



Volume 16 • Issue A

December 2016

2016 CHRISTIE SCREECH

Life's a Beach! *Remembering Holidays at Lasqueti*

Everyone has their happy place, somewhere special that they love to visit. For so many of us in the Christie Clan – Lasqueti holds that special place in our hearts.

There is a mural painted on the old freight shed that echoes my feelings, “there is no place like home, welcome home.” Walking up the dock relieved to be off the ferry I look longingly for Nana’s little green house that is no longer there. I trek up the damn False Bay hill lugging my cart of totes behind me wishing that my dad was here to meet me with the pickup and that my mom was waiting in her cabin with a fresh batch of cookies cooling on the counter. The melancholy is brief as my lungs are burning as I near the top of the hill and my focus shifts to the present.

We all have many adventures that we shared on Lasqueti. Funny though, the recollections usually begin with stories of riding the Captain Vancouver from French Creek to False Bay barfing all the way across the Strait of Georgia for that one hour of tortuous eternity. Everyone concludes it was all worth it once our feet hit the dock. We were home free! It was on Lasqueti that we learned to fish, hunt, hike, row a boat, gut a fish, swim, water ski, build a fort, skip a stone, play cards, operate a motor boat, hey, even drink our first beer.

Lasqueti is where we earned our nicknames; Donald Duck, Ted Peck, Patty Pooh, Fish who later became Dish, Stewart was the Ballerina man, my bossy brother Bill was Sargo and the list goes on. We spent long summer afternoons at the dock, huddled between the pilings



with our bums in the air, fishing for shiners. Our fishing lines were simple affairs that consisted of 10 lb test, small hooks, washers or nuts for weights all wound around a stick of cedar kindling.

We were of course under the watchful eye of our loving Granny Christie. Her white hair would be stained with creosote from the dock pilings. Sometimes we would fill our day’s catch into a submerged row boat to create our own aquarium... only to get side tracked by some other activity and return to find that all our fish had died. The fish needed fresh circulating water to survive. On our next attempt we would change the water frequently... lesson learned.

Summer afternoons were also be spent swimming at the dock, swinging from the crane or mustering up all your bravado at low tide and jump off the high dock... some even ventured up onto the freight shed. We were dock rats and spent countless afternoons engaging in jelly fish fights or pushing

each other into the water. Do you remember the guppies and how we would paddle like crazy to ride the waves of the ferry as it passed by the house? We took great delight in picking on the weak and timid. Making Christy H shriek was a daily goal and one that was easily reached. The anti-bullying campaign was yet to be created.

We learned a lot about the environment, the forest, the ocean and where our food came from. Daily hikes into the woods with the uncles are now treasured memories. We learned about plants such as stinging nettles and thistles by being pricked by them. We picked berries and ate them without first bringing them home to be washed. We learned to track animals by watching for the hoof prints or wool catch on bushes. We listened to bird calls and hunted for nests.

Beach hikes at low tide were amazing. The footing was tough but the things we discovered were spectacular. Crabs, snails, geoducks, sea cucumbers,

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urchins, anemones, bull heads and many more sea critters were all there for us to discover, touch and then throw at each other. We had some amazing insight into beach life when Auntie Janet visited. She became our expert professor on all things on the beach after volunteering at the Vancouver Aquarium. Many of us recall the giant sunfish found on such a walk to the lagoon.

Not of course to be outdone, Uncle Bob ripped apart Indian middens in search of ancient artifacts in attempt to spark our interest in archaeology. We were instructed on how to tie knots for lures and securing boats. We were permitted to carry small pocket knives and like Uncle Bill Christie we were always prepared.

Fishing in the old clinker boat or later in the speed boat was a daily ritual. Gutting and cleaning salmon on the beach was almost as exciting as catching them. We took great glee in slicing open the belly of the fish, then reached in with our hands to tear out the guts. Someone would give us the anatomy of the fish lesson in the process. The best part of all of this though was waiting for the dog fish to come in to retrieve the guts. We would be ready to bomb them with boulders. We would slice the dog fish open next and perform caesarian births of baby mud sharks... this was our version of the Nature of Things... much better than reality TV.

The construction of forts was legendary made from beach-combed wood and rusty nails carefully hammered in with granite rocks... we were not always permitted the luxury of hammers. We were roughing it. Although the safety of these structures was often suspect they

did offer the natural comforts of mossy chairs and open windows, and airy sky lights. We would spend weeks in the creation of these fine structures and would return each summer to repair, renovate and re-create them.

Evenings were spent at the kitchen table playing cards. Hearts was our favourite. We would chant in unison, "Stink it out." Referring of course to the Queen of Spades. How we hated Susan Henschel's long finger nails when we played Torture, or Doug Layfield's fists! Do you remember...club, scratch, pinch and knuckle rolls! Ouch. It is surprising that we aren't all scarred.

On rainy days we played quiet games of crib with the adults, or go fish and memory with Granny C. We flopped down one of three couches in the front room to read... no internet... no cell phones... how did we survive?

Our parents loosely watched over us, except the Henschel's who were required to be supervised, safe and sanitary at all times. I think theirs was the only dog to sprint off the ferry and immediately roll in cow poop. That was hilarious and gross.

We were given chores, the dish washing detail was created and the schedule was posted on the kitchen wall. Everyone participated. The fighting and complaining about it was all in vain, we had to do the dishes regardless. We took turns going fishing with our uncles who were armed with cold cokes or beer.

They patiently passed on their passion for this past time to all of us. On shore our aunts created wonderful meals, fresh little spuds from the garden, BBQ oysters and salmon, homemade soups, fresh baked cookies and buns every day. Amazing! We were permitted one pop a day and we all had to get lost at 3:00 pm. This is when our parents would gather on the front porch to partake in the civilized custom of cocktail hour. No kids allowed... could we really blame them?

We piled into the back of the pick up to go for rides to Scottie Bay



or Millicheap's Lake. We sat recklessly on the side rails of the truck singing songs and laughing along the way. Sometimes Uncle Tom would hammer on the brakes, a subtle reminder that he could dump us out at any time. Uncle Tom much to our delight drove fast. My dad used to trick him by removing the strap that held the battery in place. When Uncle Tom hit the pot holes at Mach speed the battery would disconnect and the truck would stall. Uncle Tom would later get back at my dad. He would cut the outboard engine in the middle of the bay while water skiing. It was the only way to sink they guy who perfected the "Outhouse Crouch."

We were freaked out by the hippies. Their appearance and lifestyle was so foreign to us, yet we would walk up to the school hoping to catch them playing Frisbee in the nude or skinny dipping in Mud Bay. We were there when Lasqueti became the birthplace of BC Bud. We had a front row seat when the police helicopters dumped loads of freshly harvested marijuana onto the dock. We'd sit under the dock and boldly gather samples that filtered down through the wharf planks.

I am forever grateful to have these wonderful memories with all of you. The Christie Cousins, aka The Dirty 30, grew up together and through our shared Lasqueti adventures we became best friends and better people. I am thrilled that the next generation of Christie and Forbes families also love to return to our Lasqueti home each summer. We welcome visitors. With that in mind, the big house is in need of a paint job... any volunteers?



