



Volume 17 • Issue A

December 2017

It's a Christie Christmas!

2017 CHRISTIE SCREECH

The spirit of the Christie Family Christmas is alive and well. For over 80 years, it's been the focal point of the holiday season and it truly defines what I think it means to be a Christie.

This picture on the cover brings back such beautiful memories. I loved going to Granny's house for the Christmas Party. We got all dressed up in new party clothes, usually made by our mother's. Velvet and lace. We got to play with all our cousins and sing carols with Auntie Jint.

Take a close look at that picture, all the cousins are smiling with the joy of children sharing a special experience... one that we had been looking forward to for several months. Just ask anyone that was in that room that Christmas what they would give to experience it one more time.

Granny's smile is much deeper, in it you can see the love she had for each of her grandchildren, the love that convinced each one of us we were her favorite. The love that has bound our family together for over 80 years.

And it is that collective memory that brings us back year after year to celebrate and remember how blessed we are to have such a great heritage.

When I was decorating mom's room in Nanaimo with a few seasonal



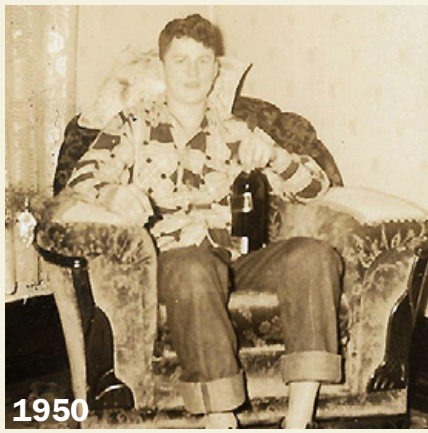
trimmings, I mentioned to Jean that I wanted to talk to my aunts and uncles about the origin of this family tradition.

We exchanged a few sentences about how unfortunate it was that mom couldn't share this with us and then remembered the Christie Family

history she wrote was on her book shelf right beside us.

On page 40 of the book, we found our answer. Funny how these things work themselves out. We are confident that some of the writing will offend our younger set. I mentioned the

Continued on page 2



questionable references to the family elders and they unconditionally have backed up mother's recollections. So here we have it, uncensored yet with no intention to offend. No filters, that's the Christie spirit too.

Our tradition of celebrating Christmas Eve started at 2606 (Oxford Street). After supper we were put to bed while the aunts, uncles and friends gathered and had a party. About midnight we were awakened and brought to the front room to see what was under the tree.

Father distributed the vast pile of gifts and after they had been opened, we hung up our stockings for Santa's visit and back to bed it was. Next morning, we would find our stockings filled with a Jap orange, a nickel, some candies and usually a toy present. (The ones the night before tended to be well needed clothes!)

Christmas Day was quite a quiet day—playing with our presents and a big turkey dinner at night with all the Armour and Christie relatives who weren't otherwise engaged and friends who had no families to go to.

Throughout the years there were slight modifications to the traditional Christmas Eve celebrations. The family had grown so large that exchanging gifts with everyone had become an impossibility, so the "name picking" began in the '60's.

The basement of 2457 became the children's eating area. After supper Janet led the children in carol singing while the dishes were being done. Then Uncle Jimmy had a sweetie and small change scramble. This was immediately followed by the gift sharing and the visit from Santa. The evening ended fairly early so that families could get to their own homes at a respectable hour.

In the early 1980's the house on Dundas Street was sold and mother moved to Coquitlam and the Christmas Eve party had to change locations. Tom and Lorraine were our new hosts.

We only lasted at Yoevil Street a few years as the births and marriages were out numbering the deaths and



more room was needed.

By this time the rugby clubhouse was finished and the party moved there with Lorraine still in charge.

With so many little ones around again, Lorraine insisted that Tom must dress the part for the gift giving.

Everyone shares in the cooking, setting up, and cleaning and a very good time is had by all, and "all" can mean up to ninety family and friends!

by Pat (Christie) Forbes.

Over the years it continues to evolve - a slight date change, a new Santa, some caroling competitions and a new person in charge of organizing. What stayed the same is this - family and friends coming together to celebrate the season, delicious food prepared



with love, and the Christie spirit in full force.

For this edition cousins been invited to share a favourite Christie Christmas memory. These festive moments are made deeper and warmer by the telling of those marvelous stories that emphasize and enhance the delight of the holiday and the importance of our family connections.

We hope you enjoy this stocking full of Yuletide stories and that we all continue to make merry memories.

- Patty



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

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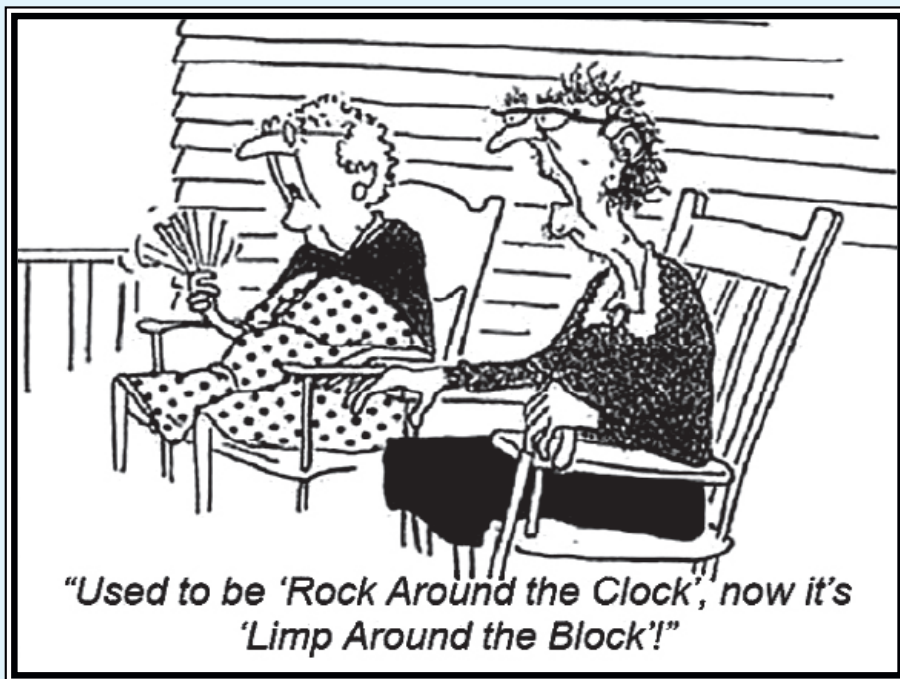
Barb and Jane

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Download a PDF Version of the Screech at:
christieclan.ca/pdf/screech17.pdf



Hi to all the Christies from Barb & Jane

This cartoon seems to capture the moment and possibly one of the 'highlights' of our year here in Dysfunction-by-the Sea, aka Victoria.

