

After browsing through our calendar from the last two years, we became extremely tired just looking at everything that was listed and wondered how we did it all! This had to be the one main reason we did not send a greeting last Christmas. We hope you will enjoy this year's earlier-than-usual message.

2013 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Mary Beth and Richard, and Robert and Michael have both graduated from High School, have their driver's licenses and are away at university. How time flies!



*Richard and Mary Beth 1983-09-17*

Robert, with his passion for Music, is enjoying his second year of the Music Program at Western (formerly The University of Western Ontario) in London, Ontario playing the alto saxophone. His current goal is to attend Teacher's College there once he receives his BMus to become a High School Music Teacher. After working at Sharon Temple National Historic Site this summer from May 23 to August 30, he chose Canadian History as his course for his second "teachable." Alex, his girlfriend, is taking Vocal Music at Western.

Michael started his first year at The University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Ontario

(Canada's capital) this September studying Criminology. His dream of doing a high-school military co-op fell apart when he was told his vision without glasses was not acceptable even though he had passed all the other military tests including physical abilities. Michael has great desires to help people, so he is thinking of Law after his Criminology degree is achieved.



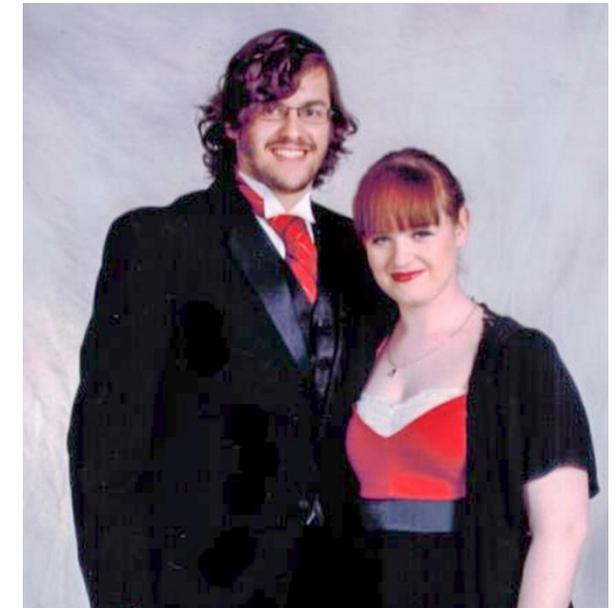
*Mary Beth, Mr. Bowles\*, Robert, Mr. Grassi\*, and Richard at Robert's High School Graduation 2012-06-27 (\*Music)*



*Ms. Kervin (Music), Michael at Michael's High School Graduation 2013-06-25*

Needless to say, with two boys 13 months apart in age, our lives were very busy completing High School with good grades, researching and visiting universities, participating in school bands, and heavily volunteering

at our church. Robert also had many theory, alto sax, and piano lessons and two Royal Conservatory Music Theory exams in addition to everything else. In order to be accepted into a Music Program at a university, Robert also had to audition at each university. Mom and Dad spent a lot of time with Michael as well as he was making his university choice.



*Robert and Alex 2013-04-11*

Activities have changed as there are no longer school bands and church activities to get our boys to (Youth Choir, Youth Group, Praise Band, Orchestra, and Server/Acolyte). Richard resigned as Trinity's Sound Booth Leader in June, 2012 – a very demanding volunteer position. Mary Beth is no longer Back-Up Funeral Coordinator at Trinity as they decided to dissolve the position, and her support role/coordinator of Sound Booth has also ceased.

Michael had a part-time job at a friend's china/giftware shop in Aurora from May to August, 2012. During the summers of 2012 and

2013, Michael and Mary Beth helped John, Mary Beth's brother, by doing outdoor painting, grass cutting and pool cleaning as John is limited in his mobility as he awaits hip replacement surgery early in 2014. The family home where he lives (built in 1875 and purchased by our mother's grandparents in 1901) was part of Doors Open this year and attracted 360 people to walk through the main floor and out to the pool and garden area.

As you may remember from our last letter, Manowar is a heavy-metal client of Richard's. Michael was fortunate enough to be asked by them to work for them for two weeks in Auburn, NY in August, 2013. Michael was in heaven and had a blast (his word) during his time there. Everyone was so generous and kind and made him feel at home 24/7.



