



Volume 12 • Issue B

December 2013

2013 Christie Screech

Christmas has many voices; excited, joyful, pensive, and magical; our individual experiences tell our stories and reflect in our attitudes and outlook. Whatever the voice, the Christie Christmas celebration continues to be the focus of winter and has provided all of us with cherished memories; it is truly about family, friends, togetherness and love. We are so blessed.

Earlier this month we lost a wonderful member of our family, dearest Auntie Ann. Her memorial service was warm and loving like her. It was a fitting tribute. In Bob's address to our beloved Annie, he referred to her a *"the rose amongst the thorns. Words like refined, sophistication, elegance, poise, quiet humility—they belong to just one."*

The rest of us were referred to as *"a manure crusted mob of depravation."* An outsider might be offended by such a description, not us. As I sat and listened to Bob proudly lament, those cousins sitting at the same table as me nodded in agreement. Wait a minute! We are actually proud to be a part of this mob. Someone before us had set a good example.

Consider this quote: *"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."*, Albert Schweitzer

It is our task to continue to carry the torch and not to get carried away in the craziness of the holiday

Continued on page 2

Ann Taylor Christie April 30, 1931 – December 7, 2013



Harrison Hot Springs February 2012



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Editor in Chief:

Patty Forbes

Publisher:

Robert Christie
(aka Bobby Love)

Managing Editor:

Freda Colbourne

Associate Editors:

Mag the Hag,

Colleen Christie

Tina Oliver

Sandra Shaw

Susan Adams

Joanne McBean

Cheryl Buchanan

Foreign Correspondent:

Gayle Jeffries

Art Director:

Randy Christie

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christieclan.ca/pdf/screech13a.pdf

Screech... continued from front page

season. Step back and take a breath, and consider your perspective. Are you with the people you love and who love you? Remember to look at Christmas through the eyes of a young child. Can you see the joy and excitement in their face? Children love to give—it's delightful to watch the faces of a loved one when they open a homemade card or gift. Young children enjoy sharing. It is easy to lose sight of this.

Our grandparents and parents modeled wonderful generosity at every opportunity when we were young, and we grew up to be generous, thoughtful people as a result. Although individually we don't all meet the high standards set by Auntie Ann, collectively we nailed it! Well done Christies and Merry Christmas to you all.

Patty

Granny Loved Me Best...

Forward by Randy Christie

A subtext running through this year's Screech are little snippets of "Why Granny loved me best".

I'm often asked who I would most like to emulate... Would I like to paint like Raphael? Speak with the eloquence of Churchill? Drive a car like Uncle Mac?

Sure all of that and more but I think I most want most of all to be able to love like Granny Christie. The inevitable question becomes therefore, how did she love in such a way that she made every one feel they were her favorite?

I think growing up in this family I really struggled with understanding what love is. There is an immense dichotomy between the verbal abuse indiscriminately tossed and the absolute assurance that you are completely and unconditionally loved... you may wait a lifetime to hear a compliment but you wouldn't have to wait five minutes in a crisis to have all the assistance you need and more.

It wasn't until well into my adult

years I began to understand how the gulf is reconciled — our family demonstrates love by the generous acts of service that are rendered to one another. Service accompanied with an insult to be sure but with a smile and the knowledge that it came with unconditional acceptance.

Yet in this milieu of unreserved service and generosity Granny stood as the unrivaled paragon of love. What was it that set her apart? I think it was two distinct virtues she possessed.

The first was that she listened about two feet lower than everyone else. I'm imagining a typical scene on the porch at Lasqueti island — several well lubricated relatives are swapping lies and screeching at such volumes that the crows are writing letters to the Island Trust. In the midst of this din a little boy says, "I would really like to look in the mines we saw while we were fishing today." What chance did that small plea have of penetrating the ears of the noisy horde above his head... but Granny heard.

Granny always heard what her grandchildren said. Perhaps it was a by-product of having eight children in ten years that she was able to filter out the truly important from the merely loud. Or perhaps it was just that the generosity of spirit so exemplified by the family resided in her heart in such abundance that she was incapable of not responding to the smallest concern.

The second attribute was that she demonstrated an amazing attention to detail. She knew how to communicate love in small ways that spoke of her great capacity to know your unique wants and needs. If my sister Cheryl said she wanted a cookie, Granny knew she wasn't saying, "I'm hungry", she wasn't saying "I want any old cookie" She wanted a "Peak Frean cookie with the Jam in hole at the top."

While we may argue over who Granny loved best, I'm sure we can all agree that what ever the source of Granny's love the evidence of that love is manifested daily in the lives of her progeny.

UBC Researchers welcome live brain tissue donation for Alzheimer's study... thanks Helen

Helen continues to love her job at St Paul's Hospital, adores her two little dogs, long beach walks, her garden's peace and tranquility and her many friends. Back in Vancouver for 12 years now, is off to Mexico again for Christmas with Christie. Both Christie and Stefan traveled extensively in Europe this past summer and both attend UBC, Christie is aiming to head to Tanzania for a course and Stefan is striving to be fluent in Italian! Helen's household continues to host visitors from around the world. Helen claims she has proof that she was Granny's favourite, not only was she told this personally, but also has written proof in the form of a old birthday card (forensics may be required to ID the signature).

Lois is firmly rooted back in the Lower Mainland in a lovely home in Port Coquitlam and enjoys her work as a mental health counselor at Vancouver Coastal Health Deaf Well Being Program, where she has played a vital role for the past 7 years. She has been laboriously landscaping her



The Wood Gang

property, had Auntie Janet in situ to oversee the work of removing two cottonwood trees, but we suspect she was just ogling the tree feller... Because of her long work hours, Lois is unable to have dog at present, but takes care of a lovely, large poodle, Frankie, every weekend.

Sandy lives and works downtown in Vancouver and keeps up his

gardening hobbies – seems all the Woods inherited the green thumb!

