



**PRESIDENT'S CORNER
with Brian Ives**

***"What Did You Do in
McMaster, Daddy?"*** *

I was chatting recently with one of our members who was on Iwo Jima in 1945 and witnessed the famous flag raising on Mount Suribachi by the US Marines. As can be seen clearly above, in that year I was too young to be conscripted, but the details of my conversation did resonate with my memories of those schooldays. This got me thinking about recording history generally, and how to ensure that the many memories we retirees have of McMaster might be captured for a more permanent record.

If you Google "McMaster, History" you get quite a few sites which attempt to document our institution's history, but mostly with specific achievements, such as the OISE Selected Moments of the 20th Century listing "1969: *McMaster University introduces problem-based learning in medical education.*" There is indeed plenty of information relating to the changes in McMaster's university structure and management, but I found nothing that documents items akin to personal memories of my McMaster years. I have just recently assisted my department in listing all the faculty members throughout its history with their terms of service, and I am still locating photographs of us all! (It helped that the Department was founded in 1958, not 1887!) How can current staff and faculty appreciate the evolution of a department if they don't even know who was involved?

Why not write it all down? I recently asked Chuck Johnston, Professor Emeritus and a McMaster Distinguished Alumnus, why he stopped his "History of McMaster" after two volumes. He gave the standard historian response that history needs time to properly develop. Then he added that to write about McMaster after 1957 would have meant discussing colleagues who were still living! War veterans, like our Iwo Jima survivor, are always reticent to discuss war experiences. But I hope your McMaster experience was such that you can record it, and without fear of collegial approbation! A while ago I received from a member some written reminiscences of his early days at McMaster, which was deemed at that time too personal to publish in *MURA News*. Maybe such stuff is not of interest to current retirees, but might provide future historians with useful material. So while we await that scholar to start a timely update of a written history, let's assemble something for him or her to plough through! I welcome any suggestion you may have to facilitate such

a motherlode. What is the best role for MURA? I would be really interested in your views on this, even including whether I should not be worrying about this at all!

But enough of the past, welcome to a New Year! I hope it is a good one for you, and that you will relax in the knowledge that your Association continues to monitor the condition of your retirement years. We regularly consult with the administration of our former employer which allowed us those events and experiences you were likely reminiscing about while reading this note.

Brian

* with apologies to Blake Edwards

* * * * *

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Representing Council: | Ms. Kathy Overholt
Dr. Geoff Evans |
| Representing Membership: | Mrs. Shirley Lucken
Ms. Sheila Pepper |
| Chair: | Mrs. Mildred McLaren |

In accordance with our Constitution, a list of candidates to fill vacancies on Council will be presented by the Nominating Committee to council at the March meeting of Council. If you are willing to serve a term on MURA Council and would like your name added to this list, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, **Mildred McLaren at 905-304-7158.**

It would be most helpful if the Nominating Committee had the list of names **by February 1st.**

This is a commitment that you won't find too demanding. In fact you will enjoy it, knowing you are involved in helping to protect the interests of your fellow retirees, while benefitting from social interaction with old colleagues.

Mildred McLaren

* * * * *



**DON'T FORGET. . . WE'D LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU!!**

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Happy New Year to everyone. On December 7, 2006, MURA Council members welcomed about 85 fellow retirees with seasons greetings at the Schwaben Inn in Dundas for the Annual MURA Christmas Lunch. Even Santa himself attended, along with Mrs. Claus! Joan was allowed to sit on Santa's lap because she said it was her birthday. But I kept a watchful eye on the happenings.



The food was excellent and it was a great chance to see everyone and catch up on what was happening in their lives. This year we were especially pleased to see many more 'hourly' retirees in attendance, as well as Union Reps who were invited to join the head table.

There were chocolates for everyone (compliments of President Peter George's Office) and Santa gave out 13 draw prizes. Averil Thompson was presented with an Honorary Membership for all her many years of service as MURA's Secretary and one of the two MURA Gerontological Scholarship recipients was able to attend – unfortunately the other one had to write an exam that day.

If you were there, the Council Members hope you had a wonderful time. If you were unable to attend, then you missed a great event – but we hope to see you in December of 2007. Watch the Newsletter and the MURA Website for the date, so you can mark it in your calendar.

