



Volume 14 • Issue A

December 2014

## 2014 CHRISTIE SCREECH

### Remembering Uncle Jimmy “Unc the Skunk”

*This issue of the Screech is dedicated to Uncle Jimmy. We begin with a submission from Jean Weighill.*

I know most of the cousins remember Uncle Jimmy at Christmas as the king of scrambles...both rock candy and money! It was the best... we got to scrap, punch and push everyone and be allowed to do it.

But my memories of Unc were even deeper as we would often stay with Granny C. and Unc for the holidays. Unc always had peppermint and humbug candies, slept in the back bedroom on the 2nd floor (the one with the “bag of rags”), smoked a stinky pipe, used Yardley’s soap and gave me gifts.

Unc loved to remove his teeth and had a pokey baby finger that he would try and jab you with. It hurt! But it was Unc that walked me up to Hastings Street to get air put into the tires of my brand new two-wheeler. It was Unc that took me down to the docks to see the freighter unload the shipment of “Jap oranges” that only appeared at Christmas time. And, it was Unc that took us to Uncle Tom’s firehall. Bill and Rob got to slide down the pole but mom had made me wear a dress so I wasn’t allowed. What a ripoff!

In 1963, I moved in with Gran and Unc. He took me under his wing and introduced me to professional wrestling at the PNE Forum. He cheered for Gene Kiniski and I was horrified by the little old ladies who would smack the wrestlers with umbrellas.



*Uncle Jimmy, Granny Christie and Aunt Jenny at Cedar in 1983*

He bought me a “Beatles” patented leather purse and then had to explain to me who the Beatles were.

He taught me how to play crib, poorly. When I lived with Auntie Janet, I would

play three games a night with Uncle Bob @ \$.10 a game... owed him \$90 when I moved out.

Unc’s easy chair was just inside the  
*Continued on page 2*





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The Christie Screech is published annually or whenever the spirit moves the editors.

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*Uncle Jimmy... continued from front page*

dining room where he could reach the channel knob on the TV. He and his sister were hooked on the soaps and bickering with each other. He would switch channels before her programs were over.

Unc always the sly one would hide a piece of the jigsaw puzzle that was always a work in progress so that he could be the one that finished it. Gran would hunt for it as she muttered hotly under her breath.

My brother, Rob can attest to their squabbles. He would take the two of them out fishing in the clinker and return with stories of them jousting with fishing rods.

Unc was always building something in the basement... a school desk for me, bookcases, gun racks, the guppies and a sailboat for Lasqueti. Jim Fraser reminded me that the latter was too big to get out of the basement when finished.

Unc spent a lot of time with his nephews, Jim and Gordon Fraser in Duncan. He would take them up to Lasqueti for holidays and fishing. They fondly remember puking their way coming and going on the Captain Vancouver.

Gord told me that Unc would spend Christmas Eve at 2457 and then he would go to them in Duncan on Christmas Day. Unc would have gone "up the street" and to Jimmy Reed's the day before to purchase meat pies and meats for their Christmas luncheon.

Auntie Janet had given Gran C. a small white Maltese dog named Valetta (as in the capital of Malta). Gran C. was traveling a lot in those days so Unc took over responsibility for the dog.

In the 70's, the boats, dog and Unc went to Lasqueti to be housekeeper for my dad since mom was teaching in Coquitlam. He became very possessive about dad, the kitchen and the whole routine of daily life. HIS chair! HIS mug!

The flood of younger cousins invading his castle did not bring out the best in him. Gran would send Unc letters to keep him up-to-date on the soap



*Uncle Jimmy and Valletta*

operas. It was from the summer letters we knew that "Don" was in jail, "Patty" was pregnant and "Susan" was drinking again. (Honest!)

Unc continued building boats. This time it was an east-coast dory right smack in the middle of the woodworking shop at the shipyard in Scottie Bay. He never got it finished and people tripped over it for years. When Unc died there was talk of using it for a Viking funeral.

In the 80's, he and dog moved in with his sister, Aunt Jenny, in Duncan. By this time TV remotes were invented, however Aunt Jenny wouldn't let Unc get one. Apparently getting up to change channels was the only exercise he got.

I was living in Lake Cowichan and would often visit with the two of them. Unc would come to my house for Cameron and Aggie's birthday dinners. If other members of my family visited around Christmas, Unc would join us and do "scrambles" for his great-great-grand nieces & nephews.

I still have tobacco tins of nails and I don't remember him drinking alcohol. He did stink of that smelly pipe tobacco.

## Carol “Dishbanded” from Forbes Family Photo

### *Bill fends off the law by taking refuge in Tibetan Monastery*

Another year has screeched by us and we are once again deciding on which scores and highlights to share with the Christie mob. It became clear to us that mom would require more assistance this year. We banded together and pitched in as needed. Mom is no longer able to travel solo so we accompanied her to Molokai 3 times in 2014. Rough life!

We completed extensive repairs at Lasqueti in 2014 and more are planned for 2015. We were told by the fire inspector to upgrade our stoves and fireplaces as evidently there is a real risk that one of our idiot relatives could actually burn the place down.

With the wonderfully sunny summer and the welcome return of the salmon to the Lasqueti waters we enjoyed many wonderful summer barbeque's on the new porch. The garden was prolific especially the BEANS, that kept producing right up to Halloween. It was a priority for us to make this a wonderful summer for mom. In the end, we achieved that and more as it was a terrific summer for all of us too.

We celebrated Thanksgiving on Lasqueti and then returned to Deep Bay to welcome the extended families to mom's 85th Birthday Party. Tradition was broken by inviting the dirty 30 to chauffeur their parents to the bash. That we have heard from you was a stroke of genius. Thanks to all who attended. We loved having you celebrate with us.

As individual families this year we have had some notable highlights to share:

#### **Weighill's**

For the first few months of the year Jean was on holidays. She spent January and March on Molokai with mom. In April Jean and Ag celebrated Ag's 40th birthday in Belize then packed up the car in June and made the cross country trek to visit Cameron, Dorianna and Pietro. They returned through the states in pursuit of every piece of ancient Pyrex they could get their grubby paws on. Cameron and



*Trevor, Robert, Alicia with Granny F*

Dorianna traveled out to the coast for Granny's party and announced that they are expecting their second child in March. Yeah!

Once again 2 year old Pietro charmed us all and we hated to see them leave. We don't always say that about visiting relatives. Dorianna instructed us in the art of Italian cooking, the British cuisine just doesn't compare. To complete the year Jean, Aggie and Mom are heading back to Molokai this Christmas.

#### **Bill Forbes**

This family is never short on stories, most are not appropriate for public sharing. Earlier in the spring Bill decided to get his motorcycle license. He was a menace on the island highway cruising along on PJ's Harley until his rotten kid decided to sell the bike.

This soured Bill's mood and shortly thereafter he had a meltdown in French Creek. He chirped the wrong guy... someone with more money and ego than him... so a lawsuit is being threatened and the prawn boat

remains chained to the dock, thus canceling the Uncle's Adventures in Prawning for 2014. Bill attempted to make up the shortfall by delivering snapper and sockeye in the fall. He is now seeking a calmer life and is giving serious consideration to donning red pajamas in Tibet. Georgia is all set to back his bags.

PJ moved from Keremeos to Penticton to be closer to his very active and athletic children, Kaiya and Pete. PJ was seen frequently this summer in Kelowna hanging out with his cousin Kevin at the ball park where they could be found updating their plenty of fish accounts. PJ also celebrated his 40th birthday this fall.