What do Stew and the Scarecrow have in Common?

The Highs and Lows of the Year

There's nothing like starting off the Colbourne report with a quote from the heralded author Lemony Snickett, but 2016 has been a series of unfortunate events and we can't wait for it to end – bring on 2017!

But in true Christie fashion of black humour and political incorrectness, we bring you a short update on the highs and lows of 2016 from the Bill and Moira Colbourne Clan.

High – February celebration of mom's 80th birthday "surprise" hockey game with all of her kids, grandkids and nieces and nephews...and the occasional Christie wannabes. It was a fantastic game, despite the cheating... and cross-dressing grandsons! Thanks to all who made her day so special.

Low – The rain sucked.

Even lower – Two months later Stew had brain surgery.

High - Yes, he has one. Surgeon said it's hardly been used...lots of miles left!

Higher – He promised Jackie he's going to start using it now.

High - Mom ran in the Sun Run as part of her 80th extravaganza celebration and came 3rd in her age group.

Low – She beat Bruce. I mean low for Brucie ;)

High – Meg graduated with a Bachelor of Science, University of Victoria and Cole graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Arts, Major Kinesiology, Western University.

High – Oliver got a fantastic job at Build Direct...actually using his university degree!

High – Freda finally had a daughter. At least, she had one for a month when Julia Adams came to stay in June!

Low – Julia left and then the toilet seats were back up again, arg ;(

High – Jack got a great job in Coast Guard and started second year at University of Victoria.

High – Marco started first year at Queens University.

Low – He gave up his stature as the "only grandson playing hockey".

Lower – Grandpa has no more grandsons to watch play hockey.

High – Adoptive grandson Aiden Casey joined the Nanaimo Clippers and now Grandpa can cheer him on locally. Rumour has it -- Aiden is near the top of the grandchildren totem pole.

High – Ellen is in her third year at Lafayette College in the US...just killing



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it on the field hockey team.

High – Barb and Mike took the girls to France, England and Scotland to practice their French, do the Harry Potter castle tour and compete in highland dancing.

High – Anne, Grace and Christina gave those Scottish girls a run for their money – literally!

Higher – They won money instead of medals...how cool is that? And they won lots!!

Low – Mike was diagnosed with cancer. That sucks.

Even lower – Mike had to have 35 days of radiation and a whole lot of chemo.

High – He finished radiation and chemo and is finally getting his appetite back just in time for Christmas.

High – Joe finally won the Stanley Cup. Actually he won an art competition with artist Linda Covit to build a monument "Lord Stanley's gift" in downtown Ottawa.

Low – It's official...Mag's going under the knife...singing "All I want for Xmas is a new hip!"

High – Annie and Barb are once again touring the lower mainland and the island in the annual Nutcracker production. Anne has reprised her role as Clara.

REALLY FREAKIN HIGH – All the Colbourne's will be together this Xmas to laugh, hug, and raise a glass or two to celebrate what an amazing family we have, mark the end of 2016 and wish for good health and happiness for 2017!!



Jamie moves in... Patty and Jean move out!

The Adams Family

The Adams family is alive and well and living together in peace and harmony — (believe what you will)

Eric is working hard to complete courses required in his new profession as a financial advisor. He also travelled solo to southeast Asia for 13 weeks this summer, came home safe and sound, new tattoos and all. Status: single. Living at home.

Adrienne returned from Austria in July having completed her Masters in Business, specifically in global sales and marketing. She was recently hired by Hilti (think power tools) and just completed a 3 week training program in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Status; in a relationship (Jeff). Living at home.

Dave is a firefighter with Vancouver Fire Dept and this summer completed his first Ironman Triathlon at Whistler this summer. He is travelling to Guatemala for a month with his girlfriend over Christmas. Status; in a relationship with Stef. He lives at home sometimes.

Julia is in her 6th and final year of medical school in Galway, Ireland. She had a great summer in Canada this year doing electives at various hospitals. She spent a month working in Toronto hospital and lived with Fred and Joe, and Julia adopted Cole and Marco as her new brothers. (Family is awesome). Julia is spending this Christmas in Galway with school friends and hopes to be back in Canada next summer doing her two year medical residency in a hospital. Status: single, we think. Living in Ireland

Rob and Susan are still working and travelling a good amount. They are planning a wonderful "barge and cycling trip" in Europe next June, going down the Danube; then jumping over to Ireland to attend Julia's graduation from med school. Rob is still working on his 6 pack while Susan is still trying to land a triple axel. Status; married. living at home in peace and harmony. LOL

The Constables

Steve and I purchased our retirement home in Qualicum Beach in January. We moved in on November 11th, and we love it. The property is just under

6 acres, and has a rental house and 2 bedroom rental suite attached to the back of a very large 4 bay shop.

Scott is still working for Phoenix Truck & Crane and happily dating his girlfriend, Christi. We were very happy when he purchased a 2 bedroom condo in July, he moved in the middle of August, and is enjoying it very much.

Sarah finished her BA in April, graduated with distinction, and was awarded the Deans Academic Achievement Award. She has been working for a tourism company since May and is still dating Andy. Sarah and Andy also purchased a condo and moved in the middle of October. They live only 5 minutes from Scott, and both of the condo's back onto the Gates Park in Poco.

The kids will be coming over on boxing day, and we are headed to Tofino for a couple of days before New Year's Eve.

I will continue to work full time for another year, from my home office, and then will be slowly starting to decrease my hours. Steve is the new caretaker of the property, and doing a great job getting everything in tip top shape.

It has been a busy and eventful 2016, everything just fell into place.

The Herndiers

This year has brought some changes – Vanessa and Cody got engaged in February! We thought we may have a wedding, but instead we got a beautiful granddaughter Mila Rose born November 20th.

We are so blessed to have 2 wonderful grandchildren and lovely daughters. Ryan is still working in the oil fields, so no sign of a wedding yet for Lauren. She continues to work with Dr. Chui and also at Burnaby General in the Healthy Heart dep't. She does catering on the weekends and helps her sister with babysitting duties and also spends lots of time with Grandpa Russ.



Daryl finally retired June 1st, his work buddies put on a great retirement party for him. He has done a lot of travelling this summer, spending time in Phoenix, Idaho, Lasqueti, Whistler, Cuba, camping trips, fishing trips etc. He is finding lots of little odds jobs to keep him busy, him and his big red truck are well known at the dump. He does find time to cook me dinners – so all is well at home. I am quite enjoying the house husband, so I may continue to work a few more years.

Russ

Grandpa Russ has had a few health issues but he always bounces back! He went camping to Christina Lake, and golfing to Phoenix, and will spend the new year in Cabo San Lucas with his sister Isobel.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our relatives!



Christy atop Mt. Trematon... Again!

Christy's Lasqueti Island Memories

So many fond memories over the 60 years of visiting - as a young child, teenager, young adult, then with our children and hopefully bringing our grandchildren. We love Lasqueti Island!!