Tina's segue into Real Estate with Dexter on the West Side has been a to the manor born move, however, never able to detach entirely from politics, she is determined to keep bike-lane mad City Hall in some form of check, now that she has the correct Premier in office. Jillian is nigh upon completing her Masters in Communications at SFU and works fulltime for the Asia Pacific Foundation and lives contentedly downtown with her partner Chris and their spoilt rotten cat Castro. Alexander took a semester off in Montreal to concentrate fulltime in fashion and marketing, his French has never been better and declares that if Quebec ever separates from Canada, he will become a Quebec nationalist. Sophia continues to amaze on the soccer pitch and is soaring academically in her final year at Crofton House, where she is House Captain of Stewart House. Her ambitions are to head into Sciences at an as yet to be determined Canadian university. At 13½ Bella, Jack Russell Terrorist, is still breathing, scampering and shedding.

by Tina Oliver



Tina O in the Tub

Heather Forbes caught soliciting on the downtown Eastside while launching a smear campaign against Justin Trudeau

*It goes without saying,
The evidence is strong,
The Forbes Family is crazy,
We have known all along.*

Biro Family

2013 was eventful for the Biro/Forbes Clan. Patty and Steve continue to flog their fabulous fish and chips in Deep Bay, working endlessly to fund the escapades of their children.

They take the odd trip to warmer climates to play golf, to watch Kevin play baseball or to supervise mom on Molokai.

Robert (26) lives in Nanaimo with his girlfriend Nicole. Last spring he left his employment with BC Ferries to join the Canadian Coast Guard. This was a promotion working as the Chief Mate and operating a ship for 5 months on the Mackenzie River.

Bruce (23) completed his degree in Physical Education and immediately took a volunteer internship in Zambia



Biro Family

where he worked for three months for the Zambian Government in the Ministry of Sport and Youth Development. Upon his return to Vancouver Island Bruce enrolled in the teacher training program at Vancouver Island University.

He is currently doing a practicum in Parksville at Oceanside Middle School much to the dismay of his cousins Katie and Maiah who both attend that school.

Kevin (20) is in his third year at UBC working towards his BA. He is a member of the UBC Varsity Baseball Team and this past summer he played in the Western Men's Baseball League for the Melville (Sask) Millionaires. While sporting the lucky mullet, the Millionaires won the championship and Kevin was named to the league all-star team.

Rob Forbes Family

When not co-starring in the "Egg Commercial" Rob can be found on the fishing grounds near Lasqueti.

This past June Rob snagged his largest spring in years. We all heard the tale over the phone and if Rob knew how to send an email or text everyone would have heard about it. The fish was too big for mom's fridge so he was forced to go home early. Rob would like all the relatives to know fishing this summer was fabulous and he is glad you all stayed home.

Ha. Ha. While the rest of us struggle to get out of bed in the morning, Coral

Patty

Without a doubt I was Granny's favourite grandchild. I was fortunate enough to be able to travel with Granny all over the province, trains, planes, buses, ferries and cars. I even was blessed to join her on a trip to the old country where she showed me her previous home on Crow Road in Glasgow.

While I truly felt I was the chosen one by having this honour that is not what sets me apart. I definitely became her uncontested favourite when I conspired in a lie with Granny C. In the early 80' the super powers, Tom and Helen decided it was time for Granny to move out of 2457.

She relocated just a block away from mom and me in Coquitlam. I

had the good fortune to visit with Gran on a daily basis, usually for tea and to retrieve our dog.

I often took her grocery shopping and helped her run errands. Ironically Auntie Ann didn't want me to take Granny shopping. She wanted Gran to remain independent and learn to take the bus and do these errands on her own.

Well, this is where the lie comes in, both Granny and I assured Auntie Ann that Granny did indeed take the bus and did her own shopping and banking without any assistance. I figure it's okay to let the cat out of the bag now. Auntie Ann would surely cut me a little slack and thus I will remain to be Granny's favourite.



Rob, Coral, Orca False Bay



Elliot & Heather Baseball MVP's

is off fundraising for an awesome organization called C.A.R.E. In November 2014, as a member of the C.A.R.E. team she will be ascending to Mount Everest's base camp.

Elliot, electrician extraordinaire turned 30 this year. In August he was awarded MVP of his baseball league (Mixed Beer League) – an award he actually shares with his sister Heather. But, Elliot isn't as popular on the soccer pitch. His aggressive tactics and "nose-for-the-goal" has placed him at the top of the hit list. He plays soccer like Uncle Tom played rugby.

Heather (27) should have been

the one to write the article. As the Communications Coordinator at the First United Church in Vancouver, she is pretty much a "writer with a purpose." That and, Heather happens to be a graduate of the "Next-up" Leadership Program. You would think that the future Prime Minister of Canada could find something interesting to say about her family? Maybe we can get her to do it next year.

Kelly (24), who was forced to step up to the plate and write the Rob Forbes section, perhaps it is because she tore her ACL in the summer, that everyone assumes she has lots of spare time; or, maybe it is because she recently graduated with honours and distinction from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Double Major History and

Geography and heck, what can you do with a Bachelor of Arts besides write? At her graduation ceremony, she successfully navigated herself across the UVIC stage without tripping; she gracefully bent over to be bopped on the head by the chancellor without showing her underpants to the whole crowd. It was a proud moment for the entire Forbes Family.

Bill Forbes Family

Bill and Georgia continue to be busy with activities involving their grandchildren. Bill is still basking in the fame of staring in the famous egg commercial. He sold his boat the Ocean Cristal this fall and is counting the days to his January Hawaii trip with Georgia. B&G take every opportunity they can to venture up

Rob

There is no question in my mind that I was Granny Christie's favourite grandchild. I was the one grandchild who took her fishing. Not only did I take her fishing, I cleaned her fish and I later cooked her fish for her, and if that wasn't enough I even acted as a human shield that protected Granny when she and Uncle Jimmy decided to use their fishing rods to joust and jab each other. By shielding her she was able to give old Unc some really decent shots. I definitely was her favourite.



Bill with Pete and Kaiya



Alicia and kids



Ag and Jean Killimanjaro

to Keremeos to visit PJ (39 for the first time) and his crew.

PJ's daughter Kaiya is now in grade one and her ice hockey debut where she slashed an opposing player was placed on Facebook and has gone viral, clearly showing that the apple does not fall from the Christie like tree.

PJ's son, Pete (fondly referred to as "Repeat") follows closely in his sister's footsteps and can't wait to begin school. He too is involved in every sport and activity available to him.

PJ attempts to play the role of responsible parent and stuffs his kids full of health foods like quinoa and flax barf!

