

Seasons Greetings from the Leonard's

Christmas 1994

Dear

Merry Christmas and may all the joys of the Season be yours as you prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child. We hope 1994 has been a happy year for you, and you are looking forward to another in 1995.

This week we have experienced our first snowfall to last and our yard today looks very Christmassy. We also had snow last Easter as spring was late, cold and wet. But we had a good summer and a wonderful fall with warm sunny days up to the last week of November. The fall colours of leaves and trees were really spectacular too.

Our activities have continued during the year much as last year, though we seem to take longer to do them. The work on the house - roof and general cleanup and repair got a boost during the two months Jonathon was home before he left for Japan on July 20th. Since then Wesley got the furnace working - it was a problem all last winter and spring - and so we are prepared for winter.

We have had a few occasions for family gatherings this year. At my cousin Jean Sykes funeral in March, we had an opportunity to visit with her family and others of the Clysdale connection. We also had a visit and meal with Wesley's sister Alice. At Ron Stirling's wedding on April 30th all my brothers and sisters attended as well as many of their children. So it was an opportunity for Jonathon to see his cousins again as well as for taking family photos. Fred and Margaret came from Connecticut and John and Rosalie from South Baymouth two days ahead, so they could visit friends in Dunville area as well. Another wedding was that of Cheryl Passmore, my niece Gwen's daughter, in July.

Evelyn and Eric Henderson visited us in July after their annual attendance at the Stratford Festival. In August they were on a 13-day cruise in the Canadian Arctic. While Jonathon was home, we went to the Stratford Festival to see Twelfth Night, a special event for us as we hadn't been for years.

Jonathon or Craig (as he now prefers to be called) is in Japan on a year's contract to teach English to Japanese adults. He is in Tokyo and teaches either day or evening classes six days a week. He writes interestingly of his experiences in another culture. He has had only a couple opportunities to travel - once a Japanese family took him to Kamakura, a famous Bhuddist temple. Another time he went to Hakone, a mountainous area famed for its lake and view of Mt. Fuji. He gets a week's holiday over New Year's and may travel then. Learning Japanese is a challenge but he is working at it and considering taking a formal course in a language school in the new year.

We are enjoying good health except for my eyes. The cataract surgery I had last February was not as successful as I'd hoped. In June i had a film over the implanted lens removed by laser. Now it appears the implant may have shifted as my two eyes do not work together. To see to read I close the left eye, and I am fearful of driving. My next appointment with the oculist is in January, but I don't know what he can do. However I feel I am fortunate when I know several of my friends have much more serious problems.

We are looking forward to hearing from all our friends and talking to our family members on Christmas Day.