Pam Penny



With her festive appearance, our secretary **Marianne** (left) kept us all in the holiday spirit.

Our full time Gerontology Scholarship winner, **Ms. Amy Helsdon** (right), was able to attend the Christmas luncheon, while



Ms. Joan Drummond, our part-time scholarship winner (left) visited us at a recent Council meeting.

* * * * *

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP



With a resounding and unanimous vote of confidence and thanks from all members of MURA Council, our President Brian Ives took pleasure in presenting our retiring secretary, Mrs. Averil Thompson, with a certificate bestowing on her the distinction

of Honorary Membership during the Christmas Luncheon at the Schwaben Inn. We hope that Averil and her husband Ian will be familiar faces at many of Retiree Association activities.



A significant event at the Christmas luncheon was an address by Chancellor Mel Hawkrigg (left). Mel has attended every luncheon since his installation.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Mr. Dennis Bell—Building Operations
Mr. Adolf Holfeuer—Machine Shop
Ms. Jane Kriyik—Family Medicine
Mrs. Linda Spadafora—Hospitality Services



PASSINGS

Mrs. Peggy J. Budd, Library, May 22
Dr. John A. Kuehner, Physics—Sept. 26
Mrs. Marion Wylie, Psychiatry—Oct. 15
Mrs. Shirley A. Gushue, Hospitality—Oct. 23
Dr. Arnold Johnson, Epid/Biostats—Oct. 19
Mrs. Gwendlyn E. (Betty) Calligan, Science—Oct. 8
Dr. Raymond Johnson, Kinesiology—Oct. 24
Mrs. Marianne Bodo, Anatomy—Dec. 14
Dr. Mario Santilli, Social Work—Nov. 30
Dr. Brian Latto, Engineering—Dec. 14
Dr. Alfred B. Kristofferson, Neurosci/Behaviour—Dec. 28

**January 2007 pension increase for the Salaried Pension Plan
Contributed by Les Robb
MURA representative on the Salaried Pension Trust Committee**

By now you should have received a letter from Retirement Support Services letting you know that the pension increase for January 2007 is 0.89%. This article explains the calculation of this increase.

The pension increase calculation is based on the difference between the 5 year average rate of return (net of investment costs) and 4.5%. Based on this, the calculation for the 2007 increase is as follows:

Calculation of Five Year Average for 01/01/07 increase)	%
2006 Rate of Return (ending June 30, 2006)	5.93
2005 Rate of Return (ending June 30, 2005)	10.00
2004 Rate of Return (ending June 30, 2004)	14.84
2003 Rate of Return (ending June 30, 2003)	(2.57)
2002 Rate of Return for 6 months (Jan 1/02 to June 30/02)	(2.81)
2001 Rate of Return for 6 months (July 1/01 to Dec. 31/01)	1.57
 Total Return for Last Five Years	 26.96
 Five Year Annual Average Return (Total Return / 5) =	 5.39%
(A) Rate of Return in Excess of 4.5% (5.39% - 4.5%) =	0.89%
(B) Average Consumer Price Index to June 30, 2006 =	2.50%
 Increase to Pensions (the lesser of A and B) =	 0.89%

As I have explained in the past, the calculation includes two half year periods for 2001/02 because there was a change in the reporting period in 2002 (from January to July). With everything taken into account the 5 year average comes out at only 5.39%, 0.89% above the 4.5% benchmark which must be earned before indexing begins. A year ago I was looking forward to an increase more in line with inflation, but the investment experience for the 12 months ending June 30, 2006 turned out to be much lower than expected. The second quarter of 2006 was particularly disappointing. So we're left with a 0.89 % pension increase for 2007.

Next year's outlook is better. The calculation will drop the two six month periods from 2001/02; we will then have only a single negative carry forward from the past. If the rate of return next year is as good as this year, 5.93%, our pensions could increase by as much as 2.3% (remember, the increase is limited by inflation). Even a zero rate of return next year would give us a bigger increase than this year. With the two recent return rates of 10% and almost 15%, the five-year averaging will begin to help raise the 5 year rate, just as in the reverse way the negative returns from 4 and 5 years ago have hurt us in the last few years. If there are no major surprises in the investment market, the prospect of a better pension increase next year is positive.

