

MERRY CHRISTMAS

2015's Theme: Familia Supra Omnia

The Netherlands

This was one of our favourite trips ever - 1400km of cycling around the best infrastructure in the world. I would highly recommend a cycling trip to this wonderful country. Make sure you visit Flora-Holland, sample some cheese and take time to enjoy the countryside. We took our bikes with us and our tent and camping gear; it was a great experience!



Puerto Rico

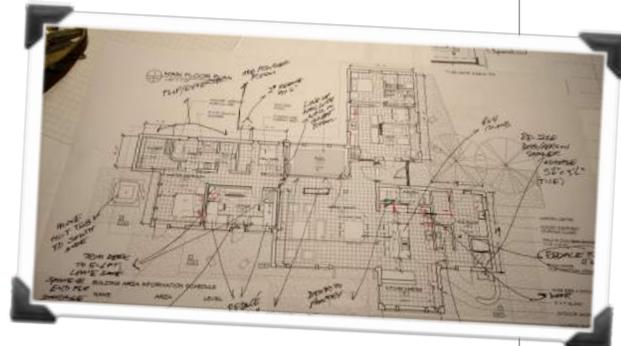
We had an interesting trip to PR. While it had great natural beauty, there was just something about the place that didn't do it for us. We met some fantastic people, swam at some nice beaches and hiked a bit and old San Juan was a nice day out.



Well, it was another busy year in our household. It really is true that time accelerates with age! Josée and I had a good year, a full year but that is the way we like it.

We have a few new additions to the farm. In the spring, two Toggenburg goats joined us. They're brothers so we named them Ernie and Bert. Destined for the chop, they are now living out their lives at the goat spa on Knight. They are funny, friendly and cute but, as with all goats, they are sometimes maddeningly frustrating! [Click here for a video of our current residents.](#)

Josée and I managed a few getaways during the year; a conference in Florida and then get away in Puerto Rico; [mountain biking in Sedona](#), [kayaking in the Sayward Lakes Loop](#), [my annual fishing trip to the West Coast](#) and [camping and biking through the Netherlands](#). Our biggest project of the year, however, is starting design and construction (2016) of a house on the back section of our hobby farm. We also have some news on the commercial





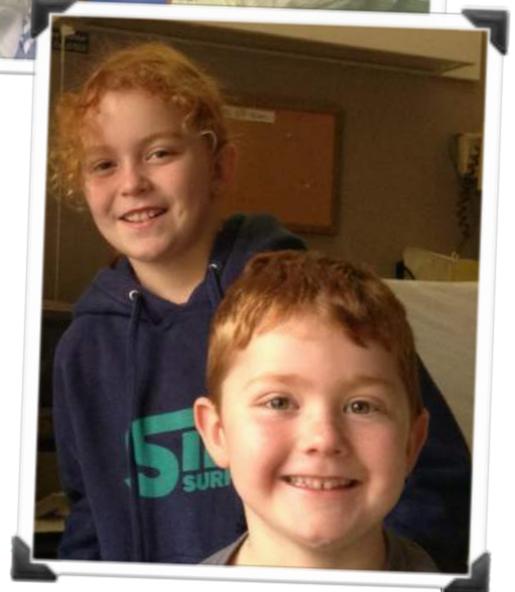
side of real estate but more on that and the house next Christmas.

It took a long time but we finally managed Josée's Mum to move out West from her hometown in Quebec. I'm sure she will still go back the odd time for a visit but we're now in the process of getting her set up to live in Comox. We're both really lucky to have her here and we have a lot of fun together!

The biggest news (and best) of the year, however, was that my brother had his second heart transplant at Christmas 2014; the first few months of this year he was in recovery in Vancouver but he managed to come home early and have a very successful rehab. For the most part, things have gone fairly well; a few glitches here and there but as usual he deals with them in stride. Without a doubt, he is the most courageous person I know.



The family have all adjusted really well and I think Tim's kids Charlotte and Oliver are loving the fact that Dad can ride bikes and climb trees and do lots of fun stuff! The children are growing like weeds; Oliver is really enjoying basketball and tae-kwon-do while Charlotte focuses on gymnastics and drawing. Tim and I took them on their first real camping trip this summer and it won't be the last!



Andi has been busy as well, helping with Tim's recovery and moving to a new job! They have a wonderful family and we're lucky to be part of it.



Mum and Dad have had a busy year. Of course, Tim was the front and centre story of their lives but they managed to get away a couple times, most recently on a back-country tour of Cuba. They are still busy with various volunteer activities and recently bought an RV which they plan to use for touring around North America over the next couple years.

Josée and I continue to play hockey and work on the hobby farm. This year, she had to make the big decision to officially resign from teaching as she was not able to get another leave of absence. She keeps busy as well with the Flip Flop Shop which had another banner year. I am still running my financial planning company and we're hoping to start a vacation rental at our farm next fall (depending on the house construction schedule). The farm took a little bit of a backseat this year; we did meat birds and still have our layers but we didn't manage to do turkeys and our garden and orchard were put on hold. We are very blessed to have wonderful family and friends. We love our little farm in our beautiful town and while we're the first to admit we're sometimes too busy, we're enjoying life!

