



Volume 20 • Issue A

December 2020

MERRY COVID CHRISTMAS

2020 Christie Screech

In many of our minds, Christmas will always be associated with Granny Christie. She started our annual Christie Christmas Eve over 80 years ago. Not a bad run for a family tradition!

This year's celebrations will be quite different for our extended family, but we're a tough group, and we'll do our best. Should we begin to get irritated about the restrictions put on us by Dr. Bonnie, I'd like you to think of those that were placed upon our grandmother in the year 1947.

The first Royal child, Pat, wrote:

"School had just started in September when Tom was hospitalized with polio. The family was immediately quarantined at home.

I was playing hockey at Connaught Park that day, stopped off to visit Granny (Armour) on my way home, and got the news. I tried to stay there as I had just started Normal School but no dice, I was interned with the rest.

Father was the only exception. He stayed at Mosher's (across the street) and continued to work. He had to do all the grocery shopping too.

We were still able to have our milk delivered but weren't allowed to return the empties until after the two-week quarantine was over. You can imagine what the basement looked like; with a minimum of six bottles of milk daily, there were at least ninety empties accumulated.

What a time the quarantine was! It was



The Royals in 1946, shortly before being quarantined.

a very hot September and every time we tried to go out into the backyard to cool off, some neighbour would phone the health authorities. Seven kids and Mother in the house with "nothing to do."

No wonder Mother took sick. She came down with an attack of bronchitis in the midst of this and had to stay in bed. She was also anemic and received shots for her condition, normally given by Father.

I hate needles, so there was no way I could give her the needle. Ann hadn't discovered her healing hands yet, so it fell to twelve-year-old Bill to administer the shots. He only broke the needle in her once!"

Granny Christie was 41 and in full lockdown with 7 kids for two weeks! Auntie Moe, who would have been 11 at the time, remembers them all being so worried about Uncle Tom because he was in the hospital for a long time.

She also recalled learning to play mah-jong with a game Uncle Jimmy had brought them from China. No TV, no internet. Just cards, board games, and books. Kinda puts our whining in perspective!

Composing this has also brought to mind the number of front-line workers we have in our family. Thank you to those in the medical/health fields, fire departments, teachers, security, community workers/volunteers, etc.

Frontline Worker abandons active duty in midst of global health crisis.

The Colbourne Clan's COVID year had a few silver linings, let's talk about that!

Yes, our hair might be a little more silver, but at least we have lots of it.

The Matthews Crew

Jack Matthews returned from Coast Guard College in Cape Breton to spend the Spring and Summer quarantining with Marg and Bruce in Tsawwassen. This added brawn was a much-needed addition as it coincided with Bruce's early retirement from Telus and a renewed focus on home renovation.

Front-line worker Meaghan Matthews is also finishing her final year at nursing and soon to be in the trenches permanently. Doc Mag is retiring this year and did not celebrate 60, as it was canceled!

The Hodges

Anne graduated and began her first year at U Vic remotely, so still in New West. She continues to teach ballet but seems to have a problem student on hand... her mom!!

Gracie is sharpening her political debating skills after playing an essential role in the Provincial Election debates. Christina started high school this year and continues to enjoy air cadets.

Barb and Mike are working from home and have a full house of five 24/7!

Stewart and Jackie

Pickleball champions of New West, Jackie and Stew, welcomed Ellen home from Germany, and she started UBC in PDP. Her boyfriend Quentin came to visit for the summer, so Jackie got to cook for everyone!!

Oliver is enjoying work from home, which means he gets to golf more and kick his father's butt! He is soon to be joining the tour and will give DJ a run.

Stew is trying to work from home but can't find anywhere to put the firetruck!

The Moro Clan

Cole Moro and his girlfriend Maegan both are Physician's Assistants in Ontario. The extra COVID work they got allowed them to buy their first house in Hamilton, Ontario.



Marco Moro continues studying film at Ryerson online but keeps busy with his photography, art, and film studies

Freda and Joe spent the Spring, Summer at their cottage in Muskoka and worked remotely, so they got to kayak and swim in between zoom calls.

Bill and Moira

Auntie Mo and Uncle Bill came to visit accompanied by their personal physician Mag at the end of the summer to enjoy the sunshine and COVID-free lake at Camp Freda!





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Lockdown final blow to Twenty-year trial separation

It is time to say good-bye to 2020. This was a year to remember. We had so many changes, but there were a few bright moments amongst the Layfield Clan amidst all this.

The beginning of the year looked promising. Travelling was on the agenda. Don and Brenda headed down south to warmer weather, and Carol did the opposite; she headed east to a colder climate. It wasn't cold enough, so she decided to stay in an Ice Hotel.

Don and Brenda were able to stay as long as they intended. This was surprising, considering Don's siblings kept harassing them with all the talk of COVID and border closings and suggesting they may want to come home early.

Doug and Jacquie

Not much changed for Doug and Jacquie this year.

Doug continued working at Metro Ford. With COVID affecting Brad's programs, Doug hired Bradley for clean-up duty at the car lot for a very reasonable price. Bradley negotiated being taken out for lunch as his salary.

Like most families, COVID interrupted Grandma and Grandpa's time with the grandkids. They found not having the kids each weekend quite sad.

