

Teresa, Bill, Kelsey and Brandon Pearce  
38 Royal Birch Rise NW  
Calgary, AB CANADA  
T3G 5K2  
(403) 226-1836

[teresapearce@icloud.com](mailto:teresapearce@icloud.com)  
[kelseypearce@icloud.com](mailto:kelseypearce@icloud.com)

[billjpearce@icloud.com](mailto:billjpearce@icloud.com)  
[brandonwpearce@icloud.com](mailto:brandonwpearce@icloud.com)

February 20, 2017

Dear All:

Happy Family Day (at least in Alberta)! This is a first...we (well mostly Teresa) have never, in the last 30+ years, missed sending a Christmas letter (Since the kids are older and mostly independent, there should be more free time to get the letter done – not sure why it seems that isn't the case!). So to keep that streak going, we are sending a New Year's letter this year.

2016 went so fast...it seems like just yesterday Kelsey and Brandon were both babies.



[Brandon & Bill In-and-Out Burger](#)

Just before 2015 Christmas, Bill and the kids went on a 3-day road trip to Riverdale Utah, just north of Salt Lake City. They went to pick up packages that we had ordered to our mailbox just across the border in Great Falls. They also wanted to go and have a burger at In-and-Out burger and the closest one was in Riverdale. They had a lot of fun and said the 1300km trip (one way) was worth it. For Christmas we stayed in Calgary – it was nice being off work, but staying around the house to catch up on projects and just relaxing. Not much happened in the first part of the year – we were all looking forward to camping season beginning.

When we finished camping in 2015, we knew that Brandon was too long for his bed in our trailer. His bed was 6 feet long and he was almost 6 feet tall. So in the spring, we decided to look at replacing our trailer. We managed to find an awesome deal on a 2016 Keystone Hideout 26BHSWE. The bunk lets Brandon hang his feet off the end so it is much better for him. It also has a top bunk for those weekends when Kelsey is able to go camping as well. We were fortunate that we were able to privately sell our old trailer in less than a week. We picked the new trailer up a week before camping season started.



[Our new Trailer](#)

Camping season set a couple of records for us this year. We started camping earlier than we ever have before and we camped more nights than ever before. Since Calgary didn't really have a winter last year (almost no snow and not very cold) we were able to start camping in April. That is a first – we have never camped before May long weekend. April 29 we headed to Mount Kidd. We had a beautiful weekend camping with friends. The next weekend we camped at Tunnel Mountain in Banff – it was one of the



[Tree on friends' trailer](#)

nicest camping weekends of the summer. Temperature was in the mid to high 20's that weekend. We did a bike ride and also hiked down into Banff. Throughout the summer we camped at our usual spots: Dinosaur Provincial Park, Tunnel Mountain (lots), Mount Kidd, Boulton Creek. We tried a new place this year – Daisy May Campground down by Fort McLeod. We wanted to see Head Smashed in Buffalo jump and this campground was the closest to that. It was neat to see the history there. Our trip to Jasper didn't turn out as planned – we had gone with friends and a couple of days into our trip, they arrived back at their trailer to find a tree had blown over during a freak 2 minute storm and landed on their trailer. Unfortunately it damaged the trailer so severely it was totaled. They were lucky that they were able to purchase a



Grizzly Bear on hike (Jasper)

new trailer within a few days and continue their vacation with us. While in Jasper we went to the Columbia Ice Fields and did the Glacier Walkway – we even got Teresa to go out on it the 2<sup>nd</sup> time we went there. At the of a hike, we saw a grizzly bear – came within about 20 feet of it (glad we didn't need to use the bear spray. The bear was just interested in eating the berries). The Waterton/Shuswap trip was the highlight of our season – Kelsey and her boyfriend Jacob were able to join us for the trip. We did several hikes and bike rides in Waterton – ate at our favorite places there too. From there we stopped at home on the way to Shuswap to pick up the beach stuff. Had a great time at Shuswap Lake Provincial park – Teresa's sister and family (and some friends) were there as well so the cousins had a great time playing together and spending time at the beach. Alex and Izzy (Barb's twins) were 5

and able to do a lot more while camping.

