

# TAYLORGRAM

## 20th Anniversary Cruise

*A week in the Mexican Rivera with no cell phones or e-mail*



This time last year, we escaped to Mexico for a belated celebration of our 20th Anniversary.

We took a 7-day cruise, nicknamed the Mexican Sampler, to Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta.

It was the most relaxing week we have had in years. The weather was warm, the waters were smooth (for the most part), and the sights, sounds and tastes were new if not entirely exotic. It all added up to an exceptionally good waste of time.

### South Africa

Paul travelled to South Africa in September where he met some of Elaine's family, including cousin and fellow genealogist Marius Bacon.



He got to know Marius, his wife Mercia, son Francis and daughters Anri and Mirni. As Marius noted, we met as strangers and left as friends just 24 hours later. The next visit must be longer, and must include Elaine!

Paul was in South Africa to speak at a conference on government technology.

### KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURING, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Elaine spearheaded an ambitious campaign to support the members of our little church who are deployed overseas. In fact, we adopted the entire units in which they serve. The care packages include everything from bed sheets and pillow cases to cookies and baby wipes to long distance phone cards and a



handful of MP3 players. It has been quite the education in getting to know the naming conventions used by the US Army, Navy and Air Force. Eight years seems numbingly long to be at war but their spouses and kids are daily reminders of why not to forget those who serve on those unseen foreign shores.

## LIGHTING UP THE LAKE



We hosted the fourth annual Friends, Family and Firework party in mid-July. We lost count at about 120 guests who came and went throughout the afternoon and evening, right through to a 10PM fireworks flotilla. We think we'll do it again one more time in 2010 so mark your calendars and make plans to join us on July 13, 2010. Same place. Same time.

## HAMIOTA 125 REUNION



### The Routledges, July 2009

With the party complete, we headed back to Manitoba for the 125th anniversary of the municipality where Elaine grew up. Ron and Pattie hosted us all at the Routledge Resort in downtown Hamiota.

It was a great family reunion -- good times, great memories and some very late nights.

And then it was on to Winnipeg to get caught up with the Taylors.

## JUST ENJOYING THE PLACE

We think we've finished the final season of construction at the waterfront and the painting of the house. With apologies to the



Obama Administration, we have done all we can do to stimulate the economy (at least at The Home Depot) so please forgive us if we stop for a while.

### Water Colour Childhood on Web

We finished and relaunched an online project called *The Books of Ruth: A Water Colour Childhood*. It replicates baby books, years of pictures by Canadian artist A. A. Brooke as his daughter Ruth grew up in Salmon Arm, B.C. You can see more of their story at [www.booksofruth.com](http://www.booksofruth.com).

### Breaking News! Or something like it ...

Paul was promoted to the newly created role of Chief Content Officer for e.Republic Inc., the parent company of the Center for Digital Government for which he has worked for the last eight years. There were a number of good reasons to create the role but the most significant one was the recent addition of the public policy magazine *Governing* to the e.Republic portfolio. He will also be the Editor-at-Large of the Washington, DC-based publication, making for a bit of a bi-coastal commute.

## Guest Book 2009

### Easter

Paul's dad and mom, Mel & Wilma Taylor



### Summer

Our friends James, Leeanne and Dani Hill from Calgary



### Fall

Paul's uncle Dick and his friend Marlice



### US Thanksgiving

Paul's niece, Naomi Duddridge



## Our Essentials



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### Note New Phone Numbers



ELAINE

360.561.7526

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PAUL

360.561.5984

[pwt@pwt.net](mailto:pwt@pwt.net)

The full version of the TaylorGram including more photos and an original reading of a Christmas classic is available at [www.taylorgram.org](http://www.taylorgram.org).