

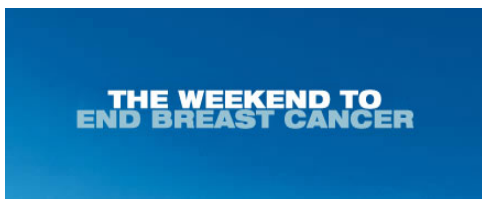


Trangeled's in Canada



Newsletter No. 11 - August 2005

Well, we're getting better as it has only been 6 months since our last newsletter, but so much has taken place in 2005 that we would never fit it into one newsletter, so here's a half yearly report to give you some summer reading.



In January Julia heard about the above event - a 60km walk through the streets of Calgary to raise money for the cause, taking place on 13-14 August. Immediately, she knew this was something special that she wanted to take part in and she registered as a participant. That meant months of training and fundraising. She was more concerned about raising the \$2,000 minimum required to take part, than about the actual walk of 30kms on two consecutive days, but she needn't have been concerned as so many amazing people sponsored her and donated money. She is now almost at \$3,000 with a week to go. Now she's worried about the walk!

It's one thing to walk 30kms on concrete in a day, but then after a night in a tent, she has to get up and do it all over again. Hope it's not too hot!

Read more about the event at www.endcancer.ca or visit her personal webpage on the official site at [Julia's personal page on endcancer.ca](#) before 13 Aug.

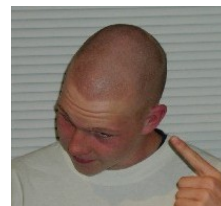


Shave a lid for a kid



He had purposely left his hair long for a while to make the shave more dramatic.

In June Steffen had his head shaved at school in the "Send a kid to camp" campaign and people sponsored him to do this. He



New Year and new acquaintances

You may remember that we booked our New Year holiday in the mountain resort of Panorama in BC. We arranged New Year's Eve dinner at a gourmet restaurant called the Earl Grey Lodge, owned by a young English couple, Phil and Clare. We sat at a table with their English friends, Gary and Cath and Phil's parents. After 3 delicious courses and a great deal of fun and laughter, about 12 of us walked over to our apartment to watch the fireworks at 9pm. Our balcony directly overlooked the ski slope where the fireworks were



launched, so we had a spectacular show, after which we returned to the restaurant for the second half of the Chef's culinary extravaganza (plus more fun, laughter and musical appreciation). We have kept in touch with both our hosts and the other people, so at the beginning of April we returned as Gary and Cath were also going to be there. This time we stayed at the Earl Grey Lodge which is also a high-class B&B. Clare and Phil decided to take a break from most of the restaurant duties and we all had a wonderful dinner and evening together (apparently we all like good wine!).

A small piece of British Columbia

In March, we (Jesper, Julia and Steffen) spent a weekend in Fairmont, a natural hot springs mineral spa resort about a half hour from Panorama. We bought a timeshare at the Golf Resort, not that we intend to use our apartment there, but they have luxury houseboats and mobile homes, both of which we are interested in using in the next couple of years. In addition we got 5 weeks in a resort in Hawaii at a very cheap rate and will probably go there also. We called in at Panorama to have a day of skiing on our way home and to visit Phil and Clare.

A visit to Denmark and the end of an era

In early April Jesper decided to go back to Denmark to visit his Mum, so he went for a week and was happy to be able to spend time with her. This turned out to be a very good decision, as in early June she passed away peacefully in her sleep. We have lost 3 parents in just over a year and it has been hard, but we are also thankful that our parents all lived long, full lives.

Oh Canada!

On 19 April, almost as soon as Jesper was back here, he and Julia had an appointment to take the Citizenship Test - a written test to determine whether we know enough about Canada to become citizens. Apparently we do!

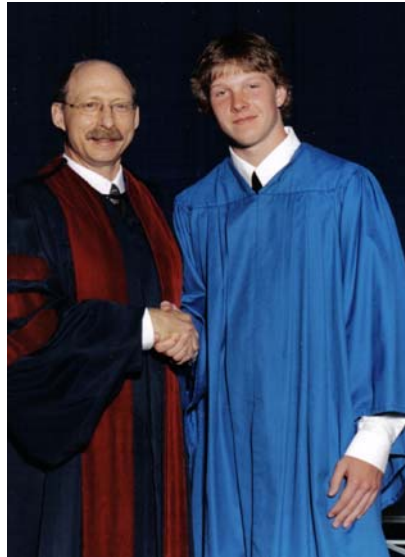
Soon afterwards we received notification of the Citizenship Ceremony and on 12 May, Jesper, Julia and Steffen, along with many others, stood and swore allegiance to Canada and to the Queen, sang the Canadian National Anthem, received our Certificate of Citizenship from a judge, shook hands with a Canadian Mountie and finally became Canadians. We then



celebrated by going out for lunch at a restaurant called "Oh Canada" and yes, this may be taking it too far, but hey, we're now proud Canadians Eh!