Life is pretty good if you count Medical Appointments as social events.

Managed to get as far as New Zealand in February: it only took 42 hours door-to-door thanks to snow and ice conditions around on the Lower Mainland (that's your side!) and the unsurprising lack of de-icing and snow-removal equipment at YVR. Got to land at Brisbane en route, though.

Back home settled into routines and got ready for influx of visitors, fleeing dark and sunless Scotland. Tofino in the sun was a hit.

Barb had cataracts removed and can see dust around the place again. Well, would if she looked... it's still there.

Jane found a hands-on physiotherapist...no Dr Ho stuff for her. Back is better.

Fall trips included Barb to Toronto and Jane to Scotland and La Gomera (look it up).

Life continues, miss the Christies. Would love to see you in Victoria.

Peter Forbes Assaulted in Congo Line Incident

Bill's Family

Bill's crew have continued in a constant state of motion heading to their various sporting and activities of personal interest.

All the grandchildren have kept their parents running to and from hockey, baseball, dance, school and now golf! It is craziness. The parents have considered "go fund me" pages to help with the expense of it all.

Kaitlyn and Maiah are both on track to graduate from high school this year. Wow, time flies. Lasqueti vacations have continued all summer even after Bill declared he had "AIDS."

Which was a mis-diagnosis, nurse Ratchet, aka Susan Henschel corrected him and pronounced it as Shingles. Despite this being infectious the relatives continued to visit.

Bill and Georgia are heading to Maui for January along with PJ and his



Alicia Will Kaitlyn and Jesse

kids, Patty and Steve and our "other sister" Carol & Charlie.

Rob's Family

The Rob Forbes family kept busy this year. Coral retired after over 30 years as a nurse at St Joseph's hospital and is keeping busy with her garden and grand-dogs.

Rob is still busy with his fire wood and toys. He and Heather went hunting in October with Bill and PJ and Heather was the top slayer with three grouse. Pathetic haul but a fun trip!

Heather and Chris are still having fun in Echo Bay fixing up their boat Kelly O; Kelly is doing very well at Parks Canada and is currently on a backpacking trip in South America with her boyfriend Tim.

Kelly has just been hired to be a Parks Canada Warden. That's right, she'll be packing heat and will be stationed in Bruce Peninsula National Park, Fathom 5 National Marine Station in Southern Ontario.

Elliot moved back to Vancouver Island and is enjoying life with his pooch and cooking gourmet meals. We are trying to convince him to rewire the old house at Lasqueti. Colour blind Tom's wiring no longer meets code.

Patty's Family

Huge year for the Biro Family. Patty and Steve moved into their new house in Coombs. It's a great location, 10 minutes to French Creek and as a



result they spent many weekends over at Lasqueti.

Alternatively the relatives, particularly Bill, have adopted their house as a watering hole, so Steve has planted hops to offset the cost of beer drinking free loaders.

Robert and Nicole got married in Parksville this past May. The following week Kevin graduated from UBC with his Bachelor of Arts, Major in History.

Bruce and his girlfriend Brie both landed full time teaching jobs in Victoria and may even consider relocating to Nanaimo where the real estate is more affordable.

The biggest news for this year is that Patty and Steve will become Grandparents this spring. Robert and Nicole are expecting a baby. Everyone is very excited.

Jean's Family

Jean is singing "All I want for Christmas is a New Roof" (before this one leaks).



Kevin, Patty, Robert, Nicole, Bruce and Steve



PJ, Heather, Rob and Bill



Violet and Pietro.

Aggie continues to travel extensively, mainly for work. In 2017 she traveled to Norway, Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania. She has plans to return to Ghana, Rwanda and Tanzania in the spring. Jean will be joining her in Ghana for part of the trip.

Meanwhile in Ontario: Violet, at 2.5 years, is quickly realizing that Dad can be easily manipulated with kiss and a smile.

Cameron after a 5 year break is training for a triathlon this summer. Pietro (5 years) has cemented his status as best big brother ever by

continuing to share with his little sister.

Violet idolizes her big brother and is his shadow. Sometimes Dorianna and Cameron have to ask Pietro to get his sister to do her chores.

Dorianna continues to be the head cheerleader and the glue that keeps this crazy family on track.

Pat

Our dear mother is well taken care of. She lives in an extended care home in Nanaimo. She is visited regularly by family members and we have all planned a pub party for her this month.

She no longer walks and rarely talks but we have noticed that she really perks up when she is outside. It is a regular practice for us to take her for a long walk in her wheelchair when the weather permits it.

On behalf of the Forbes Family we wish everyone peace, happiness and good health in 2018.

- Patty

Jean's Christmas Memories

Grandpa Christie would soak cherries in brandy for use in drinks at Christmas Eve. I, being #1 grand child and a toddler of 2-3 years old, had been trained to carry Granny C's basket handled glass dish filled with shortbread from guest to guest. On my route I was fed the uneaten cherries from their drinks. Apparently, I was a sleepy non-confrontational drunk. Aunt Ina was the first to tell me this story that my parents later confirmed.

Christmas Eve's early 1950's, we we're put to bed after dinner while the adults partied downstairs. I remember being in Granny C's room in the top floor front bedroom. Noise from the merry adults below easily funnelled it's way up. We would look out the window watching the parents, aunts and uncles carry many gifts from their cars into the house before we were woken up because "Santa had come!" *-Jean*

Bill Forbes' Christmas Memory (also uncensored)

They are Jap oranges. Ask my mother, ask Auntie Helen. That's what Uncle Tom would call them. They are a sign of the Christmas season. When we were young it was a big deal when the freighters started unloading the crates of Jap oranges just down the street from Granny Christie's house.

It was a sign of good things to come. You only got these oranges at Christmas time. They were huge and delicious and we would gorge ourselves on them. They came in wood boxes, not cardboard. They were special and you always got one in your stocking.

When I was about 8 years old I remember sitting on the stairs at Granny C's house on Christmas Eve. I had a spud gun. For those of you who don't know what that is, call me and I will explain it.

Anyways, the parties in those days

contained way better alcohol and much more of it. After dinner the party would really get going.

