

*A 2014 Merry Christmas to all from the Hess Family*

Yes, Richard and Mary Beth did have a fabulous time in Maui at the end of 2013! We explored almost every possible attraction there! Even though we did see whales then, we are planning another trip in early 2015 so that we will be in Maui when there are even more whales to see and photograph! We can hardly wait! You may have already seen the photos on Facebook or Richard's website.



Haleakala Crater, November 2013, multi-image panorama

2014 was our first full year of being "empty nesters" (well, except for the time in May, June, July, and August when Robert and Michael are not at university)! We found ourselves socializing as a couple more and just generally reconfiguring our lives.

Between February and the end of April, Mary Beth continued with genealogy research. John, Mary Beth's brother, had done a great job with this up until the 1990's. It was wonderful to connect with family members in Quebec, British Columbia, Manitoba, Keswick, and Guelph. She met some new relatives along the way and started to understand how pieces of the puzzle connect.



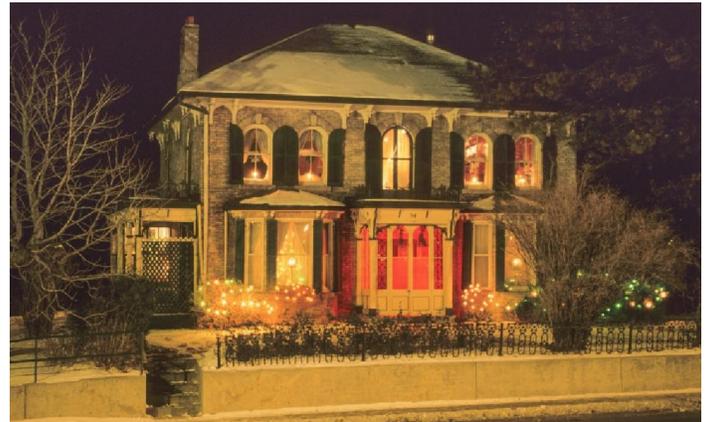
Hillary House, October 1995

Unfortunately, the genealogy work came to a pause once Robert and Michael came home for the summer, and then in mid-August, Mary Beth took on a temporary, part-time job (three full days a week) at Hillary House National Historic Site in Aurora which is owned and operated by the Aurora Historical Society. She was hired to help co-ordinate and update membership files, and her knowledge of Aurora is an asset to the Society after its current staff resigned. Mary Beth assumes she will be

working into part of 2015, but everything depends on the Society's budget.

Richard had a busy first half of the year with tape restoration, including digitizing and cleaning 145 reels and cassettes for the Markham Museum and digitizing over 100 reels of Arab folk music field recordings. He also completed many smaller projects. Richard has been volunteering at Hillary House since mid-August updating the computer system, the Society's website and many other techno-details. His own audio-tape restoration work has been put on hold as Hillary House was in desperate need of attention.

In the beginning of the year, Richard right-sized his camera outfit; selling his last film camera and several lenses. He began using multi-image panoramas. Two examples are included. Richard posted all the gory details on his blog. <http://bit.ly/rlhcamera>



Horton Place, December 1999

As is often said, everything happens at once. The job started in mid-August, just as we were preparing for Robert and Michael's return to school and just when Mary Beth's brother, John, officially decided it was time to sell the family home. Horton Place has been in the family since 1901, so you can imagine all the things that had to be sorted through and furniture moved! Several large pieces of furniture moved to our home, including the 1905 piano, the Victrola, and a large, glass china cabinet including contents.

John has done a marvelous job maintaining this treasure, but with ongoing maintenance and high property taxes, decisions had to be made. It is unrealistic to assume that Robert and/or Michael could keep the property in the family. The home still has not sold as offers have been too low.

Michael arrives home on December 17 after finishing the first semester of second year Criminology at the

University of Ottawa. Last summer, he obtained a Security Guard License and has been accepted at Commissionaires in Toronto and Ottawa. He thought this would be a prudent move in having more options open for employment in the years to come.



Robert accompanied by Judith McCrea, March 2014  
 watch full video at <https://vimeo.com/88611368>

Robert continues to thoroughly enjoy the Music Program in his third year at Western in London, Ontario, and arrives home for Christmas on December 19. Last summer, he was employed again at Sharon Temple National Historic Site four days a week. He also took a summer on-line course in History and managed to juggle time with Alex, his girlfriend, in London three days a week.



John Webster, Mary Beth, Michael, and John McIntyre  
 (all descendants of the Petches) at the Petch House

In June, John Webster and his wife, Mary, were able to visit the Petch House in Aurora. John is an award-winning Town Crier and Mary Beth's and John McIntyre's cousin. Michael and Richard also joined in. A rare example of early European residential construction methods brought to Canada in the early 19th century; the house offers a glimpse into the daily life of one of the town's first Euro-Canadian families.

Family trips were short this year. We visited Jay in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on July 8 (driving there July 7 and returning July 9) and are glad to report that she is well.

From August 18 to 20, we visited Cathie in Sarnia, and again, had a wonderful time.



Michael, Mary Beth, Jay, Richard, and Robert, July 2014  
 Willow Valley (Lancaster area), Pennsylvania

Mary Beth and Richard found two beautiful days (September 25 and 26) at the perfect time of year to visit Algonquin Park. The fall foliage was spectacular. Perhaps you have already seen the photos on Facebook!



Lake of Two Rivers from Killamey Lodge, September 2014, panorama

Joy (Phaneuf) and Dale Krumroy from Florida visited Aurora and stayed with us from October 20 to 23. Richard and Joy are cousins, and we all had a good time being together visiting the local sites.

Wishing you good health, peace, laughter, and joy always,

*Mary Beth, Richard, Robert, and Michael*

Richard's photo gallery: <http://gallery.richardhess.com>  
 Richard's business phone: 647 479 2800