axe head that it was a bronze age hoard. My head was in a spin. The blade of the sword was still sharp. The view of the British Museum is that it was deliberately broken and deposited in the ground as part of a ritual burial and offering.”

John Belgrove called this his “find of a lifetime”. Several museums expressed interest in the “Sherborne Hoard”, including the British Museum. Eventually the Dorset Museum purchased the items for over £17,000.00 (around \$30,000 CAD). The proceeds of the sale were shared between John Belgrove and the landowner.



## METAL DETECTING QUICK TIPS

"If you know of someplace that has been well hunted or overhunted, try detecting it after a big rain when the ground is soaked. The wet ground has more conductivity, and you will find deeper and older targets."

Hot weather sites: "Wooded and non grassy areas, gravel roads, old railroads, swimming holes, fishing areas, beaches. Areas where people keep cool are a good place to hunt. Take a look at the condition of grassy areas before you dig and use a hinged (horseshoe) plug. In hot weather we don't want to damage grassed areas.

To find out places where people used to congregate around a long time ago, look for an old map of your town/area. You can usually find one at your local library or online. Some places to look for on maps are old homes that don't exist anymore, schools, old stores or businesses, and camps.

## ANCIENT SPEARHEAD RECOVERY IN ONTARIO

In June of 2020, Rob Gioia was enjoying his hobby along the banks of the St. Mary's River near Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. He was enjoying a day out metal detecting when he came across an astonishing find. He was water detecting in a sandy area of the river when he got a very clear copper sound, and started digging.

Over the past few years Rob had recovered some great finds, around the area - including 18<sup>th</sup> century cutlery, and remnants of a World War One training camp. He knew the basic history of his area, and never expected to recover something that could be over 3000 years old from the bottom of a river in Ontario. Gioia recovered the copper object from beneath about 90 cm of water and buried under an additional 30 cm of sand.

The copper object that Rob Gioia retrieved from the river bed was a Canadian prehistoric copper spearpoint called a socketed point. The Ontario prehistoric period is calculated by archaeologists to span about 11,000 years – from the arrival of Ice Age Indian hunters until the arrival of the Europeans in the 1500s. A local museum curator indicates that the piece could date as far back as 4000 BC, and likely to belong to the “Old Copper Culture”. Copper is one of the only metals known to be mined in large quantities in North America prior to European contact. While Copper was considered sacred, it was also used for a lot of practical and utilitarian items like tools, dishes and spearpoints.

Rob Gioia was thrilled with his find. “You’re basically holding a piece of history in your hand that’s old, and it’s a personal connection with the ancient past,” Gioia said. “It’s a humbling experience, to be honest with you.” Gioia donated his spearpoint to the Salt Ste Marie Museum for permanent display.

### Metal Detecting - Perception versus Fact

# METAL DETECTING



What my friends think I do.



What my parents think I do.



What society thinks I do.



What my boss thinks I do.



What I think I do.



What I actually do.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST - 2004

Here are a few more "Blast from the Past" stories from past issues of the Buzzer. This short story was submitted to the Buzzer by CMDC member Don Hladky, and published in the October 2004 Buzzer. .



On a detecting expedition to Sikome Lake I found a man's wedding band. The ring was unique because it was 15 Karat gold (not the more common 10K or 18K), it had 5 diamonds, and was engraved on the inside. Very seldom does one find a ring in the dry area of the sand, but that is where this one was recovered.

I checked with the Parks office to see if a lost and found entry had been made. Sure enough, a man had reported losing an engraved wedding ring. We phoned him from the lake, but nobody was home, so I left him a message with my phone number.

Later that evening he called, described the ring, and told me what the engraving was. I had found his lost ring. We made arrangements that he pick up the ring the next day at my place of employment. He asked me what sort of reward I would like. He was a bit shocked as I told him to buy me a Tim Horton's coffee someday.

The next day when he showed up to get his ring, he gave me a full Tim Horton's stainless-steel thermos, and a Timmie's \$10.00 gift certificate.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST - 2013

This story about Metal Detecting in Creston was sent to the Buzzer by CMDC member Gunter Pusch, shortly after he moved to Creston in 2012. The article was published in the May 2013 Buzzer.



I went to the local Canyon Park just outside of Creston for probably the 7th or 8th time this year with Jeff Meyer. We are both members of the Creston Metal Detectives...our local club with about 18 unofficial members. Most times we find much small change in this park, and Jeff called me up to do some metal detecting since he had this week off work .

I suggested Canyon Park because I was at Lister Park recently and only found 22 cents in change. Since we scoured most of Canyon Park in past hunts we picked an area near the back of the park where he hadn't hunted much. After each finding about a dozen old bottle caps & pull tabs we were wondering if we should be here again.

