

Another Hess Adventure . . .

WE MOVED !!



Yes, after 21 years in California, we moved back to Mary Beth's hometown of Aurora, Ontario, Canada. In some respects, it was a fairly fast decision, but one that was carefully considered. It was a good time for all of us, and we realized that doing it sooner rather than later would be easier for the boys.

Richard's love of audio tape recording and tape restoration started to develop into a part-time job—in fact, he couldn't keep up with the work that was coming in. While Robert and Michael were quite happy at Verdugo Woodlands Elementary School in Glendale, private school would be mandatory for us—and costly—starting in Grade 7. Mary Beth is especially glad to be back in Aurora, closer to relatives and in cooler and cleaner air.

How did this happen? We're not completely sure, but after 21 exciting and challenging years at National TeleConsultants (and in Glendale), the pull of being nearer family, growing Richard's business, and experiencing four seasons like we remembered all factored into the equation. The support structure in Ontario is friendlier to small-scale entrepreneurs than that in Southern California.

In early July, we left on another "normal" driving vacation to Aurora, although we had looked at a large number of properties on the Internet and discussed many of them with Sean Herbinson, a Realtor and relative of Mary Beth's. We had a first choice home. We looked at 11 and came back to the first one, made an offer, and the offer was accepted. Richard then made the announcement to NTC. It was a very difficult decision, but finding a most desirable home at a good price made it easier.



On July 13th, we flew back to Glendale, leaving our 2001 Suburban in Aurora. Richard wound things down with NTC, and we all packed the 600 boxes. On August 16th, North American Van Lines arrived and loaded over 850 items, weighing 33,000 pounds, into their largest van. We camped two final nights in our home in

Glendale, leaving for another 5-day drive to Aurora on August 18th in our 1994 Suburban. Both vehicles performed well and Richard enjoyed driving. We officially landed in Canada on August 22nd.

The house closed on the 24th, and that night, Richard and a very capable handyman removed 30 feet of partition from the basement. The next day, 17 office-supply cabinets were delivered, and, on the 26th, the van arrived and disgorged its contents.

The boys started Grades 4 and 5 at Regency Acres Public School on September 7th. One claim to fame for this school is that Jim Carrey (the actor) went there!

We are all adjusting very well and are even looking forward to the cold and snow! It was great to see the beautiful fall colours this year. Robert and Michael are really enjoying school and are doing very well with their new subjects and activities, including French, cross-country running, and volleyball. We are attending Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora (where Richard used to sing in the choir). Robert has just started singing in the youth chorale, and Michael hopes to become an acolyte/server in the spring.

We hope you will keep in touch. For our friends in California, we miss you, but hope to see you again sometime—either here or there. We do have a guest room, and we still have a few things to see, do, and collect in California. Besides, we can't skip too many years with not having a cross-continent drive—Richard wouldn't know what to do, although he says he's going to find out this summer.

Richard drove down to Pennsylvania and New Jersey to collect some of our belongings that were on the East Coast and spent a wonderful day with his Dad who will be 89 in January.

We wish you all Happy Holidays and a joyous 2005.

