

April 15, 1998

Dear Robert and Barbara,

What a busy family you are and Misha is indeed cutting quite a swath. I hope Robin's job involves something musical. I'd hate to see his talent lie dormant for any time though I imagine the movie and stage music business is terribly hard to break in to, short of going to Hollywood or New York, though you do have the Guthrie theatre there. How about Ian, still pursuing his photography hobby? And how about the Unitarians, are you still doing executive chores and choir practices etc. Where have you been singing lately.

We are both in fine form, enjoying retirement immensely, skiing all most every day, which includes travel to such fine mountains as the Salt Lake group, Grand Targee and Jackson Hole Wyoming, and then of course our own Canadian Rockies. We work out hard at the gym to get ready for the altitudes and so far have been successful but who knows how much longer. Our friends are dropping like flies. Now golf season approaches and spring cleaning comes with that in preparation for visitors both here in Fredericton and the Cottage. I am endeavouring to learn to play bridge, more to keep my mind limber than anything since I'm not enamoured with either crossword puzzles or nintendo, the other recommended brain stretchers. Charlie still does some consulting and I belong to an active University writing group. These activities are necessary to convince myself that I'm not playing for the rest of my life which triggers the old southern Ontario guilt thing about lack of work ethic.

We spend lots of time with grandchildren. We have four in the city (Charlie has two little grandsons) and Jennifer's two in Montreal. We just got back from Montreal last week, went skiing at our Crabbe Mt. the next day then hung up our

skis. The garden is now ready to plant since there seems to be no frost in the ground this year, too much snow.

We have a new puppy, just barely a year now. Charlie has great hopes that he will retrieve ducks come fall. In any case Dylan (that his name since he is a Welsh Springer) is now off at the Dog school up the road learning to respond to appropriate signals. Of course Charlie will have to learn too at some point. Their temperaments mesh. It'll be fun to see what happens. When he's with me he sometimes misbehaves by piddling on feet, the dog that is. I'm hoping for big improvements after schooling.

The family in general seems to be clicking along in high gear. All grandchildren are doing well in school. This week Jason is going to Halifax to enter his robot in an Atlantic competition. We'll go to the cottage and dodge over for a look. Lila and I have grand times together. She is by far the most creative of the kids, much more than either of my girls were. She delights in the sewing machine and paints, she is a fine athlete too. Linda is on a tear most of the time as most young professionals are these days. She has initiated a double honours program in Law and Society at the undergraduate level which utilizes many profs from many disciplines and now she is building an MPhil degree program at the law school. She also has grants from various Departments of Justice and a fairly full teaching load. Tony is writing books and teaching as well as running the farm after a fashion and of course making blueberry wine and training horses. We had so much snow this year that his farm machinery shed fell down which resulted in much time at the table with Charlie calculating loads and stresses while Linda danced about exclaiming that she'd told him so, that the original design couldn't possible

work which of course it didn't. Linda isn't much of a mechanic. Inanimate things leave her stymied as a rule. She isn't much of a driver either. Jason was with her last week when according to him she simply drive into the side of a deer. They escaped injury. Absent mindedness comes with the professorial territory.

We visited with Jennifer and family last week. The dog grooming business is booming and she is now equipped with hydraulic tables and many types of shears. I wish I was in the weaving business, I could use all that fir if I knew how to card. The kids are conservative hard workers, really nice mannered kids. Jennifer is quite the disciplinarian and so far I don't sense rebellion. Leta has only one more year of high school before she goes into a sort of junior college when big decisions have to be made regarding courses of study. I'm pretty sure that Michael will end up an engineer of some type.

Thanks for the dried fruit at Xmas, it surely came in very handy with all the goings and comings of little kids all stuffed with not-so-healthy goodies, and yet they never want to stop munching, like the rest of us I guess. Evelyn seemed to really appreciate ~~of~~ having Warren and family for the holidays. I hear rumblings that he may accompany her to Finland. It would be great for him to see part of Europe. I hope it happens.

I'll close now, love to everyone.... I loved the picture of Misha and Bill. I leave it conspicuously on the table when friends come. After the first who is that, conversation begins immediately.

As always