

Happy Holidays from the Wallaces

With Christmas and the New Year definitely on this side of the horizon, it's again time to deliver the annual Wallace "catch up on the family news" document to all the near and dear of you.

The main difference, as I see it, is that my 2¢-worth comes before Barb's this year. This unfortunate state of affairs is due entirely to the fact that I retired (once again) in April, and, since "She who must be obeyed" is still hard at work, I'm apparently on the hook for establishing said document, whereas I only had to add on my "bit" to hers in the past. Who'da thunk it!

We now have five grandkids running or crawling (or wishing they could) around the planet! They're actually quite close by, which we are ever grateful for. We see them often, tickle them a lot, and there's an unwritten rule that I get to (must?) drink some of our sons' single malt scotches while I'm on babysitting duty! This is a wonderful symbiotic arrangement since it encourages their parents to get back at a reasonable hour (asap?), or else they have to pick me up (literally), drive me home, and stop by the liquor store to shore up their depleting scotch reserves.



Figure 1 Grandma Barb & Haydon at the cottage



Figure 2 Gregory succumbs



Figure 3 Baby Ezra at 5 months

Santaphobia, while
Vanessa & Ayden do the smiling.

to acute

My health is stable and without worry as long as I take the meds prescribed. Life is generally good and enjoyable. Our 3 generations of Wallaces are going to a cottage in the Finger Lakes area near Syracuse for 2 or 3 days following New Years... a kind of blissful mayhem! Actually, we've done this sort of thing in the past... it's good fun and we're looking forward to it.

In fact we all stayed at a lakeside cottage once more for a week this summer and will definitely do it again sometime.

Figure 4 Tony helped organize the Locke St. Boys reunion

We held the second 5-year reunion of the Locke & Dundurn Old Boys this summer, attended by 65 of us this time. Great fun!



I realize this isn't a great deal of info about the past year, but one has to leave Barb with ***something*** to write about, doesn't one?

Love to all...

Tony

Ok so it's my turn. I have to say it's wonderful to wander home from work at 5ish and realize that I don't have to rush into the house and plan dinner. Now if I could only enlarge Tony's list of possible meals – I was thinking we could move towards Canadian Living recipes. A goal for next year

Yes I am working still. The idea was a couple of days a week – especially once our charity silent auction was over in early December. However, Dalton McGinty (the ON Liberal Premier) and Laura Broten (Liberal Minister of Education) decided that they didn't want me to move too quickly to retirement. So they passed this bill 115 – they knew it would infuriate the teachers and thus the union and thus give me more work to do. I suppose I should thank them for padding my pension plan a bit more. I might be able to live off it for 3 months a year instead of 2.

We did move our office this summer out of a space the size of a one-car garage to a classroom in a wonderfully friendly school. We actually have real office furniture and we actually have a desk and computer – no sharing necessary.

One exciting thing I did this past year was to go to New Orleans for the Jazz festival with a bunch of friends from Hamilton. Never been there before and it was a great time we saw a lot of the city as well as the state.



Figure 5 Elizabeth & I and our companion
from the sculpture garden



Figure 6 the Plantations of Louisiana

No big trips for us this year although we did spend a week at a cottage on Irish Lake with all our family - we're up to 11 now.



Figure 7- The Wallace Clan at the cottage



Figure 8 Vanessa hitches a ride
on the back of Andrew's kayak

I will assume we all lived through Dec. 21 and the world didn't end.
So have a wonderful 2013.

Love, Barb