I remember that all the adults were dancing in a conga line that snaked through the circle on Granny's main floor. The people in the dance line alternated girl-boy-girl-boy.

I was watching this go by, all the while shooting potato pellets at them. When the music stopped the person at the front of the line would move to the back of the line.

The men in the line would turn around and pucker up to kiss the lady behind them, only to be met with a slight slap on the face by the lady behind them.

Well my dad didn't really get this concept too well. I recall watching him turn eagerly around all puckered up hoping to get a sweet kiss from one of his favourite sister



in laws, only to be met with a solid belt to the chops delivered by Auntie Janet.

I remember it vividly.

Those old guys knew how to party. I love the Christie Christmas Party.

Merry Christmas Cousins.

-Bill

THE BIG MAC TIMES

Mac Accused of Influence Peddling *Extravagant gifts used to curry favour*

2017 was a terrific and exciting year for Bonnie & Baby Mac, as well as their children.

Many of us have had the opportunity to be treated to an evening or a holiday party at their previous home at 5599 Buckingham in Burnaby. That memory filled palace was sold and Bonnie & Mac returned to their old neighborhood in the Oaklands.

They purchased a lovely townhouse a few units from where they lived over a decade ago. As a complete renovation began they quickly discovered a "slight" leak in the foundation that caused about 8 months of digging and drying.

The solution? Boring and excavating down 28 feet outside their front door, plus legions of contractors slowly playing detective to stop the leak, and even more to re-style the new home...the result, an amazing new home is complete.

Beyond the boundaries of Burnaby and the Vancouver Golf Course, Bonnie & Mac were extremely proud to see their first grandson Dylan graduate from medical school in England.

"Dr. Dylan" to us common folk is in the first chapter of an extraordinary career and hopes to eventually become a Pediatric Cardiologist.

Gordon, Bonnie & Mac are overjoyed with his achievements, spirit and humanity. The "ceremony of a lifetime" was followed by the "graduation present of a lifetime" as Dylan and his father, were guests of Bonnie & Mac on a beautiful yacht that cruised the Mediterranean.

Michelle

Bonnie & Mac were not the only ones to secure new homes in 2017. Michelle has taken a fantastic step out of the GVRD and has sold her Coquitlam home.

In October she re-located to Kelowna, finding a beautiful piece of property and house with exquisite views and ample greenspace.

The new "ranch" has a barn and fences that will accommodate her 3 dogs, and possibly a dog services business. Please take a moment



to visit or phone and say hello as Michelle is extremely proud of her bold new life in the Interior. You may even see her driving her TRACTOR.

Gordon

Gordon has finished his retail experiences in both Vancouver and Montreal and is now committed to his lifelong dream of creating a peaceful hotel experience by the sea.

Santuario del Sur is the name of a picturesque & breathtaking project Gordon is developing in the surging coastal town of San Juan del Sur, on the Pacific side of Nicaragua.



Michelle at her new home in Kelowna



Dr. Dylan at his Graduation



Danielle and her Grass Hockey Team

This has been a year of creativity, planning and design, with continued efforts the ground breaking begins in 2018. The sun is certainly shining on Gordon and his vision of a place for peace, health, and enlightenment.

McBean Family

The McBean family had a busy year as well. Derek spent the entire summer in Whistler working and has kept busy with sports.

Derek played baseball, and this hockey season is on an undefeated team (at print time) that recently played in a Vernon tournament where he was MVP 2 out of 5 games.

Brutal Rugby training has begun, with the hopes of a chance to play in Argentina this March with St. George's traveling team. Recently on the calendar was a University tour to Ontario as he looked at possibilities for September 2018.

Danielle has continued her success in Field Hockey as her Crofton House School finished 2nd in the province, and repeated as the Independent School Champions.

She recently played on a multi-national team in the National FH Festival in Florida, scoring many important goals and having a terrific time. Her grades are good and her social calendar is full.

John & Joanne have been training their new Sheepadoodle puppy, Bailey, and recently finished a renovation and added a new deck to the house.

2017 was an awesome year of skiing in Whistler, followed by a smoky summer of mountain biking. One of our highlights was certainly Rylee' & Ross's wedding in Pemberton.

We all wish you a magnificent Christmas and hope that leads to a fantastic 2018.



MVP Derek



Milestone Birthdays for 2017

Celebrating 85
Auntie Janet

Celebrating 80
Auntie Helen

Celebrating 60
Lois Wood

Gordon Fraser

Celebrating 30
Julianne Christie

Robert Biro

Eric Adams

Christina (Shaw) Lepp

Celebrating 20
Emily Maclaughlin

Born 2016

Sherry Lepp



Tom caught impersonating popular cultural icon *Lorraine arranges complex scheme to pull off the farce*

Susan & Colin

It was a crazy busy year as usual with more of the same - winter in Puerto Vallarta where they enjoyed art workshops/classes in ceramic sculpture (Colin) and acrylic painting (Susan), Latin Dance, improving their Spanish conversation ability, hooking up with family (this year with Craig and Wende in PV and Deb and Mike in Sayulita) and many friends.

Colin joined the local gym for spinning etc and of course Susie found her favorite Yoga studios to attend.

Summer spent between many activities in Nanaimo and most sunny days on our Ruxton Island Paradise.

Michael Riel... after planning for over a year moved to Munich, Germany to be with his longtime love Melanie and her 5 year old son Felix. We had a small family dinner to bid him auf wiedersehen. Although his departure on November 27th was bittersweet and tearful, Susan is happy that he is moving there to have a family

with Melli and her family who have embraced him.

The future predicts European vacations for Colin and Susan. Any cousins or family members are welcome to visit with him should Munich be part of future travel plans.

Danny & Elaine

Elaine stuck working while her husband hasn't been seen since retiring from The Vancouver Fire Department... rumours are swirling that Dano has been trying to get a job @ TC Electric & Petroleum? (When he is not vacationing)

Jacqueline (22) is living and working in Kelowna while studying at UBC-Okanagan.

The Houghton's

Everyone is doing well. Kristi (25) is still renting in Kelowna with boyfriend Brett and have been actively looking to purchase their first home.

Kristi finished her schooling and is now working as an LPN at Kelowna General Hospital. Kristi & Brett are off to South East Asia for a month of travel.

Kevin (22) has returned from Prince

1978

Rupert/Terrace and is working for Kingston Construction. Living at home he is dating and trying to find time to also do some traveling. He still likes to race dirt bikes in the Summer and Snowboard in the Winter.