A Note to Members of the Hourly Pension Plan

Since MURA, or McMaster University Retirees Association became the voice for all of the McMaster University retirees some two years ago, the association has been attempting to serve the members of the hourly pension plan, in conjunction with all of the many other groups of former employees of McMaster University. **Rod Philips** is presently serving his first term as the hourly representative in a very able manner. This gives the opportunity for all past employees on pension to enjoy the many happenings of MURA such as dinners, trips, and information seminars. Further information can be found in the newsletter.

You will have read on page two about the enjoyable time we had at the Schwaben Inn Christmas Luncheon, with more of our hourly retirees joining us. This event is becoming ever more popular, with a familiar-looking Santa distributing many gifts and prizes, although we never did find out where he had parked his reindeer and sleigh!

In the fall, I was appointed as the hourly pension committee information representative so that the members of the hourly pension plan could be kept informed of any changes, or news that may be of concern to them. Whilst at this time, as may be observed in the following pension report, there is still no pension indexing increase. It must be stressed that despite this poor news the plan is being maintained in good standing by the committee that you have elected to represent you in this very important matter. At this time I should like to thank all of those working for the pensions well being, and look forward to bringing better news at some point in the future.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Clifford Andrews

McMaster University Hourly Pension Plan

An update from the Hourly Pension Plan Retirement Committee

Financial Statements

Since becoming the hourly pension plans information representative to the MURA committee, we are seeing an ongoing struggle to reach a point at which any improvements to pensioners can be made. Since changing to the new fund managers of Jarislowsky Fraser Limited, the fund had started to show some gains that had been promising; however the recent slump in stock market gains has caused reversals that have necessitated higher costs and may possibly require some plan changes. The cost formula and return calculations can be found in the following sections.

Potential Pension Increase Formula

The pension increase formula takes into consideration the *five-year average rate of return* earned on the assets of the Plan over 6%, subject to a maximum of the average consumer price index. This year's *five-year average rate of return* was 4.35% as of June 30, 2006. As the average was less than 6%, the formula did not result in a pension increase for January 1, 2007.

Your Employee Contributions

Employee contributions earn interest based on the Pension Fund's *five-year average rate of return*. The interest formula is calculated in accordance with the Plan text, and reviewed by our external auditors. For the period ending June 30, 2006, your contributions earned 4.35%.

For your information, the rate of return for the past five years, and the *five-year average rate of return* calculation as of June 30, 2006, are as follows:

Calculation of Five Year Average as of June

2006 Rate of Return	2.99%
2005 Rate of Return	11.09%
2004 Rate of Return	13.04%
2003 Rate of Return	(2.94)%
2002 Rate of Return - 6 months (Jan. 1, 2002, to June 30, 2002)	(5.05)%
2001 Rate of Return - 6 months (July 1, 2001, to Dec. 31, 2001)	2.64%
Total Return for Last Five Years	21.77%
Five Year Annual Average Return	
(Total Return / 5)	4.35%

The Canadian Association for the 50 Plus welcomes
NEW retirees with a special initial membership discount:
One-year membership \$15.95; three-year membership \$39.95.
For further information go to www.carp.ca. or call: 416-363-8748





McMASTER RETIREES TRIPS

REMEMBERING RICHARD ROGERS at the



SANDERSON CENTRE

Tuesday March 27, 2007



Sit back and relax as your deluxe motor coach carries you to the City of Brantford, home of **Smitty's**, where you will have time to explore the store with its many unique and "one of a kind" items. Departing Smitty's you will travel to **Kirby's Restaurant at the Best Western Hotel** for an all you can eat buffet luncheon, then it's off to the **Sanderson Centre** which has been celebrating the performing arts since 1919.

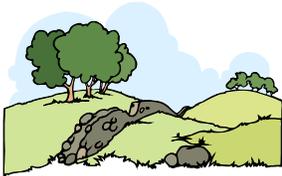
Richard Rogers amassed more musical hits and Tony's on Broadway than any other composer. Today you will thrill to some of the great songs that he wrote with Lionel Hart such as "**My Funny Valentine**", "**The Lady is a Tramp**", "**This Can't be Love**", "**Bewitched Bothered and Bewildered**", "**There's a Small Hotel**", and many more. Dazzling costumes, outstanding singers, a live band and innovative sets will make this show one that will long be remembered.