Trevor continues collect nautical and naughty tattoos in addition to pirating the local waters with his dad and dragging his son, Taylor, along for the ride. When not on the boat, Taylor enjoys playing hockey; Maiah and Nadon highland dance and entertained us at Granny's party this year.

Alicia keeps busy with her kids in their





*Above: Forbes Family at Pat's 85th and Right the Cousins (Chauffeurs)*

various activities. Caitlyn has a new love for horses and Will and Jesse are in baseball, soccer and hockey. Just as there is always a crazy story when Bill is around there is no shortage of drama where Alicia is concerned. After closing the doors on Postnet last spring she has been searching for the perfect career... is Drama Queen an actual profession?

### **Rob Forbes**

The adventurous Rob Forbes family was busy again this year. Rob spent a good deal of the Spring and Summer at

Lasqueti repairing the house, and yard. He fished endlessly and was eager to take out family & friends on short notice.

All of Rob's kids made repeated trips to Lasqueti to lounge lazily on the new deck and to share in the endless supply of beans. This fall Rob made the annual hunting trip to the interior with Bill and PJ where they returned once again with a moose... and more stories that should not be repeated. They even encountered the friendly face of Craig Christie in a bar in Williams Lake, go figure.

Elliot and Heather were MVPs again

for their softball team the Mattingly's Sideburns. Unfortunately a late season injury put Elliot on the sidelines with his sporty superstar sister Kelly. They now have matching knee injuries, but are hopeful for swift recoveries. Kelly spent the summer chasing whale poop for Parks Canada before going back to school for her Education degree.

Coral spent the year selling raffle tickets and hiking small mountains in preparation for a truly monumental adventure: in November she hiked to base camp of Mt Everest as part of Summits of Hope, raising money for children receiving cancer treatment. She could almost wave to her eldest daughter from the summit, as Heather was eating noodles and riding bikes in China at the same time.

### **The Biro's**

After a busy summer in Deep Bay, Patty and Steve are looking forward to a long holiday. This Christmas they are taking the boys to Loreto, Mexico for some golf and warm sunshine.

In the off season they amuse themselves in a mixed curling league... Olympic hopefuls no doubt. Robert is just back from his second year in the north where he works as Chief Mate for Coast Guard. This year he traveled from Yellowknife to Tuktoyaktuk along



*Coral and flags of support*





the Mackenzie River. Bruce hung out in Deep Bay this summer, he continued to coach the Parksville Royals Baseball team and once again coached a ball team in the BC summer games and came home with the bronze medal.

Bruce is currently in his final weeks of his teaching practicum in Victoria. He is looking forward to a career as an overzealous Phys Ed teacher.

Kevin spent the summer playing baseball for the Kelowna Falcons which served as a source of entertainment for the many family members that went to watch him play. He is back at UBC in his senior year as a Thunderbird, thankful that baseball maintained its Varsity status.

As our parents grow older and require more assistance the effect it has on our lives is dramatic. It is however the manner in which we embrace this change that makes all the difference. So, in the spirit of the season, the season of giving, let us leave you with this one quote:

*It is one of the most beautiful compensations in life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.*  
--EMERSON

Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, and Mele Kalikimaka from the Forbes Family.

## Unc Remembered - Patty

When we were much younger we had some mean and bratty moments. I remember being at Lasqueti with I believe Don and Randy.

We had a favourite game of hiding Uncle Jimmy's coffee mug. It was the largest mug in the cupboard and had "coffee" written all over it in several different languages. We would steal it from the cupboard and hide it in all sorts of different places, such as the wood box, the bathroom, behind books etc. Unc always found it.

One morning we decided to hide the mug in my mom's flour drawer which was the big bottom drawer in the Lasqueti kitchen.

Well we (I am not taking the sole blame for this) dropped the mug into the drawer and it hit the rolling pin which was buried under the flour, and as a result the handle snapped off the mug.

We nearly crapped ourselves. Fearing the wrath of our parents we quickly took the mug out of the drawer and made "glue" by mixing flour and water. We probably did this out in the fort.

We carefully placed the newly glued mug into the cupboard, way in the back. We had no doubt that our "glue" did not rate as super glue and we fully expected the mug to break apart as soon as Unc picked it up.

Well to our surprise the following morning Uncle Jimmy waltzed into the front room with his favourite mug full of steaming coffee. We all tried to be casual and not notice. We feigned interest in our game of cards.

He made a big show of lifting the cup and repeatedly setting it down. We were squirming. He never finked on us. Well we didn't like him any better but we did learn our lesson and left him alone from there on in.

We made up a song about him to chant amongst ourselves too. It went something like this:

Unc, Skunk,  
the finking drunk,  
Went to his room  
and found his bunk...

I am sure one of my horrible cousins remembers this more accurately.



## Caregiver Learns Secret to Happiness... *More Gin, Less Tonic*

Seems like just yesterday Tom was around, visiting, getting his energetic nose into everyone's business. Truth is he's been gone almost 7 years, and we all still think of him often.

The Tom Christies have had an adventurous year. Lorraine's health has been up and down like a yo-yo and it's been a struggle to find a balance. It culminated in a lengthy stay in hospital but she has rebounded well since then. Mom continues to live at home with her little buddy "Tom-Tom" bringing her immense joy.

### **Susan & Colin**

Susan and Colin are well settled into their "semi-retired" lives in Nanaimo. Susan continues to stay 3 days a week at Moms so she can continue her massage business with her clients on this side of the water.

Michael is doing well as he continues his work with the Portland Society.

### **Michael & Debbie**

Mike & Deb continue to work hard with Jeffrey & Jennifer in the real estate business.

With 3 weddings in the past few years and the announcement of 2 grandchildren on the way in 2015, their lives have been anything but dull.



*Susan & Colin*

A new adventure is on the horizon as they have purchased a large property in Port Moody that they hope to develop over the next few years.

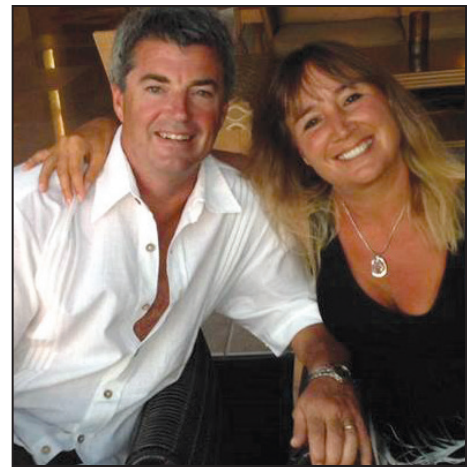
Jeff & Jacquie are partners in this endeavour and both continue to work hard in the real estate business. Jennifer and Chase have moved into a new home in Vancouver, Chase working as General Manager of "Fable" restaurant on West 4th Ave., and Jen working at ReMax. They recently announced a "bun" in the oven and are expecting in February.

Julie has risen in the ranks of the "Aritzia" clothing company presently positioned as head of west coast operations; Marco working security for GS4 at the airport. Julie, not to be outdone by her sister, also announcing a "bun" in the oven, due in April.

### **Dan & Elaine**

Dan & Elaine's year has been golf, golf, golf. Since joining Hazelmere golf club last year, they have enjoyed "the lovely walk spoiled".

Dan completed his Battalion Chief training in March and will be



*Dan & Elaine*

working in that position quite a bit in the coming year.

