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My look back at 2015

As the end of 2015 draws near, it's the perfect time to reflect on the year that was.
Throughout my personal life and the events going on in our wonderful Town of Shelburne it has been a jam packed, sometimes exciting, sometimes devastating year.
January we started off the year with a brand new Mayor and Council in the Town of Shelburne. Which proved to be great with a 0 per cent increase in property taxes when the 2015 budget was passed in February.
In February, I became the staff reporter for the Free Press, which has proved to be exciting, jam packed and fun filled amazing journey which I look forward to continuing in 2016.
Then in April I became a Grandma for the 2nd time, to a beautiful baby boy named Dmitry who weighed in at 8lbs. 9ozs. This little boy stole my heart from the moment I saw him, as did his big brother Roman. Every time I get to see them and spend time with them are precious moments that I often reflect on and will continue to do so for all my days. I now understand how everyone always said being a Grandparent was much more fun then being a parent. It brings you to a whole new level in your life that I honestly didn't think I would see for many more years! I love being a young Grandma and having he energy to play with my grandsons and look forward to seeing all the new things they learn in the coming year.
June 5th saw the 4th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run hosted by the Shelburne Police Department and organized by Cost. Paul Neumann, which saw close to $15,000 raised for the Special Olympics.
Also in June we had the Heritage Day Car Show/Show in Shine. This day long event held in the downtown core had record crowds this year with the fantastic weather. Entries for both the cars and bikes were up considerably and here's to hopping I find my ultimate muscle car for sale at next years' event.
In August Shelburne officially became the runners up for the Coors Banquet One Horse Town Contest. We were in the running to win a concert featuring Tim Hicks and The Road Hammers which unfortunately we lost to Lacombe, Alberta. This was an exciting time as I was featured on the CMT's (Country Music Channel) commercial promoting Shelburne, which was a lot of fun.
August saw the untimely and tragic death of Natasha Paterson, whom we will always remember as the little girl who loved horses.
August was also the month that I went to Las Vegas and had the honour and privilege of marring the man of my dreams. It has been a wonderful journey with my new husband exploring and experiencing a lot of first together. This man is amazing and I am so very thankful to have him in my life to call my husband?I love you Fred and look so forward to growing old with you by my side.
The beginning of September saw the passing of my sister-in-law Marlene, whom had been fighting a 5-year battle with skin cancer. I still can't believe you are no longer with us and think of you often.
September also brought the Shelburne Fall Fair where we went to have fun and watch horse pulls, cow shows, the pedal tractor pulls, the homecraft displays, the derby and so much more. I love the Fair, it's always a great place to see good friends and meet up with acquaintances as well as a fantastic way to go back to our roots and celebrate all that is agricultural and rural with the oldest running club, The Shelburne District Agricultural Society, in the Town of Shelburne.
The end of September we all celebrated with the Blue Jays as they clinched a playoff spot for the first time since 1993. Whether a big fan or not, it was exciting seeing them almost make it and cheer them on as we sat glued to our televisions.
October we saw David Tilson retain his seat as our Federal MP beating out Shelburne's former mayor Ed Crewson who put up one hell of a good fight for the position. Although the Country has turned mostly the colour of Red Liberal, Dufferin County stays true to its Blue with Tilson.
November saw unspeakable acts of violence with the Paris attacks. Once again the world was frozen in fear with the horrific crimes taking the lives of so many innocent people. Our hearts go out to all of those lost and their family's.
In December we saw the first Syrian family arriving in Dufferin County with Canada's new Liberal government pushing forward with its pledge to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of February.
This year I have experienced life with the birth of my grandson, death with the passing of my sister-in-law and joy with my marriage to Fred. Life has its ups and downs and no matter what happens be thankful for the good days and know that there will be bad days, however they always pass and make you appreciate the good days that much more. (a wise man told me that #thanksfred)
As 2015 comes to a close and 2016 begins I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

By Michelle Janzen