

# From Beyond The Pond

2007 Edition

The Mallinsons, 187 Altamira Rd., Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada, L4C 4C6

Dear All,

Last year's newsletter never made it to the press, for reasons that will become clear later.

Each year, I find myself copying the previous year's newsletter as a template for the new one, and fall into the trap of retaining much of the wording. In an effort to break that habit, I have deleted the news for 2005's letter, in the hope that this will result in a fresher approach.

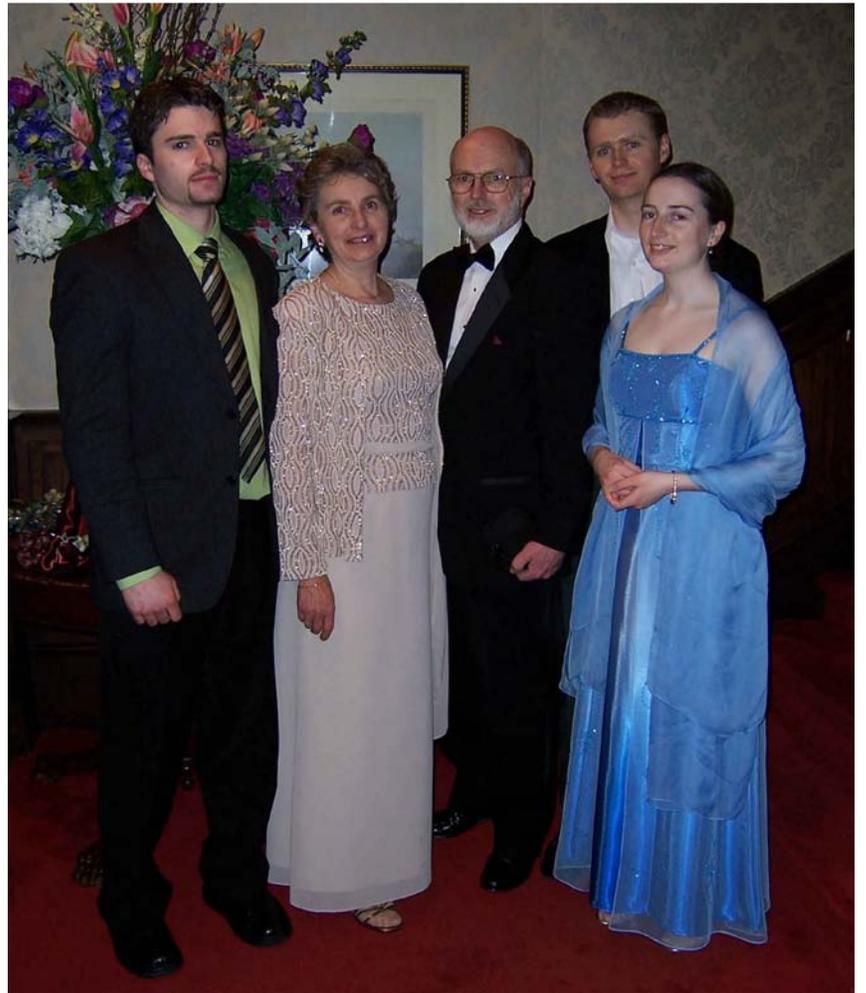
**James** continues to lead his own life in Toronto, and appears to have many social engagements. He is continuing with his cycling, and one weekend in the summer of 2006 he cycled to Sue's cousin's home about 120 km out of the city to stay for the weekend. The route there is generally uphill, and he almost "hit the wall" before he arrived.

At work, he has been getting more responsibility in all aspects of architecture, and is clearly a valued member of his firm. In the spring, he visited an Indian reservation near Belleville to take photographs of the site of a new college that the band is building. He took his cross-country skis with him, and skied around the reservation taking photographs.

Another member of his firm gave him a ride back to the city and dropped him on the northern edge in the middle of a snowstorm. James took the opportunity to ski all the way across Toronto to his apartment, as he felt he would never get the chance again, and arrived home exhausted two and a half hours later.

In May, James accompanied us to England, but went his own way, visiting the Yorkshire dales (where he witnessed a sheep giving birth to two lambs), Ireland and Derbyshire.

In September, he moved into an apartment in a housing co-operative. Mum and Dad were co-opted into helping with painting, and he now has the place looking very attractive.



