

Black Family

Year in Review

Christmas 2025



Dear Family and Friends,

2025 has been good to us! This year, we enjoyed the natural beauty of Cape Breton Island, embarked on a few adventures, and were blessed with visits from family members and friends!

In May, Barbara celebrated her 91st birthday! That same week, my sister Janet turned 63 and I became a "senior citizen." Janet flew in from Ontario, to celebrate "birthday week" with us and do some sightseeing. Janet and I took Barbara out for lunch in Baddeck, went to a Beatles Tribute Concert with Em, drove part of the Cabot Trail, toured the SPCA shelter where

Em works, and visited *Two Rivers Wildlife Park* with Em and Nita.



Maggie, Nita, Janet & Em @ Two Rivers Park

From the Black *family*

In the summer, I took the dogs on three camping trips and whale watching, on Cape Breton Island, and made a bucket-list trip to *Gros Morne National Park*, in Newfoundland. In the fall, I became *Cape Breton University's* (CBU) oldest new student, and took an "Environmental Science" course. In the New Year, I will be taking "Environmental Psychology," at CBU, and *Pollinator Steward Certification*, online, through the *Pollinator Partnership*.



Maggie being "screeched-in" as an honorary Newfoundlander!

I am now volunteering for four local conservation organizations: serving as a board member with the *Atlantic Coastal Action Program* and the *Baille Ard (Nature Trails) Recreation Association*, and conducting fall/winter beach patrols for the

Canadian Sea Turtle Network. I am also a trained, on-call volunteer with the *Sea Turtle Network* and the *Marine Animal Response Society*, which responds to stranded whales, dolphins, sharks & seals.

This year, Barbara cheered on her beloved Toronto Blue Jays, through the regular season and their amazing World Series run!



This fall, Em turned 25 and completed their third year working at the Cape Breton SPCA shelter. Em's responsibilities include animal care, reception, social media, and volunteer training and coordination. Em is also the shelter's health and safety rep.

In November, my sister Mary visited us for an extended long weekend. Mary, Em, Barbara and I attended Christmas Dinner Theatre, and Mary and I visited a beach, a lighthouse, a walking trail, *Two Rivers Wildlife Park*, and a Christmas craft show.

This year, I also got to visit with friends Kaitlin, Paul, Kerri, Laurie and Cate, when they vacationed on Cape Breton Island!

Photo Gallery



The author of the Christmas Dinner Theatre play with Mary, Maggie, Barbara & Em



Em with one of her charges at the Cape Breton SPCA Shelter



Romi & Sloan @ Point Michaud Beach; Romi @ Maggie on Sea Turtle Patrol



Romi & Sloan on a whale watching expedition, Pleasant Bay, Cape Breton Island



This year, we bid a sad farewell to Dexter, who passed after a brief illness. He was almost 17.



This year, Maggie adopted Peter-the-hamster from the SPCA Shelter where Em works!