Graduation Congratulations

Bizarre as this seems to us, towards the end of May, Steffen officially graduated from High School, even though he did not sit the final exams until June - go figure! Graduation is based on successful completion of courses over the 3 years, not only the exam results. However, the exam results got Steffen early admission into the University of Calgary, towards a physics degree.



So, first there was the formal Graduation Ceremony one afternoon and the following evening we attended a formal Graduation Banquet for which we bought Steffen his first suit. He was thrilled to be so dressed up and we sat down to an evening of dinner, speeches and

a rather amusing slide show of all the graduates during their final year in school.

After the parents and guests went home, the students then had fun at their After Grad Party, the highlight of the whole affair. This started about 11pm at a different venue



and ended about 6am when the last ones were bussed home. Needless to say there were some sore heads the next day.



This is one of Steffen's school graduation photos, but they do not actually wear the mortar board for High School graduation.

A Family Affair

Towards the end of June, Jesper's sister Maria, her husband Steen and their 7 year old twins, Josefine and Simon, arrived for a 3 week visit to Canada. After a few days acclimatizing, they headed off for a trip to Banff, Lake Louise, Columbia Icefields, Jasper and finally West Edmonton Mall, the world's largest shopping mall. Here they spent a couple of days of fun in the amusement centre and the water park, while they stayed in the "Western" theme room of the Fantasyland Hotel within the mall where the twins slept in a jail!



Stampede 2005

After returning from their trip, everyone was busy getting ready for Stampede by buying their cowboy hats and gear. We took them downtown to attend the Stampede Parade which kicks-off the 10 day event. This meant leaving home at 6am to get a decent viewing spot along the roadside.

We managed to get to Stampede a couple of times and also got tickets to the evening races and show, a spectacular, if not expensive affair.

Well, soon after that, it was time for them to leave again, but hopefully they took back some souvenirs and many memories of their time with us.

Extreme Sports

Jesper and Steffen decided to try paragliding, so they took a one night course at the University and then a field trip to try out their newly acquired theoretical skills by running off a high hill and experiencing flight. They enjoyed it immensely, although the walk all the way back up again was not so thrilling, especially carrying the parachute and stuff.



Up Up and Away

Meanwhile Julia had her own plans on flight - in a balloon. Well over a year ago she had agreed to join a friend on a balloon flight over Calgary, but it never took off due to weather conditions, then on 31 July, they got the long awaited call at 5am to get out there



for their ride. They got the biggest, brightest balloon and away they went. It was awesome and although Julia had initially been nervous about it, she had to admit that not only was there no sense of height, but there was no sense of motion either. It's as if the ground just disappears. That's another experience now ticked off the "things to do in a lifetime" list.

Tonsils Be Gone

On 25 July, Steffen went into hospital for day surgery to have his tonsils and adenoids removed as they had been bothering him tremendously for a long time. Unfortunately, the healing process for adults is long and painful, so a happy camper he was not while living on jello and painkillers.

18th Congratulations

Steffen turned 18 on 2 August, but had still not recovered sufficiently to celebrate it, so we owe him a celebration party. A couple of days later, he turned the corner and started getting better very quickly and is now almost back to normal (whatever that is for a teenager).



Yet another milestone

On 27 July, we celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary. We originally intended to go away for a day or two, but we didn't want to leave Steffen so soon after his ordeal, so we went out to our favorite Greek restaurant for a delicious meal instead.

Here we are celebrating with a drink at the front of our house with the beautiful flower display sent to us by our Danish family.



Jesper and Julia

Jesper is still working as a freelance contractor for IBM and is very busy, but he enjoys the work. His contract expires at the end of August, so we hope he will be extended again or offered a permanent position there.

He is still riding, but his horse Chico has returned to the owner so he has now leasing a new horse, "Just about Blonde" or Blondie for short.

Julia is still hiking and is now back on the Executive committee of the hiking club, a job she could do without. She is leading her urban hikes every Wednesday evening and going on the more strenuous hikes at the weekends with the club.

Unfortunately she is also still working fulltime and although she loves her job, it is becoming busier all the time as more people join the facility. A 4-day week seems impossible right now, but hopefully a solution will be found soon, in the way of assistance.

5 years and counting

We have now lived here for 5 years (on 13 August) and in one respect it seems only like yesterday that we arrived, but at the same time we feel so much at home here that it is as though we have always been here.

Doggie trouble

In June our dog Plato got a reaction to some kind of bite and became 'bumpy' all over, after which his nose broke out with terrible sores. He was on antibiotics, then steroids and finally had a biopsy. We were very concerned, but eventually it healed up and his nose is now better, although a little scarred.



Freak weather in Southern Alberta

Lastly, a general piece of information.

June 2005 broke the record for being the wettest month ever recorded. It rained for almost the whole month and the rivers burst their banks, people were evacuated and many basements were completely under water. Several people lost their lives, the parks were closed and pathways, bridges and habitat destroyed. Some of them will never be the same again despite vast amounts of money to repair the damage.

Although the weather has improved since then, it is still unpredictable, with many more grey, overcast or rainy days than we have ever seen.

Well folks, that's it from the Calgary Cowboys (and Cowgirl).

As always, our very best wishes to you.
Jesper, Julia and Steffen