For the first time in many years, we did not have a campfire ban while we were there so it was great enjoying real fires instead of having to use the propane fire pit. We went on the Adam's River White Water rafting ride again this year. Even with Brandon working, he was still able to make most camping trips. Kelsey and Brandon continued the tradition of painting T-shirts while at Shuswap – they have been doing it since they were 4 or 5 years old. We set a new record for nights camped. Bill stayed in Banff a couple of times over the summer for 2 weeks at a time – and Teresa/kids joined him on the weekends. Because of this he was able to camp a whopping 79 nights! Teresa had 65; Brandon 50 and Kelsey only 22 (she could only go out for the occasional weekend other than Waterton/Shuswap due to work schedule). We are looking forward to camping in 2017 – we have already booked a trip to Farragut State Park in Idaho (books 9 months in advance) and have booked all of our camping at Tunnel Mountain and Waterton as the national parks started booking for the entire season in early January.



White Water Rafting Adams River

Kelsey Grade 12 Grad Photo



Kelsey had an eventful year. She was filling her car with gas in January and the hose somehow popped off the handle that was in the car, spraying her with gas. After much effort, Teresa was able to get the gas (and gas smell) out of Kelsey's clothes/shoes and the upholstery in the car. Apparently this has only happened a couple of times in Canada before. She had her wisdom teeth out in March – fortunately they took out all 4 teeth at once because we are pretty sure she would never go back for surgery again! Brandon was disappointed that she didn't have any of the funny effects from the anesthetic that people often

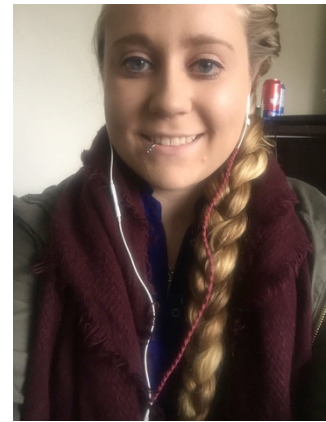
videotape after surgery. At the end of June she graduated from grade 12 – hard to believe. Teresa had fun dress shopping with her. We were thrilled to be able to attend her graduation ceremony and dinner – Bill and Teresa sat with Kelsey/Jacob and Jacob's parents. It was a fun night. Not long after graduating Kelsey turned 18! Unfortunately Bill and Teresa were on a camping trip on her birthday but she was able to celebrate with friends. She is glad she can now go to the bars and drink legally. She spent the summer working at Dollarama and in September Jacob got a job working for his dad's company in Ottawa – so at the end of September Kelsey decided to go out there and join him. She managed to get a part-time job working at a grocery store (Farm Boy) within walking distance to her house. She had to get used to not having a car there – so she has to walk, take the bus or take Uber (cab company). She has discovered that outside Alberta, pedestrians do not have the right of way in parking lots or



Kelsey & Jacob at their Grad



outside of crosswalks! She doesn't like their winters – lots of ice storms, which makes for icy streets, and very wet, heavy snow and in their community, the sidewalks are not raised up to keep the road slush off your boots. She is looking forward to coming back to Calgary with Jacob on March 15 (we are all looking forward to her being home again too). Then she will look for a fulltime job here. She can't wait to be able to drive again!



