

Happy Holidays 2014

Here's hoping your holiday season is just what you need.
Let us bring you up to date on our life this past year.

Here's a picture of the family as of Thanksgiving:



The eleven of us make a full table. Glad that our dining room and table will hold us with a little bit of reorganization. The grandkids range from 2– 10 and it is a busy household when they all come. But they are good listeners and good tidy-uppers so life is great.

Both Tony and I are fully retired now, but we still keep busy. I worked on Canvass at the church this fall again. We're on our way to getting the highest commitment from the congregation ever. The theme we (Pat Webber and I) chose is "The Fire of Commitment". Knowing that will help you interpret these pictures of me on the final Sunday.



Happy Holidays 2014



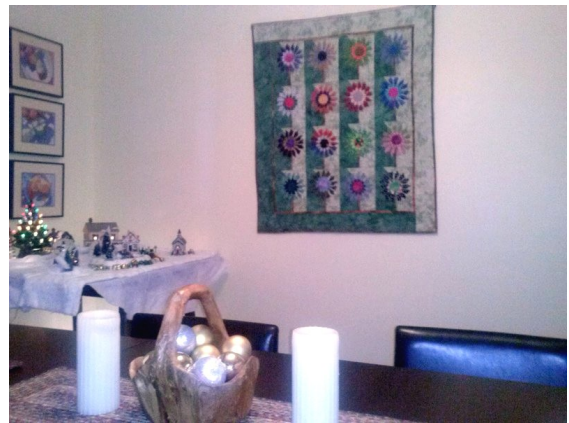
We all rented a cottage up #6 highway this summer. It was right on a small lake and the kids had a great time playing at the beach.

Health-wise we seem to be OK this year. I'm doing lots of gentle yoga after completing a 12 week 3-times a week yoga study for arthritic knees. I've joined the Seniors' Y downtown and doing a couple of their courses. Now that I'm retired, I finally have time to spend improving my body.

As far as travelling goes this year, we've finally reversed our decision to never go to Florida. We will be visiting friends who have rented a house near Orlando. I hate to relinquish my title as being one of very few Canadians who have never been there. Sometimes you have to give up the fight. We'll let you know next year if we survived and maybe had a good time.

Our renovations are complete... I think. We've replaced the railroad-tie landscaping in the front yard, put in a new walkway to the back yard & added a large dehumidifier to the basement. The last thing we did was decorate the walls in our new dining room.

My cousin from Whitehorse made me a beautiful quilt of flowers. The grandkids helped set up the Christmas village and decorate the table.



All the best in '15

Love Barb

Tony's 2¢:

We're going to spend a few days near Owen Sound between Christmas and New Year's with our families at our friends' home while they're basking in Florida. Hopefully, they'll still be our friends afterwards! ;-)

There ought to be a decent amount of snow around by then for our grandkids to rollick in while the more senior of us tackle the wine.

Happy Holidays 2014

For years now, I've had chronic pain in my lower back/hip area which, while bearable most of the time, flares up a few times a year into big pain. Elvis would NOT like it! It looks like it's finally been diagnosed correctly as muscular damage in the right sacroiliac joint area, is getting physiotherapy, and seems to be improving steadily as time goes by.

Other than that, my heart's ticking along in fine fettle and all seems right in the world.

Maybe I can get back to occasional hiking the Southwest Deserts and riding my motorcycle next summer! (fingers crossed)...

I've been enjoying taking a few evening seminars from the Chef at a local college lately. Mostly about grilling, but the last one covered a complete Christmas dinner. They're a real deal at \$29 a pop! Not only do you get to wow your friends and family later on with newfound culinary skills, you get to eat all the gourmet stuff he makes in front of you! Yummy!



I enjoyed volunteering at the Royal Botanical Gardens again this Oct/Nov building the fabulous model railway display for their Holiday Traditions exhibition. In all, there are nine trains and track layouts in motion at any one time on multiple levels with realistic audio. The gauge is "G" (for garden) with a track width of about 3", and so is quite large, and complete with landscaping to scale. It's quite a spectacle and the swarms of kids (young and old) just love it!

Well, that's all the news from Tony that's fit to print. I wish you all well, Happy Holidays, and a great New Year.

With love to all of you, Tony