



# From Beyond The Pond



2004 Edition

The Mallinsons, 187 Altamira Rd., Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada, L4C 4C6

Dear All,

Well, this year has brought its usual joys and problems.

**James** finally graduated with his Architecture degree in August, and the graduation ceremony was held in October. He shares an apartment in Toronto, and is half of a two-man firm that conducts environmental assessments of buildings. This was to be an 8-month contract, but James has been finding that the work is not as interesting as he had hoped (being largely data entry on the computer), and has been trying to decide whether or not to complete the contract. His latest thoughts are that he should stay and help his boss to organize his office better.



While still at university, James developed his love of cycling, and on some weekends cycled to see a friend at a farm some 100 km from Waterloo. His new flat mate is a cycling enthusiast, though in a different league (owning a number of expensive bicycles), so James may get into this more seriously next summer. In his spare time, James has been enjoying the cultural facilities of Toronto, including taking a modern dance class.

**Rebecca** also graduated with her honours English degree in April, and her graduation ceremony was in June. Having been away from home for nearly two years, she moved back in with us, and is working part time at Seneca College as an ESL tutor (English as a second language). From January, she will probably be working four days a week at the college. In the meantime, Rebecca is investigating taking another

degree, probably in a science subject, at a different university. She has been looking up programs on the Internet, including one at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

In July, Rebecca went off to Chicoutimi in Quebec for a five-week course in French on a bursary at the local university campus. As part of it, she was required to stay with a French-speaking family, and to speak French at all times, even on the phone to us. While there, she took part in various cultural trips and activities, including a trip by boat to see whales in the St. Lawrence estuary.



**Chris** was attending a video and film production program at Confederation College in Thunder Bay from September of last year, but two weeks into the program he fell ill, and never seemed to be able to get better. He flew home for Christmas, got better, but was soon ill again when he returned to Thunder Bay. By March, he had had enough, and flew home, sending all his belongings back by courier. We believe that he was allergic to something in the environment at the residence in Thunder Bay. Since he got back, Chris has been working at roofing again, and in his spare time was working with an international group on the Internet, developing a computer game as an entry in a contest.

Soon after he got back from Thunder Bay, Chris was invited by a friend's family to accompany them on a trip to Scotland and Cyprus in July. He and his friend, Fergus, extended the trip by a few days with a visit to Nice and Paris by themselves.

While in Cyprus, Chris and Fergus rented motor scooters on two occasions and got to see some of the countryside. On the second trip, Chris took a corner too fast and ended up falling off the scooter at 60 kph, badly scraping the back of his shoulder and his arm. Fergus' mother, who used to be a nurse, insisted that he go and swim in the sea to clean the wound, an unenviable experience. However, as a result, he does not have significant scarring.

**Sue** is still involved with the Canadian Federation of University Women, but has managed to shed the job of membership secretary this year. Consequently, she is enjoying the social occasions and outings without the hassles of being any kind of organizer. Sue is continuing to tutor a number of students each week, which helps to keep her mind active.

**I (David)** continue to manage projects for QLogitek. The latest project has involved the development of a web-based new item submission system for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, a government-controlled near-monopoly that handles the vast majority of wine and spirit sales in Ontario. It has been a difficult project, as the scope expanded far beyond what we had been led to believe, and we are developing it at a fixed price. In its usual way, QLogitek is not paying its contractors until it has received payment from the LCBO, so I am still owed for work done from June onwards.

**Mother and Anne** are still managing to live on their own, supporting each other considerably. At the end of April, Mother fell and broke her wrist in three places, which caused us some considerable concern. However, family in England (Pat, Archie and Ruth) rallied around, and helped to ensure that she was taken care of, and received the necessary support. Sue and I visited Otley in July, assured ourselves that the two of them were able to cope, and organized various financial matters. Mother's wrist is still somewhat stiff, and likely won't ever regain its former flexibility.

