



HALFERTY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

FAMILY UPDATES

WELL WISHES

CUTE KIDS

Happy Holidays

This holiday newsletter is to keep friends and family updated on the events in our family's life and share holiday greetings. Though these past few years have been challenging for everyone in so many ways we hope you enjoy our tales and we look forward to hearing yours!

Good night and good Christmas, Mummers, me dears,
Please God, we will see you next year.

- The Mummer's Song by Simani



The Zunic Family

2 022 has been another eventful year for the Zunic family.

Nick is currently on a sabbatical year from his teaching at St Jerome's University. He has many projects planned for this time but at the moment he is finishing up some house renovations. We look forward to our brand new kitchen!

Erin returned to teaching in February after finishing treatments for breast cancer. She was diagnosed with another cancer in June (colon cancer) and has undergone treatments for that as well. She is doing very well despite all of this and continues teaching and keeping busy.

Christopher (22) began an apprenticeship as an electrician in September which he has enjoyed. Just recently has been given a job placement where he will continue his training.

Matthew (19) began working full time evening hours at a Loblaws warehouse in town. During the day, he has been a great help to Nick with the renovations.

Thomas (17) is in grade 12. He has also been working at a local Food Basics and also as a lifeguard/ swim instructor at the local pool.

Simon (15) is in grade 10. This fall he joined the school football team which he really enjoyed.



Elizabeth (13) is in grade 8 and is looking forward to going to Rez for high school next fall.

Katherine (9) is in grade 4 this year. She is enjoying school as well as her music and swim lessons.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Kousek-Halberty Family

How can it be that another year has passed, and we are yet again on the cusp of Christmas! In some ways this has been a busy year, full of transitions and new beginnings.

Megan Grace began her working career in January, after graduating York last December. In May Megan moved out and has moved in with Corey, creating home together and are very happy.



The Kousek-Halberty Family

(They can tell you more about this new chapter in their life) We are very proud of the young woman Megan has blossomed into, and love that we stay closely connected.

Joshua graduated high school and started university in September, studying Criminology. The joke is, he will either graduate as a lawyer or a criminal. He has transitioned well, making new friends and enjoying his studies. While he still lives at home, he is mostly out either working as a lifeguard and swim instructor, or chilling with his friends. However, he also spends much of his time with his faithful companion, Willow, and jamming with his music playing electric guitar so our home is filled with LOUD music, but at least it is good music!

Peter began a whole new project at the river this summer. Finally, after forever, we now have a modern outdoor washroom facility. Peter led the building project which most people were happy to pitch in to with tools, time, and lots of teamwork. The excitement was shared by everyone as we have finally arrived in the 21st century at the river.

Colette is now working as Director of Development & Communications with Moorelands Kids. She is loving her new role, and thriving with new challenges. Finding balance is always important, and so making time to stay active, connect with friends and enjoy quality dates with Peter have become more of a priority this year.

Earlier in the summer Colette and Peter enjoyed a week away in Magog, Quebec. It was such a beautiful location for biking,

kayaking, swimming and hiking. Definitely a destination to enjoy the great outdoors, which was complemented by being with good friends.

May blessings of faith, family and friendships be yours to enjoy this Christmas, and into the New Year.



The Kraay Family



Emma Klaas Mary Beth Jacob

The Kraay Family had an eventful year with lots of transitions. Emma (12) graduated from Grade 6 at Downtown Alternative School and started middle school at Queen Alexandra in the Extended French Program. She is loving it and says, "Life is great!" Jacob (9) also switched schools this September, beginning French Immersion at Dundas Public School, right beside Emma's new school. Jacob says, 'J'aime la récréation!' Mary Beth also started a new position at newly renamed Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson). She moved into the role of Graduate Program Administrator in the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing and is enjoying the transition to a new Faculty, working with Nursing and Urban Health students. Klaas continued in his position in the Philosophy Department. This fall he taught the largest course of his career: 1600 students. On the home front, the year was consumed by a large renovation: they added a new bathroom to the main floor and a separate apartment on the third floor. The building permit was closed in December, marking the end of a noisy and dusty era.

The Halferty/Martel Family

The Halferty/Martels are still living in Ottawa where they enjoy the outdoors and regular festivities. Lesley is writing for preschool television, JF continues to work on his podcast, Weird Studies (www.weirdstudies.com), and is teaching regular online courses as well as working on a new book, and Delphine (12) and Fiona (10) are loving school and time with friends. All four of them wish you a capital (get it?!) Christmas, and hope the New Year brings health and happiness.



Delphine

Fiona



J.F.

