

Sheppard's Christmas Letter 2012

The past year has seen some good times and some sad times. The best news of the year was Janessa and Jon's decision to get married. Ness and Jon Suderman met last Christmas, and since then they have spent most of their time together doing all kinds of interesting things. Their wedding is planned for July 2013 in Calgary. Jon is a computer website and 'app' developer, so I am hopeful that he will be able to keep our computers running. He has also earned big points by helping me fix and maintain the barbed wire fences around here.



On the sad side, my mum Joanie died in March at the age of 92. When she died she had been in long term care for about 15 months. She was wheelchair bound and very confused, but she was very happy to see us whenever we came. My dad Keith died in 2011. To honor Joanie and Keith's wishes, in August we mixed their ashes together and spread them along the shore of a mountain lake in the Kananaskis. Connie and I were there, along with Lucas, Mack, Janessa and Jon, and Ruthie and Brandon (Connie's Mum and Dad).

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Other good news in 2012 was Ruthie and Brandon's move back to Alberta. In the spring they sold their house in Port Dover (Ontario) and



moved to Sundre. They now live about 20 miles from our place, and about 40 miles from daughters Georgia and Andrea and their families. Their other daughter Donna is on Vancouver Island. In July we had a big party at our place to mark Ruthie and Brandon's 50th wedding anniversary. Next week (early December) Connie and I are going cruising in the Caribbean with them. They have never been cruising, but we are sure they will enjoy it. So will we !!



I have said some things about Ness, so I should say some things about Luke and Mack. Luke is still playing in the band Seventh Rain, but in the past year he has



become increasingly involved with his work at Western Drilling - a Calgary machine shop that provides the drilling industry with specialty tools and fittings. About 40 people work for Western, and the owners want to move Luke up in the company. Luke is very interested, but realizes that he will have to choose where to focus his energy.

Luke is also very eligible, and is looking for a nice Christian girl to marry. The nice Christian girl should like tattoos, because Luke has a bunch, including a back tattoo of a bomber raid that honors Keith's service in the RAF.

Mack is in his second year of the Red Deer College business program. He is enjoying school, both the academic and the social aspects, and his marks are improving. He is still thinking about what he would like to do with his schooling and his life, but Connie and I know he will turn out just fine.



travelling on the ship.

In February we went skiing, and were pleased to find we could still do it.



What with the loss of Keith and Joanie, the year 2012 was a little bit subdued. Having said that, Connie and I did do a bunch of things. In February we went on a Caribbean cruise with our good friends Elizabeth and Al Cunningham. We visited San Juan, St Thomas, St Croix, Grenada, and a few other islands. Some islands were great, and others not so much, but I really liked



In March we went to Maui for a couple of weeks. Luke, Ness, and Jon joined us. We also met up with some neighbors who were on the island. As usual we did a bunch of snorkeling and hiking. Luke rented a Harley for a couple of days. All in all a good time - we always have a good time there !!

In late July Connie and I flew up to the Yukon for a week. We spent our time with Connie's relatives at a fish camp in the central Yukon where they were netting salmon that weighed up to 40 pounds. The place ?? Little Salmon !!



The rest of the summer and fall was taken up with house painting, trips to the mountains and lakes, and some camping. I got out fishing. We got to Yaha Tinda with the horses in mid October - thanksgiving time.



As I mentioned last year, I have Parkinson's disease. So far I have responded well to medication, and Parkinson's has been more of an inconvenience than a disability. My consulting work is unaffected. God willing this will continue for some years.

That gives you an idea of how we are doing. God has showed us much grace and blessings this past year. We hope and trust that you can see God's grace and blessings in your life as well.



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