Elaine's year has been very busy with her insurance work but between the 2 of them they have been able to adjust their schedules to get in lots of golf & travel.

Jaki continues her studies at Langara College, which was highlighted by an Art History course which took her to Italy for 5 weeks in May.

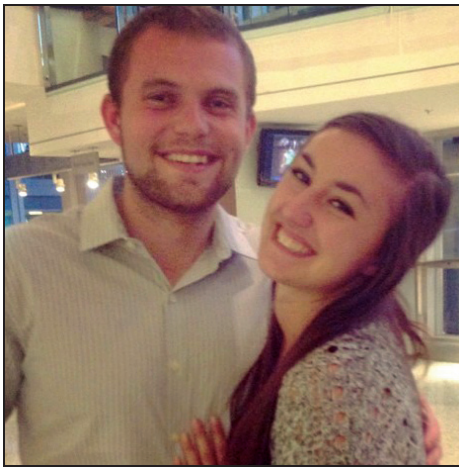
### **Craig & Wende**

Brother Craig just doesn't seem to know how to slow down. He continues to travel the province working and making gazillions of dollars...



*Mike, Julie, Mom, Marko & Deb*





*Jaki & Joey*

Wende works at the Prince George Husky and has found a new and healthier alcohol free lifestyle. Kasandra works for Fortis BC as a customer service rep and her boyfriend Matt is a journeyman electrician and works for Craig. Maria works at the Husky with her mom as well as an Italian restaurant in downtown PG.

### **Colleen & Ken**

"Caregiver of the year!!" That's what Colleen insists we call her now, as this honor was bestowed on her last year. It culminated as she was honored at a Poco festival parade where she waved to the crowds from the back seat of a convertible in the true regal



*Craig, Colleen, Kevin, (Kevin's Grad partner), Kristi & Ken*

style we all know she possesses.

Ken continues to work hard with Kingston construction and has been involved in some very big projects. A recent promotion titles him head purchaser now.

Kristi has flown the coop! This summer saw her move to Kelowna into uncle Craig's house as her boyfriend Brett works as an electrician in northern Alberta. His

company flies him out of Kelowna for 2 weeks on 1 week off.

Kristi has already landed a job at Kelowna General Hospital. Uncle Craig says she keeps the house "way too tidy!"

Kevin works for Kingston Construction as a 3rd year apprentice in carpentry and had an extensive stay in Kitimat on one of their large projects. No doubt he's spending all his money in the pub as he turned 19 this year. Craig is in grade 11 this year and is playing soccer.



*Kasandra, Craig, Wende, Maria.*

## **Unc - Danny**

### **Remembering "Uncle Jimmy"**

A quiet demeanor with an aura of authority. Sometimes referred to as "scary", that was Uncle Jimmy.

The builder of all those wonderful boats we had so much fun in. I can't recall the number of times we sank those "guppies!" Jelly bean and coin scrambles, his pipe and his dog; then all of a sudden... he was gone.

Never did understand a word he ever said, or mumbled should I say. A fond memory.



## Great Grandson Born to the Henschel Clan! *Yes, We have another Granny Christy!*

Great Grandpa Russ is still doing lots of traveling with his sister Isobel and Rune. They have done a few cruises this year and are going to Cabo Mexico for New Years.

He is still playing pool at the local Senior Center, and enjoys working in his garden. He took a tumble on his front yard lawn, and fractured his hip, so he is now on the wait list to have hip surgery.

### Herndier's

Jack Taylor Dahm was born September 19th at 7:10 pm weighing 7 lbs 5 oz. to proud parents Vanessa and Cody. Big changes to their lives, and they are adjusting to parenthood extremely well. They bought a lovely house in Langley to raise their family.

Lauren moved in with them a week before Jack was born and is the best Auntie in the world. She is 5 minutes from her work and loves her time with her nephew. Her boyfriend Ryan (still no engagement ring!) took her on a wonderful vacation to the Dominican Republic this past spring.

This leaves Christy and Daryl to finally be empty nesters and the best grandparents ever! It has been an exciting year - to say the least. Both are still working full time. They manage to get away on a few vacations - Phoenix to golf with Susan and Rob, San Diego to visit relatives, some camping trips, an Alaskan Cruise and of course Lasqueti Island. Finally there was some good fishing and Daryl caught a good size salmon with the help of Captain Rob Forbes!

### The Adams' Family

The Adams' family members were spread across the world at various times during 2014, so the year has just flown by.

Rob and I traveled to Spain and spent the month of June on a cruise from Barcelona, then traveling about the rest of the country.

I am hoping to retire from my position next year but will have to continue to work on a casual basis to support my Doctor in training at her atrociously



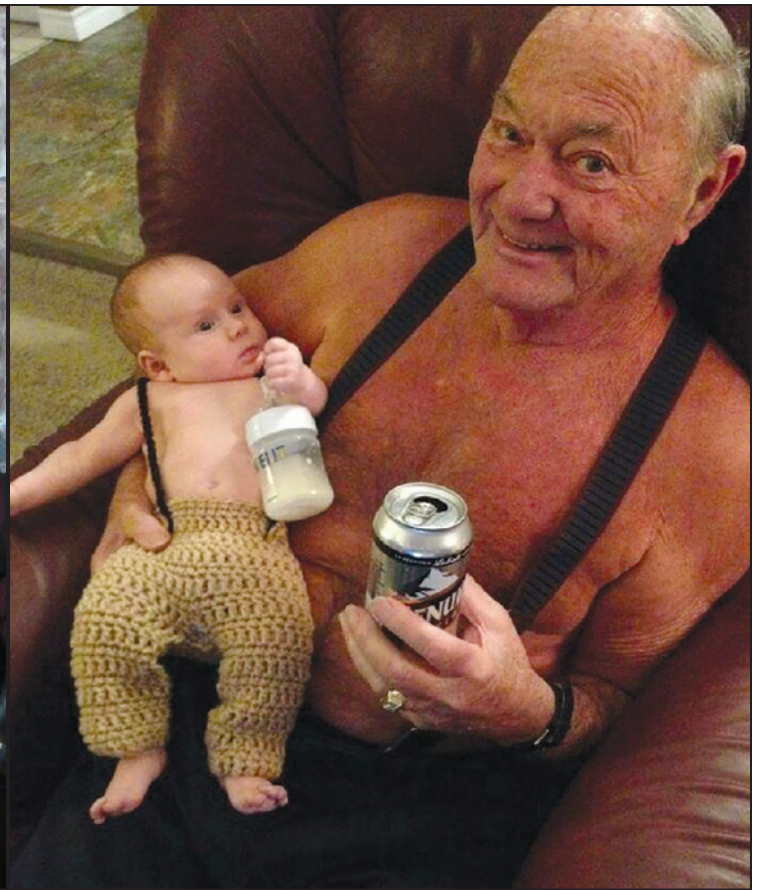
*Jack with Vanessa and Cody*

expensive school in Ireland. Rob will work forever!

Eric moved to the West End with his girlfriend Liz, they have rented an older apartment with a view of Sunset beach... very fun place to be for a young couple. He completed his last apprenticeship course at BCIT and is now a Journeyman Machinist.







Adrienne is back at school in Austria, starting her Masters of Business program at the University in Steyr where she did an exchange semester 2 years ago.

She is going on another exchange with the same program next semester to Taiwan. Quite the world traveler already.

David was hired with the Vancouver Fire Department in March and finished his 6 month probation period, then in October flew off to Australia with a couple of high school buddies for a month. What a life!