With activities at a minimum, Jac-

quie convinced Doug to do all the outdoor projects they had been putting off. Lots of painting, staining, and gardening were accomplished.

Don and Brenda

COVID certainly put a damper on Don and Brenda's travel plans. They had been busy planning their trip to Europe in May when all travel was stopped. So like his big brother, at-home projects took place. Tasks included roofing his house and shed, gardening projects, and renovating two camping trailers. Just so he didn't get bored, his lovely sister Sandra asked him to build a bench around her maple and cupboards for her foyer. Luckily not all traveling was banned, so he was still able to go hunting. Didn't shoot anything, but it was still lovely to get away with friends. They also were able to go to the interior to house-sit at a farm. Brenda loved being a farmer, Don not so much.

I believe he was attacked by a miniature goat.

The biggest change for the two of them



George and the hardware

is their son and grandson moved home. They are no longer empty nesters.

Carol

Lots of changes were in store for Carol and the girls. Jettie had her first teaching assignment. Meanwhile, she and Brett were busy planning their wedding. Once the COVID rules were in place, their plans drastically changed. Instead of a large wedding, they had a beautiful ceremony in front of Carol's house.

Shortly after the wedding, Carol sold the family home and moved into a condo. After the house was sold, Emily and Draven decided to get their own place and rented an apartment.

Once settled, they quickly found a puppy, a cute dog named Albus. In February, Emily graduated with her bachelor of arts and is back in school, taking a few courses before applying to the PDP program to become a teacher.

Madison was looking forward to being part of the opening of the new Psych building at RCH, but COVID changed those plans. She was reassigned to the COVID Psych unit in Surrey then out to Abbotsford to do COVID testing. Finally, they opened the new building, and she is back working at RCH.

In August, Daniel surprised Maddie with a fake photoshoot, where he got down on his knee and proposed. Of course, she said YES amongst her tears of joy.

The beginning of the school year has been quite challenging for Jettie. How to manage a bunch of 5 and 6 years



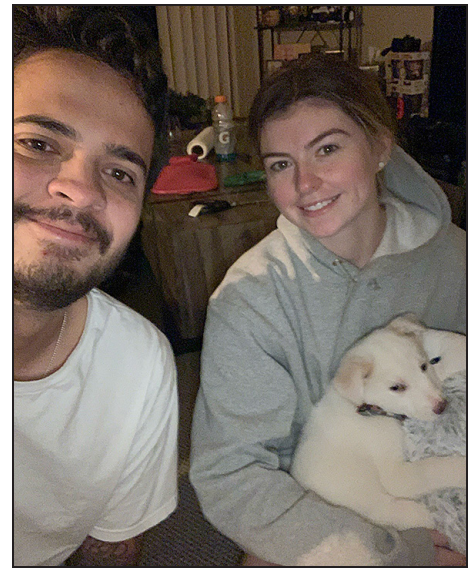
Carol and Girls



Connor in a wheelbarrow



Sherry giving 2020 the Finger



Emily, Draven and Albus

old who want to play in each other's bubbles. She was constantly reminding them to keep their hands clean and not to touch their faces and hoping that when they sneezed, they covered their mouth and nose. Then watching the daily school infection rates going up added a lot of stress to her day.

Sandra

Luckily for me, I decided to retire from being an EA to become a full-time daycare provider for Connor. I had lots of fun activities planned to introduce him to other children. Then COVID happened, and all interactions were stopped. Luckily for Connor, I have a large piece of property where he has his own big playground to explore.

After being separated for 17 years, I finally got a divorce. Some may say I am a procrastinator.

Like Doug and Jacquie, my time with George and Sherry was cut drastically. Instead of having the kids for the weekends, I now only see them via Facetime, and maybe once or twice a month, they stop by.

Amanda has taken a job out of Mission Hospital, where she runs the lab. This has drastically cut down on her travel time, which allows her more time with Connor. It's a significant change for her. In the past, she dealt with the technical part of the labs. Now she is more management and has to deal with employees. COVID testing has added another layer of work in the lab, with many staff being away for

isolation through possible exposures.

Shaun is still first aiding up north, and he also has been trained on COVID testing, so making sure all people coming onto a work site are cleared and tested.

Christina and Kevin are doing well, COVID has not dampened the real estate market, and Kev is super busy. Christina decided to home school George, so she is busy teaching grade two, as well as trying to keep three-year-old Sherry amused so she doesn't disturb George's lessons.

To top it off, Christina found out she was pregnant and due in March 2021.

During the summer, Kevin brought in some big machinery on my property. They cleared just over an acre to build a dirt bike course for George to practice on. He competed in his first race in Kamloops and then has competed in Arena Cross out in Chilliwack.

So amongst all the changes COVID brought to the world, we had some very happy moments. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy 2021.



Spirit of Annabel inhabits public health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry: Wash your hands!

*2020, global pandemic, Covid-19, social distancing, wash your hands,
wear a mask, be kind, be calm, be safe...
a year only Antispectic Annie could love.*

Russell

Our family remains strong and resilient. Russell celebrated his milestone 90th birthday with a family backyard BBQ. Plans for a larger party changed with the pandemic. Still, it was a beautiful sunny day with lots of delicious food and company.

Russell continues to live on his own. He still maintains his backyard veggie garden but now has his groceries delivered. It has been challenging since the senior centre closed down for Covid-19, and he has nowhere to go. We all try and get over and visit with him.

