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

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Winter Thoughts.

It is January as we write this. Right now the temperature is 3 degrees F, -21 C. Wow, … almost a heat wave after the temperatures we’ve been having. Kinda energy sapping to arise in the A.M., and see it’s 25 below zero, like *“think I’ll go back to bed.”* Salting the walks did nothing,… was too cold.

Our December guests from Nairobi, which is pretty close to the equator, left for home early this month. It was a very enjoyable visit. Old Folks and Pre- schoolers cohabited amazingly well, never a dull moment. As for cold, snowy Ottawa, those young girls were outside playing every chance they got. All sides looking forward to a return engagement, wonderful!

And once more as most know, January is the start of our annual *“Abstinence Discipline”*, January 1st to March 21st. Those who think as most do that, *“Oh I don’t drink that much, I could stop any time I wanted”* . WRONG. It’s not easy. However, … as our alcohol consumption gradually rises during the coming summer & fall, we will not worry, as we know the dry hiatus (sobering up) will once again soon appear on the horizon.

We have held a ‘Painting Raffle’ … primarily to ease the work of the Poor Soul who ends up handling our estate … if there is one, estate that is. A brochure of 27 Watercolours was sent to close family. We had 9 responses, listing their preferences in priority order. Picks ranged in number from 1 to 9. A drawing established the order of picks and we went through the list three times. Nineteen paintings were selected and we have put the selectees name on the paintings they chose. We are hopeful delivery of same will be far in the future, and as the artist(?) involved is determined to paint a few more before departing, there may well be a second raffle.

We have begun ‘Therapy Sessions’, primarily to improve balance. There are some 24 in the class, over 2/3rd’s are female, including a fair number of ‘huggers’. Good Grief … the male writer of these missives is definitely more curmudgeon than hugger. Should definitely provide grist for a future *“Outlook!”!*

Till next month,

From Ottawa, Lucille & Ken.