

Seasons' Greetings from Dave, Dee & Cassandra!

We're officially parents!!!

Cassandra Eleanor 寶儀 Smith entered the world on December 12, 2014 at 5:31pm, a wonderful 7 lb 4 oz bundle of joy! While D&D were filled last year with a smorgasbord of emotion, this really just amplified when she arrived. What a whirlwind those first few months are of learning to be parents, coping with precious little sleep, and dealing with all the life changes. At the time of writing this letter, Cassandra is just on the cusp of walking, says about a dozen words and loves to dance/bounce to music. She loves to eat - especially blueberries!

Suffice it to say, D&D have an entirely newfound level of appreciation and love for their parents - for their incredible level of assistance with Cassandra in her first year (and help to come!) as well as empathy now being on the 'parents' side of the fence!

We are so grateful to have many generous friends, as well as family, who have helped immensely - many brought items for Cassandra, food for us, and provided so much emotional support and guidance as we navigated through this year. We cannot thank everyone enough, and hope we are as good to you all in return

Throughout the year...

Dee thoroughly enjoyed her full year off with Cassandra, joined moms groups and attended many fun "mom & tot" events. Despite being in Brampton now for more than 7 years, it's only now that D&D are finally making some local friends - nothing breaks the ice between people as much as babies, it seems! Being a mom is a very fulfilling experience for Dee.

Dave continues to work part time for RONA, and for himself as a home inspector (Maple Key Professional Inspections), though he is looking (with some hesitation and fear) to dedicating more time to being a dad in the new year. Clearly fatherhood REALLY suits Dave as he finally managed to win our friends annual "Ironman" golf tournament (54 different championship holes in one day), and his softball team even won the championship for the first time... EVER, and he even got voted a league all-star pitcher!

Travels were less worldly this year; a couple of trips to the seasonal trailer in Southampton that we are fortunate to have access to (thanks Nana and Papa Smith!) and a trip up to Minden Hills for a weekend of cottage fun (Thanks Clarke & David Family!) were the extent of our travels. Life has been full of play time, walks and park visits and even a few nature hikes.

Good tidings to you!

We hope that all is happy & healthy with you and yours, and hope that 2016 brings you many good things!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

The Smith Family