The Herndier's

Christy finally retired at the end of March. Covid changed her expectations about what retirement would look like, however. Nevertheless, she has enjoyed golfing, started playing in a bowling league, and spends time with her grandchildren.

Daryl is still volunteering at the fish hatchery and doing lots of odd jobs for friends and family. This spring and summer, we did a lot of BC camping with friends and family.

Lauren and Ryan added a new member to their family – Franklin the Bernedoodle. He is our third grandchild.

Ryan finally got severed from the oil & gas industry in Alberta in spring. He spent the summer at home and has just recently acquired a new job locally. Lauren is thrilled about this, finally having him home after many years of living away in camps.

The year started off with so much promise for Vanessa and family. In January, we went on our first child-free vacation to Mexico. We sipped cocktails in the sun and avoided the one massive snowstorm of the year like the plague. Little did we know the real plague was about to take over.

Upon return, things got weird, rather quickly. One day, I witnessed people battle over toilet paper, and the next day, I was forced to take 3 months off work and do some Kindergarten homeschooling.

Thankfully this consisted mostly of drawing pictures and drinking wine. Mila learned to ride a bike, and Jack passed school, whew.

We made it to summer, which was actually quite lovely! We got a ton of use out of our travel trailer,



going on numerous camping trips around BC with family and friends.

September came, and Jack went back to real school (woohoo), while Mila started Preschool. Things appeared to be going well when at work one day Cody snapped his quad tendon in half. This left him essentially couch bound for four months. 2021 cannot come soon enough!

The Adam's Family

A Year of Living COVIDly

Even though 2020 has been a year of lockdowns and social distancing, we have had a few momentous events in our Adams Family.



*(Left) Dave and Stef Engaged
Sunset from Jamie & Steve's House*



Susan retired, deciding not to renew her license on February 29, 2020.

Missing the COVID crisis at work. Also missing two retirement trips planned for later in the year.

Rob is still working and trying to get in a walk or bike ride every day as his beloved gym is off-limits.

Eric is working with Rob, financial planning and has just moved in with Alysha in North Vancouver with her dog Elliot.

Adrienne is in the 2nd year of law school, studying remotely from various locations, including Squamish and our house. In December, she and her long-time beau Jeff moved into their own apartment in East Vancouver.

My Uncle Bill

He was number 5 of the royal eight, but number 1 in my eyes. He was my godfather and my mentor. I got to spend a lot of time with him when I was a child. We would watch him and my dad play rugby, have family dinners, and if we were lucky, we got to spend a week at Lasqueti with him.

He taught me to drive and how to survive being a teenager in our very strict home. So many memories that I will always cherish.

Daryl and I miss you very much.

love Christy

Dave is working with Vancouver Fire & Rescue and surprised us all by proposing to Stef on Halloween night dressed up as Vikings! Wedding date TBD!

Julia started her residency in Family Practice with UBC in Victoria in July. She can now be addressed as Dr. Adams! Only 1-1/2 years until she will be fully licensed.

Holidays were limited to beautiful BC. Christina Lake with the boys and spousal units in July and late September with the girls (and Rob) on a wine and golf tour in Oliver and Kelowna.

Thankfully, we have remained COVID free and healthy! Looking forward to wedding planning and vacations in 2021!

The Constable's

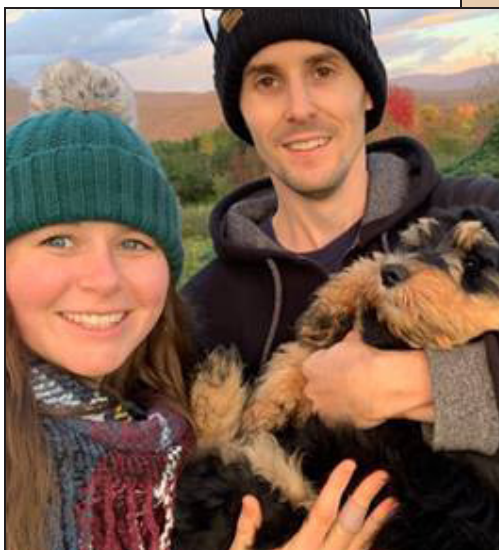
After 5 months of renovations, Steve and I finally moved into our new home in March. We are thrilled with the location in Qualicum. The view is fantastic, and the sandy beach below our house is not so bad either.

Scott has been busy at work. He also managed to complete the 47kms of the Juan de Fuca Trail in July and September this year. And yes, Peter, his little Morkie managed to complete the trek as well.

Sarah and Andy had a lovely baby girl on June 22, 2020, Sadie Eloise. We hope that the crew, along with Andy's family, will be able to come over to enjoy the holidays.



EVERY TIME
SOMEONE SAYS WASH YOUR HANDS
AUNTIE ANN
GETS A NEW BLEACH
BOTTLE OF



(Above) Dave and Stef Engaged
(Right) Lauren and Ryan with Franklin



Unsuspecting Widow Harbours Russian Spy During Pandemic

Kay & Bill

The year began sadly with Bill leaving us unexpectedly in January. Shortly afterwards we were marvelling at his wise decision to leave before COVID could make his sad situation even harder for all of us.

