

## Season's Greetings from Dave & Dee!

As always, it has been a very busy year! With social media (i.e., Dee's overactive facebook activity) we can keep in touch with many of you through the year but like to keep this tradition of a Christmas letter going strong to share our 2012 highlights.

### All the small things...

We continue to play volleyball, softball and golf. In July, we successfully defended our 3<sup>rd</sup> place spot in the "Wasaga Beach Not So Pro" volleyball tournament and in September, our softball team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league. Dee won the "closest to pin" at an annual cottage golf tournament in September that Jean Clarke invites us too, and Dave got his first hole in one on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole of the third round of our friend's June 21<sup>st</sup> "Ironman" golf tournament (3 rounds in 1 day!).

In May, our annual whitewater rafting trip was blessed with unseasonably warm weather so for the first time, we opted to try "sportyak-ing." Waves feel a lot bigger when you're in a tiny boat! We didn't quite make it through the first rapid and had to swim a bit, but other than that, we navigated the rest a-ok!

We were privileged to attend two weddings this year and we welcomed several more new additions amongst our family & friends...and know more are on the way.

Our careers continue to be rewarding - Dave completed his first full year as Manager of Estimating and Technical Services at Rona and received his 10 year recognition award, and Dee is still working as a HR Consultant at Hay Group and received her 5 year recognition award.

We continue to work on our little house and this year learned oodles about furnaces and air conditioning systems while finally upgrading that! We hope to begin work on renovating the basement this year.



*Heading into a rapid...*



*Dee, Dave & a seaturtle*

### Exploring North America

In October, Dave and I travelled with over 20 others as part of the "Ben & Sacha Wedding Reception" to the Mayan Riviera. We had a wonderful time that included: Three rounds of golf (in sweltering heat and mosquitos! Whew!), two snorkeling excursions - one in a "cenote" (fresh water cave) and another to swim alongside giant sea turtles & explore coral reefs, a trip to the Mayan Ruins of Tulum and a pub crawl in Playa del Carmen. It was definitely a fun filled week packed with a lot of activity; and we were happy to enjoy it with so many friends



*Dave makes friends with a giraffe at the Philadelphia Zoo*

In November, Dee's work took her to Philadelphia for a few days, so we opted to extend the trip to get in a visit with the Serrao family and explore the area. We had a great time with Sondra, Darren, Marissa and the pups, Mack & Maya, and saw first hand some of the effect of "Hurricane Sandy". Along with family time, we also managed to see the Liberty Bell, Rodin Museum, the Philadelphia Zoo together and dined at the City Tavern (an 18<sup>th</sup> century tavern). Dave got to explore the city of Philadelphia and its history a bit more in depth while Dee was stuck in work for a few days. Shockingly, Dave and I realize that we've never actually driven to the US together! Even after more than a decade together, firsts are still nice!

### Remembering Nana (5/14/1923 - 7/16/2012)

In July, Betty Blair, Dave's grandmother - better known as 'Nana', was called to her spot in Heaven. We will miss her greatly, but have many happy memories of her sense of humour, strength & perseverance when facing challenging times, and of course her excellent consistency on a golf course.



*Dave swims through the stalactites / stalagmites in the cenote*

We hope that all is happy & healthy with you and yours, and hope that 2013 brings you many good things!

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**  
*Mr. & Mrs. D. Smith*