

Margaret & Emily's 2016 in Review!

This year has been good to us.

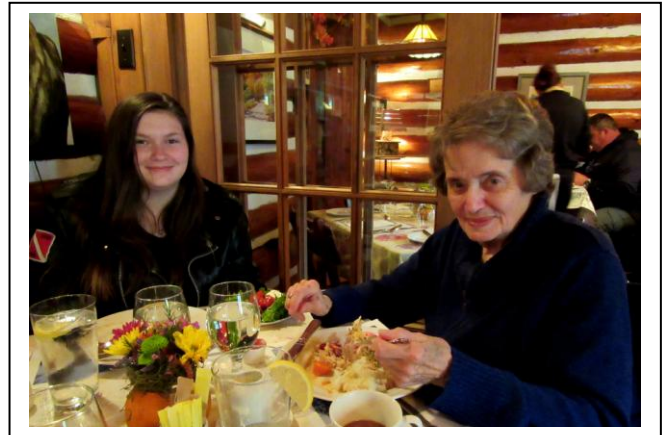
We have enjoyed visits, several times a week, with Margaret's Mom/Em's Grandma (Barbara), who moved to Orillia two and a half years ago. We went camping at Six Mile Lake, Mikisew, Arrowhead, Chutes, Pancake Bay, Lake Superior and Algonquin Parks, took spring and fall mini "hotel vacations" to Huntsville, Ontario and, this fall, attended art lessons together, and became "work out buddies" at a local gym. Our "fall leaf" hotel stay in Huntsville was a belated birthday gift for Barbara. That trip included Thanksgiving lunch at Killarney Lodge, in Algonquin Park. The last time Barbara was there she was ten years old (70+ years ago)!

This year, we built a raised vegetable garden, planted trees and shrubs, and had extra insulation, a steel roof and vinyl siding added to our 50-ish year old house. The place looks great, will be relatively maintenance-free for many years, and we are already seeing significantly lower heating bills.

In 2016, our pets turned 9 (Robyn the cat), 8 (Dexter the cat), 7 (Bailey the dog) and 6 (Sloan the dog). They are all happy and healthy, and provide us with a lot of companionship and entertainment!

Emily

Emily is in Grade 11 this year. Her hobbies include oil painting, dance and working out at the gym. This year, she completed a summer course, and took friends on four of our trips. In December, she celebrated the second anniversary of dating her boyfriend Paige. Over the next few months, Em is hoping to obtain a part time job and her driving learner's permit. She is considering a variety of options for post-secondary studies.



Emily and her Grandma at Killarney Lodge, Algonquin Park

Margaret

This year, Margaret is teaching Grade 5 at Rama Central P.S. For the fifth year in a row, she is involving her students in community service-based learning. So far this year, they have organized a food drive for orphaned wildlife, a clothing drive for the less fortunate, and completed a writing project to benefit *Habitat for Humanity* and an art project in support of *The Fauna Foundation* chimpanzee sanctuary, near Montreal.

Outside school, Margaret has been very busy transporting orphaned and injured wildlife to various sanctuaries around the region. This was a record year for her, with 39 transfers, including species such as rabbits and squirrels, song birds, birds of prey, a porcupine, a fawn and a Trumpeter Swan. Margaret continues to provide monthly support to both non-releasable sanctuary residents and wildlife being rehabilitated for release.



Here are some of our favourite photos from 2016:



Paige & Emily, Discovery Harbour



Margaret, Lake Superior



Emily, Pancake Bay



Emily, friends Louise & Drew, Algonquin



Sloan & Bailey, Arrowhead



Margaret, Em & Paige, Eco-tour



Margaret & Emily, Algonquin



Barbara, Killarney Lodge, Algonquin



Bailey & Sloan, Bass Lake



House: before renovations



House: after renovations

