

December 20013

Hi everyone, near and far.

We send our best wishes for Christmas and the coming year to you and yours. The THREE dogs definitely send best wishes, unfortunately cat William can't as he died peacefully this Spring, aged 19, and is still sadly missed.



We are all well and happy, getting older but that is currently (just) OK with us. The “just” is partly because we purchased a German shepherd puppy – Titan – to replace Sheeba who had been diagnosed with arthritis problems. However we are pleased that Sheeba seems considerably improved on new medication and even romps with Titan at times. Titan arrived about six weeks ago and is wonderful, but any puppy is a handful and keeping pace with a large bouncy puppy and the two elder statesladies is quite a handful.

Summer was very warm, sunny and dry (we think a 50 year Bowen record) until the end of August when there was a deluge. We did a lot of work at the far end of the garden, terracing and planting, and we look forward to a very bright new bed next year. We also built a ‘bikeport’ to house the new motorcycle - yes we got one of those as well as the extra dog. This is a 2013 Royal Enfield 500cc – now getting well known round Bowen. Shelley also got a new bike so she and John have one each now. (Sue is not interested.)



Our grandchildren are all flourishing, The two Vancouver ‘babies’ (!) are now attending an International School learning in French every day and seem very happy with this. The school is in a beautiful area with fine open grounds (we did inspect them!) and a good view of the mountains.

Peter is still seriously involved with the local Volunteer Coast Guard, mostly helping with maintenance of two rescue boats. Peter will continue to wear his volunteer jacket around Bowen. He is also still trying to make ends meet by working as a consultant on aviation software.



Sue was delighted to continue her Tai Chi training this Spring and Summer. Classes resume in January. She did two weekend workshops on Bowen, probably getting the only dry and sunny days in an otherwise miserable Spring. A further weekend workshop in August renewed old training partnerships and made new ones. Sue continues with singing lessons and Community Choir concerts and is doing well.

We visit Vancouver to see John and family, go the Art Gallery and theatres when we can fit them in.

Politics wise, Bowen continues to bubble. The current fuss is over some fairly large private docks that have been installed or planned in one small area of “previously unspoiled coastline”. Should the Municipality (could the Municipality) have stopped them? Consulted the public before doing nothing? Don’t bother watching this space it will be something different – but the same – by next year!

We have just signed up for a trip to Japan in April. Sue in particular has wanted to do this for some years, but found it difficult to find the right tour. Anyway we have now locked in for a two week trip to Tokyo and surrounding areas, visiting several famous gardens for Spring blossom viewing.

Looking back over 2013 we are very grateful for good health, many interests and wonderful family and friends. We send all our best wishes

(Did we mention the **three** (3) dogs?)

Susan + Peter

Susan and Peter