



Merry Christmas, everyone!

Every year we talk about big changes to come next year... but this year, it actually happened. After over 30 years in Toronto, the Proulx family packed up and moved to Ottawa. Thinking back on the blur of activity, it's striking how many of our most vivid memories revolve around food.

Johnny Rockets: In downtown Toronto, right near Ryerson, this place is a Quintessential Toronto experience. It's also home of the best milkshakes in the city. When we had finalized the idea that we were, in fact, really moving, this is where we went to say goodbye to downtown. I wanted to remember my university days, eating countless lunches here with Devon before we went to watch a movie at the Cineplex across the street. Everyone else just wanted a milkshake.

Red Lobster: This was where the Good Shepherd lady's bible study ate it's closing lunch for the year. Mum went to say goodbye to all the ladies. Me and dad went too, and sat at another table; we just wanted some shrimp.

Tim Hortons: There is nothing like showing a house in Toronto. Countless people come, at all hours of the day, wanting to see the house. Thanks to Toronto traffic, none of them are anywhere near on time. As a result, we had to be ready to leave the house in an instant. Thankfully, there was a Tim's to escape to. None of us really wanted another coffee; we all just wanted some peace.

The Chelsea Pub: While staying with Uncle Randy and house-hunting, we ate here for the first of several times this year, discussing the houses we'd looked at, and thinking about the future. After getting moved in, we went back several times; we were already going to the Costco in Quebec to get extremely cheap beer, so why not?

Jonny Canuck's Bar And Grill: After a marathon session of negotiating, and a day of waiting to hear if our offer would be accepted, this is where we went to celebrate the fact that we had just bought a new house in Ottawa. By the time all the papers got signed, it was quite late, and everyone was starving.

Swiss Chalet: This may have been one of the last meals we ever ate in Toronto. After sorting out, and packing up, 30 years of belongings, everyone was in a nearly perpetual state of exhaustion. And the *unpacking* hadn't even begun! It's one of Mum's favourites, and it's quick and easy, either to order in or eat out.

Broadway Bar & Grill: This was the first place we discovered while getting moved in to our new home. It makes the second best boneless chicken wings in the world, beat only by the ones made

by Uncle Richard. But if that isn't enough, they also have an excellent Sunday morning breakfast, perfect for just before church. Even better, it's almost close enough to walk to.

Gabriel Pizza: This pizza joint IS close enough to our new house to walk to. Good thing, because after stuffing myself, a walk home is just the ticket. We ate here when my friend Dave came to visit from Toronto over Thanksgiving. We also ordered a pizza for pick-up the night Richard Moquin came over to give us a hand setting up the TV antenna.

Dairy Queen: we knew these existed in Toronto, obviously. But strangely enough, we had never really eaten at one before moving to Ottawa. But now that one is so close, we were all tempted once during the heat of August to go for an ice cream. Filling a hot tub is tiring work! Also, the food there is better than I expected it would be.

A&W: after we decided to go to The Met as our new church home, we settled on eating lunch at A&W after the service for a while. The onion rings are sooooo good! But after you eat 3 servings of them at once, you get put off A&W for a while.

Looking back, it's amazing we didn't gain any weight. Keeping busy really does seem to help keep off the pounds. From deciding to move in March, to finally feeling settled in November, that has been almost the entirety of our year. If you're disappointed we didn't do another DVD letter this time, keep an eye on the internet; once the decorating is done, we'll probably shoot a video tour of our house for those few of you who haven't yet seen it. But after finally being finished with everything involved in moving from Toronto to Ottawa, none of us could get up the energy or desire to make a DVD talking endlessly about it! So we wrote a letter talking endlessly about it instead.

But on the upside, now none of you can forget that we have a nice new place in Ottawa, with lots of extra beds. So if you're in the area, be sure and come for a visit!

Samuel, Rej, Cathie and Dustie the Cat

"...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them." (Luke 2:7, NIV)