Suddenly Jeff yells at me to come over and see what he found. He saw a quarter in the hole. It looked silver and had a George the 5<sup>th</sup> head. We slowly looked at the date and noticed it was 1928. Not a bad find for a slow day. After another hour of looking we found a little more change, but that quarter was the find of the day. The moral of the story - no matter how often you hunt a park there is always a special treasure for the patient.

An email from Gunter the next day showed how true this is. It stated," Well, we were at it again today, metal detecting in Centennial Park in Creston & had a good day. Check out the 2 silvers ...Liz & Vicky...my lucky day. I thought I'd send you it in case you wanted to add it to the Buzzer story. There's always treasures to be found in little towns. The Vicky was only down about 2 inches too."



# Metal Detecting - From a Female Point of View

This article was found on the webpage detectingdiva.com. Our club has a fair number of female detectorists, so this is a fun tongue-in-cheek look at our hobby from a female perspective. The article has been edited for size

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*“Oh, hey Sheila, when you’re done with that red nail polish, can I borrow it? Oh, and by the way, have you seen the new XL 550 Super detector that they came out with? It’s got some awesome new technology, and we can go check it out tomorrow, after we’re done shopping the mall for those cute new shoes you’ve been talking about”.*

A conversation like that just doesn’t happen between two women. Metal detectors aren’t something you sit and chat with your girlfriends about. I find it sad that I can confide in my girlfriends about so many things, yet the thing I am most passionate about, most of them don’t even understand. Being a woman involved in a mostly male dominated hobby, has its experiences. So guys, here are some things a woman “detectorista” must deal with:

**Frustration:** What usually happens is, I tell my girlfriends how much fun detecting is, and how much I love it, and they laugh at me because I’m so excited about it. A few have expressed a brief interest, and one actually went and tried it for a few minutes. They all say “I’ll go with you,” but that never happens. What is it with these women? Have they never fished, camped, climbed trees, hiked a trail or made mud pies? I suspect a few of them secretly wish they could do what I do, but are too afraid to let their femininity become vulnerable.

**Hygiene:** Nails, nails, nails—and I’m not talking about the rusty metal kind—I’m talking about fingernails. All summer my fingernails are full of dirt. I wear rubber coated gloves, scrub with the nail brush, manicure - but they still look dirty. It’s just not very attractive to have metal detecting nails. My girlfriends look at my hands in an odd “I can’t believe she goes around like that” sort of way. On occasion I look longingly at their perfectly manicured and polished nails....but it’s a short-lived , because metal detecting is so much more fun than painting my nails!!!

**Bathrooms:** “Where are the bathrooms?” I actively seek out female friendly sites. Many times I’ve suggested a site, to the obvious dissatisfaction of my hunting buddy (Dad), which is close to home-just in case. I admit to scoping out a hunt site for facilities in the area before hand. I laugh when I think how as the tree cover at my favorite hunting site became thinner through the fall months, so did my detecting trips there. Where would I hide in case of an emergency “nature call”? Hey....maybe that’s why my girlfriends don’t want to go with me? Nah, we would just leave the site and go to the bathroom together... a mystery men will never understand.

**The significant other:** Keep them happy while you are out detecting, and are so into it, you have no clue or care in the world about cooking meals, cleaning and food shopping. My typically clean home can fall apart, and I could care less when I have my detector in hand. I usually come back to my senses when I get home and realize I’ve just tracked “site mud” through the house. If my cell phone has signal when I’m detecting, the frequent “when are you going to be home?” calls can put a damper on the day. Metal detecting can be addicting. Those that don’t enjoy it (sometimes our loved ones), can become jealous, especially if we give our machines nicknames like “Honey” and “BFF”. I learned the hard way, and this season, I’m going to TRY to set time limits for myself. Wish me luck....

**The expense:** How do I, as a female, justify spending money on a shovel to my friend who insists I need the latest Aigner handbag, or my boyfriend who thinks my detecting supplies are a waste of money? If anyone knows, please tell me. I’m not a beach hunter, so I can’t defend my hobby with found diamonds and gold.

**Weight control:** When my friends are discussing the latest diet they’re on, I just go detecting. Not only is great weight control, but it’s good for my blood pressure and sense of well being too. Metal detecting is the best method of losing weight I’ve ever found. I’m not so worried about the 6 pounds I gained over the winter, because I know as soon as I get out there, it will disappear without even trying.

So fellas, —When you spot a “detectorista”, (i.e. a cheerful girl with dirty nails and mud on her shoes), walking out of the local public restroom and she asks to borrow your cell phone (because she “accidentally” smashed hers with a shovel while in the woods), be nice to her, she could be your next detecting buddy.