Julia is back at med school in Galway and heads up to Letterkenny for a year to do her hospital experience when she goes back in January. She is still enjoying the program but finds the exam season very stressful.

By the end of January we will just have the fireman to keep us company... and we could be empty nesters by the end of 2015.

Freedom 60 is just around the corner... or is it?

## The Constables

Steve and I bought a 13 foot 1980 Trillium trailer this year and managed to spend 46 nights in it to date. Spent a lot of time in Tofino, Qualicum, Victoria, and some of the gulf Islands. We are aiming to retire at 55 and then will be moving to Qualicum - found the street just not the house yet.

Sarah completed her 3rd year of her Bachelor of Tourism at Capilano University, and was very happy to make the Deans Honor Roll both semesters. Her and Andy (boyfriend of 7.5 years) are currently on a 7 week trip in South East Asia, before heading to Australia on a one year work visa.

Scott has been working for Sigfusson Construction, doing home renovations and new home construction. He is planning on doing the Pipe Fitters course at BCIT next September. He has been dating Christi (yes another one just a different spelling) for over 1 year now.

I spend all of my spare time working on my father's paperwork... would there be any volunteers for this job?



*Eric and Liz in the West End*



## Everything's Peaceful at 706 Newport

It has been a good year for the W.J.C's. We had a new addition to the clan with the arrival of Isabella in June, a little sister for Brandon and Ethan. That keeps Dave and Jen busy and makes for fun visits. We are fortunate to have them living fairly close so that we get to see them. It's hard to keep track of others in the family as we now are spread through 4 provinces. Thanks to Facebook, Kay "creeps" on them to find out where they are and what they are up to.

Bill and Kay spent 2 enjoyable weeks in Arizona with Moira and Bill in January, also visiting with Kay's brother and his wife. In September we had our yearly reunion with Kay's family. We meet in Kelowna at sister Jean and Bent's. Brothers Bob and Eric and wives come from Winnipeg and Calgary and we have a great time catching up. At the end of September we went to visit with Cheryl and Mark and check out their new home in Cochrane, Alberta.

Bill still keeps up a great garden and also still golfs, although sometimes that is not so great anymore, but he enjoys the walk with his buddies. Life is good!

### Randy's Crew

Randy is enjoying his diverse collection of business interests. He handed off the Wire Rope Gauge business to his daughter to run so

that he could focus his energies on his other entrepreneurial activities. The Water Remediation business is moving forward through the R&D stage with the number of new applications increasing weekly and he is hoping to break ground on the first of the Hi-Tech Greenhouses in spring 2015. Another invention brought to market this year was a private Mesh network device which has the potential to change the way internet services are delivered worldwide.

When he is not changing the world he tries to find the summit of a new mountain every weekend.

### David & Jen

2014 was a wonderful year for our family. We welcomed Isabella Marie in June and she has been a total delight. Its been such a blast adjusting to the sudden influx of pink, dresses and all things little girl. Her brothers adore her, and even has Ethan wrapped around her finger. He constantly dotes on her, and makes sure she always has a blanket, toy, or whatever she needs and is always the first responder whenever she makes a noise. Her smile is infectious and she is quickly showing signs that she will be moving before long.

Ethan had a great year, especially in the summer where he made good use out the backyard and trampoline. He



*Rob at Vimy Ridge*

can jump for hours and already gets some serious height on his bounces. He immensely enjoyed his first visit to Playland with the family in July and took in every ride he was big enough to go on, including the kids roller coaster!

Brandon started karate this year and graduated from the kids' class to the adult class in record time His sensei is very impressed with his skills and dedication, and he is scheduled to begin participating in a special after-class group to further develop his skills. He also attended Camp Kawakwa as a solo camper for the first time this summer and is looking forward to going back next year.



*Jen with Isabella Maria, Ethan enjoying his trampoline and Brandon learning Karate*



## Rob & Jenelle

Rob and Jenelle, Jeremy and Jacquie continue to serve our country with the Royal Canadian Air Force based in North Bay, Ontario. Rob had the privilege of being deployed in support of Joint Task Force (JTF) Nijmegen to Nijmegen, Netherlands. This was a wonderful new experience for him, and about five months of hell for his family while he underwent the training and got to travel around Europe for a couple weeks.

He began his training during the frozen, inhospitable months of February, marching across the icy tundra, and continued through to the heat of July with the high humidity, and arguably the worst thing: mosquitoes. There's nothing quite like marching all around town for 40 kilometers up to and extending past nine hours while being eaten alive by the scourge of all insects. He was able to visit many memorials in France, Belgium and The Netherlands, including Vimy Ridge.

Upon arriving in Nijmegen, he joined with 5000 other military members from across all of Europe, and 40,000 civilians, and took part in the 4-daagse Nijmegen - or Four Day March - where they all marched across the beautiful Holland countryside for four days, for more than 40kms each day. It was one of the most challenging but also rewarding experiences of his life, and his family was very to have him back home.

## Sean

Sean currently works in Kitsilano, while continuing to hone his musical skills and discern what the next phase of his life will entail

The highlight of his year was a trip in October to visit his aunt and uncle Buchanan in Cochrane, AB. "My secret agenda was to have them adopt me by the end of my stay there (sorry dad) – imagine my surprise and disappointment when they simply allowed to me to leave when my week with them expired."

When he returned home, he performed a fun, highly ambitious and critically acclaimed clarinet recital to his supportive family and friends. His



*Sean (Centre) Joined Adam and Mark for a fishing trip in Alberta.*

## Unc Remembered - Randy

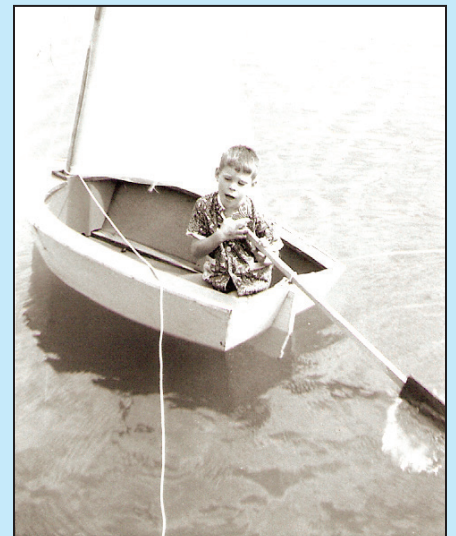
The enigmatic Uncle Jimmy epitomizes this family where unbridled generosity is often shrouded in elements of sheer terror. (Uncle Tom giving water skiing lessons is another example).

Here is a man whose enduring legacy is remembered among the Dirty-Thirty for two contrasting activities: the money/candy scramble and being threatened with the stubby finger. Uncle Jimmy's nature was as curmudgeonly as Grannie's was sweet, however, as I developed my own love for woodworking I have often wished I was able to overcome my fear of him to mine his vast wealth of boat building skills.

My fondest memory of his generosity was the Guppies. These little boats represented not mere childhood toys but were in fact our gateway to an exciting world. Both Lasqueti and Lac La Hache held rich treasures to be discovered but they would have been largely beyond our grasp without these little emancipation crafts. Ingeniously designed to hold and be propelled by one or two beach urchins these sturdy little crafts allowed us to get to the dock

in False bay, the Boat House in the reeds at Lac La Hache or any of the other fascinating places our little pirate natures desired. Easy to flip but unsinkable they provided us with endless hours of enjoyment and discovery in relative safety. They also provided a temporary aquarium to hold the squaw fish we caught until the mink came for their feast.

