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Hi everyone, near and far.

We send our best wishes for Christmas and the coming year to you and yours.

We started off last year's letter with "The THREE dogs . . . ". Well the lowlight of 2015 was the unexpected death of Sheeba on January 30th. She had spent a happy day playing then collapsed from an unsuspected abdominal tumour, dying later that evening despite all the vet could do. We and the others dogs miss her terribly, the good news is Kayleigh and Titan are now firm friends.



Apart from that, things have gone on much as usual. Titan, Sheeba's 'replacement' is the tallest and bounciest shepherd that we know, but at 2 years+ (and nearly 90 pounds) he is showing occasional signs of decorum. See picture of him on our local beach, he would fetch his Frisbee all day given the option. Kaleigh continues to remain Kaleigh. We suspect her eyesight is deteriorating but she can still spot a crumb from across the room.

Sue went on a garden tour of China in the Spring which worked well, partly thanks to a well organised travel agent (Vancouver) and a well organised Chinese government. Compared to 2002 there were many fewer bicycles, more cars and more public transport, and apparently more young children. Also an acknowledgement of religious freedoms. Sue's highlights were visiting Shanghai's gardens and temples, seeing the canals of Suezho & the Li River and being in Luozhang for the world's largest peony festival. See picture of Sue at a Government Research plantation in Southern China, where she saw tea grown, picked & processed. She also enjoyed visiting a silk spinning factory.



AND the sea food in Shanghai was wonderful!

Meanwhile in other news;-

Peter continues his work as a consultant on aviation software. He has also been serving for some years on Boards for the local community center and for a Credit Union. But both these activities are winding down, so he was persuaded to join the Bowen Rotary. We will see how that works out.

Sue continues with singing lessons and Community Choir concerts and is doing well. The grandchildren are happy and flourishing. Naomi and Gillian are both learning the piano. See photos of them playing their pieces at the children's recital. We were very impressed by the high standards of all the children's playing. Wendy and her family went to Disneyland for their vacation and seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. Jacob and Jessica have changed schools and are doing well.



Sue was pleased that a Buddhist teacher moved to Bowen this Summer, and so she is taking classes again – Sue says it's lovely to have a teacher again.

2015 was a turbulent year weather wise. This was the second dry Spring followed by a very hot dry Summer bringing water restrictions to most of BC. Our lawns dried up as usual, most of our trees and shrubs flourished in the heat.

Bowen escaped forest fires, an ongoing concern on an island, we are grateful for the vigilance of our volunteer Fire Force. Other parts of the West Coast had forest fires for several weeks and we could wake up to an eerie glow in the sky and clouds of smoke drifting over. Now it is raining hard for days on end, sometimes with very high winds and power outages but no snow so far.

Our web site ([dogandcat.ca](http://dogandcat.ca)) has had an overhaul, with significant new stuff, and a resurrection of some old stuff removed a year or two back for lack of space. Read Christmas letters back to 1989! Search the new "Holidays" page and find photos dating from the 40's (and possibly the 30's!)

Looking back over 2015 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