Price of \$86.00 per person includes:

- * Deluxe Motor Coach
- * Shopping at Smitty's
- * All you can eat buffet
- * Performance of "*Remembering Richard Rogers*"
- * All taxes, service charges and driver's tip.

*** 46 tickets available.**

Coach departs Fortino's 1579 Main St. W. at 9:30 am. Estimated return 5:00 pm.



WHITE MEADOWS FARM WELLAND CANAL MUSEUM KITTLING RIDGE WINERY

Thursday April 12, 2007



Relax as you travel down the road to the **Welland Canal Museum** situated at "Lock #3". Inside, watch the 15 minute video presentation "**Welland Canal Past and Present**" and learn more about the four Welland Canals in the Museum exhibits and programs.

Our next stop is "**White Meadows Sugar Bush Farm**", where we will enjoy an "all you can eat" pancake luncheon with all the trimmings while watching the toe-tapping musical entertainment.

We then take in the maple syrup demonstration followed by a visit to the "sugar bush" store before department for our next stop.

At Kittling Ridge Winery we will be treated to samples of some of their famous wines. Eileen will have you smiling as she tells the amazing story of the winery and how it received its name. Browse in the store before departing for home.

Price of \$54.00 includes:

- * Deluxe Motor Coach
- * Admission to Welland Canal
- * Pancake lunch and entertainment at White Meadow Sugar Bush Farm
- * Wine tasting at Kittling Ridge Winery
- * All taxes, service charges and driver's tip.

Coach departs Fortino's 1579 Main St. West at 9:00 a.m. Estimated return 5:30 p.m.

For further information on these trips please contact Anne at 905 627 0968.

Presented by Great Canadian Holidays Inc. Tico 04386785



McMASTER RETIREES TRIPS

STRATFORD FESTIVAL THEATRE PRESENTS

OKLAHOMA !

Thursday September 13, 2007



Your deluxe motor coach carries you to **Stratford** and the renowned **Stratford Festival**. Arriving in downtown Stratford, there will be time to explore a few of the amazing shops along the main street.

Your meal will be at the historic **Queen's Inn** which has been a landmark for warm hospitality and excellent meals for over 150 years.

Following lunch you will travel to the **Festival Theatre** for the performance of **OKLAHOMA!**

The beloved musical, set in the West just after the turn of the century, features high spirited rivalry between farmers and cowboys as the backdrop for a romance between Curly, a handsome cowboy and Laurie, a winsome farm girl. With music by Richard Rogers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, it is one of the greatest classics of the theatre world.

Price of \$105.00 per person includes:

- * Deluxe Motor coach transportation
- * Shopping in downtown Stratford
- * Lunch at Henry's at the Queen's Inn
- * Performance of Oklahoma
- * All taxes, service charges, driver's tip

Coach departs Fortino's, 1579 Main St. West at 8:30 a.m. Estimated time of return at 6:30 p.m.

For further information please contact Anne at 905 627 0968.

Tico # 00404040



STRATFORD'S AVON THEATRE PRESENTS

MY ONE AND ONLY

Thursday October 4, 2007



Your deluxe coach carries you to **Stratford** and the renowned **Stratford Festival**. Your meal will be at the historic **Queen's Inn** which has been a landmark for warm hospitality and excellent meals for over 150 years. Following lunch you will cross the street to the **Avon Theatre** for the performance of **"MY ONE AND ONLY"**.

Daredevil pilot Billy Buck Chandler is determined to woo bathing beauty Edythe Herbert, star of a 1920's Hollywood style swimming/dancing extravaganza. But Edythe's boss, the evil Prince Nikki, has other plans. Crammed with exotic locations, outrageous plot twists and heart-stopping dance numbers, this zany comedy features beloved Gershwin tunes like **"S Wonderful"**, and **"Nice Work If You Can Get It"**.

