



December 2009

2009 was a year of milestones for the Cornell Family. Pat and Kim celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, Kim turned 50, Rebecca graduated from the University of Guelph, and Garnet started his first year at the University of Guelph.



The beef industry in Canada is still a bit sluggish. Our farmers' market sales continue to support the business and we are hanging in. We ended up with 180+ calves this year and had a great summer for hay and pasture. Our weaning weights this fall were extra-ordinary – the best set of calves we've had in years. We even got all our fall work completed. It's been quite a change with Pat back helping with some of the cattle activities this fall since both Rebecca and Garnet are in Guelph.

Kim continues to travel to Sioux Lookout, Kenora, and Red Lake from May to October for Farmers' Markets and we continue to do the weekly market in Fort Frances. Our sales representative, Margaret continues to run the Market in Thunder Bay from mid-February to Christmas. Our sales at these markets continue to grow.

We've all had a few trips this year. Garnet and Pat traveled to Italy with the high school band in March. They performed in Venice, Florence, and Rome. Besides playing his baritone, Garnet was one of the soloists with the choir. Kim, Pat, Garnet, Jeannine, Gordon, Joanne, and Earle traveled to Guelph in June to attend Rebecca's graduation from the University of Guelph. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree, majoring in Biological Science and celebrated with a trip to Cuba. Unfortunately, she didn't get into the Veterinary College (she did get an interview) and will be applying again in 2010.



Rebecca continued working for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources this summer doing lake surveys. This year she was located north of Dryden. She did have some excitement by being one of the first on the scene after a tornado travelled through a local tourist camp. Three people were killed. It was quite an experience. This fall, she is adding to her resume by working with a PhD student at the University of Guelph analyzing the lake trout data that she helped collect in the summer. She is also working with Dr. Wayne Shewfelt to help fill out her resume.

Garnet had a great return year at high school. Besides traveling to Italy, he played on the Varsity Basketball team and traveled with the All Ontario's in southern Ontario with the Varsity Soccer team. He started in the Earth Surface Science program at the University of Guelph in September.

He is living in South Residence and is settling in quite well. He and Rebecca have supper together a couple of times a week.

Kim continues to be busy with the Rainy River Soil and Crop Improvement Association, the Muskie Sports Association and a director of the Clover Valley Farmers' Market. He has also been doing a bit of travelling as a guest speaker at various conferences – the Agricultural Technical Table for the Northern Ontario Growth Plan, Grow Your Opportunities Conference for agricultural entrepreneurs and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Food Symposium. Pat is busy presiding in Fort Frances, Atikokan and Rainy River and travelling to Thunder Bay, Kenora and Dryden when needed. She is also the Chair of the Ministry and Personnel, and Accessibility committees at Knox United Church and Treasurer for the Clover Valley Farmers' Market.

We've had lots of fun in the barn this year. Some of the performers that we have helped bring into the District were Charlie A'Court, Kevin Fox and the Wild Turkey's. We also hosted a concert in June that featured young talent from the district. We had a bit of excitement at this concert with one of the beams cracking from wood rot. The concert continued but the beam had to be replaced. A neighbour delivered a 13 inch square; 22 feet long white pine beam within days and another family helped us install it. Everything is as good as new now. We celebrated Kim's 50th birthday on September 11th with our last concert of the season – The Wild Turkey's. It was a full house with standing room only!!!! Check out our web site www.cornellfarms.ca to see some pictures of all the fun.



Earle and Joanne, and Jeannine and Gordon are all doing great as are the rest of the family members. Pat's Mom and Dad came for an Easter visit in the spring. They also, along with two daughters (Helen and Marie) and three grandsons went to France and Switzerland in August. They toured some of the battle fields and visited a former exchange student. Both Gordon and Earle celebrated their 80th birthdays this year. Earle's involved a (fun!!!) surprise party with all the girls there. Besides travelling to Guelph, Gordon and Jeannine also flew to Toronto to attend the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair with Deb and Bill. They were able to

reconnect with family during both trips.

We've had two key people in our lives pass away this year. Pat's Uncle Jackson Clysdale died in February. He was like a second father to her, and she and Rebecca attended the funeral in Brigden. Aunt Gloria Swanson died in March, about 12 hours before Garnet and Pat headed to Italy on the Band trip. We celebrated her life in July.

Well, that's all the news for this year. We send out a monthly e-newsletter with all the happenings (and pictures). If you would like to be included on our e-mail list, let us know at cornellfarms@tbaytel.net. Hope you all had a good year and all the best in 2010.

Kim, Pat, Rebecca and Garnet