So life goes on at 706. Sean still lives with me, and his girlfriend, Dasha, also lives here, so they provide company and help when needed. Dasha enjoys gardening so together we grew a vegetable garden and some very nice tomatoes, though not as good as Bill's. Sean takes care of the lawn. I was happy to have the yard to provide me with fresh air and exercise as life became more restricted.

I had two little trips. In Aug. Randy and Carol Anne took Dasha and I to Lasqueti for a week. We were happy to have Jane and Barb join us for a few days. Jean and Rob made sure we were well looked after. In Sept. Bob and Ross took me to the island to spend a couple of days with my brother Eric and his wife Pat at their lovely place at Cobble Hill. I often meet with friends at Como Lake Park for socially distanced visits, whenever weather permits.

Like everyone else, I am hoping for better things to come in 2021... So, Happy New Year Everyone!!!

Buchanan

We brought in 2020 with a cacophony of fireworks on a beach in Bali. After a week of work and a few days of play, we went from Bali to Taiwan to visit with our daughter Sarah and see her new home and community in the place she had settled as an English teacher. Not a bad way to start the year.

And then our idyllic world was turned upside down. On arriving at the Vancouver airport from Taiwan, we learned my dad (Bill) was in his final hours. We went straight to the care home and tenderly expressed our love and thankfulness to our amazing father as he prepared to leave his earthly life. We are forever grateful for the timing of his homegoing, especially as we now see the craziness of the rest of 2020.

At the beginning of March, we headed back to Indonesia, this time to Borneo (Kalimantan), for another conference where Mark and I both spoke.

From there we went to Le Chambon Sur Lignon in the French Alps, where we had planned to spend 3 months writing and researching the captivating history of this little French village. It was spring, it was lovely, and it ended far too soon: 10 days in, we were forced back to Canada, to an Alberta winter, because of COVID.

In spite of this disappointment we tried to make the most of the lockdown. Mark spent his mornings writing and his afternoons building a wooden kayak. During this time, he did have two books launched, his first novel, David: Rise, with much help from my brother Randy on graphics and publishing. His second book, God Walk, was out in July, a timely release as many during lockdown discovered a new appreciation for walking.

This fall we were again confronted with grief, as Mark's mom passed quickly after a brief illness. We were thankful for the few visits we were able to have with her during the early part of this year.

Our kids continue to bring us joy, as they have managed the COVID situation. Adam was housesitting for us and building his videography business in Alberta while we were supposed to be away for 3 months. Sadly, our quick return, and the shut down of the world, changed all that. Because his spring/summer weddings were all postponed, he joined a firefighting crew and headed to northern BC for the fire season.

Sarah continues to live in the safest place on earth right now, Taiwan. It hasn't had a new COVID case since April, and so she is loving exploring beaches and making new friends.

Nicola and Chad bought the apartment they've been living in (at a deal price from their parents). After temporary



layoffs, both are back at work and hoping that travel will be part of their future.

Mark and I will be making some changes in our lives in 2021, with a temporary move to a west coast island.

We are hoping Adam and Nicola will be able to join us in Alberta for Christmas

Randy

My plans for the beginning of 2020 were meant to include several trips to Oklahoma, Texas and Florida to propel my Water Business forward. Dad's passing in January pushed the timeline back to March. Then the closing of the border brought all plans of travel to an end.

2020 was also meant to include a couple of Half Marathons and a lot of hiking. Covid managed to demolish those plans too, so I decided to work on my Covid Curve instead. I did manage to write a novel and learn Spanish while socially distancing. And because, dear cousins, retirement is over-rated, Carolann and I started a new company promoting public safety education materials to Fire Departments, Police Departments and Wildfire Agencies.

Carolann and I moved to a new place early in the year so Dave's family could spread into my space. With him working from home and kids quarantined, the extra space for them was undoubtedly needed.

Rob's family is enjoying living in the Saguenay region of Quebec. Covid has even clipped the Airforce's wings,

as Rob has not been able to do much of the travel he anticipated with his new position. Although they sent him to Whitehorse, where he had to quarantine for fourteen days. Of course, on day twelve, they flew him home again. Are we concerned that it's an Airforce general in charge of vaccinations?

Sean and his partner Dasha are watching over mom as they work and study from home. Again Covid has interrupted the time Sean and I usually spend running together; it's just not the same if you're not training for something.

Beth began her first year officially working as a Registered Midwife. "It was full of the requisite ups and downs that come with a job that boils down to witnessing women's deepest agonies and greatest blisses. Often within seconds of each other," she says.

Darryl and Beth started 2020 in a sort of long-distance relationship. Beth was working in Niagara Falls and commuting back and forth between call weeks while Darryl held down the fort in Oakville. "I loved working in Niagara Falls, but the distance was not ideal, so when I was offered a position in Hamilton, I jumped at the opportunity."

They continued their migration west into the suburbs and are now living in Burlington in a townhouse complex.

Darryl spent most of the year hibernating as he was mandated to work from home in the pandemic's early days. The directive came on very

suddenly over a weekend, so he will be returning to a jar of kombucha that a coworker gave to him that he forgot in his locker on his last Friday afternoon. By now, it has likely sprouted hands, feet, and sentience, so if the next 2020 headline you read is "kombucha monster takes over downtown Toronto" you know who to blame.

