

# From Beyond The Pond

2012 Edition

The Mallinsons, Orillia, Ontario, Canada

## Dear All,

The McKay Christmas Party took place on Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup>, which spurred me into action to write our annual letter before Christmas arrived. Because of certain other events, however, I am now writing it a few days after Christmas.

## James and Elsa:

Our major news is, of course, James and Elsa's wedding on August 18<sup>th</sup>. The wedding at the Sharon Temple went exceptionally well, and James and Elsa both looked very happy. The day was neither too hot nor too cold; it was just as ordered. The honeymoon will be in the spring, when James and Elsa will visit Italy. Both of them spent a term in Rome (separately) during their University of Waterloo studies, and want to see more of that country.

Andrew (Elsa's dad) made some comment about it not being like an Indian wedding that goes on for three or four days, but I remarked that it was not far off, with the rehearsal and dinner on the Thursday, a Lam family-hosted dinner on Friday, the wedding and reception on Saturday, and then dim sum at lunch on Sunday with all the Lam family from various parts of the world. This was followed by a very pleasant two-day visit to Vincent Lam's cottage on Christian Island (Vincent is Elsa's brother). By the time all this was over, we were happy to go and relax at our own cottage for a few days.



James moved to Montreal in February to join Elsa there, and has since been taking a number of courses to improve his spoken and written French. Later in the year, Elsa got a job back in Toronto as editor of the Canadian Architect magazine, and has been commuting to Toronto each week for the past month. The two of them will be moving back to Toronto in February. They have been looking for (and have just found) an apartment, and James will be looking for a job to come back to.

As was the case at the time of last year's Christmas letter, **Rebecca** is still living in Toronto in a two-bedroom apartment. However, this past year she has had a new roommate, Emily: a recovering American from Indiana who does French-English translation work. The major news for Rebecca this year is that she finally submitted her major research paper for her master's degree in Environmental Studies at the end of November, meaning she will defend her paper in a general exam in January. Other accomplishments this year included organizing a 250+ person march in support of the victims of a string of sexual assaults in the nearby Christie Pits neighbourhood, organizing a free self-defense workshop for women in the Christie Pits neighbourhood, and completing her Zumba Fitness instructor's training. At the end of October, Rebecca also entered her first 5K race, and was pleased to

finish 23rd out of 455 participants (all women), with a time of 24 mins, 20 secs. Unfortunately, her penchant for fitness has not prevented her from gaining back all the weight she lost for James' wedding in August. (Complete lack of self-restraint with respect to Christmas desserts may be a contributing factor).

In the absence of other work, **Chris** was doing roofing this last summer, but has been trying to branch out in other directions. He took a voice acting course, obtained an agent, and prepared a voice demo. The demo can be found at

[www.soundcloud.com/chrismallinson](http://www.soundcloud.com/chrismallinson).

With his friend from college he has also registered a business to make mobile phone applications.

Chris was James's best man and master of ceremonies at his wedding, a role which he carried off with flair.

Having lived in a house with two friends for the past two years, Chris is now moving back into the downtown core to the same apartment that he shared with his friend Sean three years ago, in order to be closer to the action. Unfortunately, a few weeks before Christmas Chris cut his hand badly in a kitchen accident, and ended up having surgery on it to re-attach the nerve in his finger. As he was due to move to the new apartment by the end of December, Mum and Dad had to come down and give a hand (his own being out of commission!) to paint his new room, move some of his belongings, and transport him from the hospital after day surgery. The whole family was on duty again to complete the move by the end of the month.

**Sue** is handling membership duties (including the development of a printed membership directory) for her Canadian Federation of University Women chapter, which seems to have occupied many of her hours this fall.

In the Spring, she attended the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion celebration at her old high school, North Toronto Collegiate Institute, and celebrated into the early hours of the morning at a gala dinner for former



students while David amused himself back in our hotel room.

Also in the Spring, Sue enjoyed meeting up with her three friends from university, Bonnie, Margaret and Gail, when Gail came north to Canada for a flying visit.

I, **David**, am handling membership for our Probus club, and have continued to develop the club's web site. In April and October, I organized theatre outings for the club to Whitby and Niagara-on-the-Lake, both of which were well appreciated by the participants.

As far as our house is concerned, I have re-decorated our spare bed-room and laid hardwood flooring in it. Early in the new year we are having hardwood put down over the rest of the second floor (to do it myself would mean being in a constant state of upheaval!), and over the winter, I intend to redecorate all the remaining rooms. I have also redecorated our en suite bathroom, and replaced the toilet in our main floor powder room.

I am also developing another web site, but will say more about that in next year's newsletter, if and when the site comes to fruition.

### Happenings:

With the wedding taking place in August, we have not been inclined to travel at all this year, but have enjoyed a lot of

time at the cottage, participating in the usual cottage pursuits. We have made no renovations whatsoever there this year, but just enjoyed lazing around.

The **Bowes** family was all in Toronto in August for the wedding, and we were able to see them at the cottage afterwards as well. All four grandchildren continue to grow alarmingly fast, and the first, Morgan, will be in her teens very soon.

We hope you all have a healthy and prosperous 2013, with best wishes from

**David, Sue, James, Elsa, Rebecca and Chris.**



Sue at Huntsville lookout



Neanderthal floor layer



University friends - Margaret, Sue, Gail and Bonnie



The Sharon Temple (see <http://www.sharontemple.ca/>)



After the wedding ceremony



Three cousins - Margot, Rebecca and Zandra



Lake Simcoe in Winter



Paige, Rachel and Morgan of the Bowes & Matulis families



Ready for the Tea Ceremony



In Orillia's Tudhope Park – New Year's Day, 2013  
Kite skier on Lake Couchiching



Dan, Devin and Bill – three generations of the Bowes Family  
Fall at the cottage

