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*Ottawa Outlook, nee North Hero News and World Review …. ……. Mostly stuff no one else would print.* Outlk15wc2 (2015 Letter # 2)

 Month #2,

Not Quite as Planned..

 February was supposed to be the second of three months in our yearly discipline of alcoholic abstinence. It has not worked out that way. What with a month-long visit by the African branch of the family in the works, abstinence didn’t seem to be the proper way to greet them, No, … be better to imbibe over the month of February and resume normal M.O. come March. Executive decision, done.

 January 31st the gala arrival, Carol, Gerry, Gweth and Rehema. de-plane from Nairobi! Everyone looks great! They are to reside at K&L’s home on Atlantis aver and spend lots of time visiting the old folks at the Carlingwood Retirement Home.

 Good Plan, … but then, enter the flu. The flu season this year has had it’s ups & downs. Started off with the usual in-house response here. Lucille dutifully gets her annual flu shot, Ken abstains. So far, the usual response has generated the usual response, both flu-free. When asked if he got a flu shot Ken is in the habit of giving a somewhat evasive answer, as in, *“Oh yes I always get my shots.”* Not bothering of course to explain that the shots are one of Scotch at noon and one of Brandy at night. (Yes Keith, … brandy is always accompanied with dark chocolate.)

 Our Retirement Home had just very successfully combated one flu outbreak when two days after company’s arrival a second outbreak is encountered. Experienced expertise is immediately put in place and Carlingwood Retirement Home goes back in lockdown. Boy, the dining room is super quiet, 2/3rds of the people seem to be missing and tables are transformed,… no table cloths, no cloth napkins, paper plates, plastic dinnerware. Lucille and I are definitely hung-up on vanilla ice-cream. WOW, ever tried to eat good hard ice-cream with a flimsy plastic spoon? We are tempted to smuggle a real spoon into the dining room to enable complete dessert enjoyment. But wait, … perhaps a real ‘man bites dog’ story here *“Man arrested for smuggling silverware into dining room.”* Ken, … just eat cake for a few days. (Didn’t someone named Marie already say that?)

 Oh wow, … cold weather, snow, lockdowns, well take comfort, … if winter comes can spring be far behind.

 Till next month, Lucille & Ken.