PJ, Bill and Rob continue the tradition of the fall moose hunting

Jean

I know that I was/am Gran's favourite, she always introduced me as her #1 grandchild who produced her #1 great grandchild. There are a few of the delusional remaining 29 that have failed to produce any great grandchildren... it's a numbers game people... reproduce!



Weighill Family

experience. They were able to reel in a moose, literally, from the middle of a swamp, and so the adventures continue. Their stories always make great conversation topics.

Alicia continues to be busy manning her Postnet business solo. We can all thank her for the printing of this year's edition of the Screech. She treated her kids to a trip to Disneyland this fall taking a much deserved break from her daily grind. Her daughter Katie (13) continues to be an excellent student loves to read, highland dance and is an up and coming Kardashian.

Willy (10) discovered baseball this summer much to the delight of his Biro cousins. His mosquito team advanced to the provincials. He also excels in ice hockey and we all get weekly hockey highlights on Facebook.

Jesse (8) aka Harry Potter as he is tricky little monster. He is in grade 3, plays soccer and hockey. Jesse's hockey team was selected to play at a Canuck's game, which was awesome.

Trevor continues to fish for halibut and keep himself busy with his kids.

Taylor (15 years), grade 10, plays hockey, just got his 1st job at Tigh-Na-Mara and loves it. Maiah (13 years) is in grade 8, highland dancer, another Kardashian wannabe. Ha. Ha. Ha. Naden (8 years old) is in grade 3, highland dancer and a soccer punk. He is a little mischievous to say the least. He resembles a young Don Layfield who can grin his way out of trouble.

Weighill Family

During the past year Aggie (39, also for the first time) returned to Ghana to continue her work there with her Recreation and Tourism students from Vancouver Island University.

In June Jean joined her in Tanzania where they made the fabulous trek up Mount Kilimanjaro. Talk to them about their amazing adventure.

Cameron and Dorianna are proud parents and 16 month old Pietro is the pride and joy of the Weighill family, bringing us all much joy.

Cameron has been enjoying himself this past year being the President of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, working as a Team Lead for part of the year and being involved in a whole bunch of high profile "public healthy" stuff.

Dorianna also has a career in public health and has just recently and reluctantly returned to work. Bummer. The Weighill gang was faced with a tough situation as John's condition took a huge turn for

the worse this fall and in November he succumbed to the disease, Multisystem atrophy, which plagued him for several years. Prior to John's death The Forbes Clan all enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving together in Deep Bay as Cameron(41), Dorianna and Pietro were here from Ontario to celebrate with us. Dorianna even gave Aggie and Patty an authentic pasta lesson in attempt to expose us to a new culture...as if.

We also took the opportunity to

sing a happy 84th birthday to our mom (Granny F, Auntie Pat) at the same time. Mom (Patricia) manages to venture to Molokai 3 times a year with one of her own children in tow. She works hard at Lasqueti to keep her garden, lawn and orchard up to snuff, which is no small feat. She loves to have visitors at both Molokai and Lasqueti so keep her in mind if you're looking for a place to relax.

by Patty Biro

Billy

Once upon a time Robbie and I were working around Mackenzie one winter. Rob at a mill and I was logging. We would spend weekends at Jean and Johns in the Pine Pass.

I had an old MGB that was forever breaking down but John let me work on it at Highways Dept. shop. I took it out of the shop, parked it front of their trailer and it screwed up again.

John walked by and asked me when I was going to quit screwing the dog and buy a real car!

My feelings were hurt and just then his old dog walked by so I grabbed that old dog by the back end and started giving it a bit of Billy loving.

I looked at John to see how liked that real dog loving, he was pointing at the trailer window and laughing his fool face off!

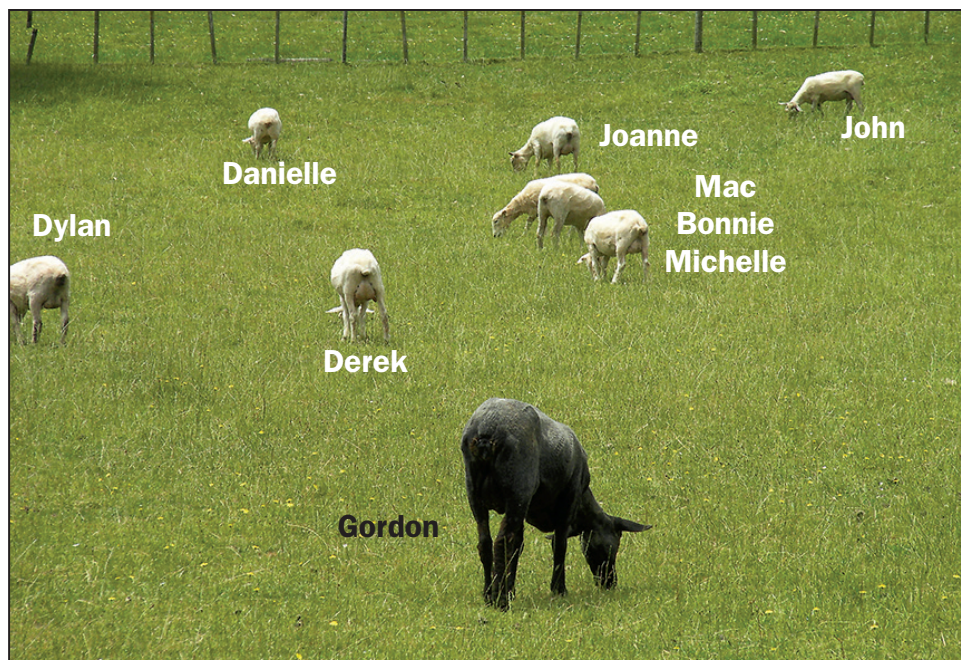
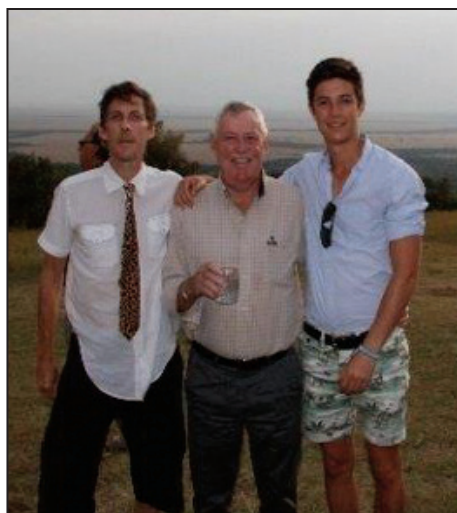
I looked over and suddenly remembered that Granny Christie was up visiting and there she was watching her favourite grandchild's grand performance.

