

*December 2002*

Hi there everyone!!

Can you believe it's Christmas again already? I'm glad for the opportunity to sit myself down and think about what has happened in the past year, and to share it with you. Not that there is much new in my life (compared to last year!!) No moves - or fractures - or new babies!! It looks like this will be a short letter, eh?

Well, I'm living in my apartment in Michelle and Marko's house in Kitchener, and have settled into a routine of being chief gardener and second-mate babysitter! It keeps me busy and out of mischief, anyway!

Both I and my Volvo have passed our Senior's rubicon with flying colours! The car went through her Emissions Test just fine - and I'm officially an Old Age Pensioner!! Whoopee!

I'm trying to stay active as much as possible, so I've enrolled in an Aerobics class with Michelle - also a Scottish Dancing evening once a week. Sunshine keeps me hopping too, as she's very keen to check out all the different walks around the neighbourhood! Through her, I've made friends with lots of the people living around here - and their dogs!!

No trips or holidays to report on - I stay home and look after the family of animals. I do all my travelling by email these days!! It's so great to have friends all over the world with whom I can chat back and forth! What a wonderful invention the computer is!

I attend a Community Fellowship church in Waterloo with Michelle and Marko and Daniel. It's a very friendly place, and I joined a small group of women who meet during the week too, which was another chance to meet new friends.

Daniel is a real joy - and I'm lucky enough to spend two days a week with him!! Of course he is running around all over the place now, and chattering away a mile a minute! Not that I can always understand what he says - but he puts so much expression into his conversation it's fun to just listen to him! He has picked up many hand mannerisms from his Mum and Dad, and it's so neat to watch him use them! He's so serious about everything, just like his Mum used to be!

During the summer he spent a lot of time outside helping me water the plants, playing in his sandbox, and taking the dog for walks with me! I'm looking forward to seeing him enjoy this Christmas - it will be really fun! He's very keen on Thomas the Tank Engine, so I know he will be busy choo-chooing all over the living room rug!!

My flower beds are my other joy - it's so wonderful to get my hands back in the soil again! I really enjoy my time in the garden, and have started some perennial beds - we also had a vegetable garden which produced quite well for a first year effort. Recently I have been tucking away lots of Spring bulbs as a promise of good things to come after winter! I can't wait to see them come up - it should be a lovely show (if the squirrels don't dig them up!!)

Kitchener has an excellent recycling system for leaves, plant waste etc, and twice a year we can go out to the landfill site and take as much free compost as we want!! It's just great stuff, and I've made two trips in my trusty old Volvo each time, so as to take the most advantage of it!

Well, this Christmas I'm putting out my Dickens village again. I haven't had it up for a couple of years, and now there are lots more neat little people available to add to it! This year I got a Roast Chestnuts merchant with little boy customer, and tiny squirrel hoping for dropped nuts! Also a Town Cryer and lamplighter. It's so much fun creating little scenes - and when the houses are lit up from inside, it looks quite realistic!

That's about all for now. I do hope the year has been a good one for you, and I look forward to hearing all your news! Best wishes for a Happy Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year.

*With love from Lola and Sunshine.*