Swimming across the bay, jumping off the wharf, water skiing, building a fort in the back yard, fishing, clam digging, Uncle Peter teaching how to drive his truck, hiking up Mt. Trematon, fighting with cousins on who's night it was to wash dishes!, playing cards with flashlights cause the power plant was turned off, the assembly line of all the kids passing wood up to the deck, skinny dipping, and of course HAPPY HOUR on the deck.

Daryl enjoys all the yard work jobs. He remembers recently the deck needed replacing, so to help, Uncle Bill, Randy and he started dismantling the rails, glass and deck boards. Uncle Bill was feverishly pulling on the board, he turned around and Bill was gone. The board had won the battle and flung him off the deck into the hedge below. Uninjured he got back up and continued working.

Another story Daryl tells - I chuckle when I remember Uncle Peter requiring help dumping a load of logs into the bay off the logging truck. It was a coordinated effort with Peter to release the posts on the trailer to allow the bundle of logs to roll off the truck. Russ or I would have to hit the hook

at the same time with a mallet as Peter did, or the load could get twisted and possibly pull the truck into the water. Peter never hit his end till he knew the two incompetents hit theirs. We only batted around 500. Peter would just shake his head.

On another note, here are a few memories of Lasquiti:

- hiking to spring Bay with a huge gaggle of cousins, no sense of direction, hacking through jungle, and then sleeping out in the wild and paying truth a or dare
- long games of double deck hearts ... "stink it our"
- climbing Mt Trematon, and thinking we were going to die
- out fishing for 9 hours and coming home to find no one concerned that we had been gone so long
- playing crib with Granny
- Danny singing "memory" from Cats at the top of his lungs out on the boat. I don't think we caught any fish that day !
- paddling in the guppies
- cooking oysters in the shell over a raging fire
- there are a million more, but way over my word allowance.



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Patty homeless! Seeks Go Fund Me donations

Free Fish Fry Days are Over

Rob Forbes Family

Since the last issue of the Screech, the Rob Forbes crew grew by two members! Elliot got married in December to his wife Yvonne, and Heather got married to Chris in June. Elliot and Yvonne bought a house in Victoria, and are in the process of selling their Vancouver condo and moving to the Island full-time.

Heather and Chris moved to Echo Bay (permanent population: 5) to run a salmon research station. They also bought a 1951 wooden trawler that they're converting to a live-aboard. Kelly lives in Victoria with her boyfriend Tim and loves her job working on clam garden restoration with Parks Canada.

Rob and Coral had a quiet year, and celebrated Coral's 60th birthday in December. They are getting ready for a big trip through Costa Rica in February and Coral's retirement next summer.

Patty & Steve

This year's big Biro story is that Patty and Steve sold the Ship and Shore. They're enjoying a winter on Lasqueti and plan to enjoy some time in the sun before moving back to the big island in 2017.

They had a great trip to San Diego last Winter with Carol and met up with Don and Brenda Layfield as well. Good times... golf, not so good.

This winter they plan to sponge off Susan and Rob Adams in Phoenix. Bruce lives in Victoria where he has secured

a full-time teaching gig in the Sooke School District. He is dating the lovely Bri who is also a new teacher.

Kevin is graduating from UBC this month, Bachelor of Arts, History Major. He is pursuing a career in a Victoria area police department. Robert continues to enjoy his work with the Coast Guard where he is currently assigned to a search and rescue vessel which patrols the North Coast of BC. He also got engaged; Robert and his fiancée, Nicole, bought a house in Cedar. Their wedding is set for May 20th in Parksville.

Since the Biro parents are homeless and jobless Robert and Nicole offered to host the family Christmas dinner. Thanks kids, we'll take those lumps of coal back.

The Weighills:

Jean is finally on the downside of Karma! After living with her own mother for years, she bought a new place in Nanaimo and Aggie promptly moved in! Thankfully the house, building in 1905, has two floors so that the roommates can go to separate corners when needed!

After putting the Deep Bay house on the market, Jean spent the summer traveling with Aggie to Ghana, South Africa, and Tanzania before returning to Toronto to visit grandkids.

Ag is now a Department Chair at VIU and continues to work on projects around the world.

Cameron and Dorianna spend their



time chasing Pietro (4 ½) and Violet (1 ½). Cam was promoted to manager within Ontario Public Health, which is good since he hopes to retire around the same time that his kids move onto university.

Pietro started junior kindergarten and would make his Great Granny proud with his love of reading and printing! Violet seems to be taking after other Christies (Uncle Tom?) – her nickname is “the destroyer” and despite the cherub cheeks she's likely to play women's rugby one day!

Bill Forbes Family

The Bill Forbes Family continues to be busy. With 8 grandchildren to chase around at their various activities there is never a dull moment for the parents and grandparents alike.



All the respective families love to visit Lasqueti during the summertime where they fish prawns and enjoy adventures at the Lake, much like the Christie cousins did as children.

Bill threatens to retire from fishing but no one believes him. He can always be reached by text on his cell phone, 250-616-8218... so send him a message this summer as both Bill and Georgia turn 65 in August.

For PJ's crew it was a busy year as they groomed their children to be future team Canada Athletes. Kaiya has become the opponent's worst nightmare on the mound, hitting everything other than the strike zone with her wicked windmill.

Peter has perfected the art of the post goal celebration while PJ has hopefully squashed his dream of being the next "Backup Goalie"! Meanwhile, Christy and PJ continue to work to pay the child stars sport camp fees.

Psycho Sports Mom, Alicia also had a busy year supporting her children and their adventures. Will's baseball team won the Provincial Championships, then he made the Royals AAA Prep team, following closely in his Biro cousins' footsteps...got the temper to match them too. He's now a high schooler at Grade 8.

Both Jesse and Will play baseball, hockey and basketball. We've tried to discuss with Jesse that he is from British Columbia and therefore must be a Canuck's fan, he has rebelled (typical) and only wears New York Rangers t-shirts/hats/socks/ and probably underwear if he ever wore any. That is TMI!

Katie, Grade 11, straight A student, has been working at Thrifty's for the last 8 months and loves it. According to Alicia, she has too many facial piercings but we won't bring that up! Katie turned the wonderful sweet 16 this year and got her learners permit to drive.

Katie, Alicia, and Georgia are going to New York in March '17 for a historical tour. Betcha Alicia will fit in on those Jersey Shores.

Trevor's crew is also growing up fast and furious. The beautiful Maiah enjoys late slumber whenever she can but can tear it up on the volleyball court when pressed; she too has her "L", watch for them on the road when you visit the area. Naden donned his super cute charm and managed to fleece Auntie Patty and Uncle Steve for \$\$ in raffle tickets for his hockey team.

Taylor is currently living with his dad in Parksville, where also with an "L" he acts as Trevor's official chauffeur. He appears to take great delight in pushing his g-pa's buttons, but then that button is such an easy target to hit! Set the bar higher in 2017 Taylor.