Brandon on Westcoast Sailing Trip

Brandon has also had a busy year. He started working at London Drugs (10 min bike ride from our house) part-time last March – he wanted to start saving so he could buy his first car. He usually works a couple of shifts a week. He played recreational soccer again in the spring (he has played for about 13 years straight now!) and was on the same team with several of his friends again. He finished another set of swimming lessons (Bronze Medallion) – he just has to do Bronze Cross lessons and then he can take his lifeguarding. In the spring, he got to go on the Westcoast Sailing trip off the coast of Vancouver Island. He had an amazing time and called it the “trip of a lifetime”. He even climbed up the mast of the ship! He finished grade 9 at the end of June and was excited to start high school (grade 10) in September. He is in Grade 10 at Robert Thirsk High School (the same



Brandon Grade 9 Grad

school Kelsey attended). And for the first time, he and Arun are finally in the same class! He likes his options – multi media, electro-technology and computer science. He rode his bike to school almost every day until just before Christmas. With the biking that he did while camping and to his old school, he hit 950 km at the end of December. He was hoping to hit 1000 km for the year but unfortunately it got very cold and we got a lot of snow in December so he had to stop biking sooner than he had



Brandon Grade 10 School Photo

hoped. At the end of the summer he started looking for a car. We found one not long after we started looking. He bought a 2004 Ford Focus with 117,000 km. It has heated seats, cruise control, air conditioning and power locks – pretty much everything he wanted/needed. Since he bought the car, he has been practicing driving lots – if we go out, we take his car and he drives. He is

looking forward to his birthday in February when he will be able to get his drivers license and can drive to school. He is now about 6'2” tall and is taller than his dad...and has size 13 feet! He has also managed to get out snowboarding a couple of times so far this winter.

Teresa at Glacier Skywalk Jasper



Teresa at Shuswap

Teresa continues working at Cervus Equipment. She has been there 3 years now and supports 6 executives who keep her very busy but the days go quickly. It is nice being familiar with most routines now. Her broken arm healed as well as it could have. Unfortunately, although the bones healed mostly straight, one of the bones slightly twisted as it healed. This has caused some severe tendonitis in her elbow so she has been going to physio for the last 4 months. It seems a lot better now but she has to be careful doing repetitive tasks. She did a lot of biking while we were camping this year – didn't get as many kilometers as Brandon but got to about 600 km. She continues to work out in the





mornings before work but does not enjoy getting up at 4:45! She is counting down the days to camping season starting again...she had the camping calendar done by the beginning of January and has already started making camping reservations. It will be a very busy camping season in Banff this year as it is Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and entry into the National Parks is free – this will mean Banff will be busier than last year when it had record high attendance.



Bill continues to drive 3-4 days a week to Banff Centre where he is CIO – he will have been there 3 years in May. The IT department recently moved into new office space at the Banff Centre so they have been busy setting up their new offices. Between April and November, Bill drove to Canmore 2 or 3 days a week, parked the car and then biked the Legacy trail to Banff (22.5 km each way). He managed to do this 50 times over the season. He was hoping to hit 2,500 km but surpassed it and got to 3,000 km when he stopped biking in November. He hopes an early spring comes this year so he can start biking again.



Bill biking Legacy Trail

Bill at Spirit Island in Maligne Lake

Fortunately he has stayed healthy this year – didn't have any major wipeouts! He had 6 bear encounters while biking with the closest within petting distance (a grizzly).

Our Christmas was a little different with Kelsey away this year – it was too expensive for her to fly back from Ottawa and she wasn't allowed to book time off anyway. So she got to cook her first turkey – thank goodness for Facetime! We sent her all the non-perishables and arranged for a family friend to take her the rest such as turkey, potatoes, lettuce for salad etc. She cooked a turkey, stuffed it with Grandma Judi's stuffing, and made mashed potatoes and a Caesar salad. They had a really nice chocolate cake for dessert. We are looking forward to having her home for next Christmas.

Think that is most of the major changes we experienced over the past year. Lots of firsts and with the kids getting older, more changes will be coming over the next few years.

We hope that you all had a great XMAS and are having a good 2017. Hopefully our next letter will actually be sent before Christmas – maybe we should start it next week! We enjoyed hearing from all of you who either sent email greetings or a Christmas card.