Price of \$105.00 per person includes:

- * Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- * Shopping in downtown Stratford
- * Lunch at Henry's at the Queen's Inn
- * Performance of My One and Only
- * All taxes, service charges, driver's tip

Coach departs Fortino's, 1579 Main St. West at 8:30 a.m. Estimated time of return at 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Great Canadian Holidays
Tico. 04386785

For further information please
contact Anne at 905 627 0968



**MARGARET HAS A SPECIAL EVENT
PLANNED FOR US AT THE
ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON**

**A Members' Curator Tour called -
"FRAMED: The Art of the Portrait"**

Date: **Tuesday April 10, 2007**
Time: **Tour at 2:00 p.m., Afternoon Tea at 3:00 p.m.**
(You are welcome to tour the remainder of the Gallery
either before or after the tour and tea.)

Cost: \$15.00 (if you are a member of the Art Gallery,
cost is \$10.00).

Do come along and enjoy this tour of a special exhibit.
You will see a wonderful exhibition of historical and
contemporary works. "FRAMED" explores the power of
portraiture in paintings, sculpture, drawing and
photography. This private Members' tour will be lead by
Curators Toni, Patrick and Sara, followed by Afternoon
Tea in the Pavilion.

Family and friends are welcome to come along with you.

**Please contact Margaret Jenkins, phone: 905-648-
2401, or email: mnr.jenkins@cogeco.ca. to make
reservations.** If I am not home, just leave a message
and I will get back to you.

**Cheques should be made payable to MURA and
mailed to Margaret Jenkins, 430 Hamilton Drive,
Ancaster, ON L9G 2B1.**

**** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED **
47th ANNUAL BAY AREA SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING FAIR**

**for Hamilton, Halton Region and Haldimand, Norfolk
and Brant Counties will be held**

**Wednesday March 28th to Saturday March 31st, at
McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario**

The fair takes place over the course of four days starting
with project setup on Wednesday, judging on Thursday,
trips and activities on Friday, and culminating in the award
ceremony and public viewing on Saturday.

For each of these four days we need volunteers to help
with setup, sign-in of students, safety checks, security,
judging, chaperoning and other duties as necessary.

Please contact me, **Ola Luny-Child** at
<http://basef.ca/2007/volunteers/>, or call 905 529-4239 to
express interest in volunteering in this worthy endeavor.

REPORT FROM ANNE SINCLAIR

A most enjoyable day was spent in Toronto on January 4th.
We visited the **Bata Shoe Museum**, which is very
interesting..and very big, with shoes from ancient times to
styles of today. Lunch was at our old favourite **The Town
and Country**, followed by a visit to **The Royal Ontario
Museum**, with a guided tour to **The Lalique Glass**, and
The Italian Exhibitions. I'm sure that we all came home
more informed than when we left..and with very tired feet!

**McMASTER'S OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING IS
READY TO HELP YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



WAYS OF GIVING

You can change the world by planning a gift to
McMaster. Talk to us about the ways you can help
the University explore student potential, make
ground-breaking discoveries and maintain its
leadership in teaching and learning. Here are eight
ways to personalize your gift and make a difference
through a bequest.

- Invest in the University's greatest needs.
- Establish a Scholarship
- Fund a Bursary
- Contribute to a specific faculty
- Give to a specific program
- Donate to leading-edge research
- Commemorate a life
- Endow a lasting legacy in memory of some one
you love

Contact *The Office of Gift Planning*, McMaster
University, 1280 Main St. West, CNH-111,
Hamilton ON L8S 4L9. Phone: 905-525-9140
ext.23447, Fax: 905-523-5357, or e-mail:
giving@mcmaster.ca



**I'm not sure where this came
from but it might make you
smile...**

A man and a friend are playing
golf one day at their local golf course.
One of the guys is about to chip onto the
green when he sees a long funeral
procession on the road next to the course. He stops in
mid-swing, takes off his golf cap, closes his eyes, and
bows down in prayer. His friend says: "Wow, that is the
most thoughtful and touching thing I have ever seen. You
truly are a kind man." The man then replies: "Yeah, well
we were married 35 years."