*Michael and Joey DeMaio, Auburn, 2013-08-23*

Robert was able to finish scanning slides, photos, writings, articles, etc. for us and even did scanning for Sharon Temple this past summer. Thanks to Richard's, Robert's and Michael's scanning over the years, Richard was

able to put together a beautiful 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book for our special occasion. Some of the statistics from this scanning effort are mind-boggling. In brief, including the work Robert did for Sharon, we scanned 10,700 prints, negatives, and non-35 mm transparencies, 46,600 35 mm slides, and about 12,000 document pages. We also ripped about 14,000 CD tracks (and kept the CDs, of course). More details can be found at [www.richardhess.com/notes/](http://www.richardhess.com/notes/)



Mary Beth Hess, is putting the finishing touches on an updated book charting the 125 year history of Dr. G.W. Williams High School in Aurora. Covering the last 25 years, Ms. Hess is picking up the book where her historian brother left off.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

*Mary Beth in The Auroran 2013-03-19*

Mary Beth became involved with her high school's (Robert's and Michael's also!) 125<sup>th</sup> Reunion by becoming a member of the Dr. G.W. Williams' Reunion Committee in March 2012. Before she knew it, she was creating an add-on to John's (her brother) history book that he wrote for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

To create one book of John's and Mary Beth's work, Mary Beth and Richard had to discover how to recreate John's portion into a printable copy as the old plates were no longer usable. Richard's help was invaluable, and after many hours of his help and Mary Beth's creation of the last 25 years, the final book was printed. Mary Beth was even interviewed by a local newspaper reporter and had her picture in the paper! The reunion committee met twice a month until the reunion happened on May 3 and 4, 2013 (14 months)! Roughly 1,200 people attended, some from far away, and the committee made over \$20,000 for the school. Mary Beth continues to do occasional volunteering at Hillary House and Sharon Temple National Historic Sites. Mary Beth and Richard attended the Hillary House Ball in both 2012 and 2013, a fundraiser for this important site. And don't forget, Mary Beth still is the manager of food, laundry, schedules, and daily household affairs!

Mary Beth, of course, spent many hours researching universities, and we all attended the Open Houses. However, Richard gets all the credit for computer input with regards to the boy's university applications (every university had different procedures). He is the manager of computer/technical support for two dorm rooms! Each son has two laptops, a router, and a RAID5 network attached storage unit. The University of Ottawa residences had internet access problems during the fall. Richard spent hours looking for a good solution for Michael, and we ultimately ordered our own internet connection via Teksavvy for Michael's dorm room.

Richard's audio tape restoration business continues to be in demand. He is currently finishing projects for the Markham Museum and some Arab Folk Music with 118 tapes arriving from Lebanon. He spoke at the Audio Engineering Society's Toronto Section meeting

on April 24, 2012 and was a guest lecturer for two classes at the University of Texas, Austin via Skype. Mary Beth and Richard recorded nine readings by Leslie Huggett accompanied by Flora Lim on piano and flute in Markham. Other projects included more Stan Rogers tapes and many private tapes for various musicians. We also record the York Symphony Orchestra five times a year and have helped with both sound reinforcement and recording for the Sharon Temple Illumination.

We managed to find some time to travel. In May, we took a trip to see Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland, Ontario.



*Long house, firekeeper, and shafts of sunlight through the smoke, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons 2012-05-20*



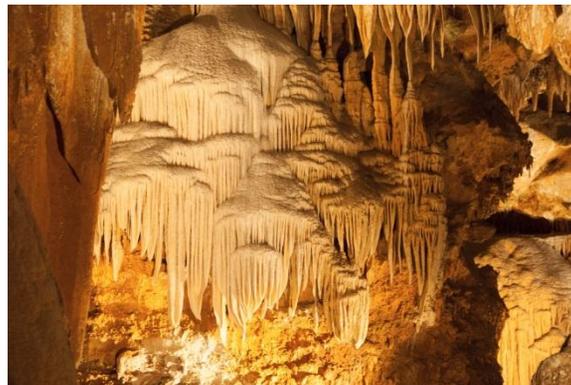
*Big Chute Marie Railway (top) 2012-05-20*

To wrap up the trip, we visited the Big Chute Marine Railway on the Trent-Severn waterway, at the other end from the Peterborough Lift Lock we visited in 2011.



*Big Chute Marie Railway (bottom) 2012-05-20*

Our big adventure of 2012 was a family trip that began at the end of June 2012. Through Richard's contacts, we were given a private tour of The Library of Congress National Audio Video Conservation Center (Packard Campus) in Culpeper, PA. Lynn McIntyre, Mary Beth's cousin, and Jim Wright from Calgary happened to be in Culpeper at the same time visiting Jim's family. Small world! We had an enjoyable evening visit in our dark, hot, humid room as the power went out during the heat wave from early evening until the next day.



