*North Hero News and World Review …. (Ottawa Outlook?) ……. Mostly stuff no one else would print.*

Wednesday, December 30, 2009 c:/nhn&wr10, 10wc01 (2010 NHN&WR letter/story/poem/card #1)

**Almost Recovered**.

 An early welcome to 2010. In all honesty, 2009 was not the greatest year for the writers, their family & their friends. But hey, … it’s a New Year and let’s move on. We believe this is our 14th year of publication, unbelievable. We began by writing one of the nine kids each month. Then it was the same letter to all nine kids each month. As non-kids were mentioned, we copied them. Copied persons were wont to say, *“That was the weirdest letter I ever got! Would you put me on your distribution list?”* And so it goes: Family, Neighbors, Friends, …”*circle four and on to the next.”* (Old ‘Grapevine Twist’ square dance call.)

 Nothing funny/ridiculous has happened since the Staff’s relocation to Ottawa, … however since our name is *“Jefferson”,* it is just a question of time. Chances are, by February, humor will return to the fore. In the meantime, as most of you know, **ABSTINANCE** **TIME** is drawing near, … definitely humorless. Our Ottawa gift get-together was delayed till ‘Boxing Day’ due to icy weather. This was only 5 days prior to the Booze Ban. Don’t know if we should refer to the gift-givers as sadists, but listen to this. Lucile got more wine than she can drink in a month. Ken got 5 bottles of brandy and two bottles of gin. Sadists? Yes, picture this.

 Your staff, Lucile, Bailey & Ken, retire. Lucile lies awake. She can hear a soft cry from the wine cellar. It’s the ch, chh, chilled, Chilean Chardonay, *“Lucile, …I’m delicious, come and drink me.”*

 Ken lies awake. Faintly, from the liquor cabinet it’s, *“ Ken, … it’s one of your favorites, St. Remy, … and there’s chocolate bars in the fridge, come on down we’ll party.”*

 Good Grief, … and as of January 1st we’ll have 80 days to go. Should we have Bailey abstain from ‘Chewies’ so she can hear haunting chants also?

Final scorecard re relocation.

 One house to keep up instead of two: plus.

 50 x 100 plot to maintain instead of 1.8 acres: plus plus.

 No more moving in and out of houses in the near future: plus plus plus.

 One raspberry patch in lieu of three: Lucile & Bailey minus, Ken plus.

 Missing old neighbors: definite minus.

 Having Ottawa neighbors every bit as enjoyable: definite plus.

Re last two entries, think they can be best described as follows. Ken & Bailey are walking past the back yard neighbor’s house. They are seen. The man of the house comes out to say hello. *“Hi, you’re back for the winter I see.”*

 *“Yup, .. matter of fact we’ve sold our place in Vermont.”*

 *“Oh Good Grief, … we’ll have to put up with all year round now?”*

Yes siree, … just like we never left Cedarvale Lane, North Hero.

 Wishing you all a fine Two Thousand Ten,

 Lucile, Bailey & Ken

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