

# Holiday Greetings

2020 - 2021

Bob & Mira Fabian



This year our holiday letter is delayed. I blame it on my unplanned week in Toronto General Hospital. I was showing the symptoms of pneumonia, but the standard medications were not working. My GP told me to check into Emergency. Yes there is a problem with my lungs. There is a treatment plan that seems to be working, but I'm forced to "enjoy" a new handful of pills every day. The net effect is that I was out of commission for awhile, but I'm back now.

Previous years this letter featured events and travels we enjoyed during the year. This year, the pandemic made events virtual and travel practically impossible. And our cottage became almost inaccessible. The cottage is located on leased land in the Curve Lake First Nation. They have decided that to protect the full-time residents on the reserve, no part-time residents will be allowed access. There were a few months in the Summer when we were allowed back, but no more. We're effectively locked in to our downtown condo. Fortunately, all the necessities are within easy walking distance, and what isn't can be ordered online.

Mira has continued with her involvement in the Canadian Association of Women in Construction ([CAWIC](#)). She again is spending many hours working on the Bursary Awards that CAWIC gives to post-secondary students planning to work in construction. And I was briefly sucked back in to efforts to plan the future of the Canadian Information Processing Society ([CIPS](#)). Unfortunately, it's becoming less and less clear how effective boundaries might be established around professional practice in IT.

Both Mira and I continue to be involved with Ryerson University's [The LIFE Institute](#). It provides educational experiences for those 50 and older (3<sup>rd</sup> Age learners). The pandemic forced events and classes to go online, with Zoom as the platform of choice. For me, the social interaction in the classroom was an essential part of the LIFE experience. That's not possible online with classes that are larger than a couple dozen participants. Still, Mira did enjoy a lecture series and the monthly book club sessions, and I introduced a virtual movie club monthly outing. We use Zoom to watch one of the golden oldies that are now in the public domain. It's not the same as going to a movie theatre, but there can be interesting discussions following a screening.

I also spend some time with the Academy for Lifelong Learning at University of Toronto ([ALLTO](#)). They also offer educational experiences for 3<sup>rd</sup> Age learners, but with a much greater requirement for engaging participants. To participate in a Workshop you must agree to present a relevant topic during an hour portion of one workshop session. I jumped in to the Philosophy workshop with a presentation on "What's the meaning of life?" Those interested are welcome to explore the background material that I posted on my website: [Reference](#).

Through all this we are connecting in new ways with people important to us. We Zoom to Ohio and Massachusetts and Virginia, connecting with family and friends we would only see very occasionally. It's not the same as face-to-face contact, but it does maintain important connections. We also Zoom locally with people whom we are not allowed to see face-to-face. It's not the same, but it is better than a simple voice call.

Life continues in our condo. Mira and I have even found ways to sometimes share in the preparation of meals. The pandemic has done some good. We connect with family more often. We have found ways to share our pandemic restricted life's activities. We are looking forward to eventually seeing family and friends in person and going back to our cottage. We're also looking forward to a world in which the vitriol from Donald Trump no longer dominates the news cycle.

*Best wishes to everyone for a better new year.*