Once again I am reminded how our rich heritage provided us amazing opportunities... and I probably never thought to thank him.





## Investigation into Empty-Nest Trend...

*Did they fly or were they pushed?*

### Barb Colbourne Hodges

The Barb Colbourne Hodges Family carried on life as usual this past year, going non-stop from activity to activity.

The spring was of course taken up with field hockey, with Anne, Grace and Christina continuing to play and both Mike and Barb coaching this year. Grace was able to spare for big sis Anne's squad much of this past year and is looking forward to moving on to the Junior league full time.

In the spring, Christina joined big sis Grace in Track and Field and was even able to compete in a couple of meets. Grace is definitely an up and coming track star receiving a silver medal in the 4 x 100, and had personal bests in many of the field events.

Christina enjoyed her first taste of track and field and is looking forward to more next season. Exploring their artistic sides both Grace and Christina took up piano lessons this fall. Anne is continuing in her ballet studies and has begun pointe work this fall. She is once again performing in the Royal City Youth Ballet's production of the Nutcracker and earned a number of

roles including her first solo role as Snow Princess, as well as understudy for Clara.

### Mag Colbourne Matthews

The Mag Colbourne Matthews family reach a major milestone of "NO more kids" – WOW! Through all the sadness, wailing and tears, we have managed to console ourselves with actual "date nights", free weekends, tennis camp and yoga classes. While it has been difficult we are getting by.

Jack's successful graduation from South Delta SS in July allowed him to join the masses paying homage to the most wonderful BMCEF and carry on to the University of Victoria, specializing in partying and occasional physics classes.

Meag continues in 3rd year chemistry at UVic and is hoping not to be required for "bailouts" too frequently!"

### Freda Colbourne Moro

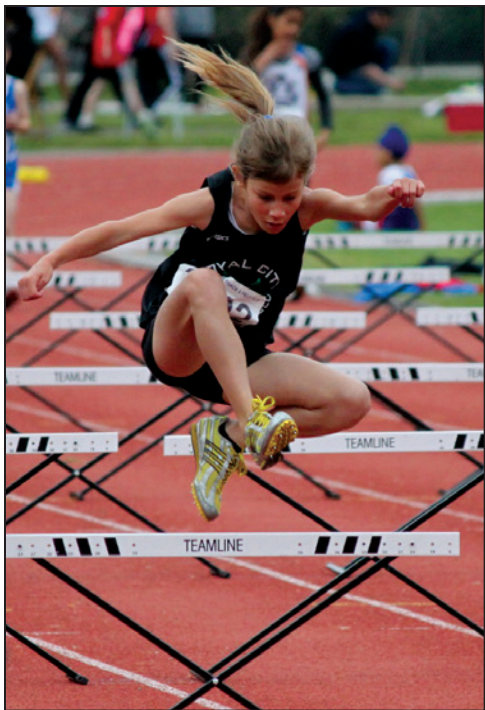
The Freda Colbourne Moro family has been having a great year with Cole and Marco both at Summer camp together this year, Cole as a Camp Counselor, Marco as a Leader in Training... reporting to... wait for it... his bro.



They both worked on their tans as well as their posing (see picture) while Freda and Joe had a month long honeymoon with no kids.

Cole is entering third year at University of Western Ontario in Kinesiology and was recently selected to be a member of the Student Emergency Response Team (SERT). So if anyone calls 911, Cole and other SERT team members are the first responders!

Marco is continuing to keep Grampa happy by being the only Colbourne who is still playing competitive ice hockey. He is one of the top scorers on the team, except when Granny







## **Milestone Birthdays for 2014**

**Celebrating 60**  
**Rob Forbes**

**Celebrating 50**  
**Barb Hodges**  
**Carol Layfield**

**Celebrating 40**  
**Aggie Weighill**  
**PJ Forbes**

**Celebrating 30**  
**Rob Christie**  
**Jennifer Christie**  
**Jenelle Christie**

**Celebrating 20**  
**Jettie**  
**Stefan Arlotti**  
**Megan Matthews**  
**Cole Moro**

**Celebrating 10**  
**Grace Hodges**

**Born 2014**  
**Isabella Christie**  
**Jack Taylor Dahm**

and Grampa came to visit and he continually hit the crossbar.

Freda is continuing to work on her tennis game so she can stay ahead of big sis Mag... and Joe is keeping busy painting, cycling and kayaking at the cottage.

### **Stewart Colbourne**

It's been a great year for the Stewart Colbourne family.

Oliver is finishing up his last year at UBC and has taken on a leadership role in his Frat which included attending a leadership conference in St Louis. Part of the training included beer and a St

Louis blues hockey game, what could be better.

Ellen has had an exciting year, in August she headed off to Lafayette College in Easton Pennsylvania. She is enjoying playing field hockey and is continuing her studies in Business Administration.

Jackie and Stew are settling into being "empty nesters", enjoying doing WAY less laundry, cooking etc. Stew enjoyed being a tour guide for Bill and Moira during a trip to visit Ellen in October. Granny was not loud at all during those games!





deep appreciation for classical music and the arts is having a transformative effect on his musically deficient family.

### **Beth & Darryl**

Beth graduated in June from the University of Victoria with a degree in Psychology. She is currently upgrading and preparing to apply for a number of health related masters/professional programs for next year. She moved to Ontario at the end of the summer with Darryl, as he completes his Masters in Economics at the University of Western Ontario. It must be love for this west coast girl to be subjected to the brutal winter that has been thrust upon her.

Always up for a new adventure Beth has become a basketball coach at the YMCA for kids 8 – 13. This is remarkable because Beth has never actually ever played basketball, and so is experiencing a steep learning curve. But it does help keep her warm.

### **The Buchanan's**

Two out of the three Buchanan's who moved to Alberta, survived the 'longest, coldest, snowiest' winter on record. (Or at least that is what they are told, there have been contradicting reports that it was the worse thus far, but it gets longer and colder every year – always something to look forward to.)

Mark enjoyed his first year teaching

experience at Ambrose University, and was stimulated by both his students and fellow faculty members. With less demands on his time in this new capacity he has been able to enjoy an increase in his traveling and speaking opportunities.

Cheryl spent the year getting settled into her new home, and new community, and anticipating each visit from family and friends. She is also enjoying the opportunity to travel more often with Mark, and frequently they are invited to speak together. One highlight was traveling for the first time to Brazil.

Nicola, bailed on her Alberta experience after 6 months of cold, and headed back to Vancouver Island in search of spring and warmth. She is currently working in Duncan, and enjoying not putting on 6 layers to keep warm.

Sarah completed her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of university in Belgium, enjoyed traveling to as many countries as she could get to, and then joined her parents in Cochrane for the summer. She is back in Quebec finishing her 4<sup>th</sup> year, with excitement that the end is in sight.

Adam had another busy forest fire fighting season in Kamloops this spring and summer, keeping BC forests safe. He is currently working in Northern Alberta for the winter as a rough-neck in the oil patch and hanging out with

his parents on his weeks off. His father greatly appreciates having his son (and his truck) around to help with the various construction projects he has on the go.

### **Bob and Ross**



This year started with big changes for Bob and Ross because Ross was offered a job in the education department of the National Film Board of Canada in January. It was a lifelong dream of Ross' to work for the NFB, and an incredible career opportunity, even though it meant moving to Montreal.

Bob was still deep in his graduate studies at SFU so a long distance love affair was their theme for 2014.

