

# Detectorists link family with artifact

BY ERIN DEBOOY

It was a little curiosity and a stroke of good luck that reconnected an Ontario woman to a piece of her father's short history here in Brandon.

Cathy Coulter, who lives just east of Toronto, Ont., had recently been researching her family tree through Ancestry.ca when she received a message from a Manitoba woman asking if she was related to Sam Canizaro, her father.

It was then that Robin Burnett-Klyzub, founder of Westman Treasure Hunters and metal detecting enthusiast, sent Coulter a picture of her latest find — a small silver good luck token with Sam Canizaro's name stamped along the edge along with ALG.

"As soon as I saw the ALG. I knew right away it was my dad's," Coulter said, noting it stood for The Algonquin Regiment, which was her father's unit. "How often do you see ALG and know what the abbreviation means?"

It was Burnett-Klyzub's husband, John Klyzub, who found the token on a recent hunt, she said, buried approximately six to eight inches underground.

"It had been in the ground for a while," Burnett-Klyzub said.

Burnett-Klyzub thought it was interesting that the token had someone's name on it so she did a search on Google, which led her to Coulter.

"You just never know what you're going to find," Burnett-Klyzub said. "It's pretty special, and the family is pretty excited."

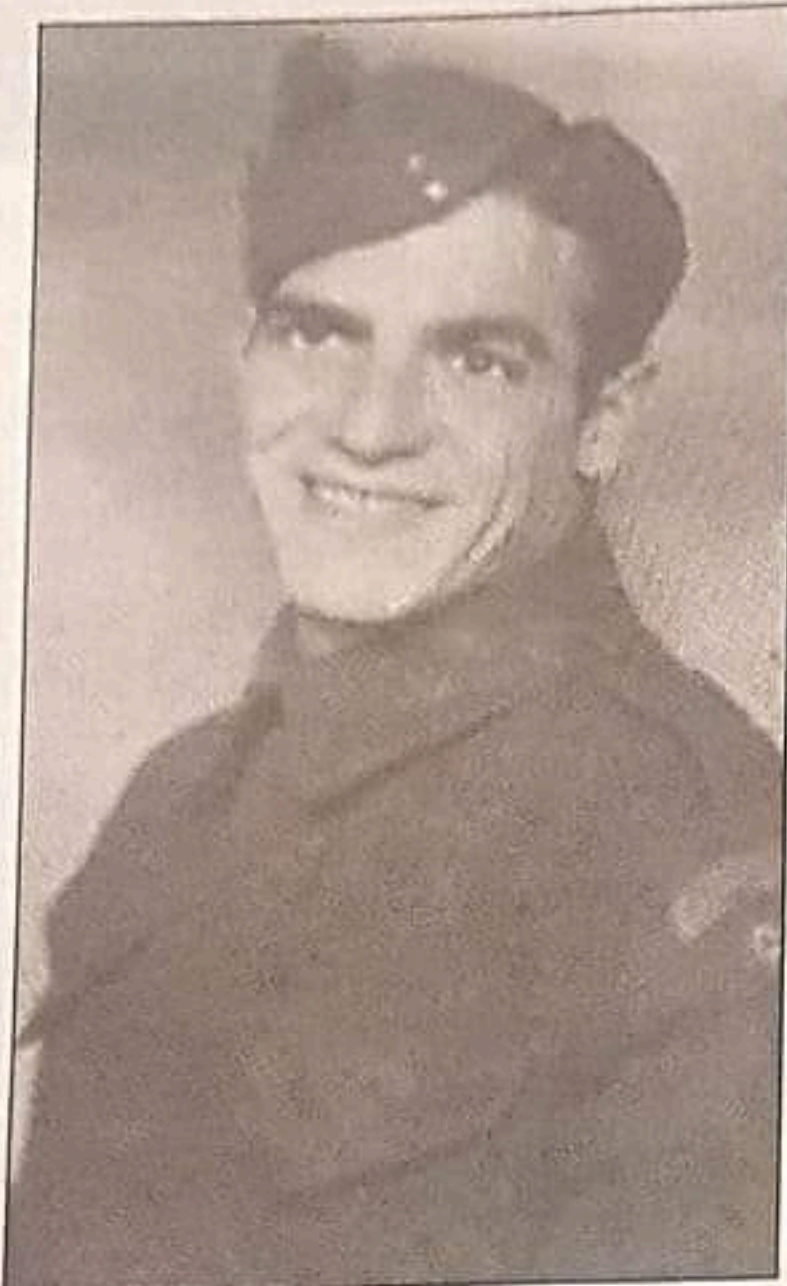
Canizaro was only in Brandon a short time while posted in CFB Shilo for training in 1941, Coulter said. There were so many men enlisting in Ontario at the time that Canizaro was shipped out west.

"I remember when I was a little girl he always used to say, 'It's such flat land out there (in Manitoba), it hurt my feet,'" Coulter said with a laugh.

Both Coulter and Burnett-Klyzub assume Canizaro must have got the token at a fair but lost it in his travels.

"To have found something that belonged to them ... it was very cool," Burnett-Klyzub said.

Canizaro thought he was



Sam Canizaro

going to be heading to Italy, Coulter said, but was ultimately stationed at Niagara Falls.

After the war, Canizaro got a job delivering mail with Canada Post where he worked for 42 years.

He had six children — four girls and two boys — eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, Coulter said.

Canizaro passed away in 2002 at the age of 78.

Coulter said her own sons are excited to see this little piece of lost history, and that she's grateful to have a memory of her father to pass down to her grandson.

"When you look at all the things going on in the world, it's such a happy feeling to know that there is still good, it's something nice for a change," Coulter said. "We're really quite happy Robin took the time to reach out. It's really great, not too many people would take the time to do



A good luck token belonging to Sam Canizaro, who was stationed at CFB Shilo for training in 1941, was found by Westman Treasure Hunters member John Klyzub. (Submitted)

that."

While the hunt itself is fun, Burnett-Klyzub said it's particularly special when she's able to connect a find to its original owner.

The Westman Treasure Hunters Facebook group, which started this March, is already 283 members strong — with members stretching from Quebec to as far as Vancouver Island.

Some members are active detectorists, Burnett-Klyzub said, while others are just interested in the hobby and what the detectorists are finding.

"It's really interesting to have a wide range of members from different locations

because it's interesting to see what people are finding in various areas," Burnett-Klyzub said. "What we're finding in this area is not what they're finding in Vancouver Island, so you really are getting a great range of items found and a lot of history. It's fascinating."

More people have been contacting the group asking for help searching for long-lost items or just to explore their property, Burnett-Klyzub said.

"We're always searching for new spots," Burnett-Klyzub said with a laugh. "The next little treasure."

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