## **BC Time Capsule Cache**

Laura D’Arcy has discovered the exciting world of metal detecting. Laura became intrigued by the possibility of historical finds on her own piece of land on Green Lake, near Lone Butte, BC. A few years ago, after noting the number of bones and relics that were visible through the clear water near her property, she decided to invest in a metal detector to begin searching her land.

D’Arcy says she didn’t find that much on the land, but it was enough to let her know that she enjoyed the hobby. “I found tons of pennies and change” she said, “and I found the coolest bell.” Those few finds excited her interest in the hobby, and Laura D’Arcy began expanding her metal detecting adventures to other areas of the Kootenays. She has found a few relics dating back to early years, and was particularly happy to find some horse tack with a name that traced back to a 1930s ranching family.

Once of D’Arcy’s most recent finds was a cache – in the form of an early 2000s era time capsule. The capsule was in a large tin sealed with duct tape, and included children’s toys, a centennial dollar, sunglasses and a gold dragonfly pin. D’Arcy was thrilled to find an orange Furby, Star Wars action figures, costume jewellery, a 2002 travel guide for the area, and a postcard from a nearby resort that closed permanently in 2014. The tin also included a note that indicated that another hidden treasure was stashed away on Murtle Lake near Wells Gray Park. She hasn’t gone hunting for the Murtle Lake Cache, but hopes someone else has as much fun with it as she had finding this one.

One thing Laura D’Arcy emphasizes is responsible detecting. She is careful to replace any earth that she disturbs. “When you metal detect, you respect where you are,” she said. “Its important that you don’t leave a mess. There’s rules to follow. Leave it as you saw it.”



## **Cleaning Brass Relics with Hydrogen Peroxide**

When you find a nice brass or copper item in the ground, how you clean it will depend on the shape it is in when you find it. Some people want the patina of the item and will do minimal cleaning – others want to polish it up so it sparkles like new. Obviously, its your find – you decide the end result of your cleaning process, and how you want your beautiful find displayed.

If you want a good cleaning of your brass relic, but to keep the natural patina - some detectorists swear by soaking the item in a warm solution of hydrogen peroxide. Use 3% Hydrogen Peroxide (available at most supermarkets or pharmacies). Heat the HP mixture to boiling, and then drop your item in. It should bubble away. Most people use a small Pyrex container, like a measuring cup or a small bowl, and heat the peroxide in the microwave. The peroxide solution will remove the organic matter on the surface of the coin but will not react with or change the patina.

After the peroxide stops boiling, let the brass rest in the HP solution for an hour or two, and then remove and rinse. Gently rub it with a soft cloth and determine if the object needs more cleaning. If something is persistently sticking on the object, you can try to work it loose with a toothpick before trying the process again. You can repeat the hydrogen peroxide process two or three times, until your brass object is clean enough. You may want to replace the Hydrogen Peroxide after the second use.

If your desire is for a “sparkling” new looking item, there are many commercially made products for polishing brass or silver. Wash the item thoroughly with good old-fashioned soap and water first, and then polish away.

## Chris MacDonald's Glenmore Reservoir Hunt

In 2018 CMDC member Chris MacDonald started a detecting adventure that landed him over 150 fishing lures, as well as many other cool finds. The Glenmore Dam had been partially drained in order to accommodate flood mitigation work on the dam. This resulted in a lot of exposed land – most of which hadn't seen air in over 70 years. Chris started to detect some of the newly exposed shoreline and was astonished at some of the things he dug up.



"A lot of shoreline was exposed to give me the opportunity to get to places that have never been accessed before," MacDonald explained. "I was curious to see what was down there." The area under the reservoir has a lot of history – there were Boy Scout Camps, homesteads, and the land was also the location of early settler Sam Livingston's ranch. The dam was built during the Depression, and the reservoir filled with water in 1933.

Chris MacDonald spent weeks detecting the exposed areas. It was a cool adventure, and Chris found a lot of interesting treasures. He dug up vehicle parts, tools, old bottles, golf balls and more than 150 fishing lures in a rainbow of colours. Chris also unearthed some coins, and old watch and a small statue of a penguin.



The photos represent just a few of the fishing lures that Chris MacDonald dug up.





## Life's A Beach



## 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

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CIR Realtor – Relocation Specialist</b></p> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p><b>Kevin Niefer</b>  <i>See Below</i></p> <p><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i>              403-968-1496</p> </div> <p>To find out more information send Kevin an email @, or give him a call at 403-968-1496</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>YOU COULD BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR!</b></p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:kempp@telus.net">kempp@telus.net</a> with <b>METAL DETECTING STORY</b> in the subject area.</p>
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