



# MERRY CHRISTMAS 2014



2014 will be remembered as a terrific year!

In June, my Mom sold her townhouse in Bolton and moved to an apartment in Orillia. Instead of being an hour away, she is now just around the corner!

Emily is a High School student! She is in her tenth year of dance, and volunteered at our veterinarian's office for a week, at the end of the summer.

I am teaching Grade 4/5 for the second year in a row. This year, I am part of an inquiry project examining the impacts of integrating technology into math instruction. I am also engaging my class in a variety of curriculum-based community service projects and, outside school, continuing to volunteer with three local wildlife rehabilitation centres.

## NOW WE ARE SIX!

In August, we adopted a rescue dog, so Bailey would have a canine companion. Sloan, pictured on the far right, is a four year old Shih tzu. He is a perpetually happy little guy, who quickly bonded with our family and learned to love outdoor adventures. Sloan has hiked the many trails near our house, gone for paddles on Bass Lake, cruised the farm road in a trailer behind my bike, and is now having fun romping in the snow. This fall/winter we're working on socializing Sloan, who hasn't spent much time with other dogs. Next summer, we will teach him how to camp! ☺



*Robyn (age 7), Dexter (age 6), me (age "50+"), Emily (age 14), Bailey (age 5) and Sloan (age 4)*

## SUMMER ADVENTURES

In 2014, Emily, Bailey and I enjoyed day trips to several parks near home and embarked on three camping vacations:

- 1) In early-July, we headed to Killarney Provincial Park for a paddle-in camping trip with my longtime camping friend, Louise. (This was actually our 20<sup>th</sup> year camping together!) We explored George Lake, hiked some of the park's scenic trails and enjoyed a day in town, hiking around the lighthouse and feasting on a dinner of Georgian Bay whitefish.
- 2) Afterwards, Em, Bailey and I embarked on a two week camping road trip that took us to Martin River Provincial Park, in Temagami, and then to Halfway Lake Provincial Park, north of Sudbury. We timed the trip so we could attend the perpetually-fun logger's day festival at Martin River, and then took a day trip to Science North when we were based at Halfway Lake. We took our kayaks and bikes on this trip, and also explored the parks' hiking trails.
- 3) In mid-August, we took a friend of Emily's on a paddle-in camping trip in Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park, near Peterborough. This was a very laid-back trip, featuring beautiful weather, and a gorgeous and spacious lakeside campsite. Em and her friend had a terrific time visiting with each other, swimming, paddling their airbed, and sunning, before heading off to different high schools in the fall. Bailey and I spent a lot of hammock-time together, reading (me) and snoozing (both of us).



*Em and our friend Louise, Killarney*



*Me with Bailey, Halfway Lake*



*Em and her friend Drew, Kawartha Highlands*

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