Craig (19) became an adult this year and is also still living at home. He is currently working at Urban Environmental (removing mold/asbestos). He still loves to snowboard and skateboard.

Craig & Wende

Kasandra (27) has started a new urban farming business "Christie Local Agri" in Prince George and is transitioning her career to full time farmer. By using land-share agreements, her business turns people's lawns into highly productive vegetable gardens. The vegetables produced then get sold to local restaurants, food clubs and



Colin & Susan in Mexico

Mellanie's son Felix welcoming Michael to Germany





residents. She hopes to be able to do more consulting in the future to teach people about the importance of local food systems.

Maria (22) spent the first half of the year skiing in Fernie, BC. She spent her summer traveling throughout BC and Southern Alberta, working at Prince George hospital as a sterile processing technician, and hanging out in her sister's beautiful garden. In the fall, she moved into a basement suite, started working at a local brewery (and is hoping to get us the family discount), and started her first of four years in her RN nursing degree!

Mike & Deb

Well it has been a sad and happy year all at the same time. Mike and Deb vacationed in Sayulita Mexico with a large group in January and was an amazing trip.



In March we found out Deb's Mom was terminally ill with cancer. Julie jumped into action and arranged a photo shoot with Mom and the whole family at Belcarra Park on Mothers Day and the pictures are such a treasure for us all. After three emotional and excruciatingly painful months she left us to be with her love John. It has left a huge hole in our family once again, and we all had a difficult year coping with her loss.

Then the good new came and we found out that Julie and Marko had baby #2 on the way. To celebrate Mom's birthday, we had a gender reveal party on the dock at Saltspring island , where we were all attending the long awaited wedding of Jen's and Julies besties Katie and Scott. Marko hit the golf ball off the dock to reveal a new baby girl, name to be revealed at birth!

We are all so happy to have another precious child to fawn over and to add to our growing list of grandchildren, Wyatt 2 ½, Leia 2 ½ and of course our precious little Lennon. They are the joys of our life!

Marko started a new job this year at the waterfront and loves it. Jennifer and Chase spent half a year renovating their rental condo which turned out beautiful and sold that property and their current home, to purchase a 110 year old home at Commercial and 11th. Just moved in at the beginning of December and getting ready for their first Christmas in their new home. So exciting for them.

Jeff is off to Mexico December 24 for a much needed break. So all is well in the Mike Christie family and here we grow again!



The following is taken from an article printed in the Metro Vancouver Community Newspapers on December 22, 1991.

A family affair

The Christie family does christmas up big. It's a tradition that pleases the clan's adults and children equally. and it all starts with a long list.

By Richard DalMonte

He's making a list... He's checking it twice

SANTA CLAUS has nothing on the Christie Clan.

Check out its list:

CHRISTIE CHRISTMAS 1991

5PM until clean up

We now own 100 place settings of our own dishes and cutlery.

That last introductory line is an indication that the Christie family Christmas dinner isn't your average affair.

The average Christmas dinner, after all, doesn't feature 90-100 people cavorting in a rugby club house.

Nor does every Christmas Eve family dinner boast a three page computer printout outlining, in some detail, each member's responsibilities (each diner brings at least on item - say, two and a half buttered buns - and has at least one duty, like carving a turkey).



But the Christies arent the average family. Not that they are extraordinary; simply more than average.

Like the list:

2 turkeys donated by Mr and Mrs P Forbes
30 lb turkey and stuffing - Lorraine Christie (carving Bill Colbourne)

30 lb turkey & stuffing - Helen Layfield (carving Don Layfield)

huge pot of gravy (bring thickener) Helen Layfield

10 lb boneless han (thinly sliced) Christy, Darryl, Steve, Jamie, Susan Rob

"But I think we'll have a 15-pound ham this year because some people last year said the pieces were getting kind of skimpy," says Lorraine Christie.



At the Clubhouse Peter Forbes and Janet Hansen. Two of the happiest people, particularly at a Christie Christmas Party. My dad loved to hug and kiss all the ladies and Janet's joy when she received her hockey tickets was just EPIC. Loved them dearly and miss them even more. - Patty



"Uncle Bud and the Noisy Broads" Okay Santa, I promise to be good next year, these broads are tooooo much.

She and husband Tom are the main organizers. They and others took over when the family matriarch, Grandma Jean, who died earlier this year, could no longer handle the daunting task she had managed for decades.

But let's backtrack. Some history:

Scottish immigrants Robert and Jean Christie were married in 1928 and bore eight children (five girls: Patricia, Ann, Janet, Christina, Helen; three boys: Tom, William, Malcolm) between 1929 and 1939. They and their partners produced 30 grandchildren, who so far have had somewhere in the neighborhood of 34-great-grandchildren.

As the nuclear family has grown and extended, so has the Christmas Eve dinner list, which includes not only

family members but "adopted" family - neighbors and other friends.

At first the dinner was held at Grandma Christie's east Vancouver home. Then, when she moved, the dinner shifted to Lorraine and Tom's house in north Burnaby, where it remained for six years, until the numbers got too big for the basement. For the last half-dozen years, the Christie Clan has gathered each Dec. 24 at the Burnaby Lake Rugby Club clubhouse (run by a family member) in Central Valley.

SET UP TABLE AT 2 PM

The tables are to be covered with plastic tablecloths, cutlery, candles, ashtrays, napkins. This takes 1 hour

Workers: Lorraine, Michelle, Bill Colbourne, Tom Christie, Russ Henschel, Joanne & Gordon Christie... any other volunteers

CLEAN-UP:

Many hands make light work

No Santa till cleanup completed

"Everybody pitches in," says Tom, who dons the Santa suit - after cleanup is completed, of course - and hands out gifts to every person at the dinner.

"It's supposed to be for the kids but I think the adults like it as much as the kids," he notes.

"I think it's good for the kids," Lorraine says. "The kids get a good perspective of what Christmas is all about, in our view." Which is? "Family. And



children."

Adds Lorraine, "When I met (Tom) and went to the first Christmas at his house, I couldn't believe it.

"They're very cliquey. They just love doing things together.

"His family made Christmas for me."

All gifts should be easy to read with nice big black lettering on white tags....

Volunteers need to lead the singing. (Not you Janet)

Song sheets are available. And cassette music.

Soon, Lorraine and Tom... and Tom's brothers and sisters... and their partners will pass the list-making duty to the next generation. And Lorraine is hopeful it will pick up the challenge and continue the tradition.