Pat

Mom/Granny lives in a Senior's Home in Nanaimo. While she struggles to remember who people are and where they fit into her life it is evident that she does love visitors. Auntie Mo and Auntie Helen came over for a visit this fall but Mom couldn't get a word in as Auntie Mo hogged the conversation.



M o m participates in most of the activities offered in the home where she appears to be both healthy and happy. She continues to get her hair done every week at the salon and once a month Nicole visits and treats her to a pedicure. She loves the attention and the flashy toenail polish!

On behalf of the Forbes Family we wish to extend everyone an open invitation to Lasqueti, bring your work clothes, and also we wish you all a very Merry Christmas.



Oooops... Carol Swipes Right! Still Dishing it Out?

It's that time of year again when I look back and reflect all that has happened to the Layfield family in 2016.

Doug & Jacquie

Doug and Jacquie have had quite a good year. Doug started the year retired, and managed to find a volunteer job that would allow him to play golf for free. Doug is now a Marshal up at Westwood Plateau Golf course. Once Don and Carol heard about this, they sucked up to their older brother to also golf for free. One of his Aunts also managed to sweet talk her way into golfing for free.

In between volunteering at the golf course he did some work for the movies. He drives a water truck and provides water for rain scenes. Hence the nickname Rainman. (No my brother is not Autistic.)

Jacquie is working part time at a daycare and lucky for her it's the same daycare that their grandson Channing attends. Doug has been helping Channing learn to swim, play soccer and baseball. He is quite the little athlete; the boy sure can hit a baseball. Avalyn just turned 1 and has begun to walk.

Bradley is still very much involved with Special Olympics. The way he talks he is the star of the team, so he

is a true Christie, not modest at all and likes to brag about his accomplishments.

Don & Brenda

The beginning of 2016 saw Don and Brenda and the big oaf of a dog, head south to warmer weather. They travelled down to Arizona then over to California. When they were in California they met up with Carol, Patty and Steve for a round of golf. I can see this becoming a pattern. The weather gets cold; Don and Brenda head south.

Lea and Nicole took advantage of the crazy real estate market and sold their place in Maple Ridge and bought a place in Quesnel. Don is happy because now he has a place to store his hunting trailer. Hunter is now a year and half and in May he will be getting a new brother, so maybe Don and Brenda won't be heading south after all maybe they will embrace the cold and spend more time up north.

Hunting season was good this year. Don's group got a moose and 3 deer, and Colton got his first deer.



SMILE OF THE DAY



GEORGE LAYFIELD

Birthday: December 16, 1929
Occupation: Retired

Interests: Avid sports fan, authority on many subjects, keen gardener, golfer and sports fisherman, engaging story and joke teller.

Sign of the Zodiac: Sagittarius

Characteristics of this sign: Has great ability to focus and can be intense. Has a tendency to "let it all hang out," and "what you see is what you get." Sagittarians are not very patient but when encountered with a difficult situation they make extreme comebacks against incredible odds. Loyal in friendship.

Famous for: Robust sense of humour, pride, loyalty and love for his family, his wife Helen in particular. We couldn't help but be drawn into his incredible stories. He was funny, he was silly and his incredible laugh and smile were just irresistible.

George Stewart Layfield, In the Words of his Grandchildren

It was no secret that we were his pride and joy. Grandpa loved us. Grandpa leaves a legacy of how to live life with honour, respect and pride. As a child, conversations with him were never stale. We felt like a welcomed spark in his life, and never an inconvenience. He knew how to speak to us, to make us feel heard, valued, and understood, and would always encourage us in whatever it was that we were doing. When you have such support in your life, it gives you the confidences and capabilities to never stand in the back of the crowd. In fact, it was as we never knew any different.

Our family has been built with strength of character, and this is the legacy that Grandpa leaves with his grandchildren. We have become adults that he is proud of because of the

family pride that is being passed on through the generations.

"Grandpa loved us, he sure did" or should we say "Grandpa loves us, he sure does. He does love us. Grandpa doesn't have to be a story of the past. His presence and love is very much still here in all of us, as we take what we've learned from him and help to make someone's smile a little wider, or their future a little brighter. His legacy is written in our minds and spoken in the stories we share. Forever we will remember his listening face, his pride sparkled eyes, and his encouraging words, and we will smile knowing that he has created a positive ripple, effecting each member our family and every person he encountered.

Fondly remembered.

Carol

2016 saw my nieces introduce their mother to TINDER. Not sure how it is going, I think she swipes left a lot. Her renovations on the house are done, and now she can relax. She still very much loves her yoga and has started to become one with nature taking long hikes in the forest and up mountains.

Jettie's knee surgery went well and is back playing basketball full time. She is almost finished her degree and is now taking extra courses in Behaviour Intervention, and has started working with a few autistic children.

Madison is in her final semester to becoming a Psych Nurse. She still very much is enthused with her choice of career, and looks forward to actually working and earning a pay cheque.

Emily is in her second year of college. She was able to travel this year to Jamaica and stay with her boyfriend's family. She was quite the anomaly in Jamaica. She was the only white person in the small village where she was staying. The smaller children were quite taken by her very pale skin.

Sandra

I am still lucky to get my grandson every weekend. George and I have such a good time going to the park, on adventures and to different fairs; where he loves to go on the rides. He is quite the little daredevil. Don needed a place



to store his quad so it's in my garage, George and I have quite a blast quading around my property. I am still working, at a school in POCO and I foresee many more years at this school. Like my niece Madison, I do enjoy what I do.

Christina and Kevin decided to get married this year, and eloped in July. They had a private wedding at Whonnock Lake with their good friends as their witnesses.

In November Amanda and Shaun spent the weekend in Kelowna, and on a hike up to a waterfall, Shaun proposed to Amanda. She said YES. Now if only I can get them to elope.

So another year as gone, much

has stayed the same and at the same time much is different. Celebrating father's day without dad, and with his birthday soon approaching and Christmas shortly thereafter, it just reminds us all to celebrate the here and now, because you never know what the future holds.

So from our family to yours we wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Remembering Uncle George

I will always remember Uncle George as the one who during the filming of The Royal Eight broke the steely resolve I'd armed myself with for the day, and turned me into a mushy, sobbing, puddle of emotions. We were filming the Out-Laws in the Gazebo sequence, and the interview question was quite simple: why is this family so close? The aunties had gone first, and just unveiled the Christie version of Mean Girls, wherein seemingly none of the daughters-in-law would have stuck around if it weren't for Granny Christie, and ultimately she was responsible for the tightness of our clan.

The Out-Law Uncles were next: why is this family so close? Uncle Bill Colbourne spoke first, also credited Granny and immediately started weeping. Then Uncle George calmly

chimed in. "I think it's Helen. Yes Helen... because she does so much for everyone." Now I had heard talk of his love and admiration of his lovely wife before, but this was first time I had seen it laid so bare, so clear, and unwavering. And at that moment I saw in him all the love and respect he held for Helen and I realized that he truly believed that she was responsible for all the love, compassion and camaraderie lurking beneath the crusty exteriors of the entire Christie clan. In that moment, the love filling my heart was too much to bear... and I started bawling. Suffice it to say, Uncle George loved and admired Auntie Helen, more than you can ever imagine.