Darryl was promoted this year from "Risk Manager" to "Senior Risk Manager" and now leads a small team. From Beth's perspective, this means he now spends 90% of the time in (Zoom) meetings and no longer seems to be able to get any actual work done.

Boss News

I was raised to believe that if you didn't have anything nice to say, not to say anything at all. Accordingly, the 2020 year in review is very brief, and thoughtfully absent of the C word.

Thankfully, Ross and I still have each other and continue to live apart. I can't imagine where we'd be if both of us were trying to work and live in the same home all day, every day. But it's been pretty good all things considered, and my garden was fabulous!

Ross's job with the National Film Board is busier than ever, because the online teaching resources he peddles to educators have become very handy

with all the home schooling happening these days.

The opposite is true for wee Bobby. While generally speaking, film and TV are booming, US TV commercial work has completely dried up. Nobody wants to quarantine two weeks for a two-day shoot.

I've happily returned to independent documentary filmmaking, re-opening a dormant project, learning a new editing program, and slowly inching it towards the finish line. With a little luck, there may be a new Big Gay Movie in 2021.

The real joy of 2020 was the tiny house we rented for the summer on our friend's acreage in Birken, North of Pemberton. It felt very much like summers at Lac La Hache; swimming in the lake, walks along the train tracks, board games, and bonfires with roasted marshmallows almost every night.

We cut trails and built decks, split and stacked wood, gardened, gazed at the stars, and enjoyed a frosty cold beverage or two.

The best part of all – no internet or cell service. It made for a great way to escape all the bad news and relax on the weekends. It was so much fun we will likely arrange a return engagement for ourselves next summer too.

Happy Holidays!



THE BIG MAC TIMES

Frustrated by Lockdown, Dogs demand bigger house.

2020 has been a challenging year, with the passing of Uncle Bill, kidney health issues for Malcolm, job loss for John and Michelle, and the extreme boredom and stress of lockdown.

However, the highlight of 2020 started with a Christie Family Cruise to French Polynesian in February; Joanne, Michelle, Dylan and Gord were able to attend.

The warm sun and the beautiful beaches of Tahiti were exactly what the family needed before the onset of COVID-19 hit us all. Lots of sunscreen, a few good books, cribbage matches and a couple of scuba dives kept us entertained and happy.

Mac and Bonnie

Mac is still getting his strength back from the kidney removal, and Bonnie has been keeping busy setting up their new home in Burnaby.

To add some excitement during Covid-19, my parents got themselves a new furry companion, "Cody" to keep them company. This adorable one-year-old Havanese pup has become the new boss of their home.

Lockdown has been hard and lonely for the family. Dreams of future cruises and warm destinations are being investigated for 2021.

Joanne and John

2020 has been a really trying year for young people. March had Danielle (at UBC) and Derek (at Quest) both see their schools locked down and move to online classes. So the 18 and 19-year-olds moved home with their parents, not what they were hoping for.

After months of card games, dog walks, and not seeing their friends summer ended, and school returned, but online. After the endless summer with the family, Derek decided to change schools and study at Trent University in Peterborough. A cross country car trip for John & Derek featuring face masks and the Trans Canada highway was the solution.

Derek has found friends and relief 2500 miles away. His parents couldn't be happier with this new adventure, solid grades, new friends, family in the East, and his place on the Trent Rugby team.

Danielle has been doing really well with her studies, and the Thunderbird field hockey team continues to train, rain, snow or shine though no games are in sight.



Joanne has been amazing in her career at the clinic as the safety protocols she has to adhere to are stressful. Her new stress relief has been gardening and working out in the garage/home gym.

John has had a 2020 of being at home, walking the dog and home improvement projects.

Gordon

Dylan and Gord returned to Burnaby in the summer, after a tough quarantine in Whistler. Dr. Dylan giving his medical expertise to his grandfather's recovery and showing off his golfing skills to all. Being a Frontline emergency doctor in London during this crisis was incredibly valuable to us all. We appreciated and welcomed his time with us here.

Gord has been helpful with the packing up and move to Mac and Bonnie's new house in Burnaby. Unfortunately, Gord had to extend his stay as he had a very hard time trying to get back





to his building Project in Nicaragua. He has started to break ground on his development despite cyclones, Covid-19 and political unrest.

Michelle

Michelle is being a “good hermit,” complying with all the Covid-19 rules by staying safe with all her numerous animals in Kelowna, and learning new computer skills as she searches for the perfect job. The health of her dogs and animal kingdom are very important, and her role in their getting better this year was exceptional. Michelle plans to make it back to Burnaby in January to celebrate Malcolm’s 82nd and Bonnie’s 80th birthdays. Hopefully, the start of 2021 can be celebrated with some cake and candles if Dr. Bonnie says it is okay.



Barb & Jane Social Distancing at Lasqueti



In August, Jane and Barb quietly slipped out of their elegantly reserved Victorian neighbourhood, evading those restrictive COVID-19 suggestions, and ventured to Lasqueti.

They joined up with Coquitlam escapee, Kay, and proceeded to indulge in risky, unsanctioned social behaviours. The clinking of liquor bottles in their luggage should have given a clue as to what would occur.

There was an exhibit at the local arts centre that featured island matriarchs, their friend Pat being one of them.

