

Wesley and Irene Leonard
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Christmas 2000

Dear Robert, Barbara, Robin, Mischa and Ian:

The year 2000 weatherwise was good to us, especially compared to other areas. A mild winter led to an early spring which became cool and wet. But summer was warm and dry leading to a beautiful fall until after mid-November. Then winter arrived with snow and below normal temperatures, so we may experience a colder winter than lately.

It was also a year of family anniversaries and celebrations, beginning with birth of Luke Stirling, Ron's son in May and Jeff and Jennifer Passmore's wedding in June. Birthday celebrations included Wesley's 80th in March, Lois Stirling's 50th in August, Cheryl Passmore's 30th and Ruth's 75th in October. But the biggest of all was Fred's 80th Birthday Party on July 1st weekend when about 43 of us travelled to his daughter Janet's home in New Milford, CT.

Robert, Barbara and their son Ian Park were able to spend 5 days with us in June. Wesley and Robert looked at the Leonard family photo albums, scrapbooks and whatever memorabilia they could find. Some of the material Robert took with him may turn up on the Park Scrapbook website. They had two trips to Stratford Festival to see Hamlet and the Diary of Anne Frank.

Fred and Margaret came to Ontario during the last week of September to see family and friends prior to Margaret's surgery at end of October. They are both doing well now. Unfortunately Evelyn and Eric Henderson were unable to make their annual visit to Stratford and Port Rowan this year. They sold their house in April and moved into a Senior's apartment nearby. Evelyn found the move exhausting and afterward had difficulty walking until she got a good walker.

Jonathon Craig didn't get home this year either. In February he began working for an English language newspaper in Tokyo and is learning about publishing. He is also continuing his freelance translation work for Japanese clients so has little free time. In August he rented a car for a trip around the five lakes near Mt. Fuji with a Canadian friend, his only holiday outside Tokyo this year.

We are both well, but our activity is curtailed by not driving. Wesley's vision prevents him from driving, and my licence has been downgraded because of my accident in 1999. I can drive only with a licenced driver with me until I pass a driver's test, which is scheduled for January 2nd. Wesley is still working at the shop roof project which he expects will take another couple years to complete. My volunteer activities include Church, Friends of the Library, WCTU, Citizens Against Drinking and Driving and some tutoring. When time allows we like to read and send e-mail messages to family and friends. We are not yet internet web surfers.

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We were pleased to have Mischa for a short time this week. We hope his drive to Madison was not too treacherous or time-consuming. Unfortunately we had a water problem while he was here, but we managed very well for 4 days. Wesley finally bought a new jet pump, though even it leaked water at first. Now we are supplied with plenty of water + heat. We were glad we had some information about Japan and Tokyo which he could see and read.

Winter weather came early this year, so a white Christmas is almost certain. But you will have your family together, though Robin will be aware of a climate change. So have a Happy Holiday Season and a very Healthy, Happy + Prosperous year 2001 for all.

Love from
Wesley + Irene