Nothing says Christmas like a pair of Granny Ginch purchased at Dollar 49 day. "Woodwards"



This photo was included with article. Xmas Babies aka The Car Seat Club. Love this photo and the memory it brings back when those kids were all lined up. The group is now 27 years old. Perfect little Gerbers. - Patty

Canada's Got Talent discovers Vocal Sensation at Family Function

Tina

Rounded out 2016 with a wedding (finally!) for Jillian and Chris at the Vancouver Art Gallery on New Year's Eve in the snow; Google says a wedding with snow-fall means prosperity and fertility – here is hoping for both.

Jillian became Press Secretary for the BC Green Party, and is shining in her role. Proud Mom, (I miss you Uncle Tom).

Alexander thrives in Montreal, has a very interesting youtube site: @earth_clan, so worth watching – so happy I raised politically-aware

children, love his passion; he is hoping for a future in e-tail – Gordon Christie? He is fluently bi-lingual!

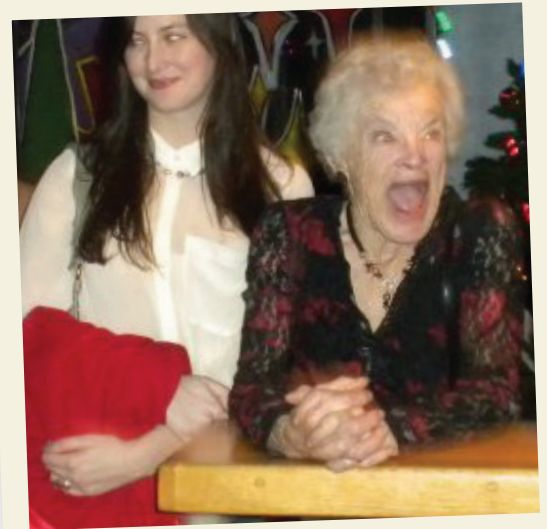
Sophia is completing her last year of Medical Sciences at University of Western Ontario, and has won every academic award there, super-star; and kindest person. She aspires to undertake a Masters Degree before going to Medical School. She keeps up intramural soccer though doesn't play competitively now, prefers to focus on her studies.

I am finally moving in to a house I actually own! My dear family dog, Bella Rose, Jack Russel Terrorist died in November at the feisty age of 17 $\frac{3}{4}$; this profoundly changes my life: TRAVEL! I hired a great business partner; January 1st I am back at the beach!

Come visit!

Love and hugs to all, and prospero ano nuevo

–Tina



The Gorgeous One

We celebrated mom's 85th at her Golf Club. She was as always majestic, graceful and glowing from being center of attention. We all came together for her.

It was delightful happy luncheon and a nice way we said goodbye to many years of events at mom's swanky Point Grey Golf & Country Club.

Christie commented on how nice it was having mom / uncle Bill sitting together.... great minds coming together as one.

The love of being together.





Helen

My little family of 3 is now 7. Stef decided living alone is for the dogs... so lonely he added Eva and Benny – adopted from Arizona. He took a year off traveling to the states... ending up on Mustang Island, in Texas

on a beautiful sandy beach in his RV. Now back at UBC Okanagan. Just as I'm about to retire, the next generation is following up the rear, Christie, on her final stretch at UBC Nursing program.



Helen's favourite memories of Christie's Christmas Eve Past

Very fond memories of sitting on the stairs and mom conducting the Christmas Carols at 2457 for all the youngsters.

Of course Uncle Jimmy and the coin toss. Being in the ELITE top 5 of the Dirty 30. I always loved that privilege of sitting upstairs, while all the other younger ones suffered in the basement.

Good memories and old smells of Gran Christies house. I can say each year I looked forward to meeting up with my cousins, aunties/uncles AND Granny /Uncle Jimmy.

As the years passed the faces changed, we got a little bit older, wiser... and maybe not so wise, a little (or lot more) forgetful... but the Clan together at Christmas was the time to see all those loud boisterous laughing voices I always remembered as a child.

AND LOVED!

Still laugh thinking about the pornographic paper Daryl and Michael exchanged each year with some

dirty gift AND Janet Hanson's beyond excitement of the Canuck's Hockey Tickets uncle Mac always gave her (it will be a quiet one this year without her presence).

It started to get so confusing with the population explosion of the Dirty 30's... it'd take all night to figure out which kid was who's, what they were doing, living, or even reproducing AGAIN.

I only can hope our offsprings will learn to love the JOY I and all of the other Dirty 30, Royal 8's in laws/out laws that have made our "Granny Christie Christmas Eve Party" such an important part of our lives.

I love our Christie Clan. I've never felt alone – how could we. The Christmas Eve Dinner has always been the BEST way to keep our CLAN alive.

Thank you Granny Christie



Wee Willy Sings Off Key During Christmas Concert.

One of my favourite recollections of Christmas' past is when the three brother Tom, Bill and Mac (at least two of them drunk) got together to regale the crowd with a Christmas Carol. Now all three were missing their front teeth from various Rugby encounters – therefore they pulled out their dentures and lisped the words to “We Three Kings”. It did give true evidence that it wasn't only Auntie Janet that inherited the music gene.

- Randy

Again a highlight of the year was the family trip to Lasqueti in July. We were able to get a representative sampling of four generations up to the island.

Randy's Clan

I raised four children but somehow it didn't seem quite as difficult as managing the brood that inhabits the dwelling above me... has life become so much more complicated and busy now that it surpasses the stress of raising four, five or eight in previous generations?

Interspersed with thoughts of sound-proofing walls and dreams of tropical vacations to quiet idyllic beaches, I really do enjoy the benefits of watching grandchildren for a few minutes every morning while their siblings are taken to school, or that I can have a pizza and movie night whenever I want.

Rob and Jennelle are enjoying living out west in Edmonton. Rob got to do “fun-stuff” with the army unit he is stationed with like hang out on the

Marine Army base in the California desert (very hot), travel to Germany and play war games with the grunts in Wainwright (very cold).

Jeremy started high school this year, and Jackie was happy to be rid of him if only for just one year.

It was also a thrill to take Jackie and Jeremy up to Lasqueti so they could be introduced to shiner fishing, boating, climbing mountains and exploring caves. It's possible that Jeremy made it up and down the mountain at least three times before the rest of the family had made it up to the top. A few rousing games of intergenerational kick the can were enjoyed as well.

Beth is completing her Midwife training in Toronto, while she and Darryl plan their wedding this summer.

