

December 2021

Dear Family & Friends,

I'm sitting here thinking 'what can I say for 2021?' Waldy and I have spent most of our time together at home, occasionally driving to Waterton to go cross country skiing, kayaking or just wandering around town. Our last kayak adventure was quite memorial as we had 6 black bear sightings. One even swam towards where we had beached for lunch and scrambled around us as fast as he could possibly go. He was more afraid of us.



Waldy's Dad passed away this past June so Waldy went to Germany for his funeral. Papa was 95 years old and the last stroke he had resulted in a real poor quality of life, so it is good that he is no longer suffering. That was an experience in itself traveling during covid. Going there was not so bad but returning was a whole other story as he came back at the end of June and had to undergo the mandatory quarantine 3-day hotel stay in Toronto, then 11 days at home. My Dad is also 95 and still at home. He's amazing. Mum is still in the nursing home in Belleville, Ontario. Viviane and Larry are both well, as

is my son, Tom, and his family.

I didn't travel at all this year. Good thing we have telephone, email, text, and skype. It sure will be nice to be able to give proper hugs again. We had our vaccinations and wear masks everywhere we go. We are so lucky to be living out here on 12 acres where we can be outside as much as we like.

The weather has been very unusual for us (climate change has hit). We had a really hot, dry summer, and a very warm autumn. Up until December 3 and we only had 2 snow storms. No precipitation at all in November. Finally, it snowed on December 4 & 5. We put up a snow fence this year. So far only the wind storms have beaten them up. There has been a lot of wind this autumn, incredible speeds, up over 100km/hour. Did us a favour knocking down some of the dead trees.



Moxie is still giving us lots of enjoyment. She is very entertaining and has a great personality and disposition. She's 13 this year. I call her my shadow as she follows me all around the house and cuddles up on my lap whenever she gets a chance. She's got us wrapped around her little paw.



Our vegetable garden wasn't the best due to the hot and dry summer. We had a hail storm just when it was started to come along. Most of the stuff recovered but the peas and kale didn't. Some things just didn't germinate well, like the lettuce, only had 4 plants! We still have commercial bee hives

so it's nice having so many bees around and surprisingly they don't bother us. We also get 4 buckets of delicious honey every year!

Our resident Great Horned Owl's had 2 owlets. As usual it was fun watching them grow up. You can check their progress at <https://lifeon12acres.com/great-horned-owl/2021-great-horned-owl/>



Every so often we are delighted to view the aurora borealis even way down south here at the Canada/US border. To our naked eye they are white but my camera manages to capture them green. I shoot them at 30 second exposure, f8, iso 1600. I haven't figured out how to take a movie of them yet.

I am totally retired now. I shut down Moxie Web Design on December 31, 2020. My clients weren't too happy but it was time for them to get some new blood involved and they did as some of them have some really nice new web sites. I still have my Life on 12 Acres and Southern Adventures blogs. If you want to know what we're up to, all you have to do is subscribe to the blog and you will receive an email whenever I put up a new posting. (<https://lifeon12acres.com> & <https://theknudellers.com>). Subsequently we have new email addresses, mine is mb@lifeon12acres.com and Waldy's is wb@lifeon12acres.com .

Waldy is still delighted to be in retirement. We keep ourselves busy looking after our 12 acres. How did we have time to work? Summer is always busier with lawn mowing, weeding, weed wacking, watering, etc.. winter's just moving snow. We do take time for our various hobbies!

We finally got around to getting new shingles on our roof. Waldy was worried about them when we had those severe wind storms but they stayed put. They used to be gray, now they are brownish red which matches the house better.



From our house to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Let's hope next year will be closer to normal, whatever that is 😊 Stay healthy.

Love Marlène
Waldy and Moxie too!!

