

**PLUCK AND GOBBLE – JULY 2014**

Dear Friends,

The culmination of a glorious day echoes in all direction to the north along the lake. While we can't view the color of the night, the fireworks instill a warming sense of anticipation.

Payton and Henry pluck and gobble raspberries in our wee garden for the first harvest of the summer. Like the crops and vines and orchard in front of them, they reach for that urgency to grow. Their bursts of energy help to stir us not to sit and marvel but to strain and sweat in anticipation of a harvest to come.

While there is little enough time to celebrate there exists an unsettling lure this year. The winter's cold was bitter to both plant and person – peaches and cherries and wine grapes all suffered sorely. There are none this season. (Yet, we will have peaches to sell from a farming friend in Pennsylvania). Those crops that are not native to this midwest climate cannot endure every year. (The last time there was a no crop year was when Adrienne checked in to the world in 1982 – she was our only peach that year). Words only signify our refusal to accept the world as it is, or as the songstress belted out last eve at a fireworks concert, "Need more money, Need more time." We will await another new beginning.

Caring transports the sincerity of the passion we care so much about. All that we do is done with a focus on our children and grandchildren standing tall. Despite embracing urban life in Toronto, Adrienne and Tom still share a wish to return to the country and this country. Brooke and Ben and we hope Payton and Henry support the adage that the more help a person has in his garden the less it belongs to him. This place is our farm.

Jacque volunteers to support her belief in retirement from the classroom and the reassurance of contribution to her grandchildren's growth.

Brooke and Ben have stretched their days to administer and initiate farm "stuff". The reality is that this has not been done till now. Bill still wanders the township; his greatest challenge this year has been to ground Ben's lofty aspirations in the reality of fruit farming.

The great struggle for life in nature and our own lives endures. Great fires to either fan or put out flare. Yet, how do we strike a balance on serenity? We all become brave when brought to the front.

Here's what to expect this season:

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|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| July 10            | Lodi apples                       |
| July 15-20         | First peaches & apricots          |
| August 1           | New website launches!             |
| August 1           | Zestar apples                     |
| August 1-10        | Red Haven peaches                 |
| August 15-20       | First white peaches & nectarines  |
| August 25-Sept. 20 | Plums                             |
| August 30-Nov.15   | Pears                             |
| September 10       | First cider                       |
| September 10-15    | Gala & Honeycrisp / Pick your own |
| October 5-10       | Cameo & Fuji apples / Pumpkins    |
| October 20 – 25    | Pink Lady & Goldrush apples       |

Hope to see you soon !! The Gammie Family

*Bill + Jacque*  
*Tom + Adrienne*  
*Brooke*  
*HENRY*

