

THE DAILY COURIER

Treasure hunters probe lake

Ron Seymour, Oct 26, 2015



Wading far offshore at Gyro Park in Kelowna, Bryan Leguilloux used a metal detector to search for treasure in the shallow water. While expensive rings and watches have been found previously, Leguilloux's only discovery Sunday was this belly ring.

Two treasure hunters trolled the shallow waters of Kelowna's Gyro Park on Sunday using metal detectors to try to find small riches in the clear, still water.

Bryan Leguilloux and Rudy Jamrichko wore hip waders to walk far out from shore in search of lost rings, watches, coins and other submerged valuables.

"It's a perfect day for it — calm with no waves at all," Leguilloux said after returning to dry land.

In the past, he has found expensive watches, rare coins nearly a century old, and an array of men's and women's rings.

"It's gold that we're after, mostly," he said.

After a couple hours walking the shallow waters on Sunday, however, the haul included only a few coins and an attractive but likely inexpensive belly ring.

On the occasions when there's some identifying characteristics on the found items, Leguilloux and Jamrichko attempt to track down the owner. Often, however, there are no personalized markings and it isn't possible to stage a return.

"If we put an ad in the paper saying, 'Gold ring found at beach,' we'd probably be swamped with calls," Leguilloux joked.

The Penticton-based Okanagan Treasure Hunters Club has dozens of members who get together to socialize and enjoy their common hobby.

The club's website includes a testimonial from "Mark," a Kelowna man who called the group in a panic after losing his wedding ring in the sand at Gyro Beach.

Club member Ken Dewerson responded and used his metal detector to find Mark's ring buried in the sand in less than five minutes.

"Mark was delighted to see his diamond wedding band," Dewerson writes on the website. "He tells me I saved his marriage."