

December 20012

Hi everyone, near and far



We send our best wishes for Christmas and the coming year to you and yours. The dogs definitely send best wishes, see them with Santa at a fundraiser for our local animal charity.

We are all well and happy, getting older but that is currently OK with us. Our garden didn't start growing well until July due to very wet and cold weather, but it is beautiful now and full of birds. We had been interested in moving to a new subdivision starting on Bowen, but it didn't appear a good fit for our needs so we withdrew. We are obviously meant to stay here a little longer.



Our grandchildren are all flourishing, see pictures we took when we all visited Wendy in the summer. The weather was very kind to us, by August summer had finally arrived, and we spent a lot of time outdoors. Jacob is playing soccer, both he and Jessica love take swimming lessons. Jacob started school in September, Naomi will be next, time really does fly.



Peter is now seriously involved with the local Volunteer Coast Guard, both training and helping with maintenance. You may have heard the Federal Government intends to close the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station in Vancouver harbor in 2013, expecting other stations and volunteers to cover the area. The proposal is very contentious, especially so as the proposed (also contentious) Kinder Morgan pipe line will bring oil from the Alberta tar sands to Vancouver, leading to much more oil tanker traffic. Watch this space for developments; Peter will continue to wear his volunteer jacket around Bowen.

I was delighted to find good Tai Chi training this year. I did a four day workshop in Vancouver, probably getting the only dry and sunny days this Spring, and enjoyed meeting new training partners. I am now taking classes two nights a week on Bowen, I am constantly amazed at how many really good, experienced Tai Chi teachers there are on this small island.

I continue with singing, lessons and Community Choir concerts. We visit Vancouver to see John and family, go the Art Gallery, took Winona to see the Royal Winnipeg Ballet on tour (absolutely stunning but I did feel a little socially underdressed in my Bowen gear) – we do seem to have had a very full year.



Politics wise, Bowen is trying to increase it's amenities with only a small tax base and not a lot of new developments coming along. We are agreed we need to expand water and sewerage services to attract buyers for Municipal owned lands and have money to build a Community Centre but how will the infrastructure be funded ? etc etc. There is a current proposal to improve ferry loading by building a \$600k traffic circle (on an island with max of 3,500 residents) and move the Cenotaph (where to?) – politics is taken very seriously here so continue to watch for developments.

Looking back over 2012 we are very grateful for good health, many interests and wonderful family and friends. We send all our best wishes

Susan + Peter

Susan and Peter