At Margot's Wedding

Last year, James joined the Toronto Choral Society, and has taken part in a couple of concerts, one of which (for Remembrance Day) we attended a couple of weeks ago. All the male members of the choir are required to wear formal dinner suits, and James managed to pick up a suit with tails from Kensington market.

**Rebecca** continues to live at home as she pursues a degree in Environmental Studies at York University. Her writing skills obtained from her English degree are standing her in good stead. She also has a part-time job with **Isis** (international journal of the history of

science) whose offices are on campus. Her routine over the past two years has included NIA exercise classes, Friday night 'making soup' sessions with friend Beth, and adventures with the York outing club. A major trip in 2006 was flying to Calgary and then driving with 5 other females to the Yukon to celebrate the summer solstice on 'the Midnight Dome' in Dawson City. This year a road trip to Chicago, camping at Wasaga Beach and canoeing in Georgian Bay were on the agenda.

**Chris** graduated with honours in his computer games development course in 2006, but being an active type realized he did not want to be confined to a desk all day. Since he has always had an affinity for the gym and working out, he has embarked upon a career as a personal trainer, which he is enjoying. It will take time to build up a clientele, and thus he is still working at roofing periodically, but specializing in the metal work because the heavy lifting of shingles aggravates his back. He lives with us and in the new year he will be commuting to work at a gym in Toronto. His 1990 Jeep Comanche truck is still in operation; however, since the heater doesn't work it might be a bit chilly for him with the temperature dipping to below zero. Chris and his friends still participate in the 'club scene in the area and in the 'big smoke' – Toronto.



**Sue** is still active in her two groups – Canadian Federation of University Women and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. The former gives her the opportunity to hike each week with 25 other like minded people and also visit interesting venues around Toronto (delicious lunches included) with the 'Jaunters' members of the club. She has volunteered with the land trust for 7 years so will be putting that aside next year as she anticipates my retirement! The mathematics tutoring was brisk in 2006, but is winding down as retirement approaches. Cooking, gardening, and keeping the body and soul of the family together fill up the rest of her

time.



**I, David**, am still working, trying to determine whether or not we can retire next year, and wishing it could happen soon.

Work continues to be hectic, with me working currently on three Royal Bank projects and a web-based payments system for Bell Canada. There have been times in the last couple of years when there was not much work going on, so I should consider myself lucky. Our enforced visit to England in January fortunately coincided with one of these times.

One of the highlights this year has been that a system that we developed for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, on which I was the project manager, business analyst and designer, won an award from the Retail Council of Canada. The system was also entered for a Canadian Information Productivity Award, and two weeks ago I attended an awards banquet in black tie and penguin suit. This time, unfortunately, we were not winners.

## Happenings

Two days after Christmas last year, the home carers who were looking after Mother's and Anne's needs phoned to say that Anne had broken her kneecap and was in hospital. This left Mother on her own, so New Year's Day found Sue and I flying to England to assess the situation. Originally, we booked for a week, but this subsequently got stretched to three weeks. It soon became clear that Mother was not able to handle being alone, so after a number of transatlantic calls with Michael, we decided that she would be safer and happier in a retirement home. We were able to place her in a home in Otley almost immediately. Anne was a different matter, as we had to deal with social services, but she was eventually placed in a home in Yeadon. Both are settled in now, and both appear to be happy. Sue and I cleaned up the house as best we could, and closed it up for the winter before leaving.

In May, Michael and Katharine, and Sue and I returned to England to deal with the house (which had been on the market since February) and its contents. James came along for a two-week vacation, and Rebecca came for a week as a break between terms. After imposing ourselves on Pat and Archie (Burton cousins) for our first night, a hectic week was spent in clearing out the house and cleaning up. Michael and Katharine did a great job of painting several rooms, and arranged for new carpet to be laid. Consequently, the house had more appeal to buyers, though it did not sell until September, after a couple of false starts.

Part of the cleanup involved dealing with a lifetime's accumulation of letters, papers and photographs, and I ended up shipping a large trunk full of these to Canada. Michael subsequently found another suitcase of the same in the rafters in the garage, and mailed this back home too. I have since gone through some of this stuff, and have found all the letters that Dad sent to Mother during his first voyage to Nigeria, and during the time he spent in Nigeria up until Mother joined him there. They make interesting reading, as they record his first impressions of life there. Likewise, there are many letters that Mother sent back to her sisters and father, which also give her impressions. There is a lot of reading yet to come, but I find this view into their past to be fascinating.

