



*Happy Holidays from our
Home to Yours!*

Happy holidays to one and all from Deanna and Steve! 2012 was an amazing year for the two of us, and we hope that you also had a great year. We are absolutely delighted to announce that the biggest news of the year for us is the fact that we got engaged in early May! Full details later in the letter, but we had to get that out of the way first. As we enjoy a few days off over the Christmas season, we wanted you all to know that we'll be thinking of you and sending the warmest wishes your way. Now on with the stories of the year!

Lots of Love,

Steve and Deanna

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Holiday Greetings from Gatineau



May 2012

A happy day for both after Steve proposed to Deanna, and she said yes without hesitation!

Wilderness Wedding Bells

Most of you know that we met through racing. What you may not know is that we began our courtship exactly two years ago in May. It therefore seemed natural to Steve that we should get engaged at an adventure race. Deanna had no idea about the plans, which took shape over several months, planning the place and getting the right ring for the occasion. Steve also did his best to assemble members of Deanna's family to be there for the event. To this day, Steve is amazed that Deanna didn't piece things together when she learned her mother and sister would be at the race.

As planned, Steve spent his day racing in the 8 hour adventure race in the solo category, capturing video footage, while Deanna and her family volunteered and helped out around the racecourse. When Steve finished his race and crossed the finish line, he asked Deanna if she might want to head to the water's edge to snap a few pictures of the place where they first got together 2 years

ago. Once there, Steve set up a camera, started recording, got down on one knee and proposed. Deanna tearfully accepted, and was very excited to find her family to show off the ring. At that point, Steve explained that was the whole reason they were there! The look on Deanna's face was priceless, and made the whole event that much more memorable for everyone!

We're both very excited to be moving onto this next phase of our life together, and have already been busy planning wedding details. We've already agreed on the location, the officiant, the caterer, the venue, the date, the photographer, and even a colour scheme if you can believe it! What can we say; we know summer is busy, so we wanted to plan in advance!



Licensed to Thrill

As many of you are aware, we decided early last year that we wanted to get our motorcycle licenses. That process takes some time in Quebec, and we also both intended to have our own motorcycles to ride around on. Well, earlier this year Deanna found a motorbike to call her own, "Hazel", a purple Yamaha V-star. That bike, along with Steve's black and orange "Piglet", meant they both had the equipment. After completing his probationary license period, Steve eventually took his practical driving test and passed on the first try. To start

getting a taste for the wind in our faces, we've gone on a few road trips, including 2 trips to Mont Tremblant (one during the fall colours), one trip to Smith's Falls to take part in a race, and a scenic ride to waterfalls in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. So far, we have learned that riding non-stop for about 2 hours is the longest our butts can take in the saddle! However, we are both looking forward to many more bike trips, and are already making plans for a trip around North America in 2014!

Sad News on Jonah

Unfortunately, 2012 marks the year we all had to say goodbye to Jonah. After nearly 10 years in Steve's life, and becoming a big part of our family, we had to make the difficult decision to put him down. Jonah was suffering from what was likely lesions on his brain stem, and could no longer walk properly, was not eating well, nor able to take care of himself. We decided it was best for everyone to end his suffering. He went peacefully on the night of May 1st, but still lives on in our happy memories of him. Rest in Peace Jonah, and have fun chasing balls in the afterlife!



Playing in the Snow with Jonah

Blogs, Pictures, and Videos

As we close out this year's holiday letter, we wanted to remind everyone that this is only a small sampling of what we did in 2012. For a more comprehensive view of everything, don't forget to stay current with our online presence! Until next year, wishing you all the very best, and know we're sending our love to you all!



Start of the 2012 Perth Kilt Run

For all the latest news:

<http://activesteve.com>

To see the latest pictures:

flickr.com/photos/activesteve

Local and Far-Flung Destinations

To ensure that the travel bug didn't get too overwhelming, we managed to squeeze in some travels for business, racing, and pleasure throughout the year. Often times, these trips were linked to things such as work conferences or scheduled races, but a few times we went on trips just for the heck of it. Some of the fun trips included a trip out east for the Epic Dartmouth triathlon on Canada Day weekend, which was a chance to visit Steve's dad and do some sea kayaking. There was also an excellent weekend trip to Wilmington, NY for a mountain bike race, as well as a weekend trip to Quebec City in a snowstorm for a winter race (we really think we should get back there for a summer trip!). However, the highlight of the year for travels is easily our 3-week

trip to Switzerland, where we not only had a chance to catch up with Steve's family over there, but also a great opportunity to show Deanna all the beautiful things that exist in that country. While there, we came to the realization that we'd really like to immerse ourselves in the culture for even longer, and have a new 5-7 year plan that would see us spending a year or so over there. Like we always say, write it down, and it will happen! Lots more in store for 2013, but you'll have to wait till then to hear about it!



Stunning Alpine Views in Switzerland

ActiveSteve Grows his Brand

On the racing front, Steve continues to fill up the weekend calendar with many different events. Deanna has also done her part to mirror the ActiveSteve lifestyle. Throughout the year, we've traveled to Nova Scotia, Wilmington, NY, Quebec City, and many points all around the Ontario wilderness for all manner of races from triathlons, to obstacle races, to adventure races. It's kept both Steve and Deanna active and physically fit, and feeling great about it. We love being outdoors, and it's even better if we are sharing it together. In addition to racing on his own, Steve has also continued his arrangement with a national magazine (Get Out There

Magazine), which has him carrying out video race reviews of the events he takes part in. This has now also extended to becoming a semi-professional gear reviewer, where Steve tries out some of the latest outdoor gear and reports on how it performs. Deanna has also tried her hand at these gear reviews, but has learned that a decidedly camera-shy disposition has made that somewhat difficult! So far for next year, the only major event planned is a week-long trip to Colorado where Steve will take part in the legendary Leadville 100 'Race Across the Sky' mountain bike race. Of course, there will obviously be many more races in the calendar as we move into 2013.

Minor Home Improvements

With lives revolving around careers, training, races, and reporting, there didn't seem to be a whole lot of time left to undertake too many home improvements in 2012. Lucky for us, the need didn't really arise. Since the house is still only a few years old, it is in very good shape. After the rebuilt basement from last year, the fence repairs, a paved driveway, and a replaced fridge, things were in good shape. However, that didn't stop us from tackling just a few little projects. One main project was Steve building a nice raised garden bed so that Deanna could plant a little veggie garden. After that, there was also the construction of a

garden storage shed. The main reason for that is that with 2 kayaks, 5 bikes, and 2 motorcycles, the garage simply ran out of room to store all the race gear that has accumulated. The final home improvement was actually a lifestyle improvement too. An opportunity came up to buy a little hot tub at a good price, and Steve jumped on it. Getting this hot tub to the house took some effort, and coaxing friends to help on the Monday of a long weekend, but it all worked out. After creating a decent gravel pad, the tub was installed and filled up, and has been in use from May until into December! Steve and Deanna both agree it was one of the best investments they've made!