

Seasons' Greetings from Dave & Dee!

We hope that all is well with you and yours and that 2014 has been a good year to you. For us, this has been a life changing year!

We're parents!!!

The biggest change in is certainly that we have decided to become **parents!!** This has been a very interesting time in our lives where emotions went from happy, to excited, to nervous, to scared, to absolutely petrified, to hilarity...very frequently. We have no doubt being parents will be filled with much the same roller coaster of emotions as we get to know our little one. Dee took to being pregnant very well, and is thankful she experienced no morning sickness, was able to continue keeping fit with modified work outs, and generally felt very good for the whole duration - but giving up caffeine was certainly *not* easy for her. Dave was able to avoid any 'sympathy weight' though developed a bit of "prego-brain" due to all the new things needing to be done in the house and life style changes. Much of this year has been for baby preparation - shopping, nursery set up, and all the little things for the little one. We are fortunate to have many friends and family who were able to pass on lots of items like maternity clothing, furniture & baby items!

On November 9th, family and friends showered us with love and we are very grateful for the gifts, thoughts & time people have dedicated to Baby Smith. Having such wonderful family & friends gives us *some* confidence going forward on this newest adventure! Baby Smith is expected to join our clan in early to mid December, and we hope that you will all get to meet him/her in person in the near future.

Throughout the year...

Dee continues to work for Hay Group in the HR Consulting world and Dave continues to work part time for RONA while he has been building his own company, Maple Key Professional Inspections, as a Home Inspector. Generally, work is good - and steady - which is a nice thing, though Deirdre did have to travel more this year (Calgary & to Saint John, NB several times!).

In August, Dee & Dave travelled Canada's Maritime provinces in a whirlwind tour - fitting in Nova Scotia (Halifax, Lunenburg, Peggy's Cove, Sydney & Cape Breton), PEI (Point Prim, lots of beaches, a lobster supper in Glasgow, lighthouses and Anne of Green Gables, driving the Confederation Bridge) and New Brunswick (for the Hopewell Rocks) all in 8 days in an RV. This was our first time experiencing travel in an RV and we very much enjoyed it. We can definitely imagine some slower paced, family oriented RV trips in our future. Also in August, we were very honoured to be part of the wedding of our dear friends, Connie & Marco De La Cruz as well as a very big 40th birthday surprise party for Stephen David (good job planning Jacinda David!).



Hiking on October 2nd at "Forks of the Credit" Provincial Park
29 weeks pregnant!



Dave & The BlueNose II
Lunenburg, NS



Walking the Ocean Floor at Low Tide
Hopewell Rocks, NB



Dee enjoys splashing in the Atlantic Ocean
Cavendish, PEI



Our 20' RV & a giant fiddle
Sydney, NS

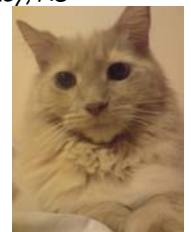
Farewells...

As always with happiness in life is always tinged with some sadness. This year Dave & I said farewell to dearest Great Aunt, Eleanor who will be always remembered for her great sense of humour, wonderful warmth & hospitality and superb baking abilities. She is missed greatly.

Dee & Dave also had to say farewell to one of their 'grand kittens' (a kitten of the stray, Sheeba, rescued many years ago), Chobi.

We hope that all is happy & healthy with you and yours, and hope that 2015 brings you many good things!

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



Chobi Chong - son of Sheeba
March 2, 2002 - September
15, 2014