I knew from a previous incident that she didn't have many teeth left and right then she didn't have much in the way of lips either!

My only time I may have slipped in favour.

THE BIG MAC TIMES

Mac Christie's travel to New Zealand *Michelle Elopes with a Hobbit*



The Mac Christie's flew off to New Zealand and sent this family portrait

Daryl H pardoned as Steve Constable is caught selling missing silverware on Ebay

Loreal Preference offers Hensch Hags contract for a nationwide tour

Herndier's

Still no engagements, weddings or babies, but we are one step closer to retirement! Vanessa has graduated with an "honours" degree in criminology – so no more education payments. We are very proud of her. She is working as the house manager for a half way house in New Westminster. This is a stepping stone for becoming a probation or parole officer. She is also working on her days off at the TownHall Pub in Coquitlam. She likes extra money for traveling. She spent her birthday in Las Vegas with Lauren and her cousin Sarah, and is on vacation in Cuba right now.

Lauren has taken on a new job with an orthopedic surgeon – Monday to Friday which she finds very enjoyable, and still works at Milestones on the weekends. Her passion is still working at the Healthy Heart in Burnaby, but there are no full time jobs available yet. She is going on vacation to Cabo, Mexico with grandpa – looking forward to



The Reindeer Games...

Russell instructing his Grandchildren in the Good, Old-Fashioned Family Values

some time off in January.

Daryl and Christy are still working!!! but we love our vacations. Our Annual spring golf trip to Phoenix, summer camping trips, a wonderful week at Lasqueti . We had a nice

visit with Auntie Pat ,and Robbie even took us fishing – which always brings back old memories of our childhood visits. We went to Ottawa this summer (way too hot), and our first visit to Kona, Hawaii this fall. It was an awesome vacation, lovely weather and great beaches.



Christy

Of course I was Granny Christie's favorite, she told me with that sparkle in her eye and a little wink!

She would always give me her favorite tea cup when I went to visit her.

Daryl says he definitely was her favorite, cause the first year he came to Christmas Eve dinner he got to sit upstairs with the adults!

We all had to put in our years downstairs.

Adam's Family

2013 has gone by in a flash!! Rob and Susan will celebrate 29 years of marriage on the 29th of this month, they travel to Phoenix to golf a couple times a year and to Christina Lake every summer to hang out with whatever family members can make it up to enjoy the sun, hikes, bikes and golfing.

Rob continues to work at Manulife Securities in White Rock, getting up most mornings at 5:30 and going for his daily workout at The Sun God Rec center.

Susan is still slogging away at RCH, working in the recovery room, now 33.5 years at the same hospital. Still skating, playing at field hockey and having fun with her mixed slow pitch team in the summer.

Eric is working as an Apprentice Machinist at Ideal Gear on River road in Delta, he will be returning to BCIT next fall for his 4th and final session to complete his Journeyman ticket. Eric has been together with his girlfriend Liz for 2 years and they had a fabulous holiday this spring in Cancun.

Adrienne graduated with her diploma in Professional Sales – MKTG Management in spring 2012 and is currently finishing up her

Business Degree at BCIT. In February she traveled to Steyr, Austria to complete a semester at the business school in Upper Austria. She met a lot of international students and had a wonderful experience, and we will get to meet a certain Finnish fellow named Aleksi at the end of December. She is in the process of applying to Masters Programs and is hoping to go to another country to complete this part of her education.

David also graduated last December from UVIC with his Commerce Degree, and is on his mission to be a firefighter. He spent the summer fighting fires from a base camp in Salmon Arm in a group called RAPATTACK. These are the crazy ones that rappel from the helicopters into remote areas where conventional travel is not possible. He is still courting his girlfriend of 2 yrs, Jessie.

Julia is still in Ireland in her 3rd year of the Med School Program at The National University of Ireland in Galway. At times she seems so very far away, but with our great technology and the wonder of the computer... (How did we function without them??) Skyping is our new favorite thing. We even had her watching and commenting as Dave and I put up a few decorations for Christmas!! We are very fortunate to be able to bring her home for Christmas and a



Susan and Rob in Phoenix

few months in the summer for visits.

All in all 2013 has been a year of mostly highs and few lows, most notably the recent passing of our mother, the late great Ann Taylor Henschel, AKA: Annabelle, Annabelle Lucy, Annie, Sterile Ann, Sister Ann, Auntie Ann, Antiseptic Ann, Mother Hen ,Mom, Mumsie and a host of other affectionate names we all loved to call her. She will be dearly missed and in our hearts forever.

Constables

Jamie and Steve are still living up Heritage Mountain in Port Moody, but off looking on the Island for a retirement home. Does anyone have a lead on an acre with a view of the ocean for under ½ a mill let them in on it!! Dream the impossible dream I say. Steve has been unable to work for the past year with debilitating back and neck pain, but has managed to keep occupied with his hobbies that include photography, walking and



Julia conquering Garibaldi this summer



Milestone Birthdays for 2013

Celebrating 80
Bill Colbourne

Celebrating 60
Susan Fraser

Celebrating 50
Cheryl Buchanan
Stewart Colbourne
Craig Christie

Celebrating 30
Jennifer Christie
Elliot Forbes

Celebrating 20
Julia Adams
Kevin Biro
Oliver Colbourne

Celebrating 10
Willy Fox

Royal Baby
Born 2013
George Alexander Lepp

antiquing. Jamie is still working for Levitt Machinery and is often seen trying to improve her income down at the Boulevard casino, or any open casino in the lower mainland!

Scott is going to attend BCIT next year in the pipe fitting apprentice program, but is keeping himself busy with sound mixing and editing.

Sarah is finishing up her degree at Capilano College in tourism. She is working 2 jobs part time and continues to travel around the world, taking 2 or 3 trips a year. Including Vegas with 2 cousins earlier this year.

Russell

This year was the first annual "Russell Sprout Beer Olympics" at 312 Laurentian Cres. This was the grandchildren and grandpa basically having a BBQ and playing all sorts of drinking games, apparently Grandpa was the winner!!! A good time was had by all, judging from the pictures.

