

For the past 26 years we have celebrated Christmas in Ontario, this will be our first Christmas back home. We may not have sparkling lights on the house, a tree set up in our living room and displaying our manger, but we will have a church to attend to celebrate our Saviour's birth and that is what Christmas is all about.

Katrina is still working at the group home but got hired on with the school board, although she is not sure what she is going to be doing. She keeps herself very busy working fulltime and raising Alexandria and Greyson. They are starting to be toilet trained and that is a process of it's own. Katrina's husband Rob is still doing masonry and they are planning on visiting in May at which time our son-in-law will finish the front of our house with stone. We miss them so much.

Justin started a new company making organic juices. He supplies 720 juices per week to Bridgehead and puts in 70 hours a week. He is filling his commercial fridge up and emptying it every 2 days. Justin will make it, he is hard working and believes in making people feel better with his product. Angele is in her second year of nursing and passed all her exams so far and will also be starting her training at Concordia hospital. She is also working weekends to pay her bills.

Angele is still able to find time for her new boyfriend Kyle, this one we approve of and he is handsome, smart, hardworking and always let's Angele have her way.... She has hit the jackpot with this one. Christian is still with the Union working as a boiler maker. His current job is constructing a 200,000 pound furnace, which is for baking the painted parts for jet liners. So Christian is grinding, rigging and fitting for the welder's. Christian was also our saving grace this summer, by helping us build our home. Without him we would not have done it.

Frankie is in school right now for his apprenticeship until Christmas for pipe fitter. His job involves installing, assemble fabricate, maintain repair and troubleshoot mechanical piping systems carrying fuel, chemicals, water, steam and air in heating, cooling and lubricating and various other process piping systems. Pipe fitters are employed in the maintenance departments of power stations, refineries, offshore installations and factories. It's a great trade to be in!! Frankie is still dating the love of his life Alexandria, she is one amazing girl and Frankie is lucky to have her.

Andre is still working as a boiler maker and is out in Saskatchewan building storage tanks for crude oil and this involves working right now with minus 45 temperatures. Andre's job also includes working at heights of 48 feet, tack welding, installing layers of steel metal plates also grinding to shape them.... It's a dangerous job. Andre will be home for Christmas.

Moving on to John, he graduated from grade 12 in June with honour's and is now attending Algonquin college in Ottawa in the Paramedic program. John is doing well in his academics and is getting awesome grades. We are looking forward to him being home for Christmas. Now on to the baby of the family Jordan.... It saddens us to say that unfortunately Jordan is not in our care at this time. He has been struggling along the way, getting himself into trouble with the law and living in Scarborough in group care. It has been a rough Summer and Fall having to leave him behind. We miss him everyday and it saddens us to think that we raised him from an infant and gave him the best we possibly could. Hopefully one day things will change and he will be with us again. But right now, it is for his best interest to remain in Ontario.

Moving on to us, Larry has not stopped working since we broke ground on our new property on July 7, and he has exceeded himself working 6 to 7 days a week building our home. He is truly a master of his trade. You are all must be wondering why build this complex home, well he did it for the love of his life. Larry is also now working for his brother in-law Gilles and this requires being away from home during the week. He is well looked after and lives at my brother's house in Winnipeg, where our sister in-law Wilma prepares delicious meals. You must be wondering what Larry does at work.... He is fusing and handles heavy equipment, laying pipe for natural gas. Larry is very grateful for the work.

The weather is another thing Larry is planning to bring his mom and dad to spend Christmas with all of us, and we are looking forward to this visit. My turn it's been like Christmas every day seeing my crawl space dug up and levelled by my brother Gilles and watching Larry and Christian with skillful hands raising walls and rafters, it's truly amazing. The help from our family and friends has been poured out to us and without them we would not be at this stage. We are truly blessed to have them in our lives. I started working at GG's on July 7 and I've learned to prepare pizza in 5 minutes, 18 piece of breaded chicken with homemade fries, coleslaw in 15 minutes and serve it with a smile. My other jobs are looking after the store and there is lots of stocking shelves with alcohol. We receive 3 truck deliveries every week to unload and with all that we keep everything sparkly clean. I'm enjoying my job and I work alongside with truly amazing girls that I call friends. I also enjoy seeing my coffee boys, they have amazing stories, or should I say tales. All in all I am truly happy to be home.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year from the Gauthier's of friendly Manitoba.