

Returning Items to Their Owners

This contribution to our Digital Library is simply a set of success stories in which the author describes how they went about finding the owner of an item.

There is no one sure-fire way to return an item, but the stories provide a couple tips on how to do the search.

This article could develop more in the future. If you have successfully retrieved an item from the dirt and returned it to the owner, send me a description of how you did it and I'll add the information to this article.

From Peggy Kemp:

My recent class ring find was for 1980 SAIT. We searched for yearbooks, and found a digitized 1980 SAIT yearbook.

We then searched for the last name, which gave us a first name.

A search of Google for the first and last name brought a family obituary which listed relatives ...

Which gave us the current married name.

A Google search for that name and Calgary brought up a LinkedIn and a Facebook ID, and we left messages in both locations. We got a response, and it was the right person.

The ring is still in my hands, but hopefully will be able to be returned later this month.

Some of you know that my hobby is metal detecting. One thing I have always wanted to do is return a precious object, and I was able to do that this weekend. I found a silver and ruby 1980 SAIT class ring in a local park.

Searching the web I was able to discover the owner (long and tedious process involving yearbooks, obituaries and Google search).

I was also able to connect with the owner and arrange to return her SAIT ring, which had been stolen, along with other jewellery, from her home over a decade before. My theory is that the thief sold the gold items and tossed the silver rings.

I decided to bring another sterling silver ring with a gemstone which was located in the same park later that week.

KP was thrilled to get her rings back yesterday.

I brought the SAIT ring and another ring that I found about 50 feet away a few days later. It ended up being even more precious to her, as it was an heirloom engagement ring that was her great-aunts. She is so happy to have them both back.

So yeah, one more thing off my wish list. 😊

From Paul Barker:

Tim Turner lost his 1996 Class ring soon after graduating from Central Memorial. I posted the ring on [Classmates.com](https://www.classmates.com) under the specific year and school (\$9 membership for 6 months) then someone on that site posted the info on a Reunion Facebook page.

Tim email me and correctly described the inscription "WOLF". On the phone I asked him if he ever tobogganed in Confederation Park. His god parents lived in Rosemont. Tim had goose bumps as he detailed the many hours tobogganing near the Rosemont Community center where the ring was found.

Dropped the ring off at his parents as he now lives out of town.

From Rich Nixon:

For all rings that I have returned that were not recent dropped items where I offered my time to look I have used Facebook to contact the potential owner.

I then get them to describe the ring and or produce a photo if they can. This was done for a high school class ring.

Individual was now living in southern AB so I was able to drop off at his parents locally.

From Bob Conlon:

I've only ever returned one thing and it was easy but still kind of neat.

It was a dog tag about 8 inches deep somewhere 14th street south in a school yard. It had the dog's name and owner's number. I was able to connect and return it.

She was so confused on the phone but when I showed up she started crying and said she lost it 10 years earlier.

It meant a lot to her she said.