Thursday, November 27, 2003    c:/wklyltr3.3wc36

Ottawa ‘03-4      Month/Letter/Story ?

        (Still don’t know the #)

The Jeffersons packed up and left North Hero earlier than usual this

year, …..had some Ottawa front yard work in mind before the frost set

in.  Departure was immediately after the "2nd Annual Beer & Chainsaw

Weekend."  This was basically the same cast as last year save one, Reg

Plummer being replaced by Steven Baker and ending up with a new ‘B & C

Weekend" nickname.  Reg had been "Part-Time Aussie".. His very valid

reason for a late cancelation: a Colonoscopy, (everything came out

OK).  His new and valid nickname, "Liquid Plummer."  B&C Weekend #2

rates a separate letter and will be addressed when the Chefs recover, if

ever.  This month’s letter will deal with: Ottawa Plans, Halloween, Dog

Tags and NHN&WR Subscription Renewals.

Ottawa Plans.

For those interested in what we’ve planned this winter in the way of

home & self improvement there is a list of projects at the end of this

letter  It is perfectly all right to stop reading at "Regards Lucile &

Ken", there will be no quizz.  Lucile rates kudos as far as lists are

concerned.  They used to be twice as long with half as much done and

some entries hung over for years..  They are now half as long with twice

as much done.  (However, still much room for improvement.)

Halloween

Having arrived early, we were here for the dreaded night of spooks.  As

usual there was a difference of opinion among the management.  Lucile:

Buy candy and leave the light on.  Ken: Shut off all the lights and hide

in the basement.  Lucile prevailed, but work had already begun on the

new front walk.  The construction site was cordoned off  wiith yellow

crime scene tape.  This greatly reduced the number of Spookies making it

to the front door.  Our neighbor to the north, Burtt Lilly, had over 30

kids.  We had 5.  The evening was reminiscent of Halloween nights in

Connecticut in the 50’s.  The kids were: young, costumed, from the

neighborhood and polite.  Brought back memories.  Before the candy lobby

jumped on the razor blade bandwagon, people in the ‘Hood made their own

treats, Cookies, Popcorn balls etc.  Kids would come right in the house,

scare us and we had to guess who they were.  Must have been a hundred

kids in the immediate neighborhood.  There were 13 in just our and two

adjacent homes. As long as our larder survived the first onslaught, we

were golden.  Our older kids were under orders to bring home their first

half hours loot for potential re-cycling.  Not only re-cycling, but

Hershey Pilfering by the management.  Those 50’s neighborhoods had a lot

going for them.  We lived in the same house for 14 years and never had a

house key.

Humane Department.

Jason’s collar jingled well with a North Hero license, a rabies tag and

a cowbell.from Stowe VT.  It will jangle even more now.  A 14 Year Old

Poodle lives two doors removed to the south.  14 Year Old Poodle escaped

through the garden gate last week.  Loose 14 Year Old Poodle was picked

up and taken to the Dog Pound.  14 Year Old Poodle’s owners had to go

bail her out.  (This report would be much easier to write if we knew 14

Year Old Poodle’s name.)  Lucile looked at Jason’s license, "Town of

North Hero, #13".

"If Jason ‘escapes’,how will the Pound be able to notify us?"

"Good point spouse."

Here, one goes to the Humane Society to get a dog license.  We went.  It

must have been vaudeville day.  The dogs in the vestibule, about nine of

them, were all dressed up.  One Lady had three leashes in one hand and

two leashes in the other.  How do people do that?  (Shades of Park

Avenue Dog-Walkers.)  They don’t have Jasons I guess.  Lucile & Ken

liked the Mexican Hairless in the green striped pajamas the best.  All

in all, well worth the $10 dog tag fee.  It was easy to see Jason was

getting a complex, ….. naked among his peers.  Thankfully the Canine

Cast shortly piled into a van with Michigan plates and left the scene.

What were they doing there?  We didn’t ask.  Jason got his tag: Ottawa

Dog Tag # 46493.

(Philosophically, this dog tag caper has been a subliminal North Hero

(13)- Ottawa (46493) life style commentary.)

Circulation Department..

In closing, it is time for our annual de-circulation drive.  For those

classifying NHN&WR in the Spam column or not too interested in its

contents here is a great opportunity.  No need to be polite and suffer

further, ….. we offer four

scenarios:

#1.  Ignore the de-circulation drive.  This non-action effectively

removes non-responders from the distribution list.  Last year’s drive

resulted in the loss of 22 readers, our best showing yet in this

category.

#2.  Respond, but cancel with a few choice additional epithets.  This

gives one the satisfaction of being able to say, "There, ….. guess I

told them where they could take their NHN&WRs!.and shov’em"

#3.  Respond in the same vehement vein as in scenario #2 , but renew

your subscription anyway.  This gives one the potential of reading their

and other’s comments in the February ’04 Edition of NHN&WR.  Anonymity

will be  respected if requested.  (Names will be replaced with generic

ones of our choosing which will provide absolutely no clue to the

writer’s real identity. Really? Of course, but tune in next February

just to be sure.)  .

#4.  Respond/Renew in a gracious, glowing manner. (This is guaranteed

to get you in the February ’04 Edition.)

This is the only notice we will provide.  Those realizing in May that

they’ve not received a letter in 2004 will hear the official Red Sox

Battlecry, "Wait till next year."

Regards,

Lucile & Ken.

218 Atlantis Ave.

Ottawa, ON  K24 1X9

Reg. Distr.(64)

cc: Steven Baker, Burtt Lilly.

WINTER PLANS 2003-4

1. Back Yard.

Draft a blueprint for the back yard: Entry, Deck, Garage Workshop, Patio

Revision, Planting, Lights, Privacy Fence.  (A robotic de-pooping

machine programed to perform before trash day would be a nice touch.).

2. Piano.

Shop around for small second hand upright piano.

3. Exercise Program.

(Description available, NHN&WR doc, "Self Inflicted Pain".

4. Front Yard.

Do: Rock wall, Walk (4’ x 24’), Hedge (24’), Maples/birches (3),

Postlight, Flowers by living room, Shrubs by den, Topsoil/Seed.

5. German.

Study Grammar & Vocabulary.  Read a German book.  (Ken only.  Lucile is

always reading French books and he is jealous.).

6. Lavatory.

Put in new sink, vanity, toilet, floor & trim.  (This room is not one of

the shining lights in the winter digs,)

7. Pies.

Bake some, including Strawberry Rhubarb, Lemon Meringue and Tourtierre

(French Canadian Meat Pie).  Can you buy rhubarb in winter?

8. Sightseeing.

Select and visit/see 6 sites/events.

9. Read

Canadian History, Biographies and Shakespeare’s Tragedies, except for

‘Troilus & Cressidus’, don’t quite have the stomachs for that one.  (Did

Dickens last year.)  .

10. Watercolor.

Paint, frame, & hang 4 good watercolors.

11. Wine.

Research winemaking, ….. maybe make some.  Were it not for the

January-March abstinence discipline, this item would be critical.  Wow,

wine in the States is $12 for 5 liters, wine in Canada is $30 for 4

litres, plus the favorable U.S. exchange rate is rapidly shrinking.

(Hey George, ….. please stop spending so many U.S. dollars )