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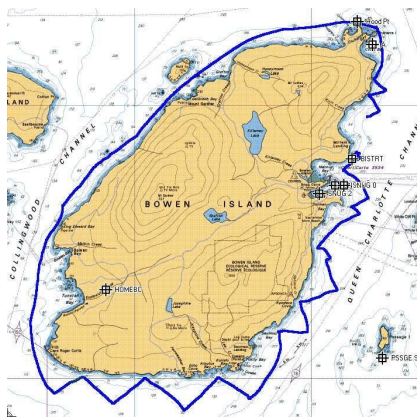
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December 2008

We send our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Bowen Island, British Columbia, Canada. Susan is writing this year's letter. Peter provided the photographs, and an updated web site with more pictures and a history of these letters - [www.dogandcat.ca](http://www.dogandcat.ca)

2008 was lively and productive. Peter reclad the chimney, and then used the scaffolding wood to make the substantial deer fence. So our front garden is very private.

Weatherwise the Spring was wet and the Summer wetter than usual, but fall was beautifully soft and sunny. Our plants have done well, so the garden is now looking lush. We are pleased that this is attracting more and more birds - even though they do eat the strawberries.



For us, 2008 was the year of the NRBR (Nearly Round Bowen Race) - see chart - we gave up short of the finish for lack of wind and the nearness of the cutoff time - but Peter and crew still enjoyed themselves.

Sheeba is now happily able to get on and off the boat and has been on her first short trip round the bay. She has had an adventurous year. Following an attack by another dog she developed an ear infection, resulting in a major epileptic fit, requiring substantial surgery. Nothing daunted she insists on chasing everything that moves, and ran across the road and into a passing car- again requiring surgery to a foot. She is now fully recovered.

Politically the most exciting part of the year was the Island's municipal election, providing a vigorously fought campaign, time to get to know the candidates, a good (68%!!) voter turn out, and a new council dedicated to vigorously oppose over development. Here are a couple of web sites giving differing views on one part of Bowen which illustrate the issues - <http://caperogercurtis.org/> and <http://caperogercurtis.com/> I am thinking I may be falling into Western Canadian thinking - should there be yet another Federal election I may even vote Conservative!

The Family Hilight of the year was the birth of Naomi Anastasia to Shelly and John. We have been able to visit them fairly frequently and have seen her grow into a delightfully determined small person. Wendy and Jacob visited them this Summer and we were able to see all our grandchildren together. Wendy is expecting her second baby next Spring - probably a girl we gather.



I went to Eugene, Oregon for Tai Chi training this Summer and was pleased to meet old friends and make new ones. We had several Tai Chi people staying with us whilst training on Bowen. It's always fun to have them with us. Fortunately one washroom is now fully functional (here is a picture of Sue wondering if it will ever get done), which makes it easier

to have people to stay. (Next / last washroom this Winter!!??) We are looking forward to entertaining Marcus and Tina Wigan in '09 so probably best if the second washroom is not in pieces then (Peter put this bit in!).



We both put in time this year as mentors ("expert advisors") of students at a local school for their very demanding projects. You can get a small idea from the school web site at <http://www.islandpacific.org/masterworks.html>

Perhaps you would consider coming to see us some time - if the economic situation allows?

Best wishes for 2009,

All our love

Susa & Pete