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Hi everyone, near and far.

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

I suppose we could say this has been a quiet but busy year. No exotic holidays or bungee jumping from the Eifel tower, but fairly substantial 'yard work' - bluestone steps rebuilt, shed rot repaired (next summer it's re-roofing), retaining wall / fence redesigned and rebuilt, tree downed and converted into firewood, pergola anti-rotted, chimney top rebuilt, roof de-mossed, hot water tank replaced, . . .



*Old stone removed, new stone cut*

Titan continues much the same, but Kaleigh has had a worsening breathing difficulty / coughing issue for most of the year. She had investigatory surgery in late November resulting in a diagnosis of chronic bronchitis. This is incurable, but the experts are hoping for alleviation which may allow Sue and Kaleigh to sleep nights.

Sue's long standing back pain has got worse in recent times. Life continues. Sue's involvement with the Community and Church choirs and the Garden Club continues, as do her efforts to keep both dogs happy and healthy, and the garden looking good. Having admired peonies in Japanese gardens, she has planted several and is looking forward to them blooming.

Peter continues in good health, though his hours of sleep per day are now averaging 10+! His membership of Rotary has continued, and his contribution to a Rotary project to install Automatic Defibrillators around the island has increased. He is also involved in the resuscitation of the local "Emergency Social Service" (ESS) system which is in place to support people in the immediate aftermath of any general emergency.



Many cars were covered up to the rooftops in snow early Wednesday morning.

The kids and grandkids continue to thrive. Our Quebec contingent, Wendy, JP, Jessica and Jacob are hoping there will not be a repeat of last mid March's snow (see picture on left), but are otherwise doing well! Wendy has launched her mobile Fitness and Nutrition training business – take a peek at:

<http://www.fitnessprogression.ca/about.html>





Of the local Mathews branch, Sharon has just left for Australia with her boyfriend, Winona has not revealed her love life to us, but despite doing well as a help desk supervisor is considering moving to a less stressful occupation, Naomi and Gillian are still sprouting – and doing well on the piano. John has just moved to a new job – up the ladder, smaller firm, and Shelley continues to hold it all together whilst pondering volunteering

opportunities.

The weather continues to surprise, but Bowen has been very lucky compared to a lot of the world. No hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunami's, volcano's or earthquakes – touch wood! And terrorism continues to be a lesser issue than ferry cancellations. However, Bowen has not escaped climate change. We had a very late and wet spring, a short but hot summer, and an early cold wet Autumn.

This was the year we reached our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary –

pause for applause!!

We celebrated at the same restaurant we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup>. (It's changed hands at least twice since then.) Sue is wearing a wedding kimono with very auspicious cranes.

Looking back over 2017 we are very grateful for the health we do have, many interests and wonderful family and friends. We send all our best wishes.



*Susan + Peter*

Susan and Peter