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Three Years & Still Going Strong: Tim Winters *by Charity Winters*



Tim Winters is no newcomer to Susan B English and the little town of Seldovia. Now beginning his third year teaching at the school and a recent homeowner in the community, Tim has begun to develop a few roots that may keep him around for a while. Although teaching seven different classes in a single semester can be difficult for any teacher to imagine, Winters has stuck it out due to his chance to enjoy and get to know a small group of students and his love of the surrounding area.

Originally from New York state (NOT the city!) Tim grew up in a small town called Livonia. He graduated from Livonia High School and eventually earned a teaching degree from SUNY Geneseo, a state college not far from his hometown. There he met his wife, Charity, also a graduating teacher, and the two were married in 2003. The story of how they ended up in Seldovia is an interesting one...

Besides the gorgeous landscapes that Seldovia had to offer, the Winters were extremely impressed with how welcome they felt by the community at their first arrival. Given Lisa O'Leary as a phone contact for rental information, Lisa opened her home to the Winters until they were able to get settled. Sandy Geagel, the school secretary was nice enough to let them into the school to get started on their classrooms before they had their own keys. They were greeted and introduced to almost everyone in town almost immediately and the reception left a great first impression of the town of Seldovia.

On June 2, 2005 Tim's first daughter, Abigail Grace was born. His wife left her job to stay home with the baby and Tim continued on for another year. Meanwhile, the rental situation was becoming difficult. After moving twice in the summer after Abbey's birth, the Winters made one last move into their first

Always curious about Alaska, Tim and Charity decided to spend their honeymoon somewhere in the state. Not knowing anything about it, they searched the Internet for cozy looking bed and breakfasts and came across Three Moose Meadow in Homer, AK. For one beautiful week in July they spent their time hiking the Homestead Trail, kayaking up to Grewingk Glacier and taking the Kenai Fjords boat tour. Needless to say, Alaska's beauty had completely captured them. They returned to New York for Charity's last year of college and Tim's first year of teaching as a high school math teacher in a rural area.

Hesitant to take the first step to really moving across the country to Alaska, push came to shove when Tim's job fell through that spring. With nothing keeping them in New York, the Winters decided to take the plunge and head to Alaska. The Kenai Peninsula area was their first choice for jobs but they also canvassed the Anchorage and Mat-Su areas. With only a few results and the school year nearing the end, the Winters made the choice to just go for it. They would leave for Alaska on the last day of school, keep in touch with the school districts on the way, and hope for the best. Worst case scenario, they would settle in Anchorage and substitute teach if they had to. The very day they left, the Kenai Peninsula district called, informing Tim and Charity of two job openings in Seldovia. The Winters expressed their interest in finding out some more information and signed on for phone interviews in the next few days. In the meantime, Tim and Charity had packed up their Jeep Cherokee with every necessity they could possibly fit, put the rest into storage and left for Alaska. Charity was offered her position as special education teacher for Seldovia, Port Graham and Nanwalek and a few days later at the Mississippi River, Tim was offered his job as the high school Math and Science teacher. With the stress of finding jobs no longer an issue, the couple enjoyed a camping trip across the country, taking the Alaska Highway all the way to Homer and arriving in Seldovia on July 17th, 2004.

house in November 2005.

Now Tim continues on in his weekly routine, taking care of his home, his family, and his seven classes. This year he is offering Marine Biology, Biology, Algebra A, Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Geometry, and Foods I. A heavy load, but the variety and the small classes keep him around!

