

sevensts@pathcom.com web site www.dogandcat.ca
petermat@pathcom.com 604 – 947 2023
Y22, 1548 Tunstall Blvd., Bowen Island, BC. V0N 1G0

December 2009

Peter and I send our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year Happy from Bowen Island, British Columbia, Canada. I will try to give you glimpses of the last year and our plans for the future.



We are hoping for a winter that is kinder than 2008-2009. Starting just before Christmas we had massive dumps of snow, closing Vancouver Airport for several days and making driving on Bowen impossible if you didn't have a truck. Christmas Eve church services were cancelled here and on the main land for the first time ever. We now have winter tires on my Honda Civic, having driven for 22 years in Ontario winters on all-season tires. Peter says that will probably mean we will have it mild this year!!

In early spring I felt incredibly tired and had some worrying symptoms. After tests and investigative surgery I was diagnosed with uterine cancer and had a total hysterectomy at the end of May, followed by 25 radiation treatments spread over 5 weeks. We didn't have time to contact many people with the news, apologies to those we missed and thanks for the kind messages and cards we received. This being a small island, word spread and we had a lot of concerned support. I've done everything possible, I'm having regular check-ups and my prognosis is very good.



A great joy of our summer was seeing Mark and Tina Wigan when they visited Vancouver – fortunately when Sue was just recovering. The weather was beautiful so we went to the Capilano Suspension Bridge, a real West Coast rainforest experience. Then we visited Granville Island for lunch beside the water. We had a wonderful day recalling old times and catching up on recent news.



Spring arrived late, summer started cold then became sunny and dry. Water restrictions were imposed earlier than usual, fortunately we have been applying loads of manure from the local stables and the plants survived well. Fall was very soft and lasted into November, giving our maples time to color well. Peter built me another raised bed for vegetables and two more are planned then the back yard will be complete.

Peter competed in the Round Bowen Race and did well (4th from 14 entrants). There was no summer series of races, Susie was placed 3rd in the Fall series (same points as 2nd but declared a technical KO). Peter returned to his drawing activities, taking classes with a local artist. His consulting work for Northern Airborne finished in April and he started new work for Viking Air in November. This neatly bracketed the time when he needed to be available to take me back and forth to Vancouver for treatment, etc.. Unfortunately this job does involve some travelling to the States, and is not likely to last long. (He also worked on the 2nd washroom)



2009 was a year of new births. Wendy and JP celebrated the birth of daughter Jessica Nicole, who is a very contented and easy going. John and Michelle welcomed Gillian Hannah, also a very contented baby. Must be the influence of the Chinese Year of the Ox. We will visit Montreal pre Christmas, we are looking forward good to seeing all our children and grand children together.

We have made some plans for next year. We have Winter Olympic tickets for the Bronze Medal game for Women's Ice Hockey, hoping that Canada will be in the Final but ready to cheer for whoever plays. I will be taking my Tai Chi studies to a higher level through intensive training throughout the summer. Now we have installed a second washroom, the last major house improvement, we are thinking about taking a holiday. For a long time I have wanted to visit Japan to see the gardens – perhaps 2010 will be the year.

We send our best wishes for health and happiness and peace,

All our love

Susan + Peter

Susan and Peter.