We will miss the twinkle in his eye, the humour in his voice, the courage of his will...but most of all...his love.

– **Bob Christie**

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

– **Dr. Seuss**

Christy Clark thanks the TRC Family for all those Property Transfer \$\$\$\$\$

Well it's 9 years without Dad and 2 years without Mom and the first Christmas without 2051 Yeovil Avenue. The year started out with a lot of mixed feelings as the bittersweet decision was made to sell 2051 in the crazy real estate market we have been in. Comforting for all of the family being that we all have such fond family memories of the home that we all shared with Mom and Dad for many years, that it will stay standing. We all hope that the new owners will have as many wonderful memories in the home in the coming years as we all have had.

Susan & Colin

Susan and Colin once again started out the year with a two-month vacation in Puerto Vallarta. Back from PV briefly and then off to Ruxton for the summer.

In September, they were off to celebrate Colin's milestone birthday with a three-week Panamanian Cruise out of Vancouver! Fabulous!

Colin enjoying his retirement and his has been pursuing ceramic sculpture and has sold three pieces so far at the Sooke Fine Arts Show and Sydney Fine Arts Show. Well done Colin.

Suzie is enjoying semi retirement and working towards full retirement sometime very very soon so she can pursue her interests that she never has time for.



Michael has been working in the film industry again this year on the TV Show "The Flash" and finally making some serious coin. He recently purchased a new BMW and has a ticket to go to Germany for two months in April 2017.

Michael & Deb & Family

Once again all is well in the family and we are growing. Mike and Deb vacationed in Cuba again in the spring and came home to welcome the newest member of our family on July 26, Lennon Emelia Marie MacLeod. A beautiful baby sister for big brother Wyatt who is almost in the terrible twos and we all know what that is like.

The Christies Real Estate Team is as



usual working hard to take care of buyers and sellers of real estate and had another great year!

Chase is working hard at his restaurant, Mission in Kitsilano and it was awarded the Best new restaurant by the Georgia Straight this year.

Julie and Marko are having a ball with Princess Leia and can't wait to add to their family. Leaving Dec 28 for a week in Cuba to see if they like it as much as Mom & Dad!

Jeff and Jacquie are doing well spent time in Mexico this year watching friends get married and are looking forward to a trip to Las Vegas in March. All of them are well and we are looking forward to a fabulous 2017!

Dan & Elaine Family

Dan and Elaine spent the better part of the beginning of the year renovating their new home in Sunny White Rock. With the addition of a beautiful master suite the house has turned out perfect for them. After many months of hard work they finally finished the pool in time to enjoy it this summer and are putting final touches on the garage they added.

Tough to get this all accomplished between the many holidays travelling between Mexico and Arizona! Danny is getting ready to RETIRE in May 2017.

Jaki turned 21 in December and has been living in Kelowna at Uncle Craig's house with the cousin Kristi attending University Of Okanagan.

Craig & Wende Family

Craig and Wende are both well and thriving in the great white north. Craig seemingly not knowing how to slow down, he is still doing more than one man's worth of work... However, during hunting season he was able to find the



Celebrating our final night @ 2051



time to entertain a home invasion, by his cousins Rob and Billy Forbes, and Billy's son PJ.

Craig finished the basement renovation on his Kelowna house in time to open it up as an Air BNB for the summer, which was taken care of and managed by cousin Kristi. Thanks Kristi!

Then in November Craig found the time to sneak away to San Francisco to watch his beloved Patriots take down the 49ers with a 30 - 17 victory. Glad they won it for you Craig!

Wende is still hard at work as always, managing the family business and focusing on her new healthy lifestyle. At the beginning of this year Wende traveled to Vernon to adopt a new friend for herself, an adorable peanut of a dog named Stella (Craig really likes her, don't tell anyone!).

Wende was able to get away for a vacation to Puerto Vallarta for some relax time as well.

Kasandra, with much help from her boyfriend Matt, spent the entirety of 2016 developing her property into an urban vegetable farm, also known as a "SPIN" farm (meaning "small plot intensive").

She is currently taking some online workshops and courses with aspirations to start her new business as soon as possible, which will focus mainly on local and sustainable food sources.

Kasandra also added a new 4-footed friend to her family this year. After

over a year of fostering dogs through the Prince George Humane Society, Kasandra heard of just the dog she had been waiting for, and flew to Victoria to bring home her handsome German Shorthaired Pointer, Rudi.

Maria graduated from Okanagan College in May with a medical device reprocessing certificate, for hospital equipment sterilization, and is taking a year off of school to work and ski in Fernie BC. She is looking forward to start school in Prince George in September for her nursing degree!

Colleen & Ken

Colleen has been enjoying her new job, working for The Christies Real Estate team and has fit in perfectly. Ken is as always working hard and they are missing the kids living out of town, with Kristi (24) in Kelowna with boyfriend Brett, Kevin (21) with a new position with Kingston Construction living in Prince Rupert, they only have Craig left in the house.

Craig (18) graduated this year in June and travelled to Cuba at the end of the school year and just received his drivers licence. He is also been working at Kingston Construction and bought his first car! Look out family!! He is off to Mexico in January for a week with his good friend, Lucky kid!!



Milestone Birthdays for 2016

Celebrating 80
Auntie Moe

Celebrating 65
Jean Weighill

Celebrating 60
Christy Herndier
Helen Arlotti

Celebrating 50
Bobby Christie
Gord Christie

Celebrating 40
Trevor Forbes

Celebrating 30
Heather Forbes
Vanessa Herndier

Celebrating 20
Sophia Oliver
Jack Matthews

Celebrating 10
Brandon Christie
Christina Hodges

Born 2016
Tristan Mark Christie
Mila Rose Dahm

Life is a Bed of Roses

A highlight of the year for us was a family trip to Lasqueti in July. Now it wasn't crazy and full of drama like past adventures on the rock. Nobody was gassed on the little ferry (Randy circa 1961); the ferry didn't get stuck on the rocks attempting to assist another grounded boat, and require rescuing by the Lasqueti Island Fish Co. (circa 1970), and nobody tried to swamp our boat or pelted us with eggs while trying to enjoy a nice afternoon fish (circa 1980). Actually it was quite mellow in a historical context. We invaded a week previously booked by the Herndier's, which was great because Christy and Daryl are actually the children dad has always dreamed of having.

We set up mom and dad in Auntie Pat's cabin, and the rest of us ran amok in the big house. Bob's friend Sandra was invited along for colourful comic relief, and Beth had been flown in from Ontario as our next generation representative. Even Cheryl and Mark, previously booked for a retreat on Keats Island were able to join us virtually with the now excellent Wifi now available at Forbes Lodge.