Grandpa spent a great deal of time cruising the world with Isobel and Rune. We think he is away more than he is at home. He is a very lucky man!



Another Redneck Family Christmas Tradition... Adams family conquers tree with 1 saw and 12 hands! Why head out into the wilderness when there are so many good trees to be cut around Vancouver City Hall?

My Ode to Auntie Ann is titled:

Some Hard Truth for the Christie Clan

Abridged version of Bob's remembrances at Auntie Ann's Celebration of Life

I'd like to share a little fact with my cousins that may come as no great surprise: Auntie Ann LOVED me the BEST.

There's no use protesting. Because you know it's true. I was not only her nephew, but also her godson, so I was doubly blessed. Auntie Ann and I had a very special bond, and it's much more than the fact I made her a celebrated film star. Our connection began much earlier. Our family lived just a few minutes up the hill from the Henschel's, and I had the opportunity to spend a lot of quality time with Auntie Ann over the years. We enjoyed afternoons together at Empire Stadium watching Rugby games, she came to my high school plays, and brought me souvenirs from all her marvelous world travels. Years later we bartended together at the clubhouse, and spent lovely lazy Cheese cake and tea soaked afternoons discussing the finer points of flower arranging.

The rest of you vulgar, sweaty, jocks didn't really stand a chance, frankly, once my charm and talent arrived on the scene. She loved me best. This is the hard truth. Feel free to check my credentials with the other Aunties.

My darling devoted Auntie was definitely the rose amongst the thorns when it comes all matters of respectability. It is truly a miracle from above that Annie managed to maintain her graciousness and fine principles amongst this manure crusted mob of depravation. Sadly I feel it's safe to say: Ann was actually the last shred of class and dignity this motley clan can honestly lay claim to.

Oh right, then there's Uncle Russell. To you I only have this to say: Thank-You very much. It appears Auntie's generous heart and unending kindness was actually contagious. (Clearly her

beauty was not, but that's another matter entirely) Even in the face of the relentless excuses for drinking and carousing that the Christie's make a part of daily life, you have persevered. And you've now set the bar of spousal dedication impossibly high for the rest of us. Well done, sir. I am afraid that chivalry of your kind may soon be a lost art. One more Hard Truth.

Now of course I love all my Aunties, they are all very unique, special ladies.... But let's face it, none of them have what Ann had. Words like, Refined Sophistication, Elegance, Poise, Quiet humility - they belong to just one. Annabel. She was all alone on this turf in a field of Christies.

Ann's fine sophistication was even greater than the sterility of her bathroom. And yet, hygiene is but one measure of respectability. A whispered kindness. Gentle comforting words. Sweet soft concern over a delicate health matter. This was Ann's specialty, no contest. Those daily phone calls to check on just how much puss that nasty infection is producing nobody cares about this stuff anymore, not like Auntie Ann did. Now the rest of us are left here mangled, scabby, tacky, brutish and loud. Hard Truth.

Now I ought to be careful here, Auntie might be cross with me for saying all these mean things about the rest of the family. She would protest every word of it, pretend to be angry, shake her finger at me and say "Oh Bob, now you behave. Godmother is watching."

And I know it's OK. Auntie Ann understands that I share these hard truths from a place of love.

Auntie Ann never shied away from having a stern word with someone, if they needed to hear it. I think I was even scolded ... once. She



Auntie Ann and her "favourite" nephew Bob

could definitely deliver the hard truth. Besides, I think she is going to be quietly pleased that I haven't been going on and on about her, up here. Annabel didn't like being the centre of attention, or having people fuss over her too much. And she's probably very happy I am not up here relentlessly picking on her like you all did her whole life, poor thing. And yes this includes her wicked offspring, my three rotten cousins The Henchhags: Christy, Susan and Jamie. I know your mom would want me to say - Thank-you. Despite your obvious character flaws, you've been wonderful support to BOTH your parents, without ever losing your sense of humor. This is particularly impressive behavior for members of the dirty 30.

Annabel was a delicate flower. Sweet, innocent, kind and caring. Traits which the rest of the family is largely unfamiliar, having numbed our senses and clouded our judgment with that penchant for alcohol. But my lovely Auntie Ann, never needed these things to find happiness in the world. Godmother approached every day with a beautiful mixture of innocence, wonder and joy. You could see it in the sparkle in her eyes and the unbridled enthusiasm of her smile. She was a wonderful gracious soul and we will miss her dearly.

I would like to close with her three favourite words that just need to be said one more time.

Wash Your Hands.

Shocking Discovery that Willie hired a painting Contractor... Now Willie Won't!

The Buchanan's

The most important and favored member of the WJ Christie family is of course Janet. Janet has had a rather tumultuous year, both with a major surgery and then having to change residences once again. Despite both her body and mind deteriorating she still brings much joy to all she meets and has quickly warmed her way into the hearts of her new family. Kay works tirelessly arranging her appointments, advocating and carrying the emotional weight of being Janet's protector and guardian.

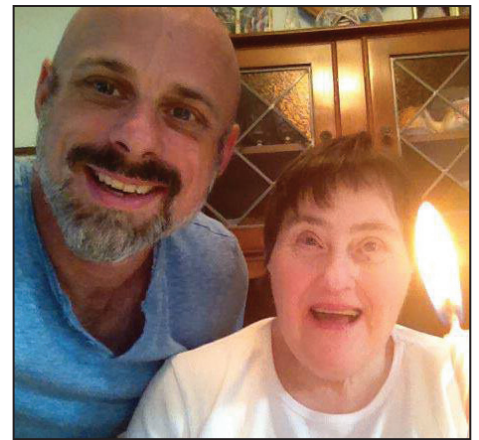
Mark and Cheryl had a major transition this summer, moving from Duncan to Calgary, from ocean to mountains, from pastoring to professoring, from Rock 'n' roll to country music (well not quite that one yet). After several months of

being pursued by Ambrose University, Mark finally accepted a position of Professor of Pastoral Theology. He is enjoying the stimulation of students and faculty and only working 7 months of the year.

Cheryl graduated with her Masters in the Art of Spiritual Formation (one of those degrees that you need a degree to try to figure out what it means), and is beginning to build a client base as a Spiritual Director (google it).

