



3 years in Canada!

October 19-2010

It hadn't even crossed our minds until we got a phone call from Vince's mum to congratulate us on our 3 year anniversary in Canada. Time sure flies and so many things have happened and we've accomplished so much!

Winter's ready to kick in and we can look back on a great summer. There was so much going on during last year's summer that we didn't have time to really enjoy it. This year was much more relaxed and we really got to do the things that we came here for.

Vegetable garden

We had a tiny little vegetable garden back in the Netherlands but decided to set it up big over here since we have lots of space anyway. The neighbor helped us by ploughing up a piece of our yard and Wilma's dad helped planting the garden when he was here. The crop was pretty good for a first year and we kept track of what worked well and what didn't do so good. Next year's crop will be even better and we are planning to build a little fence around it and maybe install some sort of a sprinkler system to water the garden.

Living outside

We love being outside instead of hanging in front of the TV. We don't have cable or satellite, just a little antenna that gives us 3 channels. 1 French channel, 1 with a reasonable reception and 1 with a poor reception ☺. You will understand that we don't watch a lot of TV around here en we don't miss it at all. Luckily the world cup of soccer was on one of those channels because Vince didn't want to miss that. It's great to be outside in the fresh air working in the garden, training the horses or touring with the quad. Nothing beats going for a little drive on our property with Bella, cruising to the pond so that Bella can take a dive to cool off.

The quad is one of our best investments this year and enables us to check out every corner of our property in no time. The guests are enjoying the quad as well!

One downside on being outside are the mosquitoes and our guests will second that. They like fresh blood from the Netherlands, we are used to it but some of our guests have been covered with mosquito bites. There are special traps that run on gas and are supposed to clean out a few acres, we might just try that next year.

Guests

We wrote earlier about our parents that were visiting us but we had some more company. Good friends of us were doing a trip through the Rockies and BC and spend the first week of their holidays at our place. They landed in Calgary where we awaited them as a surprise! We had to be in Edmonton the day before that and figured we might as well drive those extra 4 hours to Calgary since we were already half way.

It was a great week where both of us took some time off as well so that we could really enjoy a little holiday.

After this visit we got some unexpected visitors from the Netherlands. A Dutch couple was travelling from east to west and had heard of our website. They stayed with us for a couple days and we had a good time. They were here during harvest so they got to ride on the combine and experience some of the harvest season.



Harvest

The field we rent out down the hill was seeded with wheat and it was a good year. It came up good and made us a little extra. This is ideal because we don't have to do anything for it, it looks great when it comes up and it's making us some money as well.

Animals

The animals are doing great. You can't access the yard without being noticed by Bella which is really convenient. Wilma is doing great with the horses, the training is working well and they are doing exactly what she wants. Lizzie is the easiest and lies in Vince's office during the day and on Wilma lap in the evening.

It was a bit quiet as far as wildlife goes, the mild winter made it easy for them and they didn't really had to come down for food. Bella has learned what a porcupine is and that it's better to stay away from them. She came home twice with spikes in her nose and mouth which we had to take out with some pliers.

We also had some unwanted visitors, grey colored with little tails. Mice that is and they were nesting in places we didn't want them to and they were really hard to get rid of. That's why we adopted a team of exterminators named Pinky and the Brain. They live in the shed and are so called barn cats. We're not spoiling them like Lizzie and they will always live outside and hopefully go out hunting for mice. We feed them enough of course but for the rest they are on their own.



The exterminators!

Back to the Netherlands

We had a wedding in September. Vince's sister was getting married which was a good occasion to go on a trip! Wilma had been back once before but this was the first time for Vince so this was a very special vacation. It was really strange to be back in the Netherlands, the crowdedness, the rain, the noise and everybody's busy schedule. That was something we weren't used to anymore. It was wonderful to see everybody again and the wedding was a great occasion to catch up with everybody. We did miss our little farm after the 10 days and we were happy to go back home.

So things are good over here and we will post some more pictures later this week.