

Christmas 2001



As another year draws to a close, we're sending this letter out to friends and family with our wishes for a joyous holiday season. Take a few extra moments to enjoy the company of those who are celebrating with you at this hectic time of year.

Thought I'd start out this letter with an announcement. We are moving! We have purchased a brand new showhome in Southbrook (a new neighbourhood at the most southern tip of Edmonton). We were searching for a smaller but nicer/newer home but somehow went from 1200 to 2100 sq ft. We should be moved in at the latest by the middle of April. Since it is a showhome, it has a few extra amenities including a gas fireplace,

hardwood on most of the main floor, a spacious ensuite, skylights in the living room and kitchen, and interior decorating done by a professional including window coverings. For those of you with internet access, our home is on the web at www.landmarkmasterbuilder.com/edmonton/ under Southbrook in the "Our Communities" heading on the side. It is the Marseilles floorplan at 411 Byrne Crescent. If the website is working at the time you visit, you can see a 3D tour and pictures of most of the rooms. Packing, cleaning and selling our current house should keep us extra busy these next few months.

Rami is now a Certified Diabetes Educator. From

February to the end of May, you could have seen her hunched over her books preparing for the exam. She is now in the process of figuring out how to incorporate the knowledge and abilities she has gained into her practice as a pharmacist at Safeway. So far, she has been involved with the diabetes education of both technicians and pharmacists, been MC for Safeway's annual diabetes forum for the public, and participated

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in cholesterol checkups at a local YMCA. The upcoming year will bring many more challenges in this area. Rami is really enjoying the opportunities this certification has provided.

Rami was nominated by the Muscular Dystrophy office in Edmonton for 2 awards this year for her volunteer work. The first was the Flare Magazine Volunteer of the year and the second nomination was for a YWCA Women of Distinction Award. It was an honour to be nominated for a national award and one honouring amazing Edmontonian women. Joe and Rami also attended the Philanthropy Day luncheon here in Edmonton.

Joe has been ever the world traveller with his work. His destinations this year have included New York, Orlando, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Calgary. Rami tagged along to Montreal in March for the cold weather, sights and lots!! of shopping. We also took a short vacation to Las Vegas in September. His most prestigious project at work at present is the Greenhouse Gas Solutions Showcase. It is a web-



based project showcasing products and services that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He received a Gold Premier's award this year for his work on the Alberta Pavilion at the Globe 2000 International Conference & Trade Fair on Business and the Environment. This award was presented by Alberta's Premier Ralph Klein.

Joe is also the creator and web master for about 5 websites for different companies. He spends his time at work on the computer and comes home to do the same. It keeps

him busy when Rami is working nights.

Joe also participated in a once in a lifetime experience this year when he drove to the MLB All Star Game's Home Run Derby in Seattle. He and his friend Elio were convinced by Rami at 10 PM on Sunday night to embark on this 16 hour trip there and 16 hours back and had left by midnight to make it to Seattle with a few hours to spare. This trip prompted the same journey to Seattle in December with Joe, Erroll (Rami's brother), Elio and friend Ian to see Doug Flutie with the San Diego Chargers face off against the Seattle Seahawks in a very crisp football game. Some American shopping