



Trangeled's in Canada



Newsletter No. 10 - December 2004

As much as we intend to write our newsletters on a regular basis, time seems to evade us more and more, so for the first time, this has become our annual newsletter, with events from the last year in Canada.

This year we have experienced the sadness of losing parents. In March Jesper's dad passed away rather suddenly but peacefully at the age of 87, so Jesper returned to Denmark for the funeral and to be with his Mum and family. Now his Mum is alone in the Plejehjem (Home) where she and his Dad had moved into a year ago.

In July, Julia's Mum also passed away at the age of 89. Unlike with Jesper's Dad, we did have knowledge of this from the hospital and so Julia was able to go to England at the beginning of July to be with her Mum during the last two weeks. Her children did round the clock shifts looking after her at home until she died peacefully with her 3 children beside her. Julia spent 3 weeks in total there and was thankful to have had the time with her Mum, not just then but also in May when she visited for her Mum's 89 birthday celebration.

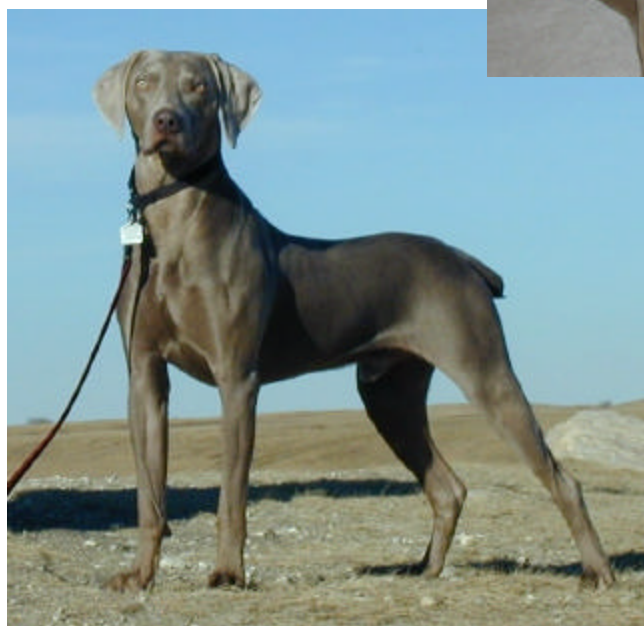
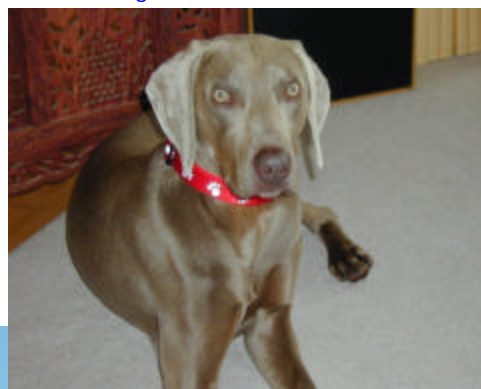
Both Jesper and Julia were so glad that they and Steffen had spent last Christmas and New Year in Denmark after a brief visit in England to join Julia who had been there for a week, so they had all seen and spent time together, not knowing that it would be the last with two of them.

Understandably, holidays were not on the cards this year as so much time was spent in England and Denmark during these difficult months. Julia was away for the entire Calgary Stampede in July and Jesper did not take part in the Parade, although he did attend the Stampede events once or twice.

Trades and Acquisitions

We have made some changes and additions to our family this year.

First of all in August, after much pressure from both Jesper and



Steffen, we finally agreed to get another dog and we went to a breeder a few hours from here to see a one year old Weimaraner. Needless to say, we left there with the dog and now have this large, rather strong, male dog whom we renamed Plato. He is now 15 months old and has settled down in

his new home, although is still very much a puppy. We have started obedience training with him which is a challenging experience, to say the least.

Soon after that, we traded in our beautiful and luxurious Grand Cherokee Jeep for the next love of Jesper's life - a monstrous truck! It is a



heavy duty Dodge Ram, more useful for pulling a horse trailer (at least that's the reason he gave). Now he really looks the typical cowboy part, clothes, horse, dog and truck! All we need now is the ranch - no, we are not going there!

Well, that left Julia having to drive this huge truck to work every day and negotiating the multi-storey parkade which was a feat in itself. She was always thinking that if her Mum could see her driving this thing, she would laugh so much.

Anyway, Julia then figured it was her turn, so after 4 years of managing with one car, she bought a 2000 Honda Civic. The idea was to buy a car to use for about a year and then turn it over to Steffen, so it was a joint venture with the two of them deciding on a car that suited them both. The most



important thing was to get a car with manual gears - not that easy here - as they both agreed that he should learn to drive "properly". He is actually doing very well so far, but he will take a formal driving course soon and hopefully pass his driving exam. He has had his provisional license since he was 14, but we never had a car suitable for him to drive before now.

