



Greetings from the Storey family, December 2018



Happy Holidays,
We hope that you had a wonderful year and that all is well.

Our big news this year is that our family has expanded. Jen and Sean have a son, named Hudson Kenneth Elias, born on September 28. We are thrilled and he is a darling. Coincidentally, Ken was lucky to be in Europe in late September and so flew to visit them in Windsor, England, their new location as of this summer. So, he met Hudson when he was only a few days whereas I visited for 3 weeks in Oct-Nov when Sean had to return to work. Kate is now there for the Christmas holidays. The move to Windsor means that Jen & Sean are now both very close to their workplaces although Jen will be on maternity leave until next summer. Windsor is a lovely small city with its huge castle and beautiful historic center. From where Jen lives you can see the castle and see the royal flag flying on the tower whenever the queen is in residence.

Kate now has a permanent job at Environment Canada doing regulatory assessment of new products or chemicals coming into Canada to make sure that importers have done all the necessary testing and compliance with regulations with respect to any potential environmental damage that can arise from the use of such chemicals or their disposal. She is in a group that mainly focuses on organic chemicals but once they found that she knew about transgenics, she now works most often on files related to genetically modified organisms. Her most fun file to date has been the “glow-fish” that are now available in pet stores that have been modified with genes for fluorescent proteins and glow under fluorescent light – the first ones glowed green (expressing the green fluorescent protein that scientists have been using experimentally for many years) but now there are also blue, red and yellow GMO fish. They are strictly for the pet trade and as tropical species do not survive if released into our seasonally cold waters.

As always, Ken was off traveling the world. For most of January he was in South Africa on the hunt for mole rats that spend their lives almost exclusively underground, mainly eating roots and tubers. The naked mole rats are the best known but there are several other species in southern Africa and Ken was one of a group that gathered from 3 labs in Canada as well as S. African labs to study the physiology and biochemistry of these underground mammals that live in oxygen-poor environments all their lives. The lab they were working with was based in Pretoria (in the east) but they had to drive 16 h to the west coast to catch the particular species that they wanted. Needless to say there were wonderful opportunities to see big game animals as they traveled. Trapping the mole rats was tricky and mainly involved large strong young graduate students with pickaxes to dig into the tunnels supervised by gray-haired profs who handed the students the traps once the tunnels were exposed!! However, profs also provided large quantities of meat for the nightly BBQ and beer to go with it. Then in September, he was in Belgrade, Serbia for a hibernation meeting, his first ever visit to that part of the world. Finally, he traveled to China for a genomics conference in Shenzhen that is the city adjacent to Hong Kong on mainland China. He also got an excellent tour of Hong Kong after learning that a colleague from Chile was now living there.

Our lab is still huge with 13 grad students and assorted BSc students. We had our best year ever of publications with over 50 articles published arising not only from the grad students but also a “perfect storm” of the many international collaborators that Ken has cultivated in recent years. These included our long-time Ukrainian colleagues, the Chinese profs that worked in the lab last year and multiple opportunities to study amazing animals from around the world including hibernating bears from Sweden, hibernating marsupials from Chile, lemurs from Madagascar, sea cucumbers and turtles from China, and red devil squid from the west coast of Mexico, as well as our continuing studies of Canadian species that can freeze solid all winter, survive extreme dehydration or live without oxygen for many weeks. My editing skills have certainly had a major workout this year but overall it’s been an amazing year.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2019. Ken & Jan

Hudson, November 28, 2018



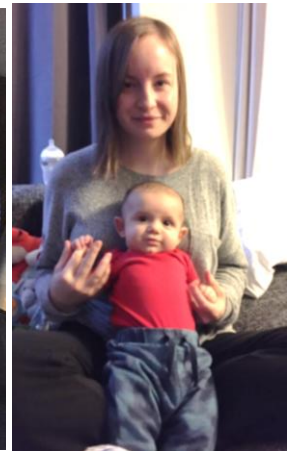
Sean, Jen & Hudson, December 15, 2018



3 men



A modern working mom & her 2 assistants



2 kinds of mole rats (note the huge teeth for digging) & a gray-haired prof