Problem? The centre was closed on the day they wished to attend.

No problem! A quick search located the key, and they enjoyed their private viewing.

This was followed by a trip to visit with Pat at her new resting place. The 3 sat on the bench at her side and drank cheap white wine out of the best plastic crystal glasses we could provide.

At the house, Rob joined the group to help control their outrageous activities. He quickly found that supplying them daily with prawns kept them subdued.

Jane took quite a tumble on the beach, and Barb had to have her shoes duct taped to her feet.

They had parked their car in a “NO PARKING” zone at French Creek that Patty retrieved for and then had to return for them. After a quick stop at a dubious shop in Coombs, they eventually returned to Victoria.

Jane has some ongoing medical issues, so Barb aka Conan the Librarian is now the chief cook and bottle washer. Patty and Jean invade their doorstep at regular intervals.

You can be sure that these two will be lifting their glasses and wishing the Christie Family a Merry Christmas.

Barb says:

Here's to our friends'
of many a year,

With whom, many a glass,
was raised with a Cheer!

Lockdown imposed on the next generation as Cruising Christie's put entire Nation at Risk

Mike & Deb's Cruise Adventure

*Just sit right down, and you'll hear a tale, A tale of a fateful trip,
That started from a San Fran slip, Aboard a mighty ship.*

In late January, after two long years of looking after Mike's Auntie Elaine Sime in our home, she passed peacefully at the hospital. Suddenly free, Mike and I decided last minute to jump on The Grand Princess 15 day cruise to Hawaii with relatives Jim & Jennifer White. They had this planned for months, and after several months of trying to get us to join, we decided to book last minute.

At the time, we had no idea what we were in store for. The cruise started as planned on February 22nd. We left San Francisco after a glorious day of exploring the city we had not been to for many years.

Great weather in San Fran, but as we set sail, the weather changed, and we kept thinking that as we got closer to Hawaii, we were sure to hit the sun! Finally, after a few days, the sun shone, and we thought, great, this is what we were looking for.

After 4 uneventful but overcast days at sea, but with some Sun shining, drinks flowing, Karaoke fun, fabulous meals, and entertainment, we thought what could go wrong?

Shouldn't have asked that.

Our first stop Kauai was beautiful with excellent weather.

The second stop Honolulu had the fabulous sun on Waikiki Beach.

Third stop Maui, still sunny but so windy that we got sandblasted in Kaanapali, but at the fourth stop, Hilo, it rained all day. Pretty uneventful so far.

Left Hawaii on our way to Ensenada, Mexico, in lousy weather and rocky seas. There were seasick people on the ship and in our group. We thought, oh well, it will get better.

Mike entered the Karaoke contest and was chosen as one of the six finalists for "The Voice of the Ocean" to be held in the Theatre on the Thursday night prior to docking back in San Fran on Saturday.

His big break! "The New Christie Minstrels"??

Well, it actually went from bad to worse. On Tuesday evening, the Captain announced that we had sick people on board, and they were flying in by helicopter, tests for Covid19.

What? The Covid19 that was all the way over in Japan?



Wednesday morning, the helicopters arrived with test kits, and sure enough, 21 people of the 45 they tested were positive. Mostly crew members, though.

We also heard that 2 guests from the last sailing had died!

We were quarantined to our staterooms. Princess had to transition from serving 2500 passengers meals to delivering breakfast, lunch and dinner to every stateroom. A gigantic feat that they pulled off seamlessly.

By Wednesday night, the Captain informed us that not only were we not to leave our staterooms for any reason, but we also were skipping our last port of call and heading directly to San Francisco.

The Voice of The Ocean and all other events were canceled on board. We were disappointed, but we understood the dilemma.

We were left to gather what little info we could get from CNN or minimal updates from the Captain.

When we arrived in San Fran, we were not permitted to dock as they were still preparing a plan to deal with the passengers. Even the President didn't want us to land as he didn't want his numbers to go up! What a fool.

So, we were stuck endlessly circling outside San Francisco Bay for several extra days. Finally, on Tuesday morning, March 10th, we were allowed to dock at the Commercial port in Oakland. At least they didn't relegate us to Alcatraz!

We disembarked the ship to people in full PPE, taking our temperatures, asking health questions, and performing all of the necessary precautions.



We were informed that the Canadian Government had arranged a 747 cargo plane to take us all to a full fourteen-day quarantine in Trenton Air Force Base in Ontario.

A Cargo Plane? 747, no windows, people in full hazmat suits, seats bolted to the plane floor, port-a-potties installed, and a full hazmat container inside to house any newly diagnosed sick people on board. It felt like a scene from a Stephen King novel!

We arrived at CFB Trenton Air and were greeted by the Canadian Red Cross. They put us through cautious, careful scrutiny to determine if any of the 230 Canadians showed symptoms.

Once cleared, we were housed in the Lodges on the base. Confined to rooms similar to a Motel 6. We were provided 3 square meals a day, more fruit than could feed a school of children, along with temp checks and questionnaires twice daily.

I must say they were amazing! They provided anything and everything we could ask for except booze. Booze would have been good!

Two weeks into the uneventful quarantine, they discovered 15 passengers had mild Covid-19 symptoms. Thankfully they were not sent home to all parts of the country unknowingly spreading this awful virus.