*Luray Caverns 2012-06-30*

On our way to Colonial Williamsburg (spending three nights in the cool Lodge), we toured Luray Caverns, dodging fallen trees from the storm! Williamsburg is a great place to see (and partake in?) history!



*Richard, Mary Beth, Robert, & Michael in the stocks at Colonial Williamsburg 2012-07-02*

We then moved on to Washington, D.C. for two nights just in time for the rehearsal and live show **A Capitol Fourth** that is broadcast each year on July 4 on PBS stations. The weather still had not cooled down, so we explored as much as we could. Our last two nights were spent in Lancaster, PA so that we could spend a day with Jay, 94 years young! She was doing very well, but this year, she asked us not to visit during the summer as she needed some time to change medications.



*Robert, Mary Beth, and Michael at the rehearsal for A Capitol Fourth 2012-07-03*

Mary Beth and Richard have enjoyed a couple of weekend get-aways around the time of our anniversary. Last year, we stayed in Midland, Ontario and enjoyed driving to Tobermory and along the shores of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.



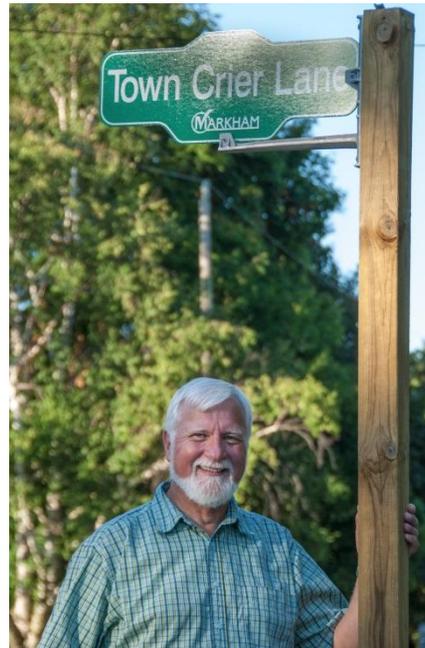
*Balm Beach, Georgian Bay 2012-09-22*

This year, we explored the area around Welland, Ontario, and were able to join Peter Adamiak, one of the owners of NTC in Glendale where Richard used to work, for dinner in Burlington as he was in town on a business trip.

John and Mary Webster have graciously hosted a Webster/Petch family reunion in July the last two years at their home in Markham. It is hard to get everyone together at the same time, but we are all so glad that the different generations get to know each other. Cathie, Chris and Lynda, and Laura and her family from Sarnia have been able to come. And family visits to see Cathie in Sarnia each year are always most enjoyable! We almost always go down to the Blue Water Bridge with Cathie.

There were two Celebrations of Life during this past year with a brief illness before the death of Mary Beth's cousin, Robert McIntyre, on November 30, 2012, dear husband to Louana and father of Scott and Kyle. Robert was a

retired lawyer in Brampton, and throughout the years, he volunteered many hours of service to others and was eager to keep in touch with extended family members. And on February 14, 2013, Leslie Huggett died after battling cancer for a couple of years. Richard played a major role in both memorial services as he was able to create what Louana and Robert's son Scott wanted, combining music with family photographs into a very moving tribute to Robert. For Leslie, the whole Hess family provided sound reinforcement for the service and support to the family. Robert mixed the sound reinforcement for Leslie's service. Richard recorded both services.



*John Webster at the Webster-Petch family reunion 2012-07-28*

There were also two other deaths of note for us. Well-known audio expert Neil Muncy died on August 10, 2012 and Mary Beth, Richard, and Michael helped the family with some of Neil's equipment during at least five visits to Neil's home in 2013. We just heard recently that Isobel McKeown, another McIntyre relative, died on October 2, 2013 at age 104! She

apparently spent a happy summer at the lake, but suffered a stroke soon after she returned home.



*The lake steamer Arthur M. Anderson which accompanied the Edmund Fitzgerald on her last voyage. At Sarnia, under the Blue Water Bridge 2013-08-05*

New beginnings are all around us – Robert and Michael are gearing up for the start of a new career while Richard and Mary Beth adjust to being more or less “empty nesters.” Well at least for eight months of the year! As you read this letter, Richard and Mary Beth will be enjoying Maui for the first time celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We are not spending the family fortune as we have been offered a condo to use, and we are using accumulated American Airline miles.

May peace, joy and happiness be yours in 2014.

Aloha and love,

Mary Beth, Richard, Robert and Michael

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