One afternoon we decided check out what was happening in Scottie Bay. Christy and Daryl took mom and dad in Auntie Pat's little SUV, and the rest of us rag tags all piled into the pick up truck. Dad was wearing an excellent t-shirt bought at the boat show by his other favourite dream child Bill Forbes. The shirt, from Osborne Propellers, features a pirate faced skull and cross bones on the front, and in large print on the back "Screwing Boaters since 1935" (the year dad was born).

When we made our way down to the wharf at Scottie Bay, there was a group of half a dozen young tattooed partiers climbing off a boat that had just pulled in. Most of them were from the lower-mainland, but the Captain, from Courtney-Comox, knew someone in the Millicheap clan, and they were just tying up for the afternoon to check out Lasqueti. Dad's shirt was a big hit with this gang, and along Daryl's general friendliness, they were getting all the necessary Island information, like how long a walk it was to the bar, and where to go swimming.

I'm not sure exactly what happened next, but eventually it was decided they should see Spring Bay, and so should we. So now ALL of us piled into the back of

Kay's Memories of Lasqueti with Janet Hansen

Some of my best memories of holidays on Lasqueti are the ones we spent with Janet. Getting there was always interesting as Janet has a paralyzing fear of heights. If the tide was low and the ramp steep, I hoped there would be a strong man around to help Bill get her down. Janet loved to go fishing and back in the days when fish were plentiful, she caught some big ones and even got her name on the plaque that hangs on the wall, for the biggest fish.

Getting her in the boat was another adventure. It usually meant Bill in the boat coaxing her while pulling her over the side while someone on shore pushed her from behind. But once on board, she was Queen of the Sea. Especially if Tom let her steer.

One night Bill and Tom took her out fishing after supper. The boat motor conked out and they had to row home, quite a distance. Peter was fussing and fuming about them being out after dark

and I was getting concerned too. Then we heard them coming, singing loudly and badly "By the Light of the Silvery Moon". Janet's only complaint, NO FISH.

One summer we spent a few days with Tom and Lorraine and Lorraine's mother. Janet and Mrs. White shared a room (maybe a bed) and they laughed and giggled like a pair of teenagers. They called each other Roomie.

I am so grateful to the Forbes clan, especially Pat, for all the wonderful holidays we spent with Janet on Lasqueti.



the pick up – including their dog and Sandra – and we bounced along the road to Spring Bay. This was of course to them, the epitome of wild island life. We all enjoyed a walk on the beach, doing our own things for an hour or so, and then piled back in the pick up and headed back.

On the way back, the interlopers began quizzing us on our connections to the island, and one another. That Randy (inside driving) and I were brothers, sons of the guy in the t-shirt, who was the coolest eighty year-old they had ever met. And it didn't really matter how it was explained that we were also visitors on the island, they were convinced that we were from Lasqueti. Now, after visiting for 50 years, I feel confident that I know Lasqueti fairly well, but truthfully, once off the Forbes' property, the Island and its inhabitants, can quickly make me feel like an outsider. This feeling is particularly intense when traveling in a Forbes vehicle.

The next person our new friends wanted to know about was mom. When told she was our mother, and also eighty, their minds were blown. They could not believe she looked so young and vibrant. One of them said to her friend,

"You see that: Island life keeps you young; fresh air and lots of ganga, that's the secret."

By this time it was clear there was point in trying to explain again, that we are from Coquitlam, and that weed was not the secret of mom's youth. Weeding perhaps, but the other kind, just no. So I just laughed, and enjoyed the rest of the ride, and the immense pleasure that came with the fact that, for a little while, at least, we were from Lasqueti. After feeling welcome there for so many years, on this particular trip, we actually belonged, in a way we hadn't before. We are so grateful for our cousins, who once again, gave us the opportunity to share this amazing place, and have these wonderful and precious times together with our family. Actually Cheryl is so disappointed she missed it, she's already trying to schedule next year. We're wondering if July 24 – 29 is available?

Randy: Everything I needed to know, I Learned on Lasqueti Island

Lesson 1: You still fit in even if you're a little brain damaged.

According to legend, mine was a rather in auspicious introduction to Lasqueti. On the ferry ride over, a pleasant afternoon, my father took his new baby boy out to the back of the ferry to enjoy the trip across. What he didn't realize was that the carbon monoxide from the engine pooled at the back of the ferry and by



the time we reached False Bay I was blue and unconscious. The fact that no one noticed what was going on was likely due to the fact that the rest of the family was getting gassed on the way over too.

I think that was mother's first trip to Lasqueti as well, that she ever let us go back is a small wonder. I was revived and the ensuing brain damage hardly made me unique in the family and thus I fit right in. In subsequent years I also learned that the health and welfare of the dirty thirty was not always the paramount concern of the Royal Eight – but we had fun!

Lesson 2: There's a Wonderful World to Discover.

It started with beach combing with Granny Christie of course, flipping over rocks to find crabs and fishing in the tidal pools to catch bull heads, later Auntie Janet's nature trips to the lagoon were highlights of time at Lasqueti.

My life long fascination with nature, stimulated and nurtured on Lasqueti, was so evident that Sandy Wood, gave me the name "Ted Peck, the Outdoor's Man." He undoubtedly intended it as an insult but I could hardly deny my love for nature so I secretly wore the

name as a badge of honour – besides it was better than the name Patty gave me, "Randy Worm".

My fascination with the creatures of Lasqueti persist to today, where half the fun of going prawning with the Old Guys is see what comes up in the by-catch: Flap Ass Crabs, Octopi and other strange creatures of the deep.

Lesson 3: All you need to know can be learned from fishing.

After graduating from the bull head pools, the next lesson is how to catch shiners. First you need to find the right bait, mussels are good but they slide off the hook too easy, the best bait is seaworms but they are harder to find and a little ickier.

Next you need to understand fish psychology – if you chase them with the hook they skitter off but if you dangle the bait in front of them and then take it away that's when they pounce... and get hooked.

Fishing for shiners is a skill that can be easily transferred to many areas of human interactions such as sales and dating. First you need to know what the fish wants, and it isn't necessarily what you would want. But more importantly, if you chase the "customer" with the bait they rarely bite... but if you dangle it in front of them, and take it away, that's when they want it. You're never more attractive than when you're walking away.

Another important aspect of fishing is knowing where the fish are. I love fishing with Robbie Forbes who has a amazing combination of knowledge, experience and just plain intuition – he understands currents and tides and knows the places where the salmon are most likely to be. I swear he can smell a fish fart from 200 meters away.

Uncle George was great too. I remember his instructions on where the Red Snapper hole was – half way between Olson's Point and the Flat Tops, in a line from the lighthouse and the dock. What fun I had pulling up those red monsters, whose insides became their outsides as they ascended from the deep.

My daughter Beth and I decided to find the spot this summer, in a row boat armed with Daryl Herndier's new fishing rod. With thoughts of fish and

chips dancing in my head we paddled out the the location. Dropping the line we were quickly felt the tug on the line that indicated our effort were soon to be rewarded.

However as it neared the boat we were dismayed to find that it was a Dog Fish was on the line – and not a small one. He was well hooked and we had nothing to aid us in it's extraction other than Herndier's small jack knife.