A significant part of our vacation this year was spent in England, following our commitments in Otley. We were able to visit Rosemary and Barry Jones (Mallinson cousins), and spent a day on their canal boat near



Bedford in the pouring rain. Although we all got soaked, we enjoyed the experience immensely, particularly as we finished up the day with dinner in Cambridge where Rowena (who we had not seen since 1980) joined us. This was followed by a night's stay with John and Janet Burton (cousins) near Welwyn Garden City, and dinner at their golf club. Many thanks are due to both couples for their unstinting hospitality. From there, we headed to Shropshire where we stayed a few nights near Ludlow and Church Stretton, and were able to meet up with John's brothers, Michael and Roger, and visit their mother, Gladys, in her retirement home. We also managed some hiking on The Mynd.

Sue and I celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 25<sup>th</sup> this year. We had various celebrations, including a dinner at The Feathers Hotel in Ludlow, another dinner at a favourite steak house in Toronto, and a strenuous weekend of sea kayaking in the North Channel of Lake Huron. This last adventure came as a result of us winning the bid for the weekend in a silent auction associated with an event in which the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust participated.



It consisted of a day's instruction in sea kayaking, followed by the actual North Channel paddle. The instruction included dumping out of the kayak and getting into it again, and rolling the kayak upside down to ensure that we could get ourselves out of the skirt and out from under the boat. Consequently, we had a very wet day. In retrospect, we should have had the day's instruction on a separate weekend from the North Channel outing, as we were sore and exhausted by lunch time on the second day. It was, nevertheless, an experience worth having, particularly the "shore lunch" that sustained us on the Sunday.

## Cottage Life



In both 2006 and 2007, just about every summer weekend was spent at the cottage, with the exception of a couple of weekends spent in Price Edward County ("camping" with Lib and Bill in their fifth wheel) and Brighton (visiting friends Ian and Rosemary Kennedy in the century home they are renovating).

As far as ongoing renovations are concerned, little was done, other than laying new carpet in the bedrooms and painting one bedroom in 2006. This year, I constructed four additional pieces for the dock, with the intention of creating a deck on which we can sit out over the water for meals and conversation.

In September, 2006, a wind storm swept by, displaying near-tornado conditions. Trees came crashing down all around us, and the power was out for several days. The wood stoves proved their worth for cooking breakfast. Fortunately, none of the trees on our property fell, but we joined a working party to clear the downed trees on the road out to the highway so that everyone could leave for home.

## The Bowes Family (Sue's sister and family).

The newest addition to the Bowes clan is Rachel Bowes-Matulis born December 2, 2006 to Lisa and Mark in Calgary, Alberta. We were treated with having Lisa and Rachel across the lake at my sister's cottage for most of the summer. By the time they were leaving to go home in September Rachel was crawling everywhere and using 'experimental talking' that none of us understood! Our other three nephew(4) and nieces(4 & 6) visited the lake several times with Dan and Jill where we made pies (they are great apple cutters!) and we enjoyed their bubbly personalities. The adults of the clan are all fine and dealing well with the ups, downs, and changes within careers and retirement. We hope to see Lib and Bill before Christmas as they drive from Alberta to the cottage and Dan and Jill's in Saulte Ste Marie.

## The "Other" Mallinson Family

Michael will be sending his own newsletter, but mention should be made of the lovely wedding that we attended last year of Margot and Jesse. Margot looked radiant in her dress and Zandra as a bridesmaid as well. Katharine made the dresses, as well as her own and her mother's. Of course Jesse was an elegant groom. Michael was definitely a proud father and provided a welcoming atmosphere for all. Both our family and Michael's are busy so we don't see each other often, but will be getting together for a pre-Christmas December meal.

We could write a lot more, but space is limited – so, best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all family and friends. May 2008 be a happy and successful year for you.

## *David, Sue, James, Chris and Rebecca*

*James has prepared a web site on which he will be posting family information. You can find it at <http://mallinson.on.ca/>. This year, as James is extremely busy, this newsletter will be posted on my website at <http://www3.sympatico.ca/david.mallinson/>, together with other photos which would not fit in the newsletter.*

