

December 19, 2019

I (Janet) am very happy to be updating you on our latest adventures and news – it's been 3 years since you last heard from us. Lots has happened - here's a summarized timeline update of 2017-2018.

Winter 2017	Eldest son Ken had a slow recovery from his October 2016 bowel surgery that was fraught with complications which required several hospital re-admissions and a 2 nd surgery in March 2017. He was finally back to work in May 2017 and sufficiently recovered in time for summer outdoor activities. We were grateful to be available to help Michelle and the 3 kids, and to visit Ken in hospital in Ottawa. Ken had a 3 rd (and hopefully final) surgery and a very quick recovery a year later in May 2018.
Fall 2017	Youngest son Mark and Meg were married on September 17 in Meg's family's church, Manotick United, just south of Ottawa. A lovely reception followed in a converted barn at the Central Canada Experimental Farm which is very close to their house in Ottawa. We enjoyed meeting Meg's extended family and re-connecting with Mark's high school friends from BC.
January 2018	Middle son Tim, his wife Amy, and Joanna welcomed baby Sarah Marie on January 18, 2018 in Cincinnati. I met Sarah on a short trip to Cincinnati in mid-February, and she has since visited Canada several times.
Winter 2018	We fulfilled a long time dream of Hugh's to have a cottage! We found a beautifully situated property on nearby Calabogie Lake, a 25 minute drive west of our farm, and took ownership in early June. That was followed by an interesting renovation experience.
Spring/ Summer 2018	A sad period of sickness and loss... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• My 93 year old aunt Edna fell in mid-May and was in hospital in nearby Arnprior for 4 weeks so Hugh and I were grateful to be nearby for regular visits and to fulfill our roles of powers-of-attorney.• We were deeply saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of Hugh's brother Glen on June 19th at his cottage north of Ottawa. We welcomed family and friends to our farm a few days later to remember and celebrate the joy that Glen brought us. Glen was 71.• My dad's bachelor cousin Carl died in Arnprior hospital on August 29th at the age of 81. Hugh and I were powers of attorney and now executors.
Fall 2018 and beyond	More hospitals... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I had a very successful knee replacement at the excellent Queensway Carleton Hospital in west Ottawa in mid September and a very good recovery.• Aunt Edna re-hospitalized in late October for heart related issues.• I was back at QCH on December 1st for emergency surgery for a hernia – back home with marginal pain in less than 24 hours!• My aunt Edna was back in hospital on December 27 and she died peacefully on January 17 2019. She was 93.

So you can see that 2017 to the first part of this year held lots of ups and downs for us – life in technicolour!

Through these experiences we've appreciated and enjoyed our day-to-day routines at the farm and the true beauty of our surroundings at the farm and at the lake, and the loving company and support of family and friends.

Our Hereford herd continues to thrive. We started the year with 72 animals and are now at 59 after selling a number of cows, bulls and heifers, and welcoming 20 calves. We are seeing and experiencing the effects of climate change firsthand with the more recent unusual swings in weather. This spring's snow melt was very late which brought a late start to the pasture and crop field growing season. We had another very dry summer that resulted in a very poor second cut, and poor regrowth of the pastures. This necessitated a significant investment in purchased hay.

Our roles as estate executors for my Wolff family relatives have consumed a lot of our time, especially Hugh's, along with his physical energy in cleaning out 2 abundantly furnished apartments and disposing of their contents.

I continue to enjoy my daily walks with our dogs, lots of summer swimming, our local quilt guild and managing the quilt guild web site. I hope the new year will provide more time for my quilting projects, and a visit to Cincinnati now that I'll be able to get health insurance again. (I recently had another hernia surgery – this time elective - in mid November.)

Life marches on for our family.

- **Ken** and Michelle and Luke (11), Kate (9), Adam (7) enjoy skiing and skating in winter, biking and their backyard pool and cottage in summer, and a “boys only” canoe camp-out this year. Kate enjoys her arts and crafts, and boys (all 3!) are involved in Scouting. All are avid readers.
- **Tim** and Amy have made a lot of visits to see us over these last couple of years and for this we are very grateful. Joanna (5) started kindergarten this year and is enjoying school. Sarah (1) is growing up quickly. Tim celebrated his 40th birthday on December 14th! He continues to enjoy teaching at Xavier University. We look forward to their upcoming visit over the Christmas holidays.
- **Mark** and Meg enjoyed a 2 week trip to Scotland in the fall of 2018 while their dog Molly enjoyed her 2 week farm vacation here with us and our dogs Holly and Chase. Mark took a very intensive 10 week social media marketing course at Ottawa U in the summer of 2018 that ultimately led him to a new job at Banfield Agency where he is enjoying applying his writing skills to marketing. Mark and Meg enjoy their regular volunteer time at Ronald McDonald House in Ottawa.

I invite you to look at photos on our web site. There are plenty on our blog which chronicles our cottage renovation project <https://www.kippenhame.com/bogie-project>, and at a [Merry Christmas 2019](#) link that should be in place (along with this letter) on the blog by the time you are reading this.

We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year as we start a new decade in 2020.

Hugh and Janet