It took considerable poking and prodding and much loss of blood (some of it mine) to loose the cursed beast. My daughter was traumatized – not as you would suppose by my blood loss, but rather because she had built up several years of karma working in an animal rescue shelter and she was quickly watching it dissipate. We paddled home empty handed but with 200 meters of Daryl's new fishing line in a tangle.

We can still pull life lesson from the exercise, first if you want to catch a fish you better get out to where the fish you want are. I have changed my life several times by choosing to swim in a better crowd. However, even when you're in the "right crowd" you can still land a Dog Fish. If so you're better off to cut your losses and move on.

Lesson 4: It helps if you have the right person with you.

One year we heard about an intriguing cave on the island. With much enthusiasm and anticipating a spelunking adventure, Patty, the Henschell girls and I armed with flashlights and twine set off to explore the cave like Theseus and the Minotaur.

As it turns out plans conjured up in the safety of the house quickly take on a different hue as you descend into the inky blackness of a dank, dripping cavern of dubious stability. I was in the lead and quickly loosing heart as the sunlit entrance began narrowing to a pin prick behind me.

Fortunately, my travelling companions gave me the opportunity to exit with my dignity intact, as a few well chosen observations sent the Henschell girls into hysterics thus begging me to call off this madness. I was able to "reluctantly" call off the escapade, feigning great sadness at the faintheartedness of my cousins.

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Still Wandering through the Woods

The Gorgeous One

The Rose has continued to Bloom more radiant this year. Met with her Gerontologist & Club Staff and they are thrilled with mom's progress especially the past 6 months. She's vibrant engaging loves to be with people and happy. She continues her love for "THE MEN" as seen with her favorite eldest nephew at a Forbes wedding. Recently WAS witnessed under the mistletoe (in front of fish tank) with Ken!!! So life is never dull in her life. The Rose turned 84 on Nov 30th at her club.

She still enjoys Sundays at my home and overnight PJ parties at Lois's house. Cousin Craig even installed a rail so his favorite Auntie could get up the stairs at Lois's. In June I received many emails pics of "Your MOM is doing so well in my Garden" .Auntie Mo/Helen just moved Mo's Janet Rose Garden to the other side of her garden for better sun light. The Rose legacy continues.

The Arlotti-Woods

Turning 60 this year was great. The month of May I treated myself visiting my old stomping grounds of Italy & Belgium. Lucky to have good friends living there I was able to take in the amazing sites I never did living there. Flanders Fields was so somber. Having stood in remembrance on the 11th day 11th month @ 11. I honestly never knew the significance till I actually stood in their footsteps and saw it firsthand.

Christie graduated UBC Anthropology in May this year. July/Aug she traveled to South East Asia. The wonder lust this generation is now. September she returned to UBC, now following in her Great Auntie Ann's Pioneering Footsteps in NURSING.

Stefan has taken a year or so off and decided to travel down through the states. Leaving in time to see a Donald Trump rally. He bought himself a truck RV to pull and set off. Missed the rally, but woke up in a small town... Susanville in Calif pop 17,000 of which 6,000 worked and 11,000 were prisoners. I read his text to Mom, she quickly replied... laughing ... well at least he'll be safe. He's hanging his Trump hat proudly in Las Vegas in some RV site.

Lois

During my medical leave from work,

I've have so enjoyed tending to and smelling the 72 roses from The Gorgeous One's Southland's garden that I have planted at my house. I have also landscaped my back yard and have been kept busy puppy sitting several friend's dogs, along with my adopted Standard Poodle, Frankie.

Each month I have The Gorgeous One coming to stay at my house for a few days and often take her out to visit some of the Royal Eight siblings – always fun! I finally kicked my ass into gear and am getting at my basement suite renovation. Fabulous, super cousin, Craig Christie (OMG he looks just like dear Uncle Tom!) and his crew took on the big exterior projects; and great news: the basement fireplace finally has completely stopped leaking after four years! This happened while I was away on a Panama Canal cruise with my long time hearing friend, Cheryl, for two weeks; there were 150 Deaf people plus 14 sign language interpreters & 4 travel agency staff.

I learned so much about the various diverse cultures, especially those in tropical climates. It was interesting how the cruise moved so slowly through the Panama Canal from the Pacific to Atlantic Ocean, and we then arrived in Colon, quite a small city, for nine hours. The next day we toured Panama City, only 45 minutes away, in a tour bus, it was fascinating! I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year: 2017.

Oliver Family

We are heading into Christmas with full hearts and some wonderful family news: Jilly and her long-time partner Chris Browes, will be reciting their wedding vows New Year's Eve at the Vancouver Art Gallery – quite a spectacular way to ring in a glorious New Year! Jilly finally said "yes" in Mexico last January. Jilly has chosen her brother Alex and sister Sophie as her attendants; Chris' two brothers, Spencer and Oliver, will be attending him. Following their wedding, the beautiful couple will head to Whistler for a few days and will



be celebrating their honeymoon in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. During the summer of 2016, Jilly and Chris took a three-week journey to Europe, and brilliantly included a visit to the town of her first year of life, in Ampuriabrava Spain (remember Freda??); hence her nickname, "Spanish Beauty", Gorgeous Grannie, immediately upon the birth of Jillian, planted the highly fragrant and stunning rose "Spanish Beauty" which graced her front porch and trellis in Southlands, as a tribute to her first grand daughter – there was also an Alexander rose and a Sophia rose to follow, dear Gorgeous Grannie has always advocated for, and celebrated her heirs in her garden!

Alexander continues his fabulous life in Montreal, now completely acclimatized to Quebec weather and fully bilingual (for years now, proudly eliciting a Parisian French accent, so no snobbery in situ!)– always amazes me! He also continues his fantastic and compassionate work at Chez Doris Women's Shelter and Safe House for tragically marginalized women in need. Chez Doris is a day shelter, providing two hot meals per day, along with crisis counseling and essential services – he





so thrives and is so grateful to give back. He is keeping up with more education and performs comedy and music gigs within the diverse Montreal cultural scene, which he so loves and thrives in.

Sophia is sailing through her third year of Medical Sciences, working hard on a double major in Interdisciplinary Medical Science and Anatomy, at the University of Western Ontario – no idea where she got the Medical and Science brain–Mag; help?! She spent the summer of 2016 working in research with a Neurologist through the University of British Columbia, in a medical genetics lab researching Huntington's disease; work she thoroughly enjoyed and gained so much from. She was beset by some health set-backs in the Spring, but has sprung back with her trade mark determination and hard work ethic, and can't wait to be her sisters bride's maid!

I continue to love my Real Estate career, and experienced an epic Spring Market that continued to keep me hopping throughout the Summer and Fall – without being caught up in any of the craziness of the Foreign Buyer's Market, miraculously! I also sold my Arts and Crafts house in Kitsilano, bought a half duplex over by Kits pool, with a view from Bowen Island to Burnaby, but continue to rent back my former house, as Bella the Rose, Jack Russell Terrorist is now a spry 16 ½ years old and is largely blind and deaf; it would be inhumane to move her to a new home as she pretty much has our property figured out by brail and scent!