## The Bowes Family

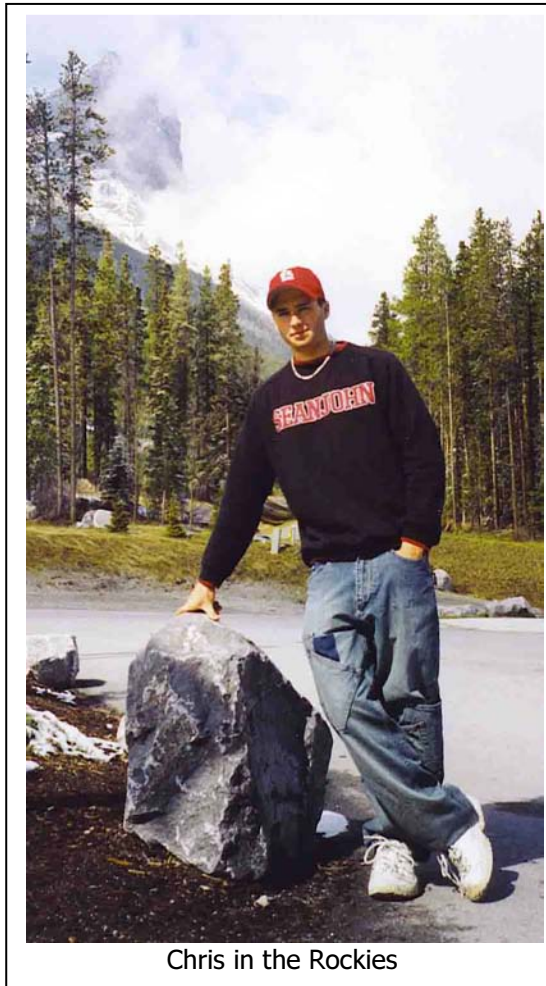
Libby and Bill continue to enjoy their life in Canmore, Alberta, though this year has been marred for Libby by her painfully deteriorating hip. She now has to walk with the aid of canes and a walker, and is on the list for a hip replacement within the next few months. Bill is keeping busy driving a tourist bus, frequently with Japanese tourists who see the whole of North America in one week.

Dan and Jill's family continue to keep them busy, with Morgan now being 3 and the twins being 21 months. Libby and Bill visit them in Sault Ste. Marie several times a year. In fact, they are there as I write.

Sue and I have made the drive up to the Soo in March and November this year to visit them and give them a break from the children if possible.

The main event in the Bowes family this year has been Lisa's wedding to Mark Matulis, which took place in Canmore, Alberta in May. Apart from the wedding itself, we hosted a bridal shower for Lisa in April, which forced us to undertake a renovation of our upstairs bathroom and redecoration of the downstairs one. Consequently the house was in a turmoil for several weeks. The shower went off well, despite the fact that Chris crashed our car at 2:00 a.m. that morning, leaving us without our own transport for several days while it was repaired to the tune of several thousand dollars.

The wedding itself went off very



Chris in the Rockies

well, with many extended family members making the trek out west to attend.

The program included a barbecue at a hotel in Canmore two days before the wedding, and a day of free time in which James went skiing with a couple



of extended family members, and the rest of the Mallinson family drove up to the very picturesque Spray valley and made our way to the spot at the Kananaskis Lakes where Sue and I started our 100-mile hike through the Rockies in 1976. The wedding ceremony took place in a small wooden church in Canmore, with the mountains imposing themselves on every side. The reception was at the Banff golf course club house, situated in a natural bowl surrounded by mountains. Although we had two inches of wet snow fall on the night we arrived, the day of the wedding itself was fine and sunny, with warm temperatures. Lisa and Mark both looked radiant and happy. Afterwards they took their honeymoon in Malta.



Before the summer was over, Lisa and Mark decided to move out west, with Lisa taking a job at the CTV station in Calgary, covering sports in the newscasts. Mark has not been as fortunate, and is still looking for significant employment, though he has done some minor jobs as a cameraman.

## Velcro

Our dog is no more, having gone downhill in the last year of his life owing to his pancreas, thyroid and kidney problems. Soon after we returned from the wedding in May, we were forced to have him put down. He was 10 years old, an average age for a Jack Russell terrier. His



ashes are now buried at the cottage, where he experienced the most freedom. One of his favourite occupations there was to paddle around for hours in the shallows, trying to catch minnows. This may have contributed to his demise, as he contracted the giardia parasite (common in beavers and Canada geese) two or

three years ago, and his pancreas was damaged as a result.