Meanwhile Sean has moved in with his grandparents to provide assistance to mom and dad. I've enjoyed running 10km and Half



Marathons with Sean this year.

Perhaps the greatest joy is that twice this year, I will have all four of my children in the same city, and enjoy their company at the Christmas party.

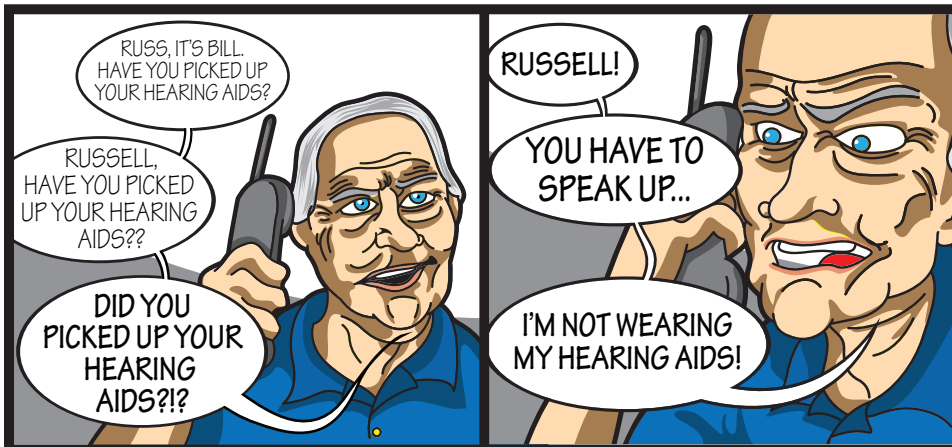
Buchanan Update.

The Buchanan family, scattered from Victoria, Kamloops to Calgary, rarely get the opportunity to all be in the same place at the same time, but when do, it is a cherished time.

Adam continues to work out of the Kamloops Forest Fire center, this summer being his most intense year yet. Sarah is working a couple of jobs in Victoria while discerning which direction to take her graduate studies. Nicola graduated in June as a dental assistant, and is working full-time in Victoria.

Mark and Cheryl, after 4 years of empty-nesting, decided they were bored with each other, and so invited a 17-year-old Indigenous girl to live with them. Josie has added

SEEN BUT NOT HEARD AT 706 NEWPORT





Bob Remembers Christmas at Granny's

Growing up, the biggest party of the year was always Christmas Eve at Granny's. It was when Christmas really started, because I got to open my first presents. A gift from one of my cousins and a pair of socks from Granny. The excitement would build as we made our way from 706 to 2457, admiring all the best Christmas lights along the way.

Before dinner, all I remember is general chaos, running around playing hide and seek and other games with my cousins, chasing one another from the attic bedrooms down to the basement and back again. At some point, we'd bump into Uncle Jimmy and he would chase us around wiggling his stubby little finger in our faces. One year I remember the game was to name the Royal Eight in order, as fast as possible. I remember not being very good at this game, not standing a chance against my older girl-cousins like Patty and Mag, and not really realizing the significance of this cast of characters actually held. Then just when I had the Royal Eight sorted, the challenge came to name the in-laws. Dinner was called before I met the challenge.

I never made it out of the basement for the meal. This experience was thrilling and terrifying at the same time. The vast majority of my cousins are older, and the threat of a food fight was always imminent, and occasionally, a reality. The reliability of my cousins as babysitters at this time was seriously suspect, and what

I remember most of these meals is being terrified one of our parents would come down the stairs, catch us misbehaving, and then Santa wouldn't come.

After dinner, as is tradition, certain protocols had to be met before gifts were handed out by Uncle Tom. Dishes had to be done, I was too young at first, but clearly remember being tasked with drying in later years. I don't think we were allowed in that end of the kitchen except for the clean-up. Then we would assemble on the stairs to sing Christmas carols led by Auntie Janet. It was her use of sign language during the carol singing that the meaning of the word virgin was explained to me, amidst a great chorus of laughter.

I didn't really understand, but laughed and pretended to anyway. Then Uncle Jimmy would do the scramble. Another exercise in terror filled excitement – how to get close as possible to the candy and coins – while staying an adequate distance from the stumpy finger that tossed them, and simultaneously avoiding being tackled by my ruthless older brutish cousins.

Finally, Uncle Tom would take his place under the tree and distribute the massive pile of gifts. Along with the gifts for us kids, I remember joke gifts passed around by our parents ... but not what they were. Isn't there some special wrapping paper still making the rounds?

Then, having been appropriately schooled in family matters, fed, and gifted we'd make our way back home. We'd put out some cookies and beer for Santa, carrots for the reindeer and try to fall asleep full of excitement about the toys he might bring, and all the presents under our tree still waiting to be opened.

some spice to their life, while trying to train them in the current teen-age trends.

The Buchanan's are looking forward to celebrating Christmas together at 706 Newport this year along with the rest of the W.J. Christie clan.

Boss 2017

Bob and Ross continued their long-distance love affair between Vancouver and Montreal, and frankly they're not buying this "absence make the heart grow stronger" story anymore.

The highlight of the year was a trip to Mexico at the end of May. Bob's film is still getting traction at Pride events and this year Puerto Vallarta hosted a screening and panel and flew the director down, and put him up in a fancy condo. Ross met him there and they had a great time with VIP treatment at the events and hanging out on the beach during the day.

We were also very grateful to rendezvous on Lasqueti in July when the whole WJ Christie clan took advantage of another summer on the rock.

Bob visited Montreal at the end of August, enjoying summer days on the Plateau and squeezing in a quick road trip to visit friends in New York on the Labour Day weekend. We're looking forward to spending a month together in Vancouver over the holidays.

Kids in basement with Indian Headdresses... Christie Warriors... it's no surprise that as adults we needed to enroll in cultural sensitivity classes. - Patty



Auntie Helen is looking fine and is considering a modeling gig with Sexy Senior Magazine

Two babies, one wedding, and 25 years of marriage, are just a few of the good things that our family experienced in 2017.

Doug

The beginning of 2017 wasn't the best for Doug, he slipped on the ice and broke his ankle, and needed surgery to repair it. We give a special thank you to the nurses who had to deal with him in recovery, and put up with his colourful language and demeanor.

Doug continued volunteering at Westwood Plateau, and then came out of retirement to organize and run a container company. The weekends became quite busy for Doug and Jacquie, because they looked after both grandchildren Channing and two year old Avalyn who Doug refers to as a tiny terror.

