

CALCULATIONS FOR

Dear Robert and Barbara

We have an addition to the family. Linda had a girl in October called Lila Elizabeth. This is a chubby happy little creature with blue eyes. Jason being 6 1/2 years older has taken charge of her care and feeding. We had a busy Christmas as usual with our extended family. Between us Charlie and I have five children and their 3 spouses and six grandchildren who come with friends. This house was one long open house over the holidays with me cooking and cooking. I get to baby sit a lot too which I surprise myself by enjoying. Jason and I have been skiing a lot so far this year. Charlie's knee is still getting exercised to build up ~~some~~ slack muscles from a year of disuse. Hopefully by March he'll be able to again put on the boards.

We had a grand two weeks in England in September. We rented a car and toured around from bed and breakfast to village pub ending ending up in the Welsh part of Wales staying with a separatist, not unlike ~~as~~ our French separatists in temperament. I continued on to India and Charlie returned home. I'm glad I didn't talk him into accompanying me further. He couldn't have stood the smells and dirt and probably wouldn't have ventured out of the hotel room in Bombay as most North Americans. I kept a diary while there and I'll send you a copy when I get it typed. Suffice to say, India wasn't any fun. I had to unload many North American hung-ups that I didn't know I had and was forced to question many of my North American values and I returned with an

enhanced respect for humanity, its involvement and caring, interaction and love and humour and flexibility - things often lost in the West.

Things are much the same here. Linda is enjoying being a stay-at-home mom while she writes her thesis. She has her office organized with word processor and play pen. Jason is in grade two being a year ahead because of an early start when he lived in England. He does well with the exception of French which is taught orally. He prefers to learn by reading. He is also a good little musician and can play carols for us to sing at Christmas. Linda and Charlie both with hearing problems complain when we make music claiming it hurts their ears. Charlie and I are both busy at work. Occasionally we toy with talk of retirement but it doesn't amount to much. Both of us enjoy our work and are healthy so we should have lots of years after 65. I still go to my aerobics classes and she and I go by bicycle in between but age marches on, no question.

I'm away from home a lot more than I'd like to be. This year I'll be working in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and possibly Alberta for a short while and I'll be going to Florida for a conference in a couple of weeks. I never thought I'd get so tired of traveling but it's happening and I'm getting too old for the fifty hour weeks I put in during June, July and August.

Thanks for the bird you sent at Christmas. He's hanging in a window just at the top of some plants and he does look pretty with his red berry in his beak and the sculptured detailing under his wings.

Thanks loads,

Write when you can with news of the kids. What's Cassy doing now and what are all those bright little boys up to?

Love as always

Betty