Nicola also graduated this year, and rather reluctantly moved to Calgary with her parents. She's working full-time with the hopes to return to the island in the near future.

Adam continues to fight fires in Kamloops in the summer, and is working in the oil patch in the winter, living with his parents in-



Bob and Janet

between shifts.

Sarah completed her second year of university in Quebec and is currently doing her third year at the University of Brussels in Belgium and enjoying weekends exploring as many European cities as she can get to. The whole family will join her in early December for a couple of weeks. Such is the life of a professor, no Christmas duties!



Mark and Cheryl (top) Sarah



Adam (top) and Nicola

Cheryl

I didn't even bother to ask my brothers why they were Granny's favourite because it is fairly clear they were not even close. I know I ranked favourite in our family, and even venture to guess I was the favourite of all 30!

You see, I was always a cookie addict and Granny not only knew this but she supplied my habit. When the brothers were not around she would gingerly slip over to the cupboard, reach up onto the second shelf, hidden at the back were my favourite jam-filled biscuits, kept hidden just for my visits.

Not only did she keep them hidden in her kitchen cupboard, but when she would come to kid-sit us while our parents were out gallivanting somewhere, she would bring a special stash along – just for me.

Randy's Family

David and Jen's 3 year search for their first house concluded with an impulse buy on a place they'd only seen once. Turned out to be a great move and although they're back in Maple Ridge and living with their father (two things we promised we would never do again) they couldn't be happier.

David also moved his employment address after 5 years with the "Company Formally Known as United Petroleum" (sorry Uncle Mac!).

Brandon started Grade 2 at his new French Immersion school and can already read and speak French better than both his parents combined. Ethan is now completely mobile and has discovered every unsecured item in the house and ensured it has been relocated to the floor where it belongs.

Rob is continuing in his mandate to keep North America safe at all times. He has been promoted to a Senior Weapons Director on Echo Flight which has been a good and challenging career move the only disadvantage it seems is he can't party with his friends as much... I'm thinking this is probably for the best for keeping North American safe. Rob, Jenelle, Jeremy and Jackie



Captain Robert Christie



Dave, Jen, Brandon and Ethan

are excited to have been approved for the Military's Christmas Flight program which means they will be in the lower mainland over the holidays.

Sean has had his share of adventures as well. He graduated from UBC's music department and started into graduate studies.

Beth and Darryl are finishing up their last year at UVIC, where Beth was accepted into the Honours program in Psychology. She became a doula this year and helped three women in their birthing process. She toured Budapest and Prague in the summer, and is looking forward to graduation in June and then probably onto graduate work.

continued on next page



Sean Christie



Darryl and Beth

Randy

I know I was **NOT** Granny's favourite because I discovered her deep dark secret. You see Granny was not the well spring of sweetness that you all consider her to be but she did in fact have a more sinister side.

One day the family was invited to dinner at Granny's and steak pie was on the menu. Now my mother makes the finest steak pie in the world and it seemed reasonable to expect Granny's culinary contribution would be just as fine. With memories of butter caressing the surface of freshly baked scones and short bread cookies that melt in anticipation of the touch of your tongue who wouldn't be excited about the prospect of the savory delicacy on the plate before me.

I eagerly skewered a gravy drenched morsel, raised it to my lips and bit into it anticipating an explosion of the rich beef flavour in my mouth... In stead I dropped my fork as look of horror came over my face, "Liver!" I wailed.

It seems sweet Granny had slipped kidneys into the steak pie and I had thought I had been duped into eating liver. It did evoke the memory of the poem dad used to recite to me "Lord Randall" where the hero was poisoned by his true love's eel stew.



Randy in Sierra Madres, Mexico

Randy spent July in Mexico hiking through the Sierra Madre's with a mule team delivering food and clothing to the Tarahumara.

Randy also taught his father how to assemble sheave gauges and thus was able to occupy his idle hands and keep him from distracting the ladies during their Bridge games.

Finally Randy added to his eclectic mix of business interests a Fracking Waste Water Remediation Company and Organic Greenhouses.

Bob

Last but certainly not least is brother Bob. Not to be outdone by his sisters degree he has ventured but into the academic world, and

is pursuing a Masters in Media Arts, with the ghost of Granny Christie looking over his shoulder at the SFU Woodward's building downtown. He is also working as a Teaching Assistant for first year film students. His most traumatic filming experience this year was making an egg commercial on the Lasqueti fish boats with his cousins Bill and Rob as this forced him out of the business for good. He is currently sporting the student look of unshaven, smelly, sweat pant clad and eating a lot of Kraft dinner and tuna out of the can; rather resembling those who live at the foot of his university building.

By Cheryl and Friends

Fondly Remembered



Gwen Colbourne

Nov. 29, 1914 – Nov. 15, 2013.

After a full and wonderful life, Gwen passed away peacefully at her home, 2 weeks shy of her 99th birthday. Gwen was a kind and gentle lady with a warm and loving heart. She will be missed greatly.



John Gerald Weighill

Oct. 26, 1942 – Nov. 16, 2013

John will be remembered as a quiet, kind and gentle man. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. He had the patience of a saint and welcomed the opportunity to share his passion for fishing and the outdoors with others, especially children.

He was a wonderful, husband, brother, father, grandfather, and friend. He was a loving and loyal family man, a gentle giant through and through. Sadly gone, but never forgotten.

Here's the video link:

<http://youtu.be/WMMY7Mm0ByQ>



Ann Taylor (Christie) Henschel

April 30, 1931 – December 7, 2013

Ann will be remembered for her generous heart and unending kindness. She had a smile that could light up the room. She possessed a fine sophistication and would offer a whispered kindness with gentle comforting words when needed. She was a fun, loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Ann approached every day with a beautiful mixture of innocence, wonder and joy. This could always be seen in the sparkle in her eyes and the unbridled enthusiasm of her smile. She will always be fondly remembered.

Jeffries Clan attend Mandela memorial ... distant family extends long-awaited invitation to visit.



The bright spot of the year had to be Caleb & Hilary's over-the-top beautiful wedding. The event started with a stately service in the garden and ended with the gang (Bonnie, Mac, Mom, Jill, Michelle, Joanne, Rylee, Carley, June, myself and a few others) lighting up the dance floor, after doing fruity firewater shots at the bar. Yes, Uncle Mac drank fu-fu flavored shots and Yes, Auntie Bonnie can boogie like a rock star!

