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December 2010

Sue and I send our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year Happy from Bowen Island.



We thought we would bring out the odd photo from the past to show you how much (Wendy in this case) and how little (Sue in this case) has changed.

Sue and Wendy 1971

Outside our bungalow at 10 Lyde Close Oakville, Hants, England. You can still find it on Google Street View, with the car port and garage we built still standing – and a rather large tree that we did not plant. (Special prize if you send us a correct screen shot!)

After last year's letter was written, Sue, Peter, and Shelly, John et al., flew across country to visit Wendy, JP, et al. We all had a wonderful time together, and here is the only picture (so far?) of all of our family.

This visit also gave birth to an unexpected increase in our household! Shelly and John's spaniel Kayleigh came to live with us for a trial period, and if OK then permanently. Well, she is still with us!



The Olympic torch came to Bowen Island very early in the morning – it left the island on the 6:30 am ferry, so it was a bit dark (February you know) but we did manage to get a few pictures. The island's turnout was very impressive – lot's of enthusiasm. We also attend the women's Bronze medal hockey game. (Canada's women got silver, the men, gold).



Since her operation and radiation treatment Sue has had periodic check up's through this last year. All of them have been clear so far, and the risk of recurrence drops towards the population norm as time goes by, so we remain optimistic.



Certainly Sue has been able to do more this year than last, and probably more than the year before, despite ano domini! These pictures show Sue, both dogs (Kayleigh is the spaniel) in our front yard. The foxgloves did well this year!

Peter has continued with the consulting work. Mostly this year it was for Viking Air who updated an old aeroplane, the "Twin Otter" Viking are not very far away as a plane flies, but they are on Vancouver island, and the ferry / car route is quite long. Fortunately Viking sent their Beaver floatplane over to Bowen to pick Peter up as required. Also working with the group (EUROCAE) that approves aircraft wishing to fly in Europe necessitated a trip to Cologne, which was interesting.

Our good friend, and Peter's previous colleague, David Adam came to visit us this summer, and enjoyed touring the Island. Those who knew Dave at Pratt, may be a little surprised at the haircut, but it really is Dave! The photograph is from the Bowen golf club looking over towards West Vancouver.



Two other noteworthy visitors were a couple of black bears. One has been trapped and returned to the mainland, but the other is either hibernating or swam off. Either way the bear poop on the front lawn (outside the deer fence) has stopped arriving.

Some snippets - Sue and Shelly did the annual trip to the Van Dusen Gardens.

Sue did the Intensive Tai Chi course here on Bowen. That ran as twelve four day weekends for 48 days total. She is very proud of completing the full Yang style curriculum in the company her Tai chi friends. We also feel that this aided her recovery considerably.

Our boat Susie won the cruising class again in the Round Bowen race, though Peter and Sue were missing (Peter in Cologne) – Susie was loaned to a friend.

Peter has joined the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) Unit 1, but cannot participate in actual rescues – it takes far too long to get there from here. Instead he is managing their brand new web site (ccga01.org). Talking of web sites – ours (dogandcat.ca) has been updated. Sue continues with the community choir (next concert due 2nd Dec, then the 18th Dec ...) and the garden club.

Wendy and JP visited us in August – here are pictures of Sue with Jessica Nicolle in our back yard. It was very nice to be able to gather together in the sunshine and all walk down to the beach at English Bay, Vancouver.



All our love, and best wishes for a happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year

Susan + Peter

Susan and Peter.