



## Merry Christmas 2014 and Season's Greetings

2014 was a busy year. February – March found us traveling to Montreal Quebec for the Liberal Party Biannual Policy and then joining up with our old friends Herman and Dawn Champagnes in Montreal and then taking a day trip up to Quebec City to visit Daniel and Christian Champagne. Much to our surprise we stayed in the same Hotel that Herman worked. Regretfully we did not meet up with their daughter which we haven't seen since she was in Grade 4.

After the Quebec Trip we took our first train trip in over 20 years between Toronto and then Hamilton to visit Roberta's family. After a week back in Kenora we drove out to Calgary to watch our nephew and niece participate in National School Board Championships and met up with their parents Bob and wife Carol and were joined by other brother and wife Jocy. Niece Christina took the podium as National Junior snowboard Canadian Champion.

March and April spent preparing for Model United Nations Assembly scheduled in Winnipeg the first week in May.

In May 26 we headed down to the Southern hemisphere to take in the Rotary International convention in Sydney May 30 to June 4<sup>th</sup>. The convention as always was inspiring as we were updated on Rotary International's activities around the world. The Australian Prime Minister spoke to the convention recognizing his father's years in Rotary and then dropped a cool million into the Polio Plus campaign a Rotary signature project. The convention was held in Olympic Park the former site of the Summer Olympics. Sydney was beautiful, active and bustling city. We heard the Sydney Harmonic orchestra in the famous Sydney Opera House and witnessed the famous Festival of lights over Darlington Harbour. Roberta feasted on Kangaroo, crocodile and emu as well as other exotic foods in the revolving restaurant. We took in the Blue Mountains Tour one afternoon and Roberta took in a tour of the Hunter Valley.

After Sydney we took a train trip to the capital Canberra where highlights included the parliament building and National War Museum. We then flew to Brisbane, the City with a River running through it and one of the most beautiful in the Country. We then took the train to Bundaberg where we met up with Julia who drove us on to Agnes Waters to await the arrival of our fourth grandchild, Siena

Serena arrived 12 days late on July 1<sup>st</sup> an Australian Canadian baby born on Canada Day. We spent the last week in Australia along the Gold Coast while Julia attended an interview to get a teaching job that will begin in January 2015 in her home town of Agnes Waters.

We returned home for a short summer with elevated lake waters. Robert headed over to Italy for her annual trip with her Mother and Sister to Schio, Italy. Roberta continues with substituting teaching which she thoroughly enjoys and looking after her local grandchildren.

In the Fall Jim added two morning classes of Tai Chi and three hours of swimming lengths and Thursday Bridge to his weekly schedule. He has been so busy with local Kenora History which can in part seen by following various links from <http://retson.ca/kenorahistory.html> . He recommenced work on his own beginning with his New England ancestors who came to this continent 1630-1660s. He also worked on a presentation on adoption which he will present to his local genealogy club mid-January.



Siena says: "Move over Julia, Gabriel and Isla. I'm the biggest and the best and modest to boot".

"Hold on" says Isla. "I'm still the cutest...and I'm still your bigger sister



Well I've got the biggest friend says Gabriel and the biggest engine.





Julia says: Now look at this picture. Is there any question as to who is the little princess? And I'm now in school so also the smartest. And also I'm in the Sharks so the fastest swimmer. And I'm taking piano lessons so I'm the most musical. And I'm taking art lessons so I'm the most artistic. And I'm sharing my space with the rest of my family so I'm the most generous and ...and...and... I'm the most modest too.



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*Siena Grace Fiona Loader arrived in Bundaberg 12 days late on Canada Day which isn't until now celebrated in Australia.*

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*In February attended biannual Policy Convention in Montreal and met up with Herman and Dawn in Montreal. How time flies, their daughter is already attending CYGEP.*

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*Left to right, Brother Bob's, Wife Carol, Joscelyn, wife of brother Donald, Jim and Roberta.*

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*Roberta, Roberta's Mum  
Marie, Sister Denila and  
Brother Bob in Calgary on  
March*

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*Denila's Seventieth  
Birthday celebrated  
with Roberta and two  
daughters*

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