

Seasons Greetings from Dave & Dee!

The year of 2010 has sped by very quickly for us and was full of many wonderful events - we hope that you, too, had a great year! We're eagerly looking forward to what 2011 will bring and wish you happiness & good health in the New Year!

As this has become our custom - here are some of the highlights of our year:

Life's excitement: Eurotrip!

We took our first trip over the big puddle known as the Atlantic Ocean and saw the "old world"! In just 13 days we went from Germany to England, stopping into some wonderful cities.

We landed in Frankfurt, spent a day in Heidelberg, then explored the Alsace region of France (staying in Saverne; Strasbourg is a wonderful city!), then to Paris & Versailles. From there we journeyed through Calais and Dover to finish our trip with a few days in London and Oxford.

It was a whirlwind trip and very surreal at moments seeing so many awesome historic monuments in such a short time. We visited a winery in France, saw several castles and cathedrals and were amazed by it all - cuisine, culture and architecture! We also had the opportunity to see the Monet Exposition in the Grand Palais in Paris; already a fan of Monet, seeing so many of his works at once and in person was a once in a lifetime opportunity that we were very grateful to experience.

A very big THANK YOU to our hosts for being wonderful people and making our trip possible: Christa Wallace & Mik Genty in Saverne, Heather Philip & John Hanson in London, Dr. Brian & Sophie Harrington at Oxford. And an even bigger **THANK YOU** goes to our friend Ian Wallace who helped us plan the trip and was also invaluable resource to have in our first travels around the world, both for his travel expertise and ability to speak French and a little bit of German!



At the Eiffel Tower



Dave, myself and Ian at Tower Bridge in London

Life's schedule: the usual stuff (we're getting older, not everything can be exciting!)

We're somewhat boring in that both of us are still with same companies & jobs (Rona, Hay Group) - so no news to report there but in the past years of recession and organization changes, it's good that we're both still in stable jobs! And, in January, Deirdre received a promotion at Hay Group.

We are still playing volleyball and Deirdre has started playing softball with Dave, too. In May, Dave once again steered a raft through white water without losing passengers (thanks to Dee's paddling, too of course).

Dave had the best round of golf he's had so far in life, shooting a 79 at Black Diamond. Deirdre still has yet to break 100 but she's hoping to do so next season!

Life's Changes: mourning & miracles!

Most of you know that in 2002 Deirdre took in a little street thug of a cat, named her Sheeba, and then kept her kittens that arrived a few months later, as well. A very unique cat, she was very vocal, wasn't afraid of any dog and definitely had plenty of attitude for everyone (and perhaps a claw swipe or two). We were very sad to lose her in August 2010 to cancer.

In November we said farewell to Dave's Godfather, Reverend Bill Manson, who was called into God's service directly sooner than expected at only 75, after a bout with Leukemia.

In April, Dave's Grandpa, Tom Blair, suffered a bad fall and broke his neck. Never the type of man to utter a single complaint though, despite some poor prognosis from doctors along the way, he kept his spirits up and in the past months has managed to heal his neck and is expected to make a miraculous recovery (thanks to the dedication of Grandma Betty Blair, of course, in addition to lots of family support and health care workers!). He is currently in physiotherapy to regain his mobility and we hope that he'll be able to go home soon!



Sheeba, Winter 2010

We hope that all is well with you and your families - may 2011 bring you lots of happiness and keep you all in good health!

Merry Christmas to you and yours, *Mr. & Mrs. D. Smith*
(aka Dee & Dave)