Love Teresa, Bill, Kelsey and Brandon



Teresa, Bill, Brandon & Kelsey at Brandon Grade 9 Grad

Brandon, Bill, Teresa, Kelsey at Kelsey Grade 12 Grad

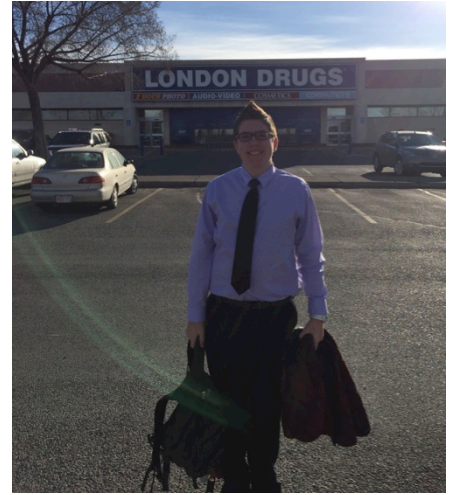




Kelsey & the gas nozzle that fell off...



Kelsey after wisdom teeth surgery



Brandon training for London Drugs



Inside our new trailer



Inside our new trailer



Inside our new trailer



Kelsey & Jacob



Kelsey & Jacob & Friends Grade 12 Grad



Brandon & Kelsey



Jacob, Kelsey, Brandon



Shadows at Shuswap



Teresa & Bill, Adams River





Teresa, Kelsey, Bill @Kelsey's Grad



Kelsey at Grade 12 Grad



Kelsey & Jacob, Shuswap



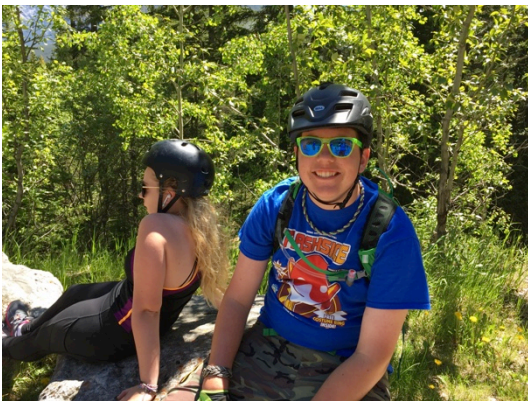
Brandon Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump



Teresa & Kelsey



Bill & Brandon



Kelsey & Brandon



Brandon biking to school



Bill & Teresa



Teresa & Bill



Bill



Brandon & Kelsey





Teresa



Bill biking



Brandon, Teresa & Bill Kananaskis



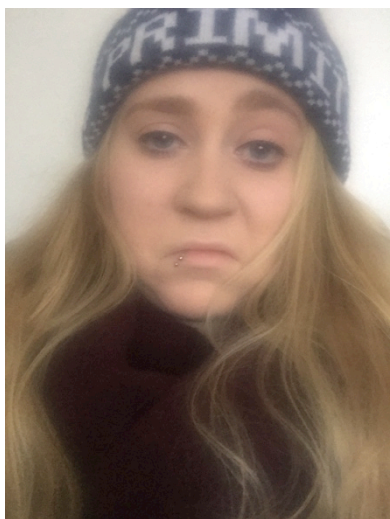
Jacob & Kelsey



Brandon 1st day Grade 10



Bill and Brandon - Brandon taller now!



Kelsey going to walk to work



Bill & Teresa



Bill



Teresa & Bill



Bill



Bill & Teresa, Top of Sulphur Mountain





Teresa, Bill, Barb, Andrew



Izzy, Kelsey, Alex, Jacob, Jewel, Brandon, Sword



Brandon and his 1st Car (Ford Focus)



Kelsey & Brandon (Shuswap T-shirts)



Brandon & Kelsey



Bill & Teresa



Bill biking



Kelsey going to work @ Farm Boy





Teresa & Bill



Bill



Teresa & Bill



Brandon



Kelsey



Teresa & Bill



Teresa & Bill



Bill & Teresa



Kelsey at Grade 12 Grad