Wishing you all much good health, love and happiness through the Christmas season and a bounty of wonderful experiences and joy in 2017; with love and gratitude for you, and all I have been blessed with.

– Tina

Lessons from Lasqueti Continued

Lesson 5: Uncle Peter was Kool!

Do I really need to elaborate here... he had more man toys than anyone else on the planet. He built ships, roads, logged... He had chains and cables and other gadget – and they were greasy, dirty and well used not like the posers around home. And big ass trucks and other machinery.

One spring break, mom and dad went to Hawaii and needed to find suitable places to stow their children. I won the lottery, two weeks with uncle Peter. He was building roads at the time and Patty and I went off with him. I remember watching with awe as he loaded up the dump truck.

Then I asked one of my typically dumb questions, "Can we ride in the back when you go to unload?"

He thought about it for a minute but as he had more concern for child welfare than most of the adults decided that it was too dangerous to be in the back with the gravel, so he suggested that Patty and I sit on the ledge that hung over the top of the cab instead. But the real fun occurred when he unloaded. Still clinging to the ledge he tilted the back to drop the load. I can still hear the sound of the gravel spilling out from below me.

But probably what sealed the deal as far the legend that was Uncle Peter came on the night I was awoken by a loud explosion below me. As it turned out a deer had developed a taste for the roses which grew in Auntie Pat's garden. Uncle Peter hearing the rustling grabbed his rifle and shot it from the bedroom window. The next morning, a deer hung by it's feet from the garage. I think I found it somewhat comforting to know on that strange island that Uncle Peter slept with a loaded gun by his bed.

Lesson 6: Girls!

It is a fact that the native women of Lasqueti typically conform to a different standard of beauty than those of the mainland. One enchanted summer however, the one that the Lasqueti Gofer Ski Boat was acquired, was also the year that we met the Tansy girls – twin girls, their mother was a model, their nicknames were Rusty and Busty – not your typical island fare. Don Layfield and I were quick to invite them to go water skiing with us. I had been asked by Uncle Peter to

paint "Lasqueti Gofer" on the side of the new boat and by the time I finished it was also adorned with a silhouette of a water skier as inspired by our new companions.

I learned the meaning of a few baseball terms that summer. Sadly not "Home Run" or even "Base Hit". More like "Swing for the Fences" and "Out of your League."



Lesson 6: Driving Island Style

As most of you know on Lasqueti many of the standard features of mainland vehicles are considered optional - like brakes. So it was quite disconnecting when I was asked to take the old Dodge sedan to the dock to pick up some new arrivals, only to discover that the old vehicle had a few tricks of its own. I picked up the "three on the tree" fairly easily but pumping the brakes to make it stop was lost on me. You can imagine my horror coming down the hill towards the dock, trying to push the brake pedal through the floor while still picking up speed and visions of careening off the end of the war into the bay.

Lesson 7: There is nothing better than hanging out with the family!

I want to extend my personal thanks to the Forbes' clan for the many years of great memories, and in particular for keeping the old house for our on going use. Your love and generosity is well received, no matter what names we are given.

THE BIG MAC TIMES

Joan Jeffries wins “Tacky Masters” Jacket! Mac wins “Best Dressed”... Joanne outraged

This 2016 year began with a fabulous cruise in the Caribbean, with all the family and John's McBean family. From dancing into the midnight hours, scuba and losing in the casino, fun was had by all. It has also been a year of change and progress.

Bonnie and Mac have been busy downsizing homes to a beautiful townhouse in Oakalla this time with a different view and the judge said it is a life sentence. They will get the occasional weekend free to enjoy their new Whistler Detentional home. It was host to the 4th Annual Christie/Jeffries Golf Tournament this summer. Great party with all the cousins, Rick and John out do themselves on the Bar-b-ques and the bar.

Gordon has sold his apartment, is flogging all his pretty dresses & tops and is closing up life in Montreal. 15 years with the Quebecios was sufficient time to understand why the rest of Canada call them Special and he is returning to his Latin American roots and his name Carlos. He is working on designs for Sanctuary Villas in Nicaragua on the side of the Sandinistas and hopes to host all the Christie Wanderers in time perhaps even a Christie Christmas if enough cousins become Condo owners?

Michelle has completed her Veterinarian

assistant program and is in search of a position in this field because of her love of animals.

Derek is completing his grade 11 year at St. Georges. This summer he completed his Advanced Scuba diving and sailing, can't keep this boy out of water. Now he is back on the ice playing Midget hockey scoring “Top corner”.

Danielle has become a dedicated field hockey player, travelling to Holland, California and Florida this years. Her Crofton house Varsity team had great success getting Gold in the Provincials.

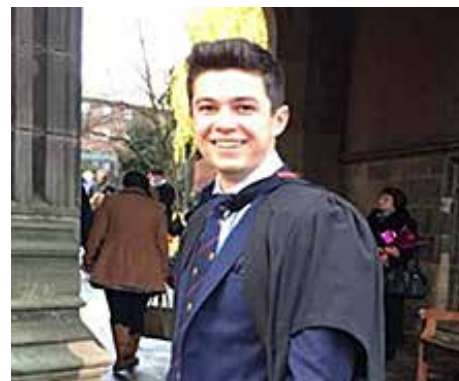
Dylan has recently graduated his Masters program in Newcastle in a gown holding a science degree and with a pretty lady on his arm whom we will meet after Christmas (he didn't want to scare her off with a Christie's Christmas). He has 6 months more of study before he gets his Dr status and then several years of British internment /internship camp. He managed a half marathon for charity and is bouncing around the backfield on his rugby team.

John & Joanne's year has been busy with kids sports and a “reno for hell” on their home, however they managed to sneak away to New York for a weekend of culture, shopping and no kids!

The Jeffries

Grandma Joan is now sporting a hideous oversized plaid sport jacket after her sparkling performance at the Family Golf Tourney last August in Whistler.

Rick has had a prosperous year in the fish



export business. As Carries Instagram account can prove, their family time has been spent in the mountains biking and skiing or on rivers and lakes paddle boarding... between hockey camps and practices.

Gayle has been busy building monster homes for happy clients. Dr. Rylee is busy healing the bent & twisted, we all know who we are. Carley when not in the office can be found at the top of a mountain skiing or biking. The girls fall highlight was been dropped off by float plane, to Lorna Lake with just mountain bikes and backpacks, to return to civilization 4 days later, happy & hungry (as well as an engagement ring on Rylee's finger).

Dan's family are all sitting on the edge of their seats waiting for the birth of Caleb & Hilary's beautiful baby / Grandma Joan's first Great Grandchild. Between prenatal classes Caleb is mastering his comic genius taking advantage of open mike nights at comedy clubs around the city. Hannah has returned home after her world travels and will be starting her culinary course in May. Ben has returned to SFU to complete his undergrad and lives for his passion of music and digital production.

