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

December 7, 2013 `````` (2013 Letter # 18)

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 Wow, … eight days late with our ‘Monthly Letter’! Blame recovery from a wonderful Thanksgiving sojourn in Glastonbury CT. Just great having so many close family in one place, all told 12 Jeffersons and Pecks. (Jeffersons & Pecks are doubly entwined what with Carole Peck and Sara Peck both having Jefferson parents.) Let’s see, there was: Bill, Carole, Guy, Heidi, Jimmy, Ken, Linda J., Lucille, Matt, Nancy, Nick & Sara J. Boy Oh Boy, … hope we are up to an encore in 2014.

 As we wrote the above date we drifted nostalgic, … December 7th, 1941, a pivotal date in the life of your writer and a date seemingly ignored here in Canada. We were playing a home-made board game in the basement of a schoolmate, Art Ward by name. Over the radio came the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor! I didn’t know it at the time, … but a few months shy of 16, my idyllic boyhood had come to an end.

 Everything shifted into overdrive. Fast-track High School enabled boys to complete H.S. early. Counseling from father, *“don’t wait till they draft you, enlist in the Navy. At least you’ll have a place to eat and sleep”.* This from a WWI infantryman. In our youth parents were God and this was advice from one of them. At age 17, we enlisted. Come age 20, we were a Veteran, a College Grad, a Husband a Father, and to be honest, a bit out of breath

 Pre and post December 7th 1941, definitely Worlds apart and for my part a date I’ll never forget.

 Monday, December 9th will be the beginning of a greatly anticipated visit. The African clan, Carol, Gerry, Gweth & Rehema, are arriving from Kenya. WOW, January’s letter should be a doozie!

Till next month, from Ottawa, Lucille & Ken.