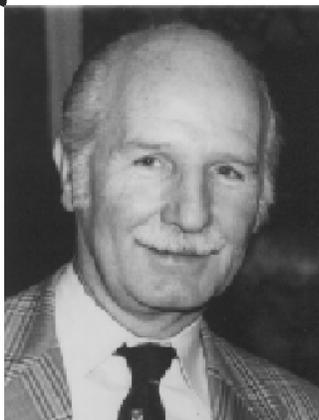
IT'S NOT ALWAYS A BAD THING TO LOOK BACKWARDS...

Many of us who knew *Stuart Winn* in the days of old, enjoyed visiting his office in Gilmour Hall to talk with him, and admire that beautiful mural of "*Sanibel Island*"--his favourite vacation spot--which adorned his office wall. (*What happened to it?*)

Along with Bill MacPherson, Charlie Cooke, Doug Allaby, Dorothy Jacobs, Al Snaith, Les Prince, Enid Malcolmson and Don Shepherd, Stuart was a founding member of the *McMaster University Retirees Association*. The first version of our Constitution was drawn up in **1984!!**

To the right we append, *verbatim*, a note received by our President from Stuart in August last recalling those early years.

We've come a long way, baby!



**COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITY RETIREE
ASSOCIATIONS OF
CANADA ANNOUNCE
THEIR 2007 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

May 23, 24, 25, 2007

Co-hosts: The University of Windsor and St. Clair College

Venue: Alumni Hall and Conference Centre, University of Windsor, 401 Sunset Ave., Windsor, Ontario, N9B 3P4.

Topics on the agenda include:

Securing the Future: Pensions & Health Benefits.

Accommodations are available at reasonable rates.

For preview visit www.conferences.uwindsor.ca; or www.visitorwindsor.com.

For further information or booking visit www.curac.ca.

From: Stuart Winn
04 August 06

Box 373,
15 Headley Court
BATH, ON K0H 1G0

Dear Brian-

Having just read our June Newsletter from end to end I have a great sense of pride, and admiration in the progress made by MURA over the years.

I realise, sadly, that, on thinking back to our earliest days, I am the only "founding member" of our small but quite visionary team who is with us today. Bill Macpherson, Bob Cooke, Les Prince and Doug Allaby were so helpful, and enthusiastic in setting up the Association, -I wish they could be with us today to savor the progress made to date by their ancestors. I also recall that Carm McMullen and Helen Barton were early on the scene-and they are still active! There was no CURAC in those early days, and we were so often "flying blind"! We used to seek guidance from U.S. Universities, and I remember that Michigan State University Retirees group was most helpful.

Keep up the good work, Brian, and my warmest wishes to your current team, -and all members.

Stuart Winn

TRIPS BOOKING FORM

To book now for any of the following events, please complete the relevant section of this form and mail along with cheque and the appropriate "cut-off" strip (below) to Anne Sinclair, 207 - 104 Osler Drive, Dundas, Ontario L9H 4B7. Cheques may be post-dated one month ahead of trip date, made payable to **McMaster University Retirees Association**.



Date		# of persons	Amount \$
Tues. March 27/07	Remembering Richard Rogers	
	\$86.00 per person		

Name:
 Address:
 Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:.....

Thurs. April 12/07	Sugar Bush & Welland Canal		
	\$54.00 per person	

Name:
 Address:
 Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:

Thurs. Sept.13/07	Oklahoma at Stratford		
	\$105.00 per person	

Name:
 Address:
 Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:.....

Thurs. Oct. 4/07	My One and Only at Avon, Stratford		
	\$105.00 per person	

Name:
 Address:
 Postal Code:..... Telephone # e-mail address:

ATTENTION TO ALL RETIREES WITH E-MAIL ACCESS

We are endeavouring to update our membership base, streamline our service to you and, not incidentally, cut down on our operating costs. If you have an e-mail account, please send a note to Pam Penny and your e-mail information will be added to the membership base.

NEWSLETTER MAILING

MURA News is now available on the website. If you do NOT wish to receive hard copies (by snail mail), please e-mail our Membership Chair, Pam Penny at: penny@mcmaster.ca OR mail the form below.

I do NOT wish to receive copies of the Newsletter . I will access through the website:

Name:.....
 Address:.....
 Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:

Please return this strip to: **Pam Penny, 3 - 60 Dundas Street, Dundas, Ontario L9H 7M6**