Princess Cruises was amazing, refunding all of our money, paid for us to get home. They even offered us a complimentary cruise for our next adventure.



So, our fifteen-day vacation turned into three weeks plus two weeks of quarantining in Canada. In the beginning, we were annoyed by the inconvenience of it all. In hindsight, however, we are grateful that they took good care of us, and we were confident that we were not infected. Furthermore, we knew that we would not infect others more susceptible to the virus, possibly with dire consequences.

Merry Christmas, Christie Family, and YES, we will cruise again!

Craig Christie

The editors of this year's Screech have had to complete a deep revision of Craig's submission. We have taken into consideration that he is supposedly an electrician, NOT an English major. He also did not follow the sage advice of Dr. Henry; there was NO calmness, safety or kindness demonstrated. The redacted version follows.

My daughter Maria is doing great; she is in her final year at UNBC to become an RN...

She lives in the basement of one of my rental houses (in which she is now part owner) with her boyfriend Nolan and new dog Rocky.....

My daughter, Kasandra, continues to work at Fortis BC.

I also entertained your freeloading brother/cousin and his son (Bill / PJ) during hunting season!

Been a busy year as I went back to work since there's fuck-all else to do during the Covid Year (or maybe years !)

Susan & Colin

This has been a year for all of us like no other...upon arriving home from PV 10 days early due to impending crisis, Colin was immediately sick with a serious life-threatening bacterial infection (not COVID) that led to him being hospitalized for 16 days.

Of course, we were in quarantine for at least the first 14 days home, and after that, with his hospitalization, more days followed. He recovered and is doing well at the ripe old age of 74... currently, he is his usual creative self, making drums and is often a masked man walking the seawall here in



Nanaimo. This is much better than the alternative, so we are good.

I had planned to retire from my massage therapy practice at the end of December. Still, the pandemic's onset sped up the process for me, and I am getting used to (with some degree of difficulty) having TIME... Lotsa TIME... At age 67, I look forward once this virus abates to taking up many things I never had time to do when I was working.

Unfortunately, we could not travel to Germany to see Michael and my beautiful grandbaby Merle who turned 2 on October 16/20. The entire world is in lockdown.

However, I do communicate with Michael and Merle every week on What's App, which is way better than not being able to see or talk to them at all... at the rate she is growing, she will be a teenager in short order... she is learning both English and German. Every time she says, "Hi Oma Susie," I melt into a puddle of mush... it is amazing what the innocent heart of a child does to an old human... love it, love it, love it!

Yes, this has been a challenging year for many. Still, hey, we are here and well and, except for the inconvenience of wearing a mask most of the time out of our homes, we are still living freely and not in a war zone like some places on the planet. We are grateful for

TRC Reporter continued on next page

TALES OF THE WOODS

Health System in serious crisis: Helen recalled from Arizona retirement for active duty.

Helen's Family

In February, while I was planning my escape to sunny Maricopa from the soggy Vancouver winter scene cousin, Jean decided I needed to invite her to accompany me. Talk about putting me on the spot!

We spent 10 LONG days together: hiking, supporting garage sales, golfing, drinking and hot tubbing. I sent Jean home before the border closed in March.

My trip home on March 31st wasn't quite as relaxing as hers. After completing quarantine, I returned to work 3 days a week at St. Paul's.

In August, I visited Christie in Victoria, Jean in Nanaimo and Patty in Coombs.

On August 29, Stephan, Christie and I took some of Mom's ashes to leave under the last 2 roses in her old garden. Janet B Wood (not her Janet A Wood), under her old bridge and ditch at her old property. We even left her beer glass there.

I was supposed to be in Maricopa for Christmas this year, but... Looking forward to vaccines any day! And will return to Maricopa for March/April 2021.

As per Dr. Henry, Christie & Stefan are hunkered down in their tiny bubble in their cities! So, we will do a Virtual Xmas.

Christie has taken a four-month stint doing Out Reach Nursing for the

Homeless and disadvantaged. She loves what she's doing there. She was hired to take care of the COVID cases in a shelter Victoria has set up. BUT, fortunately, there are none!

In February, she will start working in the ER at Victoria General Hospital.

Stefan is hunkered down under lock and key with the Military still in Kelowna. He's sworn to secrecy as to what he does. Could tell me, but says he'd have to kill me after. He graduated UBC-O in the Spring. For now, coasting COVID and on guard to step in if we need the military help with COVID. Yikes don't tell him I said anything!

Lois Wood

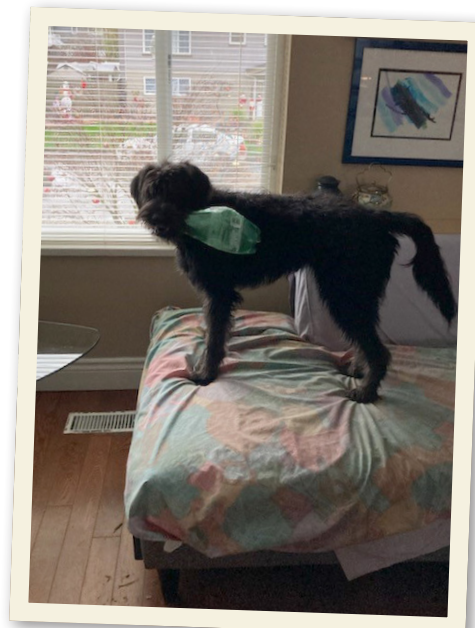
Hello dear Christie family! I live happily in my house in Port Coquitlam with my rambunctious new puppy Blackie born on a farm in a barn near Edmonton. He is now nine months old and very energetic, so I get lots of exercise, taking him for walks and hikes. He is particularly fond of plastic bottles and always seems to have one in his mouth when he is not eating or drinking!