Bob visited Montreal twice, and on the first visit they found Ross a great place to live on the Plateau, just a few blocks from cousin Gord. The second visit was almost two months long, Ross' family also visited and they all toured Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal together.

Bob was still "studying" for a course over the summer, so he played academic house-husband, reading philosophy, shopping in the markets, making fabulous dinners, and helping get Ross settled in his new home.

There was also time for a quick trip to Quebec City and a little camping too, but Bob had to come home for his last semester of school in Sept.

He's been writing his final research paper all Fall, looking forward to finishing his degree, and can't wait for Ross' visit at Christmas. Who knows what is in store for these two now, with Bob also ready for a new career path, but chances are very good that he is going to be speaking more French.



*Sarah, Adam and Nicola*



## TALES OF THE WOODS

### Janet put on 24 hour Surveillance after trying to Break into Vehicles on BC Ferries

At Auntie Pat's 85th someone asked mom how she was doing?...

"Oh Dying! *BUT* still Gorgeous!"

Well Gorgeous is holding it together. With a sigh of relief in April she handed her Drivers License over to Christie – her constant companion in care now. Unfortunately "A" has taken a toll on Gorgeous, needing much more help, understanding, patience and love.

She said to me, "I'm so darn lucky she has her 3 girls to look after her & Christie her Angel!" She has accepted her path, as her mother and Ann did. She started a new medication Memomtime... aka MEMORY TIME fitting name eh? She keeps up that positive front with the famous cackling laugh, cigarette in one hand and beer in other.

She has slowed but still manages many hours of the day rain, shine, even darkness tending to her beloved garden. BUT with all the work she puts in the weeds and thorns have taken over.... Gorgeous flowered for years in her 400+ Rose Garden World famous. Movies have been filmed in it. Movie stars – Micky Roonie for one photo'd in it. Even a sweet delicate thorny rose was named after her, "The Janet A. Wood Rose".

The process of us being able to make a simple pot of tea, for mom has not yet overwhelmed her. But her garden, her paradise, the routine she did for the past 60 years has come to an end. She cannot remember names of her roses or even how to prune them, weed them or what they are now. This past year she does go out and gets pleasure out of weeding here and there, yet the weeds amongst her beloved roses are higher.

We hired a gardener in June (for 3 months). They barely were able to keep up with the work in the front garden, with Helen (Lois helped too) doing the rest. I made me look back and say OMG Just how much work and endless hours the Gorgeous Auntie Janet/Mom/Granny spent every day in

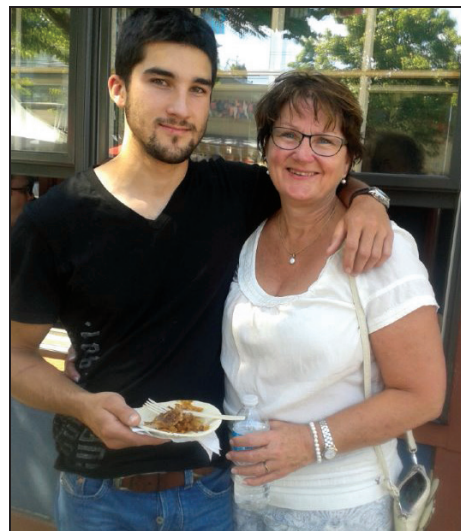
her garden. This fall with the help of the Clan's Auntie Mo, Helen, Kay & Bill and me Helen we started to take apart, simplify, make smaller her massive 25+ garden beds. With love they helped put mom's roses to bed for the winter.

I loved hearing the shriek in the garden from Auntie Helen (on the deck, "3 minutes till Lunch". All this time Janet was at Lois's house and came home to a garden at rest. Her Roses have gone to neighbours, family and even the Vancouver Rose Society received 8 of Janet Woods prized roses for their Christmas raffle this past month. More grass now, less work yet still her gorgeous roses.

**A NOTE TO THE CLAN:** We are wanting to simply the garden now, let mom still enjoy her weeding and looking out at the pretty blooms she loves to see. Maybe 100 roses, but not the 400. If anyone is interested in obtaining a rose from Gorgeous' Garden Please let Helen Margaret know at 604-736-8065 or helenwood@shaw.ca. We would love them to go to good homes.

#### Helen Margaret

Still enjoying my work at St Paul's SDC & PAC Unit – have my 2 faithful dogs that get me out every day in our beautiful city, the beaches, the parks



*Helen & Stefan at Greek Day*

the gorgeous city life we have at our footsteps. As well my gardening I'm at peace.

Christie and I went to Cancun last Christmas and took a pic on the beach, seconds later I was sucked out to sea. We missed Rudolph (Stefan) he chose to stay home with his lump of coal – bah humbug!

In February when it became apparent Gorgeous needed help I took over POA (with Tina) and her Health Representation. This is almost full time consuming much of my time, in her garden – which I have also taken over, her declining health, her safety and wellbeing. I told gorgeous I'm here to maintain your dignity, respect and try

*Continued on next page*



*Lolo charming her Aunties and Uncles – July 2014*



to keep you happy. Christie says "Oh mum I know you'll be a pain in the butt when your time comes." Stefan chortles... I'm putting you in a nursing home when your 60! That's 2 years from now... Ah... I don't think so... Life continues.

### **Christie Barbara**

Now in her final year of Anthropology/ African Study at UBC, her dream is to study towards being a Nurse Practitioner. September 2013 she moved into her Gran's basement suite and is now almost full time Companion Care for her Granny. Christie is now the calm mother for her Granny. They have a beautiful bond and relationship.

This past summer she spent 2 months in Tanzania - through UBC - helping locals in sustainable organic farming. A great experience, but vowed never to eat banana's again – her main staple for breakfast, lunch & dinner.

After Tanzania she met up with her 2 brothers and dad in Italy. Aside from school, Granny & traveling Christie is very active doing ½ marathons, triathlons and all other endurance challenges. She even had a date with the Chippendale's in Vegas in September. Next summer she's planning an extensive trip returning Europe with her good friend Emily and meeting up with her dad. And she does have time to sleep too.

### **Stefan Robert**

Now in 2/3rd years studying at UBC Okanagan in the arts. His flare for life and the challenges is brings continues. He bought a beautiful blue motorcycle in July, less than 7 weeks later crashed it and did a little road dance along the way. No head injury Phew! But destroyed his left foot. On crutches, this didn't deter Stef from getting set up in Kelowna, bought a car – passed his N (never having taken driving lessons), and a week or so later drove down to Vancouver... still with crutches. Should I say anymore!

His mother was not impressed. Despite all this he seems to do well in University which is the most important. He has a lovely girlfriend, Amethyst, he met almost 2 ½ yrs ago who's now attending UBC. I might

relax when he's 30! He did decide this year to change his name, dropping the Wood. So he's now Stefan Robert Arlotti. His dad and I always liked the "A Lotta Wood" name. Oh well. Kids!

### **Lois Marion**

Lois just returned from a fabulous cruise at south west Caribbean islands with over 2,000 deaf from all over the world. The captain (small world he actually is from Victoria, BC) was so impressed with the trip ever since he hadn't seen for 15 years, noted that deaf people are all of one family.

She continues to do her magic with the deaf in BC, as a mental health counselor for the deaf at Vancouver Coastal Health. When she's not doing this she shares a dog, Frankie, on weekends or when she has time off. As well is currently renovating her home in PoCo, putting in a basement suite, and redoing her back yard's huge garden.