With Caleb married and out of the house (most of the time), Ben will graduate from high school this spring and Hannah will graduate from SFU.

Rick, Carrie, Brady and their pack of dogs continue to live happily in Birch Bay during the summer. Winters are spent in sorted lower mainland ice rinks cheering on Brady's hockey career.

Rylee has been and will be buried in text books for a couple more years, as she earns her Chiropractic degree in

Portland (Dean's List).

Carley has thoughts about going back to school for her masters. In the meantime she is happily employed, living and working in the big city,

sporting a new car and a season's pass for Whistler.

Life is good with the Jeffries.

by Gayle J. Stephens

My cousins are way
better than yours...
and would totally
drink yours under
the table



Watch out for the “Christie”s there are a lot of them!



ANN TAYLOR HENSCHEL	COUSINS	GRASSHOCKEY	MERRY CHRISTIEMAS	SISTERS
AUNTIES	DRINKS	INLAWS	MOIRA	SPORT
BABIES	DUNDAS STREET	JANET	OUTLAWS	SOUP
BILL	FAMILY	KAY	OXFORD STREET	THE DIRTY THIRTY
BOB	FISHING	LAC LA HACHE	PATRICIA	THE ROYAL EIGHT
BONNIE	FOOD	LASQUETI ISLAND	PETER	TOM
BOWLING	FORBES	LAUGHTER	RUGBY	TRAVEL
BROTHERS	FRIENDS	LAYFIELD	RUSSEL	WELCOME
CHRISTIE	GEORGE	LORRAINE	SCHOOL	WILLIAM
CHRISTMAS EVE	GRANDCHILDREN	LOUD	SCONES	WOOD
CHRISTIE OLYMPICS	GRANDPARENTS	LOVE	SCRAMBLES	
COLBOURNE	GRANNY CHRISTIE	MALCOLM	SHORTBREAD	

Colleen and Craig reflect on their potential bucket lists...

Giving up drinking is not on their radar

Colin and Susan continue to live the life of the retired and almost retired much to the chagrin of their MUCH younger siblings and their spouses. 9 weeks again this year in Puerto Vallarta and the Spanish is getting pretty good. They as usual spend their summers on Ruxton Island and family is always welcome, (just not at the same time). Susan celebrated her 60th this year and went on a Caribbean Cruise that Colin planned for her milestone birthday. Michael continues to work for the Portland Hotel Society (DTES) and is pursuing his interest in music production on the side.

Deb and Mike finally married off their last child Jennifer this year to Chase. They had a fabulous intimate wedding at La Stella Winery in beautiful Osoyoos following Chases passion as a sommelier and his love of wine. They recently provided Deb and Mike with their first "Grand Dog", a gorgeous husky/lab rescue named Wrigley.

Jeff and Jacquie just returned from a Mexican vacation in Cabo where

they went deep sea fishing and landed a 150lb Marlin. Difficult to land, I don't think that big fish wanted to be a Christie Clan meal!!

Julie and Marco are doing well. Julie was recently promoted to Operations Manager for the West Coast for Aritzia. Marco most recently started a new job at the airport with G4S, so all you Christie smugglers be very careful as Marco has you in his radar.

Dano and Elaine continue to travel extensively throughout the year and Jacqueline graduated in June and just turned 18.

Craig, Wende, Cassandra and Maria are all doing great. Cassandra and her boyfriend recently bought a fixer upper in PG and spent tons and time and I am sure a little of Dad's time and money to get it ready to move into. Maria graduated this year as well and turned 18 in September.

Ken continues to work for Kingston Construction not realizing he would be using his skills as a welder which he took back in 1984. Colleen is still working as a CareGiver and enjoys it very much, but is looking for a new



Chase and Jennifer

job with more hours.

Kristi is still employed at The Astoria as a Certified Care Aide. She really enjoyed caring for Gwen Colbourne they had planned to celebrate their birthdays together. Unfortunately we know that was missed by a few short days. She still continues to care for her Grandmother Christie and is enrolled in school part time right now upgrading so she may enter nursing school next year. She turned 21 in November and is ready for VEGAS.

Kevin graduated from High School in September and finished his first year of Carpentry. He got in the union and is working full time for Kingston Construction. He will be going to BCIT in January to get his 2nd year of Carpentry.

Craig is now in Grade 10 @ Terry Fox Secondary. He gave up hockey this year and went back to playing soccer for the school and our local PoCo league. He loves to snowboard, wakeboard and still rides his dirt bike.

by Colleen Houghton



Jeff and Jacquie land a 150lb Marlin

Marg & Stew open Zen Commune in Fraser Valley

Neighbours expecting silent meditation complain about high decibal screeching

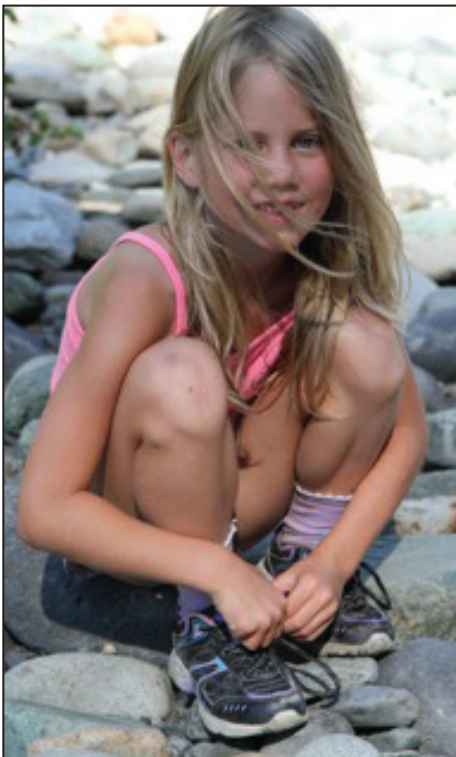
BARB

The Hodges clan saw much of the same in the year 2013. Christina is now in Grade 2 and wowing the coaches at the Junior Field Hockey Academy this fall. She continues to highland dance and has just completed her Pre-Bronze exams.

Grace is in Grade 4 this year. She joined the Royal City Track & Field Club this fall and competed in a series of meets throughout the lower mainland, always with a smile on her face.

