

December 20018
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Hi everyone, near and far.

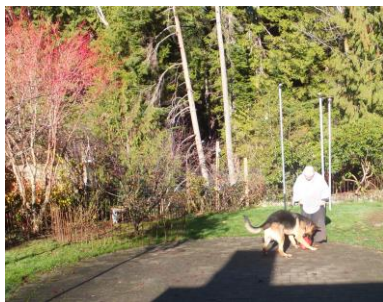
We send our best wishes for Christmas and the coming year to you and yours.

Each passing year seems to show a downward trend in reportable events (Surprise!) so this letter starts a new feature – “20 years ago in the Christmas letter . . .”:

- Litton promoted Sue
- Wendy and John have jobs, Wendy has a boyfriend
- We all went white water rafting on the Red Deer river
- We moved up to a pc with a hard drive!



As predicted in last year’s letter Peter installed a metal roof onto the shed (24’ * 10’ – nearly one fifth the size of the house). Much of the work was getting the old shingles off cleanly. But we are happy now it is done.



Titan still shows no sign of slowing down. Kaleigh keeps threatening to deserve a ‘passing’ (local euphemism) but keeps surprising us with occasional bursts of vigor. She may outlast us all!



Sue’s tree peonies did well despite being a rarity local locally. AND the magnolia blossomed after only having been nurtured for 11 years! Meanwhile, planning for her next trip to Japan (April 2019) continues apace – most of the time she will be her own tour organiser and guide so there is a great deal to do to make sure it will run smoothly with plans for both good and bad weather.





Peter continues in good health, though his hours of sleep per day continue to rise. Paid work has been very intermittent this year so we are hoping for more in the future – though not too much more! Some cash to pay for our new car would be nice, the previous one having given up the ghost at a mere twenty three and a half years of age. Peter is still in Rotary, building 'Bird Houses' to house the Rotary AEDs on Bowen, is part of the local "Emergency Support Service" (ESS) team, and is now a member of the Bowen Library Governing Board.

The kids and grandkids continue to thrive. Our Quebec contingent, Wendy, JP, Jessica and Jacob moved house this year so that killed doing much else – take a peek at:

<https://www.facebook.com/wendy.matthews.50>

Of the local Mathews branch, Sharon is still in Australia with her boyfriend, Winona has stuck to her job as a help desk supervisor, Naomi and Gillian are still sprouting – and doing well on the piano. John is working hard in his new job to create the expansion he was hired for, and Shelley continues to hold it all together whilst working part time days five days a week looking after a coworking space.

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! However, Bowen has not escaped climate change. We had a very late and wet spring, a hot summer (we fitted outdoor curtains to keep the heat from coming into the house), and an early cold wet Autumn. Ah well I suppose it all contributed to one of our gardens best Summer display, the cherry did especially well



This was the year we reached our 51th wedding anniversary –

pause for applause!!

Looking back over 2018 we are very grateful for the health we do have, many interests and wonderful family and friends. We send you all our best wishes.

Susan & Peter

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