

Mountainview Newsletter – Kevin & Jackie Steiva: January 2024

The past year has been a whirlwind of activity for Jackie and me. After the move to Comox on Vancouver Island, we have been travelling constantly; back to Ontario and Quebec for family, me to Winnipeg and Montreal for work, and across the island to enjoy the sights and sounds of the west coast. In October we finally celebrated our long overdue 35th



anniversary with a Mediterranean cruise. We began with three days in Venice, boarded our ship from Trieste which took us to seven countries and eleven ports of call, and ended with three days in Rome. It was an amazing trip! This is a photo we took from the top of St. Peter's Basilica, one of the amazing places we visited.

Upon our return in early November, I learned that I would be promoted in the new year and thus, posted again as well. It appeared the likely destination would be Ottawa, working in the Chaplain Branch offices. In anticipation we began looking at houses

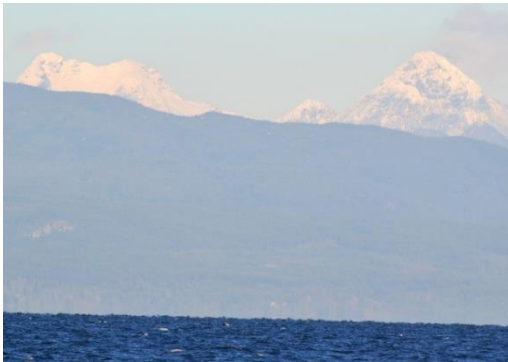
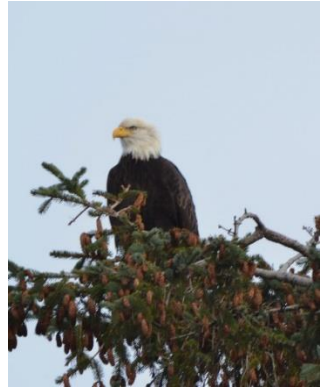


around Ottawa and we began making some tentative plans. These were soon set aside when we welcomed our second grandchild into the world. Andrew Leonard Bayly was born on November 23rd to our eldest daughter Rebecca and her husband Luke. They along with their elder son, Zachary and their dog, Flynn have now become a family of five! Mom and baby are both doing well, and this week we received his 2 months old photo. Jackie was able to travel to Montreal in early January and spend a week visiting. Both of us are hoping to travel back again in February for his baptism.

In early January I received confirmation that I am promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel effective 15 February. With the promotion came a surprise posting, not to Ottawa, but to Montreal. I will become the Divisional Chaplain for 2nd Canadian Division with its headquarters in Longue Pointe, Montreal. Although not what we had expected, it is a great posting and will enable us to be close to Rebecca, Luke and the boys. It also brings us closer to Katelyn, still studying and working at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, as well bringing us closer to our parents, in Burlington and Brantford. The west coast is beautiful, and the weather is amazing (12°C today with light rain), but it is along ways from friends and family back east, and it is good to be coming back!

The second surprise about the promotion and posting is that it needed to happen soon – and we are now working hard to be ready for a move by 1 March. It is unlikely we will make this date, but we hope to be moved, or at least on the way by the end of March. This will be move number 17 for Jackie and I and we have decided it will be the second last – the next move will be into retirement, wherever God leads us when we get to that point. As it stands now, we expect to be in Montreal for the next three or four years.

The year-and-a-half that we have spent in Comox has been good for us. Both Jackie and I have siblings who live in Victoria, and we were able to reconnect and visit with them several times. We were able to have Katelyn, Rebecca and Zachary, my mom and Jackie's sister and her husband come out for visits and enjoy the amazing scenery and wildlife. We have been awed at the wonders of creation; giant trees 900 years old, majestic eagles perched atop trees, whales, orca, dolphins and sea lions, the beauty of snow-capped mountains and deep blue waters. To be able to walk out your door and see these things at the end of your street has been a blessing.



I have also learned a lot from the work here. The air-force is different from the army, and I have had to learn how this element of the Canadian Armed Forces is structured and functions in their role to protect our skies. I have gained valuable experience leading a diverse team of Chaplains, each bringing our unique gifts and sense of calling to the service we offer. We have re-visioned how best to bring spiritual care and

pastoral support to a diverse community of many faiths and traditions, all the while remaining true to our own beliefs and convictions. And for Jackie and I, we have learned the blessing it is to have a church family to be part of, share with and worship together because we have missed our Baypark family from Kingston very much.

I wish all of you at Mountainview God's richest blessings in 2024. Please pray for Jackie and I and the journey we are on. Please pray too for all the men and women who serve in our Canadian Armed Forces; for their safety, for their families, and that they may serve their country proudly and with honour.

Vocatio ad Servitium

Kevin Stieva

Senior Chaplain, 19 Wing, Comox, BC