Anne, in grade 6 this year, continues to dance, dance, and dance some more. She is again participating in Nutcracker for the holiday season, and has moved up to the Intermediate level in her highland dance. Field hockey, of course, remains a priority for all 3 girls.

After completing her training in Medical Transcription Barb is enjoying working at home and balancing life with 3 busy girls.



Mike continues to teach at BCIT, while awaiting his discovery by the NHL scouts.

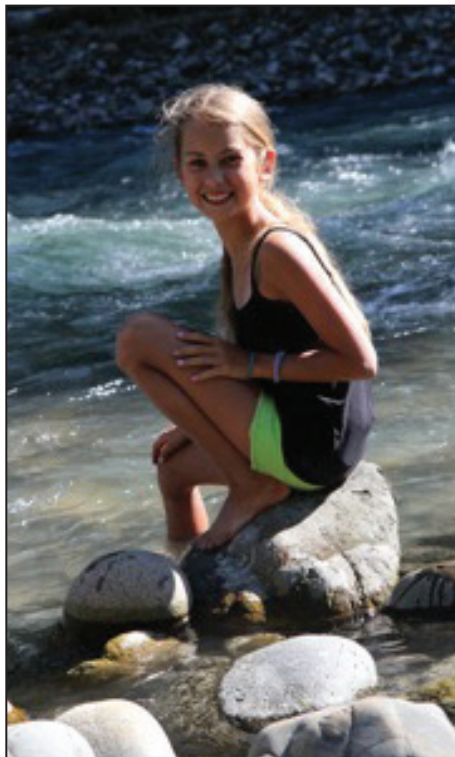
MARG

This past July saw "Moir's Motley Crew" enter a highly skilled, elite unit into the Sharks 7-a-side Mixed Tournament at Tamanawis in Surrey.

As with their previous appearances in the Vancouver International Tournament, this Crew is a much sought-after team, drawing from a select group of elite athletes from around the Lower Mainland.

This year, as Mag-the-Hag was recovering along with Olympian Lindsey Vonn from a torn ACL repair, the team had to rely on long-time high energy performers

Stew "the Rock" Colbourne and Bruce "the Rabbit" Matthews. Fortunately, outstanding goal-keeping by Jack Matthews and superb on-field performances by Sue & Julia Adams, Christie Arlotti-Wood, Oliver Colbourne and Meaghan Matthews,



Freda

I know I was Granny's favourite because I was a highland dancer and embraced our Scottish culture. Ok...Margaret danced too....but I did it for longer. But then, Margaret played the bagpipes too....so maybe she was the favourite? No...couldn't be, I KNOW I was the favourite, I think Granny told me.

kept us high atop the leader board for the duration of the tournament weekend. Look for another repeat performance of athletic excellence in 2014!

Highlight for the Matthews/Colbourne family this past year was a week long kayak trip to the Broken Group Islands. Despite weeks of careful planning, the trip was almost lost when directions to the Forbes Liar at Salmon Beach were provided by Cousin Jean!! Fortunately, Aggie was able to come to the rescue and guided us into the "Royal Estate" where we were able to abandon our 4 wheeler and launch kayaks into the gale-force winds. As luck would have it, the winds soon settled, the rain showers held off and we experienced a stunning week of isolation on the wild west coast.



Kayak trip to the Broken Group Islands

FREDA

After training for a few months, the Colbourne Moro Clan set off for the Andes and the Amazon tour and hiked Macchu Pichu in May. Marco was the first Moro to the top aptly entitled "Dead women's pass,"...but thankfully no dead women to be seen.

Cole is well into his second year at University of Western Ontario living off campus this year in a house with 7 other guys. Can you believe his mother let him do that? He will finally be allowed to drink "legally"



Moira's Motley Crew

as he turns 19th on the 27th of this month.

Marco is continuing the hockey tradition in the family so Grampa will have someone to watch. He was recently named MVP of the tournament at a Minor Midget A Tournament in Montreal. And, finally Joe and Freda celebrated 20 years of marriage in May.

STEW

Stewart's family has had another busy year. Oliver is at UBC in 3rd year and Ellen is in 1st year at SFU taking business. Jackie and Stew enjoyed their first trip away without kids to Costa Rica.



Jackie and Stew get into one of their "tantric yogi couple's poses" - Stew dazzles the other yogi campers with the "full frontal" push to hand stand.

Royal Baby Born... Prince George heir to Layfield Empire!

Once again it is time to reflect on the past year. The beginning of 2013, was average, everyone went on with their daily lives, eagerly waiting for the month of June.

On June 4th, Christina and Kevin had a beautiful baby boy named George Alexander. He is absolutely adorable, and his great grandparents love to visit with him. It's funny how as children we were the special ones, then we had children, and we sort of existed in our parent's eyes. After a great grandchild is born, we no longer exist. All phone calls now start with "How is George?" He's great mom, and by the way I am doing OK too.

A week after George was born it was stress time all over again. After years of school Amanda was writing her Canadian Medical Lab Science Board Exam. It was only 5 hours long. No Problem. Then the long wait for the



Prince George Alexander

results. I can say with great pride SHE PASSED.

The end of June was a happy time for Carol. Number two daughter Madison graduated from high school. Two down, one to go!!! The three daughters made their mother even happier when they all went out and got jobs. History once again is repeating itself, like our uncles who brought their guy friends home to

meet their sisters, cousin Patty's boys are bringing their friends around to meet Carol's girls. The jury is still out on whether Kevin's friend Matt is worthy to be dating my niece Madison, only time will tell.

August long weekend was a busy time for Don and Brenda. Lea was getting married up in Barrier to his girlfriend Nicole so there was lots of praying for good weather. The happy couple has now bought their first house in Maple Ridge.

Fall came along and life carried on. Or so we thought! One of my brothers showed the world he had a heart, and he did it on Facebook. This is what he wrote: Oct 17th, unbelievable married 21 happy years at least that's what my wife keeps telling me, pretty lucky found someone to love me and take care of me, who knew when she said I do, and I will, it would be forever, pretty special lady, love her to death, don't tell her enough, thanks honey. Guess which brother wrote this. I bet you pick the wrong brother.

Well it's now time to say good-bye to 2013 so here's hoping everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, 2014.

by Sandra Shaw



Prince George with Great Grandma and Grandpa