No more Sunday football, it's now Paw Patrol marathons. In the fall Doug switched jobs again and is now working and organizing the yard at Metro Fords.

November saw Doug and Jacquie celebrate 25 years of marriage. Congratulations to both of them. Bradley and his slow pitch team went to Provincials and came away with a Silver medal, and with much happiness Jacquie's son Brian

finally proposed to Aly, so Doug and Jacquie look forward to a wedding, hopefully in 2018

Don

Don and Brenda are officially Snowbirds. They packed up the trailer and left for two months to sunnier weather. It was such a good time; they have decided that next year will be three months down south.

Don has embraced the retired life, and now fills his time working on his house, building things in his shop, and helping mom with her projects.

Don and Brenda became grandparents again to a little boy named Weston who was born in the spring. So now they have more grandbabies to visit when they visit Quesnel. Hopefully next year will not have as many fires, so they can get more visits in.

Sandra

Still working for Coquitlam School Board and happy that George still likes to come hang with Grandma on the weekends.

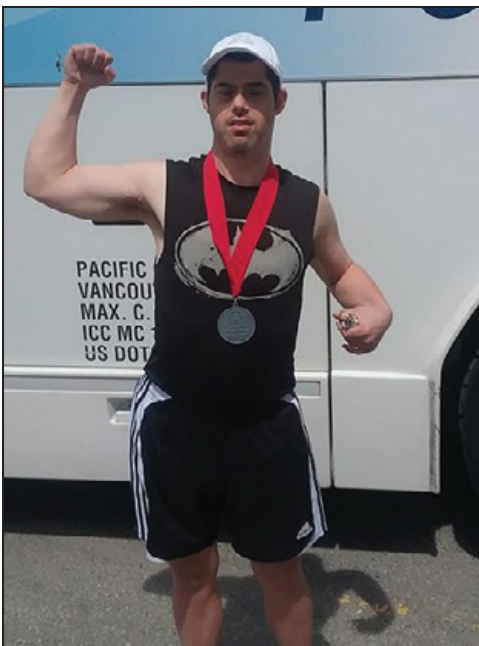


Summer and fall were exciting times, with Amanda and Shaun's wedding in August at Fury Creek in Squamish. It was a beautiful day and a gorgeous setting for their wedding.

Then 3 weeks later, Christina and Kevin had a sweet baby girl named Sherry.

Amanda has changed hospitals and is now looking after transfusion medicine at Lions Gate Hospital and Shaun is still managing Escape Route in Squamish.

Christina is lucky to be a stay home mom to her two little ones, and has recently started playing bridge with some other moms. (I think she takes after her Grandma Layfield) and Kevin is still selling lots of houses in this crazy real estate market.





Carol

Carol is still on the countdown to retirement. She says she will retire at 55 but were not sure if she will last that long.

Jettie received her Bachelors Degree from Douglas College and promptly enrolled in more courses, and has put in an application for PDP, so possibly another teacher in the family.

Her final year of basketball saw the team finally make it to Nationals. She is busy working as a Behaviour Interventionist with Autistic Children.

Maddie received her diploma in Psych Nursing and has been incredibly busy working at RCH. She also has continued her studies towards a degree, and possibly becoming an RN.

Emily is still working full time at McDonalds and enrolled full time at Douglas. She is looking forward to doing part of her studies in Edinburgh next summer.

Carols new man Charlie is a welcome addition to the family. We were lacking a tech person in the family, so now when we have computer issues we know who to call.

So all in all 2017 was a great year for the Layfields, and we send best wishes to all our family members and friends, for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

Remembering Janet Hansen

Janet Hansen lived a good life... No, she lived a great life!

This is the way I started my eulogy for Janet and I went on to explain that one of the reasons she lived such a fulfilling life was because of the way the Christie's embraced her and in returned benefited from her contribution to the family.

Janet was born on August 18, 1951. But you probably already knew August 18 was her birthday. If you had met Janet for the first time you would have known by the end of the conversation that very important date, because after all Janet understood herself to be royalty and royal birthdays are always celebrated. And Janet loved celebrations.

Starting August 19th however, Janet informed us Christmas was coming—the other significant day she was sure to receive gifts. And why wouldn't you want to give gifts to someone who showed such exuberant joy in receiving them. Whether it was hockey tickets from Uncle Mac or lottery tickets from Auntie Ann, she reacted as if she was the luckiest person on the planet.

Perhaps it was inevitable that a group that never lacked an excuse to throw a party would embrace a person who just wanted to be the belle of the ball.

Auntie Pat and Uncle Peter welcomed her to Lasqueti, where she strutted in like a queen assumed her throne on the porch, to enjoy her Lasqueti Sunrises.

Uncle George and Uncle Tom took her fishing and somehow this person who claimed she had trouble navigating the back steps got in and out of small boats with great regularity, albeit with a few screams. And of course she did win the fishing derby one year.

And one of my favourite mental images is my two

Auntie Janet's singing Christmas carols together.

And I so appreciated how all the cousin's embraced Janet as well. Danny too allowed Janet to explore her musical talents.

Everyone was sure to include Janet in whatever activity was going on and of course special birthday parties were thrown in her honour. To her great delight Janet's romantic nature was certainly encouraged by the men in the family.

And of course Janet gave back in her own way. I loved Jean Weighill's comment on Facebook about how Janet influence her children's view of the handicapped. Janet was the consummate ambassador for the Down's community without ever meaning to be so.

And while Christmas will seem somewhat diminished without her unrestrained joy to enliven it, none of us who shared our lives with Janet can say our lives weren't made better for it.

I concluded by saying that we were there for a celebration of life, but the live's worth celebrating were yours... all of you who made Janet's life so great.

-Randy



Christy chooses Marriage of Convenience to get Preferred Seating

As a young child going to Granny's house, all the girl cousins would try and avoid the beard rubbing and being kissed by Uncle Bud! that was torture!!

Our family got to go over early and help Granny set up the tables downstairs and upstairs. We always hoped we would be at the upstairs table, cause it was such a zoo downstairs! It never happened, until the the year I met Daryl and he got invited for Christmas, immediately Granny said of course Daryl can sit upstairs with the adults. He definitely was Granny's favorite ! Sorry Billy. - Christy

Herndier's

The year has flown by so fast, and our grandchildren are now 3 and 1 year old. They bring us so much joy! We just love every minute we spend with them.

That being said, Christy is still working, but may retire in the next year or two, to spend more time with the kids.

