



To our Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! Time for our annual newsletter in which we sporadically talk in third person about events of the past year. Noteworthy events? That's subjective, so feel free to shred this letter (or digitally shred this email) to use as confetti (or digital confetti) for the celebration (or digital celebration) of your choice. Or save it as reference for when you write our unauthorized biographies.

Last January, Kris started the year on a high note by attending his Canadian Citizenship ceremony. After a six year process he became a dual citizen with two passports and the right to vote, work and pay taxes in two countries. All of which he has now done, to varying results.



Anniversaries! And if we had to choose things we do not regret, these would top that list. A fancy dinner in February celebrated our ten years as a couple. Gulp and popping eyeballs! In November we enjoyed an afternoon of live curling (a ladies' bonspiel, even) to mark our five years living in Canada. Now we are less confused by alternative uses of terms like rocks, ends, Skip, button and the house.





It was Year of the Books for Katharine. She wrote, illustrated and self-published two more volumes in her *Robot of Leisure* graphic novel series. (4 down, 2 to go.) Please visit <http://robotofleisure.com> for lots of goodies about her robot Boris and his adventures. And funny hats.

Add to these volumes her books *The Curable Romantic* and *30 Failures by Age 30*. All procurable in print through Amazon;

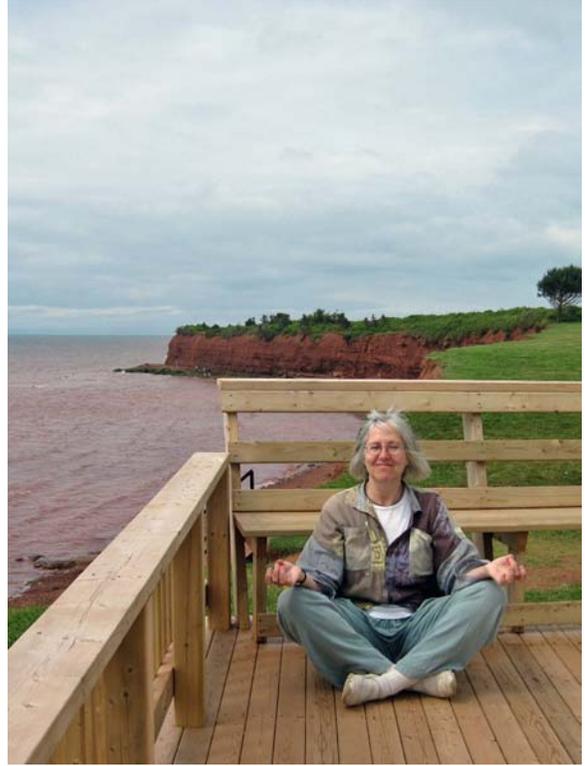
and, if you've got an e-book reader, her books are available via each e-reader's store or app, as well as at popular e-book retailers including Amazon, Smashwords, and Apple's iBooks. Since September, in fact, *30 Failures* has bounced around the Apple iBooks Humour bestseller lists in Canada, the U.S., the U.K. and Australia. It also sold out in print at Toronto's Canzine festival.

Kris got offered several summer acting jobs, and chose to travel to Prince Edward Island for the Charlottetown Festival. He played the endearing character of Matthew in *Anne of Green Gables—The Musical* and three peripheral but enjoyable (and fully clothed) roles in *The Full Monty*. He often participated in late night cabarets, where a live rock band accompanied his performances of original



songs and classic rock tunes. A popular benefit concert was highlighted by one of his comedy sketches, and by his winning a music scholarship to purchase some basic equipment for home recording of his compositions.

It was a great summer in Atlantic Canada, filled with lots of music, spectacular scenery (lighthouses! beaches! cliffs! potato fields!), great new friends and visits from both Katharine and Kris' sister Michal. Plus that once-in-a-lifetime confabulation with visiting royals Prince William and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge.



What a shame that the summer ended with perplexing car troubles that resulted in having to tow our car all the way back to Toronto. Damned transmission! Confounded mechanics! Stupid U-Haul! It was like going to a wonderful party and getting mugged on the way home.



Katharine continued to find additional creative outlets through crafting. Perhaps you recently received one of her combination ornament/holiday cards! She created a witch-craft costume for Halloween. And many of her handiworks, including little monster plushies, can be found at her Etsy shop, Peppermint Robot Surprise: http://www.etsy.com/shop/peppermintrobot?section_id=7931219

In the fall Kris filmed a Manulife healthcare commercial which should start airing across Canada in January. And the year ended with Kris haunting, singing and rattling chains as the Ghost of Jacob Marley in a musical version of *A Christmas Carol*, performed with a cast of splendid people at The Rose Theatre in Brampton, Ontario.



Along the way were a few lovely concerts, including the warmhearted nostalgia of Peter & Paul (Mary having passed away in 2009) and the star-studded benefit for Gilda's Club (a charity inspired by Gilda Radner) with performances by Russell Peters, Lighthouse, Andrea Martin, Fred Willard, Randy Bachman, Andy Kim, Paul Shaffer, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara and Martin Short. Through a mutual friend, Kris got to meet Mr. Levy and Mr. Short at a VIP reception. Thanks, Rudy!

Looking ahead, Kris heads to Edmonton, Alberta in late March for *The Sound of Music* at Citadel Theatre. He is playing neither a Nazi, a nun, nor a Von Trapp. Can you guess what that leaves? No, not the Baroness. He will be Max Detweiler, family friend and musical promoter (whose song was cut from the movie).



But most exciting is that, having passed her citizenship test a few weeks ago, Katharine will herself become a dual citizen a few weeks from now, almost exactly one year after Kris did.

And that makes about the best possible bookends to this letter!

May you become a citizen of whatever land, real or imaginary, that brings you the most happiness in 2012!

Peace,
Katharine and Kris