## Events

The wedding out west was our major event this year (covered elsewhere).

Other than that, Sue and I spent a week in England in July. During the time that we were there, the Old Peterites held their commemoration dinner at St. Peter's School, and they were encouraging old pupils who left the school in 1954, 1964, 1974 etc. to attend. Sue and I took the opportunity to attend, and I was delighted to meet up with people I had not seen for up to 40 years, including Peter Semper (who was in my first house in St. Olaves in 1954/55), Peter Emsley, John Ruddock, Richard Harding, and, of course, Bill Hudson, who I have seen much more frequently. Also attending was Robert Harding (Richard's father), who was my house master from 1959 to 1964, and who is now in his 90's. I greatly enjoyed the conversation and getting up to date with each other's lives.

## Cottage Life

There is not a lot to report on this front. We were unable to take any further significant vacation time following our visit to England, but we did manage to spend most weekends at the cottage, pursuing the usual occupations of swimming, canoeing and sailing, and visiting with Libby and Bill across the lake.

We undertook no renovations or projects this year, but next year our priority will be to paint both the cottage and the boat house. This is something that we have been putting off for years, but which we really must address.

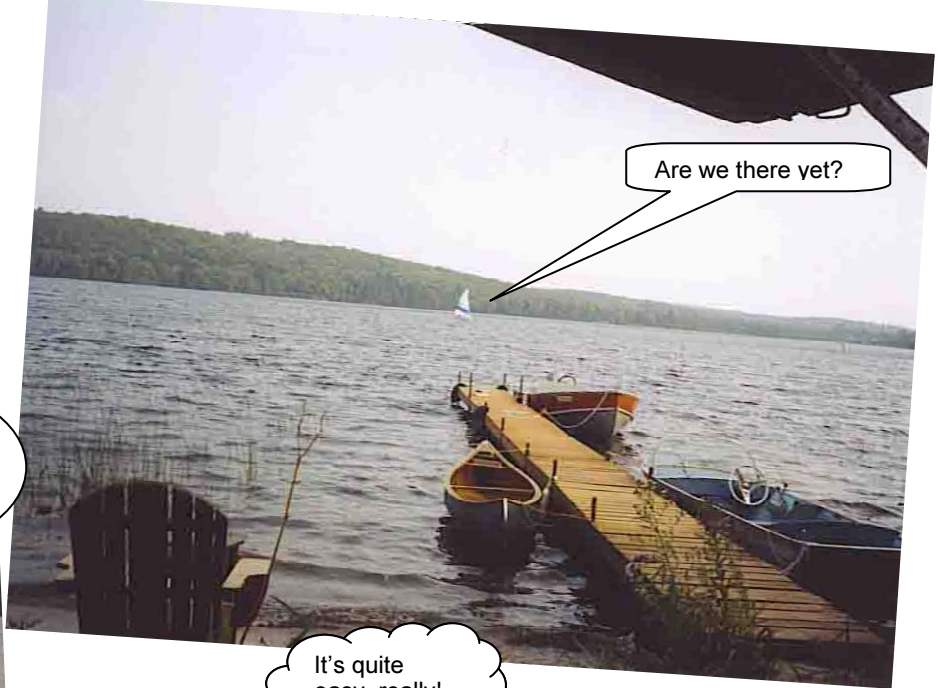
Though, strictly speaking, not associated with the cottage, we have been looking at building lots in Huntsville, the nearest town, with the idea of building a home for our retirement there within the next few years. We thought that we had found a suitable lot on the hill behind Huntsville, and were quite keen about it. The back third of it is bedrock, however, and our builder friend (Paul Knight) advised us that there are water runoff problems from the rock which are affecting various houses on the street, and that the remaining two thirds of the lot which is not rock is too small to build a 3-bedroom bungalow. As there are very few unencumbered building lots in Huntsville, we will have to think again about what we want to do.

Well, I've run out of space, so we wish you all a merry Christmas, and a prosperous and happy new year.

*David, Sue, James, Rebecca and Christopher.*



Quick Dad!  
We're running  
out of lake!



Are we there yet?



It's quite  
easy, really!