Daryl is still loving retirement and enjoys doing all his odd jobs, gardening, fixing things, fishing, and golfing. He took Russell down to Idaho to visit his sister, and also had lots of camping trips.

We also went to Phoenix to golf, Las Vegas to gamble, Hawaii in November, Vancouver Island to visit

Jamie & Steve's new house, and see Patty & Steve's new house.

We did our annual visit to Lasqueti and enjoyed our time prawning with Big Set and fishing with Robbie.

Finally!!! -We are so excited that Vanessa and Cody are going to get married next October in Hawaii – It will be a small family wedding. Vanessa has just gone back to work part time after her maternity leave, and Cody is working hard as a longshoreman. Jack and Mila are growing so fast and are loved so much by all the family.

Lauren is still working for the orthopedic surgeon, and also works at night for another surgeon. She is back to playing soccer and slo-pitch, and helping her sister with the

kids when she has time. Ryan has become a supervisor on his crew at Schlumberger in Grand Prairie, and gets to come home more frequently - Lauren is happy about that – they usually go on short vacations while he is in town.





Adams Family.

2017 brought some interesting changes and developments to our family. Eric turned 30, and he continues to complete the required courses toward his Registered Financial Planner designation. He is working with Rob in white Rock and recently is more or less moved in with his girlfriend, Kaitlyn.

Adrienne is moving toward her 3rd year with Hilti, and is up for a promotion in the New Year. She has more or less moved in with her boyfriend Jeff. They are planning a 3 week trip to explore Columbia over Christmas.

Firefighter Dave is away traveling with his girlfriend Stef, they are trekking through Nepal and India for 3 months, not returning until the beginning of March. They are making it official and moving in together



when they return.

Julia has graduated with her medical degree from the National University of Ireland. 6 long years of hard work has finally ended. She is currently doing a research project with the department of Anesthesiology at RCH, and has completed a training program with Pain BC. She has applied for a residency program somewhere in Canada and hopefully this will start in the New year.

Rob and Susan continue work and travel. They had a wonderful month long trip to Europe which included a bike and barge trip on the Danube with a group of 24 friends. They ended the trip in Ireland and made it in time to attend Julia's graduation ceremony in Galway.

It looks like there may be only 3 of us left rambling around this big house in the New Year. 2018 looks like it



will bring other new and exciting changes. Possibilities include, marriage, moving and maybe even real retirement... Stay tuned.

Russell

Russell is still living at 312 Laurentian Cres, he continues to spend time up at the local senior's center playing snooker and visiting with all his cronies.

He recently went on a trip with Daryl to see Isobel and Rune down in Idaho.

He still has a garden in the back that keeps him busy when the weather is decent. He is hopeful his health will be stable and maybe include a trip or two in 2018.



Remembering Gwen Cook (Whyte)

The Christie Family lost a long term and special friend this year. In 1938 Gwen Cook (Whyte) of Lasqueti Island responded to a "help wanted" ad that Grampa Christie had run about a "mother's helper" position. Gwen was hired and she moved into the Christie Family home just prior to the birth of Uncle Mac.

Gwen, herself was one of eight and therefore had no troubles controlling the Christie mob of 8. She did this with a simple disapproving look.

Gwen is responsible for introducing us all to Lasqueti Island. In 1941 Gwen began to take some of the Christie kids to her family home on Lasqueti for summer holidays. Pat, Janet, Tom and Bill were the first to visit.

By 1943 all eight children had visited the Cook's ranch and enjoyed the good fresh food and the freedom that only Lasqueti has to offer.

This early Lasqueti encounter led to Pat's teaching career, her marriage,

children and the many continued visits from the entire Christie Clan. Gwen and her husband John Whyte remained close friends with our family.

Love and laughter was constant in their presence. We miss them and we thank them.

—Jean

Fashion Police Call Out Stew...

Blue and green plaid pants with a teal striped shirt... what were you thinking?

What a year for the Colbourne Clan!! Stew got a new brain, Marg got a new hip, Barb got a new job...and Freda whined... cuz she didn't get anything!

Mag the Hag, forever now to be known as "Metal-Hip-Marg" sailed thru a new hip replacement to mark the year. With Brucie in tow, the bionic duo traveled Iceland with Bruce's parents, managing to meet up with Freda and Joe for an assault on the Glymar waterfall.

Meaghan, graduated last year with a Bachelor, Sciences in Chemistry from UVic, relocated to the lower mainland with her new beau, Brian, and will be starting nursing school at BCIT in January. Jack, also at UVic, is studying hard in Geography, competing as the "man between the pipes" with the Vikes Varsity Men's Field Hockey team and spending his summers rescuing boaters with the Canadian Coast Guard.

Stew's brain is back baby, he got a clean bill of health in September. We still want proof on this! Since he can't smash his head into the hockey boards anymore, he has taken up more gentle sports like running and golf.

Stew and Jackie took a little trip to Lasqueti this summer, Stew spent many hours fishing (no fish) and they tackled Mt Tremarton.

Oliver has had a busy year, working full time and going to school in the evening at BCIT to take additional courses in data analytics, whatever that is. He is playing ice hockey again and Granny and Grandpa show up occasionally at his games to cheer him on...the only pair in the arena!

Ellen is finishing up her last year at Lafayette College in May. She had a great field hockey season as team captain and was named to the Patriot league all-star team. Her boyfriend visited Vancouver in May (Stew approved). Auntie Freda and Granny and Gramps made there way to Easton to cheer her on in her senior year!!

At the Moro's, Freda and Joe are enjoying empty nesting with no kids just a GIANT DOG. Marco is at Queen's in Kingston enjoying his second year of film studies and Cole is in his second year at University of Toronto studying to be a Physician Assistant. He is doing clinical work in Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and other northern areas sending us daily updates on hernia surgeries, drug



addicts, and butt ulcers... really! The Moro's are off to Costa Rica at Xmas for surfing, yoga and hiking!!

In the Hodges family, Mikey is back at work and cancer-free... yahoo!! Now he's got three teenagers and really starting to feel the pain. The Hodges girls of Anne, Grace and Christina continue to keep busy with their myriad of activities: ballet, piano, field hockey and highland dance, which has kept the Mike & Barb Taxi Service on high alert for yet another year.

They managed to take a quick trip down to San Diego for Spring Break and headed to the smoke filled Cariboo for a much needed summer respite. This fall saw Barb return to the work force full time, rejoining the employer she left a decade ago, and enjoying the new challenges.