Recently she and Helen started to take apart one of Gorgeous' 25 garden beds, to be transplanted in Lois's back yard. We are so thrilled that our mothers garden will live on in Lois's yard now. On top of all this Lois now takes Mom to her home when there are long weekends, or if she's off for a week or so. This gives Christie a well needed respite break. She's great with mom.

### **Alexander Robert (Sandy)**

Sandy continues to manage his life – as with last year he maintains a small garden of sorts where he lives downtown. We have occasional contact with him and he seems to be doing well, still working in the financial industry.

### **Janet Christina (Tina)**

I will save the pain in the BUTT for last. As always going in circles 200 miles an hour – in March this year Tina got the biggest kick in the ass ever... actually ANUS! While the rest of the Christie Clan suffer from the oh how boring SKIN CANCER. Tina – and it would only be her – got skin cancer in her ANUS!

So the tests, biopsies etc... past... she embarked on a 6 week radiation/oral Chemo and 2 IV Chemo treatments ending in July. From then on till now



*Xmas Day 2013 Cancun with Blitzen & Santa... singing Here comes Santa Claus... Here comes Santa Claus and 10 sec later a wave took Blitzen out to sea! Too bad Rudolf was at home in Vancouver with his lump of coal.*

side effect Chemo – she developed pulmonary problems – still ongoing today. So this all literally kicked the shit out of Tina. BUT as of Nov 4th she is now cancer free! She kicked that little Skin Cancer Shit Cell out the back door.

She had successfully been able to launch her real estate career when this hit. However NOT stopping Tina, she continued working from home, then almost recovered, her partner Bob Kasting decided he wanted to run for Mayor of Vancouver... Tina's Political Experience came full force ahead and launched his campaign. Nothing stops Tin Tin. Even that big "C" word. Proud of Tina

**Jillian** – is currently completing her masters at SFU and is Director of Communications for the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, lives downtown with her long-time partner Chris.

**Alexander** – in Montreal at Concordia U and continues to work in retail, occasionally threatens to become a Quebec Nationalist.

**Sophia** – headed off to Western U this Fall – after all Freda always wanted a daughter – and is studying Medical Sciences.



# THE “A” ALZHEIMER CORNER

In September Christie and I (Helen) took part in an excellent educational session over 2 weekends, put on by the Alzheimer Society, “Care for the Caregiver”. It took me into the brain of someone suffering with Dementia and gave me a broader understanding of just what our Granny Christie and some of our beloved Royal Eight went/are going through.

A simple example: something we all do daily in our lives – make a cup of tea or coffee.... We can do even in our sleep.... All the time our brain has to process these actions and what they all mean to come together and make a coffee or tea, the brain’s neurons connecting rapidly like magic.

Gorgeous thinks... “Ah, I’d love a cup of tea”... and so the process in her brain begins. BUT her’s now short fires... neurons don’t connect, there are holes/spaces in her brain now... as she stands up she stops... “Now what was I going to do? She’d forgotten... “Ah yes TEA!”

So she starts for the kitchen... but notices something on the table... reads it... can’t remember what it was for... Stands there... “CHRIST WHAT WAS I DOING!” “TEA! YES!” and goes to the kitchen and looks for the kettle (needed to heat water), turns on the tap, fills the kettle, turns off the tap, plugs in the kettle or turns on the stove, goes to the cupboard to get the tea bag, closes the cupboard, puts it on the counter.

All during this process there are many distractions in the kitchen. In the sink are dishes, what am I to do with these... put into... what? The dishwasher... Taking her away from her task... get that “GOD DAMN TEA!”

“Oh GAWD what am I doing?” She sees the kettle starts to boil... “Oh YES TEA!” Looks for Great Granny Armour’s teapot in cabinet, opens the door, takes it out places it on counter, then close cabinet door after. Turns on the warm tap lets it run then when warm enough, fills up the teapot, turning off the tap.

Thinks where is the tea pot warmer? Looks for it in the drawer, opens it takes it out and closes the drawer. Puts the warmer over the tea pot to warm up the pot. (As our Granny Christie and her Mother before did.)

Now look for Great Granny Armour’s matching cup and saucer (Auntie Mo & Helen you know what they look like in your own cupboards). Open the Cabinet door take out cup/saucer, put on counter and shut the door.

The kettle boils, unplug the cord or turn off the stove, take the warmer off the teapot, take the lid off, empty the warm water out in the sink, put in the tea bags, pour the boiling water in. Put warmer back on the tea pot and let the tea steep.

Remember the spoon is in the drawer, open drawer get a tea spoon close the drawer. Look in cabinet for matching sugar bowl, bring to counter, closing the cabinet. Get matching creamer jug from cabinet, close door after, and put creamer on counter. Look for milk, open the fridge, get milk out and pour into creamer container, put back in fridge and wait for tea to finishing steeping.

Remember tea is good with Granny Christie’s shortbread... Where is that Shortbread? Open the Cup-

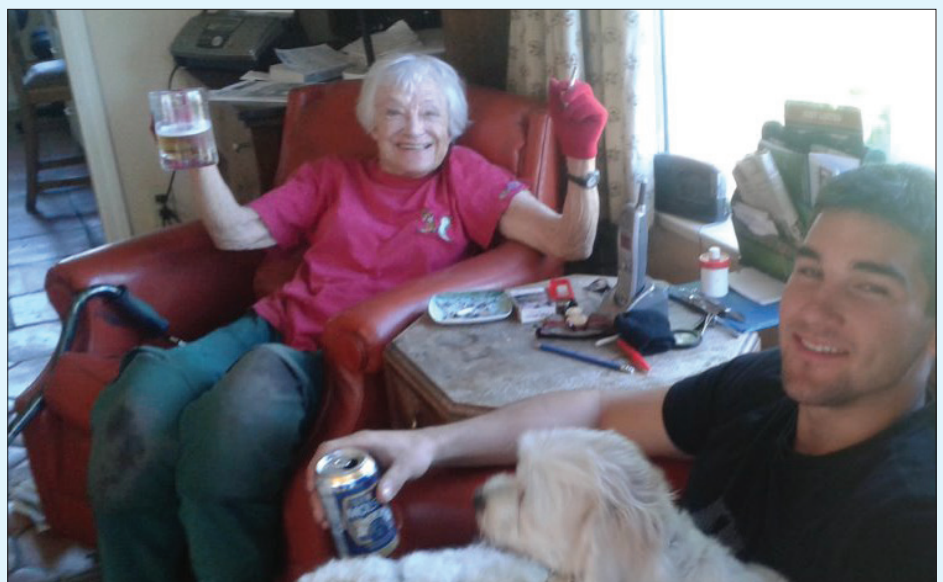
board, look for Short Bread tin, open it, and take out 2 pieces short bread, place on side tea cup/saucer, replace lid on tin and shut the cupboard.

Finally pour into the tea cup, first the cream, then tea from the tea pot, add in sugar from sugar bowl – get spoon and stir together.

Gorgeous finally walks to her favorite orange chair places the cup/saucer/shortbread on the table besides her... Pulls on her blanket sits down and gasps “All this for a GAWD DAMN CUP OF TEA! I’M EXHAUSTED! Then relaxes with a lovely up of perfectly steeped tea and shortbread and Lights up a cigarette! She remembered the lighter and cigarette were on the table too.

Obviously an exaggeration, but this is what happens in the minds of someone who is suffering from dementia in every action they do in their lives. We take so much for granted. We must be patient and understand just how frustrating it is for our beloved Christie Clan, the Past, the Present, the Future and Us!

