

SOME FINDS ARE ALMOST TWO CENTURIES OLD

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Nearly a century and a half ago, someone sat on the lawn at the Norval Presbyterian Church. It may have been for an outdoor service, or a church lunch. Whatever the occasion, at some point, a tiny five-cent coin, smaller than today's dime, slipped out of a pocket and fell to the ground.

It sat there for years, unnoticed, eventually getting covered by dirt and grass clippings.

It may have remained there for another 150 years if not for Kevin Flynn.

The Georgetown man had recently bought a new metal detector. And

though he searched the church grounds before - always with permission - he decided to see if his new purchase could find anything new.

Over the next three days, Flynn would discover five of the rare five-cent coins, a precursor to the nickel, at various locations on the church grounds, some dating back as far as 1870.

"It was a gold mine. Some people look for years and never find one," Flynn said. "They were the easiest coins to lose, but they are the hardest to find."

And though he refers to it as a gold mine, the value of his finds isn't what drives Flynn.

"I don't sell anything I

find," he said. "The monetary value is nothing compared to the historical significance. I'm just intrigued by these things and their connection to the past."

Among some of Flynn's more unusual finds:

- An 1852 Bank of Upper Canada half penny;
- An 1837 Nova Scotia penny;
- An 1876 Newfoundland one-cent coin found in a park in Toronto;
- An Acton dog tag license from 1919;
- A 1939 license plate found at the Georgetown Fairgrounds;
- A Queen's infantry button dating from be-

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