Lesley

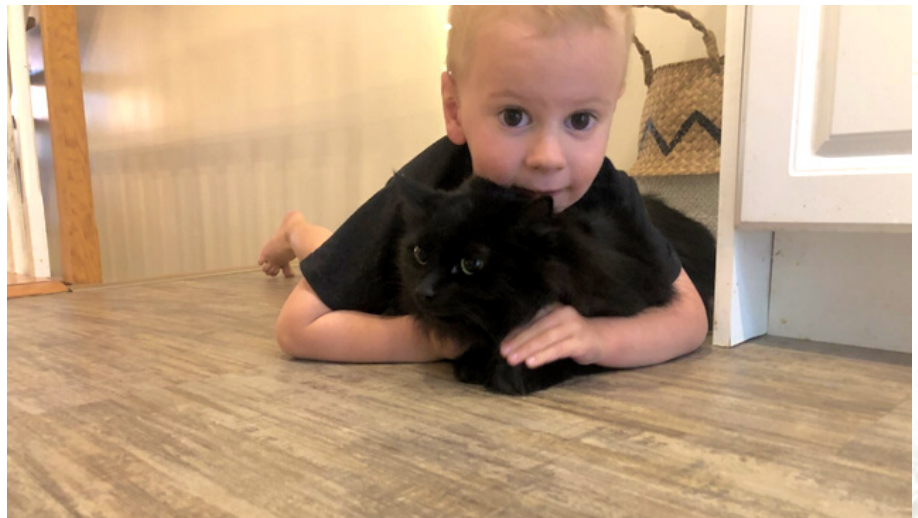
The Halberty/Iraci Family

Every year is eventful with a toddler, but this year they were lucky enough to reconnect with family in Buffalo, NY after a nearly two year border closure. Ansel (3 in January) experienced a lot of firsts, like speaking in full sentences and indoor dining. He is asking an average of 4,000 questions a day now, is extremely active on his balance bike, and trying hard to make friends with his cats. All are happy and healthy still live in Toronto. Jess and Mike continue to work for the City of Toronto in Forestry. Jess continues to paint (www.jessicairaci.com) and Mike is attempting to teach Ansel chords on guitar.

From our family to yours:
all the best in 2023!



Mike Ansel Jess



End of the year notes by Brian

After more than 2 ½ years of living in a pandemic, Mary Lou and I started 2022 isolated in our apartment. Because Mary Lou's PSW came down with COVID-19 on New Year's Eve, having been with us the previous day and given the health protocols that were in place at the time, that meant we had to self-isolate for 14 days. Neither of us had COVID, but we had potentially been in contact with someone who was infected. So, a big scary sign was posted on our apartment door warning people to steer clear; and a supply of masks, gowns, gloves, etc. were put inside our apartment for any staff or health care visitors to make use of when they entered. It was a bit funny, in a way. One unfortunate result was that I had to cancel out of doing the music at the January funeral for Diane Gallagher, Pat's wife, which I had agreed to do. Pat and Di were members of our Sunday community.

For most of the rest of the year we weren't really bothered by COVID. In late October, both of us got our 5th COVID vaccination shots – 3rd booster, the "covalent" variety. Then, on November 27, I tested positive for COVID-19, which complicated what was then already a difficult situation. About 10 days earlier, Mary Lou experienced a serious downturn in her health, which ultimately saw her being admitted to St. Michael's Hospital on November 24th. I spent a lot of time visiting her in the hospital, as did our kids and their spouses, but I felt very unwell on the morning of Nov. 27, and a rapid COVID test showed me to be positive. Because we live in a seniors' building, I was asked to self-isolate for 10 days, which meant, no visiting the hospital, no leaving the apartment in fact. This was hard for both me and Mary Lou, not being able to see each other during this time.

While in hospital, Mary Lou's condition improved a little bit, but ultimately the decision was made to apply for placement in Long Term Care. She is currently in a transitional care bed awaiting an opening in a Long Term Care home. The biggest blessing in all if it has been the strength of our family, and the way in which our kids and their families have surrounded us with love and support through this process.



End of the year notes by Brian

On an entirely different plateau, an important and memorable happening took place at the River, in Flinton, Ontario, this summer. Under the management and general-contractor-ship of our son Peter, a new building was constructed. It's known as a "Bunkie", and comes delivered in pre-fab form. Various members of the family helped Pete put it together, roof it, put the stain on



it, etc. And in that little building we now have, wonder of wonders, a flush toilet. More is to come. The toilet will eventually have a sink to go with it in one room of the building, and in the second room there will eventually be a shower. Woo-hoo!

It reminds me of listening years ago to the musical "Oklahoma," in which there is the song, "Everything's up to date in Kansas City." Flinton isn't Kansas City, but it's sure starting to be up to date.

At the beginning of the summer, Mary Lou and I acquired a used wheelchair accessible van which gave us the ability to transport Mary Lou to various places in her power wheelchair. This included her traveling in her chair, in the van, up to the River a couple of times. We didn't have very long visits this summer, but we were able to go at the beginning and end of the season and spend time with many of our family.



End of the year notes by Brian

August 19th of 2022 was my 80th birthday. I can't believe it – 80 is such a large number. On August 20th the family had a birthday party for me, and our granddaughter Emma said to me, "Grandpa Brian, how does it feel to be 80?" I answered, "I don't really know. It only happened yesterday." Here are some pictures from the party.



Our love continues, and the love of our family continues to hold us. May God's Spirit grant us peace. And peace also to all of you.

End of the year notes by Mary Lou

We want, as we do each year, to offer you Christmas blessings. In many ways it's much harder to write this year than last. Things are in flux and keep changing as we try to find a way forward. I am, it seems, losing my abilities and health, and am trying to come to terms with that. But we can't be totally down on ourselves either, as these things happen to so many people over many years. We've been gratified by all those who have sent us their love and affection -- especially Mary Ann, who in a moment of grace, held out her hand and filled me with peace. We have to have faith that we'll make it through, and all the support and prayers that have been offered us have kept us strong. A few weeks ago I was struggling with what prayer meant to me, and I realized that prayer is not so much thoughts and remembrances but the knowing that God is eternally available. Even in a situation that doesn't make a lot of sense, we strive to find God's grace in everything, and find it strongest in our friendships and family. Please continue to pray. We wish you a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.



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