

2005 Christmas News from the Browns

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New Home in White Rock

We have now been in our new home for a year and are really enjoying it. Having gone from an acre of grass



and a lawn tractor down to a 10 foot strip of grass and a push mower, time spent maintaining the "grounds" has been kept to a minimum. Added to the maintenance, however, are the tons of leaves that float down from tall Maple trees which permeate the green belt next

to our house. The trees are beautiful and, in the fall, the woods are filled with orange and gold but the leaves that fall in our yard are a pain to deal with. Canadian Tire came to the rescue once again when we acquired a leaf blower which dispenses with them more quickly than we could mow an acre of lawn. We added air conditioning in the spring which we really enjoyed when the weather got warm during summer.

Because of troubles in the East, Royal Heights decided to cancel the fall tours. That was a blessing in disguise because it gave us time to get oriented in the new neighbourhood and to do the little extra things around the house that needed doing before winter came.



40th Wedding Anniversary

We celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on February 12th of this year. Every milestone anniversary



in the past was celebrated with a big party or a special trip somewhere. This year we broke with tradition and opted for a quiet evening at our favourite restaurant at a golf course near where we live. Our friend Joseph was at the keyboard as he usually is on Friday and Saturday evenings and we had a quiet meal just celebrating the fact that we are among the 60.2% that still remain together after 30 years of marriage. Hell, just celebrating that we are still here !

Marilyn has made the decision to retire in December. After 45 years

of working for lawyers, she figures it is about time to move on. During the past few years working part time, she has come to realize that there are so many more rich and rewarding things to fill the day. Battling it out in the corporate world has become less exciting and more tedious (and less important) for both of us as the years go by. Marilyn has registered with the Surrey Heritage Society to do some work as a museum docent and has had an interview to determine which venue would be best suited to her experience and personality. She expects to be doing volunteer work at the Stewart Heritage Farm where the tour guides wear period dress as they explain the history of the farm and the Stewart family as they were in the 1800s.

Although "Gord's Retirement" is still a reoccurring item on the itinerary for Basic Business Systems annual general meetings, he continues to work 12 hours a day, taking 8 or 10 weeks away during the year to travel or SCUBA dive. His job has become largely project oriented and, while he continues to enjoy the work, will stay involved with the company as long as they need him there.



The Clancey Brothers (Grandsons)

The Clanceys have moved to a new house during the summer holidays and the boys are now getting used to a new school. The new neighborhood is full of young families so they now have many more pals close by.

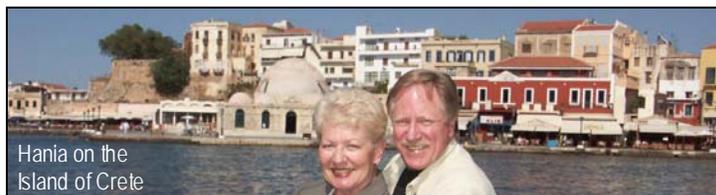


Ben is 10 years old and Mathew is 7. Both took swim lessons this summer and enjoy the water. Good thing because Gord plans to get them out SCUBA diving as soon as they

are big enough. They are still involved with cubs and spend much of their time on Grandpa's PS2.



SPRING TOURS



Our spring tours started in Egypt, followed by the Greek Islands tour. We were on the road for 32 days and enjoyed every minute of it. Although being tour managers presents some unique travel problems, we look forward to the challenge of dealing with them. We have gotten to know the local agents and restaurant owners which gives us time to concentrate on getting to know the guests. The ever-present Egyptian security can be intimidating to some so we take the time to get the guests oriented to the circumstances and the culture.

Leaving our group in Cairo, we were delayed at the airport by an air traffic controller's strike. We made it to the plane eventually but spent 2 hours on the runway waiting to take off. While on the ground, we used our cell phone to arrange dinner for the Greek Island tour guests who were waiting for us in Athens. The local agent sent someone over to escort them to the restaurant. We didn't get to the hotel until after 10PM so met the new group for breakfast early the next morning. Then it was off to the island of Paros by 6AM. Another adventure !

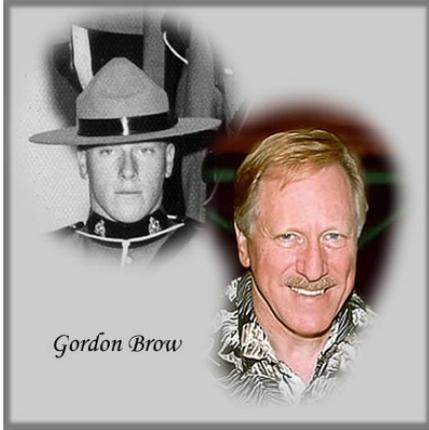
We did have a bit of an incident at the Cairo Museum on this last trip. We try to get the guests out of the Museum by 2:30PM to miss rush hour and get through dinner before the sound and light show at the Pyramids and Sphinx at 7:00PM. We herded the whole group together and managed to get everyone on the bus and out of there (very crowded) by 2:30PM. At 3:00PM, a local dissident blew himself up in front of the museum. No one else was hurt but the area was cordoned off and many buses full of tourists were stuck in the area until early evening.

Next year - Eastern Turkey, the Greek Islands in the spring and an African Safari in Kenya in the fall.



Marilyn—Valley of the Kings

RCMP REUNION



Gordon Brow

It was 41 years since Gord graduated from the RCMP Academy and, although it was a year late, he met with his mates in Regina to celebrate their 40th anniversary as a troop. There were 32 guys originally. Over the years, 5 of them died and, of the 27 remaining members, 18 showed up with their wives to reunite. Although many of them were a little heavier and a little balder, they had all retained the

Paige and Mitch were in the same neighbourhood as we were in South Surrey and ended up selling their property to the same developer. Their deal was a little behind ours so they didn't move out until July. They bought a beautiful 3,800 square foot house with 6 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms and are busy filling it up with new furniture. It is located about 10 minutes North of us. The kids go to a school that is only a block away and it is a 5 minute drive for Paige and Mitch to get to the office.

personalities that set them apart when we trained together in 1964. Among the scheduled events was a tour around the Academy. Gone are the horses and the old swimming pool. In their place was an entire small town with stores and houses used for simulating robberies in progress or dealing with crime scenes. The old classrooms with manual typewriters had also disappeared, replaced with computer labs and lecture halls. It has now taken on the look of a military university rather than a high school. One thing that didn't change was our old dormitory. Although they had laid a strip of carpet down the centre of the floor and upgraded the beds, it was still the same place as we knew it all those many years ago. The old steamer trunks that we were required to purchase have now been replaced with ones made by Rubbermaid but the look and feel of the room we occupied together for 9 months had not changed.



They are certainly enjoying it as the old house they had was an old fix-me-upper and required a lot of work to maintain.



Paige & Mitch—2005

Gord spent much of his spare time in advance of the reunion assembling pictures and anecdotes for a memora-



bilia book which turned out to be 67 pages long. Also created was a website so that everyone could upload pictures and submit stories and memories from the old training days. After the reunion, everyone got a DVD slide show to music which was assembled from the pictures of all of those who attended. It was great fun.

