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Happy Christmas to everybody and good health and prosperity for 2012

We have kept well this year. I am now on a six month check up cycle at the BC Cancer Agency and am currently free of symptoms. It seemed time to sell our boat so Susie has gone to a good home but will still be moored on the island. Peter now has offers to crew on other boats and has been out training with the local Volunteer Coastguard so he hasn't left the sea entirely. Next year the Volunteer Coastguard headquarters moves closer to Bowen so his involvement may increase.

My Tai Chi classes were sporadic, restarting next year. I continued singing lessons, including my first solo in my teachers Spring Concert. I was going to sing a lullaby but decided at the last moment to do G&S "Sweet Little Buttercup", a good beginner's song.

The weather this year was very strange, a late spring followed by a cool wet summer then a long sunny fall. My vegetables grew well, the roses flourished and the tomatoes eventually ripened.

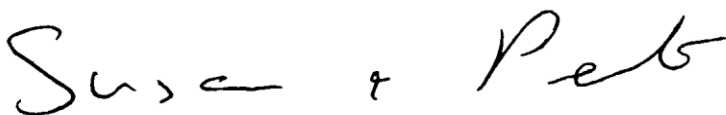
The highlight of my year was spending two weeks in Washington DC attending teachings by the Dalai Lama. I had a very packed schedule and enjoyed it all, I feel very fortunate to have gone. Then we spent some time in Vancouver looking after Naomi and Gilly (with a lot of assistance from Sharon and Winona) so John and Shelley could spend time with Wendy and JP for Wendy's 40th birthday.

All the grandchildren are doing well and developing their own interests. We may be able to visit Wendy next summer and see how much Jacob and Jessica have grown. Meanwhile we are considering moving to a planned smaller multi unit housing complex on Bowen. This is a "co-housing" project, where potential buyers are also the developers. This means that to start with, nothing is defined, but is debated (apparently endlessly) as things develop. However there are still so many unknowns about the project that we can't make the decision for a while.

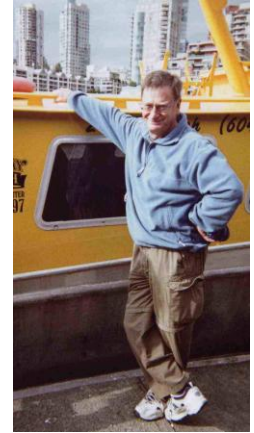
Bowen political life really livened up this year – having squashed plans for a large development on west side of the island the Municipal Council contacted Parks Canada to discuss making lands around the ferry terminal and centre island into a National Park. Lots of passionate debate, doom and gloom about the ferry service being overrun by tourists, and a local election that had the highest voter turnout in BC. The National Park proposal was narrowly defeated, to my disappointment, and a new Council was elected with 4 of 6 members being developers or supporters and a Mayor with no political experience and little knowledge of Bowen. As Peter says "we await developments"

Overleaf are a few photos from our adventures this year.

All our love

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susie + Peter". The letters are cursive and connected.

Susan and Peter.



Peace talk in Washington and Sue's 'roomie'.

Us by the water taxis to Vancouver for the theatre



Sharon, Gilly, Naomi and grandparents

Dogs!



Dog and Cat!

Summer growth in our back yard.



Sue's solo debut



Shelley and John took us to the Japanese Garden in Vancouver for Sue's Birthday