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*Ottawa Outlook, nee North Hero News and World Review …. ……. Mostly stuff no one else would print.*

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 c:/outlk11, 12wc14 (2012 Letter # 14)

**Brandy & Chocolate**

I fear that your writer is developing a guilt complex over the normal household shopping routine. We rarely go out to eat or order “Takeout”. Almost all food we eat is prepared equally between the residents, and about ten fruits and ten vegetables are kept in stock regularly. It’s like, … hey, got two good chefs at home? Why go out. Beverage expense is kept mostly in control by the in-house wine making operation. So what’s the problem? One of the residents ‘Brandy & Chocolate’ habit, that’s the problem. A friend from North Hero days got Ken hooked on this. We’ll refer to him as “*Tete de Merde”* and not bother to translate this “nom de game”. Pour a jigger and a half of brandy into a small glass, like a mini- snifter, break off sections of a chocolate bar, dip them into the brandy and enjoy. (Will we finish this letter before we need a fix? We’ll see.). Well, … this was fine in North Hero where a good size brandy bottle was about $15.00 and chocolate bars were small change. Welcome to Canada!

Hershey dark chocolate bar: $2.79

Big Bottle of good brandy: $55.90.

So, … we go to Produce Depot, get everything we want for the week and come home with 6-7 bags of fresh produce. Cost? About $45.00. Then off to the LCBO (Canadian Package Store), buy one bottle of brandy and come home. Cost $55.90.

Good Grief, … the bill for fresh food and the bill for brandy and chocolate come out about the same over a period of two weeks. It isn’t that the budget can’t take this hit, it’s the principal of the thing.. Ken tries to rationalize by thinking, *“Well, I do cut my own hair”*, but it just doesn’t seem right. Like Fagin in *“Oliver”,*  I think we have to think this outagain*..* Right, … and while we do, … let’s have a brandy.

Two healthy Oldsters from sin tax city and too old to change..

Lucille & Ken.

p.s. Lucille wants all to know, ... she’s not a brandy boozer, drinks only home-made wine.

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