Jesper has been lucky with his job so far and has had continual contracts through his agency to IBM. Happily they are very busy again and Jesper is again Team Lead on his project. He is very content with the situation there and likes his co-workers. A busy job has meant little time to be an extra in the movies shot here this year and Jesper has only agreed to go on a few.

In August he also had to take time out, for health reasons. An acute appendicitis caused a few days of pain, a little trip to the hospital, where they ripped out the offending Appendix, and a few days to recover (mostly to get the attention, caring and sympathy)

Riding is still at the forefront of Jesper's activities and he once again went on the annual pilgrimage to join the spring cattle drive in May and again in October to bring the cattle back down the mountain. Each time it seems to get longer and is now a 4-5 day trip even though the cattle drive is 1-2 days - it takes time to settle in you know. Any excuse for a party!



Julia's job continues to occupy the five days between the busy weekends, but she does actually like her job immensely which helps - though a shorter work week would be even better.

She is, of course, still hiking whenever possible, usually once at the weekend and one evening urban hike. The weather is so changeable and challenging as it gets further into winter and at the beginning of November she went on a hike where there was so much snow, they should have taken their snowshoes, but one week later she was on a hike where they lay sunbathing on top of the mountain in T-shirts. Now, as December approaches, we are snowshoeing (which she loves) and cross-country skiing more than hiking.



At the beginning of August, Julia went on her first backpacking trip on the Ice Line Trail in Yoho National Park,



where they slept in a historic hut. It was a beautiful hike past several glaciers, which are sadly receding more and more each year.



In September Julia went on a two night hiking trip to Lake O'Hara in Jasper National Park. The first



night was spent in a tent, but there was so much snow that everyone was wet and cold all day and night, so most of them came home the next day.

Apart from hiking, Julia has been taking Plato to obedience training one evening each week and is now getting back to the gym a couple of times a week after work, as that really took a back seat over the summer months.

Julia and Jesper took part in an overnight canoe trip with the hiking club, for the second year. This time they canoed down the Red Deer River in the badlands. Overnight was spent in a tent by the river's edge where they had a wonderful potluck feast for dinner and breakfast.



Steffen is now in the last year in High School and would like to stay here and go to the University of Calgary. So far it looks like he will be taking a physics or engineering degree, his biggest strength clearly being physics.

He is heavily into bike trials – a specially configured bike with no seat – on which they



jump on and off objects and generally spend most time on one wheel.

In 2004, we had only one visit and that was from Lillian and Jesper from Denmark. They are the parents of our next door neighbors in Sengeløse



whom we had met before. They spent a week with us, after spending a week in Ontario. While they were with us, they rented a truck and spent some days traveling around the area. Their destination was Jasper, which is approx 4 hours drive away, but even

allowing for a night stay in Banff (1 hour away) they did not manage to get even half way to Jasper. There was just too much to see and too many places to stop and enjoy the scenery - halfway to Jasper in 4 days is not too bad! They arrived home to us here in Calgary, very hungry. They just could not find anywhere to stop for dinner on the way home. Later we found out that they had been driving down main street Canmore, where there are approx. 100 restaurants.

Jesper (DK) loved to drive the truck, and provided some "interesting" moments on the first trip out with Jesper (CA).

Julia took them around one day on a city trip and Jesper took them to a rodeo event in a small town nearby, which totally mesmerized both visitors.

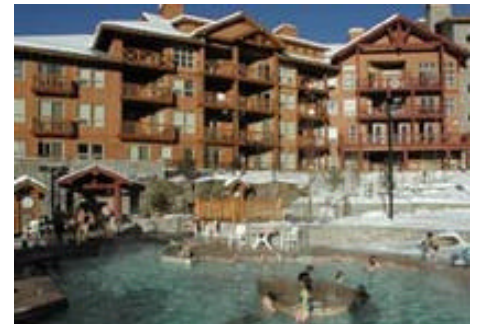


We have now applied for Canadian Citizenship, but this process takes about a year, so we are still awaiting a date for our knowledge test on Canada and then our swearing in ceremony. More on that in our next newsletter.

This year has been very unusual weather-wise and we have had some miserable wet weather most of the summer except for July. It has been like being back in northern Europe much of the time. The upside to this is that we have not had nearly so many forest fires.

Well, the ski resorts are now open and it is time to think about skiing. We have also been thinking about some kind of holiday, so we decided to combine the two and have booked a 4 day trip over New Year to Panorama Mountain Resort in British Columbia, about 3 hours drive from here.

We have been there before and loved it, so this time we have booked the most luxurious accommodation in the main building, which overlooks the



hot pools, ski slopes and mountains. We are always so disappointed with New Year's Eve here and after last year when we experienced all the fireworks and celebrations again in Copenhagen, we thought this would be a good way to spend New Year 2004. We have booked a special celebration dinner at a fancy restaurant there, with champagne and fireworks at midnight. We have yet to convince Steffen to come with us as he would like to spend New Year with his friends, but as we have booked a one-bedroom apartment, he can still change his mind and be included nearer the date.

So, that just about brings us up to date. As always we hope this Newsletter finds you in good health and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2005. Please send us news.