So, to the children of ours. Be nice to us when we get old... Your own kids will have to do the same to you! They will see if you’ve been nasty to their favorite Grans too...



*Granny at her best.... having a beer & cigarette with Stefan, having just hobbled in from the garden complete with cane, gloves and her best garden attire.*



## Sergeant Major takes a Medical Leave

### Family goes to the Dogs

Another year has passed and all are well in the Layfield family. The beginning of 2014 was a little stressful with mom in the hospital. She recovered nicely and is back to her old self. Dad's eyesight has pretty much disappeared but he still goes and gets a needle in the eye every month, to save what little sight he has.

#### Doug

Doug embraced the "Freedom 55" mantra and retired from PoCo Builders. That lasted a couple of weeks and then he decided he needed to go back to work, so started hauling water. He had a great time in Princeton at the copper mine supplying water and seeing how the mine works. Bradley is still playing lots of sports with the Special Olympics. He enjoys baseball just like his dad, and really excels at bowling. I now know who inherited all of Grannie Christies' bowling genes.

#### Don

Don is still busy at the newspaper office. He is still trying to juggle work, golf, and hunting into his schedule. This year saw the new addition to their family. "Aragon" is a large hairy dog.

#### Carol

Carol is still trying to solve our country's financial problems, and trying to survive having 3 daughters. Jettie is playing basketball at Douglas College. Not sure how much playing time she will get because she has blown her MCL, and we are waiting on an MRI. Maddie was accepted into the Psychiatric Nursing Program. She is the youngest member in the program. Not sure if she got in based on her intelligence or the fact that she ticked the box that asked "Are you Native" but most likely it was because she described our family to the admissions clerk and they thought she had enough test subjects within her own family. Emily is still busy working at McDonalds and finishing up her grade 12 year at NWSS.

#### Sandra

As for my family, Christina had to go back to work in July after spending the year with George. So lucky me, I got to spend the summer babysitting my favourite little man. Amanda is busy working up at the hospital in Squamish. She has embraced the Squamish lifestyle of being active outdoors. She had to slow down in July when she



*Uncle George with Aragon*



*Christina and Prince George. Amanda, Maddie, Emily and Jettie at Emily's birthday dinner at Grandmas'*



broke her femur wake boarding, but only for a couple months as she was back climbing the Chief within two months of her accident.

So from all of the Layfield's we wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Doug at the Copper Mine in Princeton

## THE JEFFRIES TIMES

### Jeffries Make a Big Splash in Birch Bay

**R**ick, Carrie and Brady Jeffries live in Birch Bay Washington State where Rick continues to operate a seafood marketing company. Utilizing the seafood knowledge and work ethic garnered in his early years working for Lasqueti Fish Company. Rick declares, "I believe I increased the overall market value of BC Sockeye and Halibut this past year with my creative and imaginative sales routine (I await my thanks from Billy Forbes)."

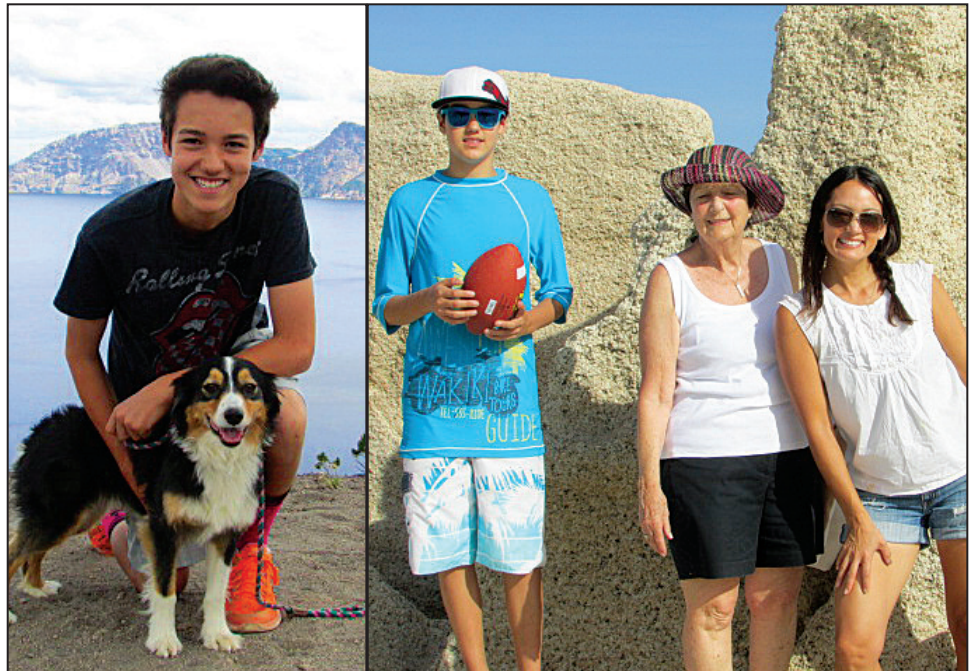
Brady is now 13 and has started stealing Rick's sports equipment and fashion accessories. Luckily his clothing fashion is still locked in the 60's thus Brady leaves that alone (Carrie says Rick should buy clothing with an expiry date on it like milk has).

Brady crosses the border each morning to go to school in White Rock after doing his first 7 years on the USA side (he aces the exams relating to USA history). He embraces the most important part of Canadian culture in that he loves hockey. We are waiting

for the schedule maker to set up another USA versus Canada summit game so Brady can square off against Derek McBean in a rematch.

Carrie commutes each day to Richmond to work at Work Safe BC contributing to the Canadian tax base (Carrie took a leave of absence to work for me but she was fired after a few weeks – going to Macy's to meet her friends during important company time). When we moved down in 1994 it was just for a year. Carrie has grumbled about the cross border commute but recently has been seen touring open houses in White Rock.

When we first moved to USA the American's thought we talked funny'eh but now when we are on the Canadian side people think we talk funny ya all. My wife also was kind enough to point out that I am in need of medical repair and that the Canadian Medical system would be a little more understanding in a financial sense (don't get me started on Obama-care).



is happy to share a *Coca-Cola* with you



## THE BIG MAC TIMES

### Oil Prices Plunge!

#### Mac Stockpiles Crude under Corrigan's Office at Burnaby City Hall

The whole Christie & McBean family started the year 2014 in the beautiful Cavalli Islands of the Northern New Zealand, with the Turkingtons and Dylan's brother Fred.

Fireworks on the beach, sea kayaks, sailing ships and yachts, Hobbit hunting, Black water rafting and evening soccer matches Canada vs. England & All Blacks Rugby battles on the beach. Roughing it with NZ wines.

Dylan returned to England to continue his 3rd year of Medical school with vigor, and determination. But a much needed break was taken this summer as he cruised the Med with Gord and Grandma and Poppa.

Gord returned to Thailand for a buying trip for his clothing store in Montreal and is continuing to travel the globe to exotic places.

Michelle currently has adopted another dog, three in total. Dog walking keeps her healthy and active.

Derek had a successful year at St. Georges with the Jr. Hockey and rugby



teams, born with the competitive genes is evident.

Danielle continues to play soccer and field-hockey at Crofton and displays a dramatic Flare in everything she does.

Bonnie and Mac continue to cruise with friends and spend their days

spoiling Tess.

John and Joanne are having fun living in Vancouver and are looking forward to spending time this Christmas with family in Whistler.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Healthy New Year!!