I also have a trainer to help Blackie be more obedient, as he has a rather wild side. I am thinking about adopting another rescue dog to provide Blackie with a companion.

I didn't get to travel as planned this year; COVID prevented that completely. Still, I did spend a lot of my time in my garden tending to Gorgeous Auntie Janet's roses.

I also did a lot of work on the landscaping at my place. I am always very happy in the garden with my hands in the dirt. I am sure I came by this trait organically!

I am keeping social with lots of on-line meetings, mostly through Zoom, and keeping up with my friends all over the



world – it is cheaper than traveling! It does seem like everyone I talk with on Zoom is fixated on Covid.

I am involved in several charities; again, these are meetings I conduct mostly on-line. I am Treasurer for Greater Vancouver Deaf Curling. Also, Treasurer for Canada Deaf Darts Club, and I am the Director of Membership for the Northwest Deaf Outdoors Club. I am also Treasurer for the BC School for the Deaf Alumni Group. So I am keeping busy and keeping my brain working while I practice safe social distancing and raise Blackie!

I hope to go camping more once the pandemic is under control and we can travel again. I purchased a small camping trailer; it is hard-core and folds up into an A-Frame, which I can tow behind my SUV.

I hope to drive up to Nelson next summer to meet and play with my new grand-nephew Eric, which would be so much fun!

Be safe and well everyone, I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Tina's Gang

The Oliver's – we are thriving! Despite the wackadoodle times of this pandemic, we all endure that life, work and day-to-day carry on; and we manage.

The year rang in with wonderful news as Jillian announced she was pregnant, just after the Screech's last issue went to print. Eric William Browes made his beautiful debut on July 13th in Nelson,



BC, where Jilly, Chris and Eric now reside. He's a healthy, happy, cherubic young lad, who giggles endlessly... even during nappy changes!

He has yet to meet his "Gorgeous Grannie." It's frustrating how COVID has affected so much of our what used to be normal life.

Jillian is benefitting from the original "Gorgeous Grannie's" tips on vegetable gardening: remember: carrot seeds planted one inch down, cover with half-inch of dirt, plant radish seeds on top, cover with the other half-inch of dirt, pat down, water regularly. The radishes grow faster and will thin out the carrots. She learned from a master. Like the shortbread recipe.

Alexander, still a citizen of Montreal, made it out to the Coast, completely Covid tested, both in Montreal and Vancouver and back again, to meet his new nephew. His mother lives in constant strife and peril as Montreal numbers stagger the charts. Still, he strictly adheres to protocols.

He celebrated his 30th birthday with his roommates in late October. He had a beautiful smile on his face, as Tina made him video the dinner and FaceTime it (she paid for the dinner of course, she is too inept to deal with the FaceTime technology) and still needs a maid – mais oui!

Alex is still seriously considering undertaking a second degree in Urban Planning, the destination university yet to be determined.

Sophia is permanently back in Vancouver – yay, oh yay!

She's loving being back in Vancouver, plays tennis with her Mom frequently, and is rocking the computer-coding world. Her mother has set her up in a cool apartment in the West End!

Her boyfriend Jack is referred to as "the rock star with a day job," and it is all a ton of fun, or phun.

While Tina sold the Kits Beach house and bought another place nearby. Covid has delayed the extensive renovations needed there, so Tina lives with her dear beau, Iain, upon a lofty hill!

Thankfully, Tina got a cancer-free diagnosis, after seven years, about the same time she turned 60 and welcomed her first grandchild.

TRC Reporter Continued

everything but especially that we are part of a big loving family like ours.

Merry Christmas and remain healthy, happy and safe in 2021

Love cousin Susan and Colin

Colleen Houghton

COVID-19 Life for the Houghtons – Colleen – self quarantined for 14 days after returning from P.V. Was laid off work for 3 months. Had one COVID test (negative).

Kristi worked at Kelowna General Hospital, where the COVID numbers have been minimal.

Kevin & Craig have had no interruptions in construction except safer worksites with more protocols. Waiting for Bonnie Henry to okay visiting so my kids and I will have Christmas in Kelowna together. It's very hard having a bubble of 1!

Mike & Debbie

Well, a very COVID year for all! Deb and Mike having been on a 2-week cruise that ended up being five weeks with two of the weeks in full quarantine at Trenton Air Force Base in Ontario. That was interesting. Meanwhile, the rest of the family was at home, getting used to being locked down in quarantine. We were all supposed to visit Disneyland in April for Leia's 5th birthday. Since that

had to be canceled, she had to settle for a drive-by birthday celebration on April 5th. We managed to get a bunch of family and friends on board with decorating cars, and she claimed it was her best birthday ever!

Indie turned two and is as cute as ever. Both of the girls started acting and have both been in movies that are yet to be out. Julie, Marko and Leia did a Nintendo Switch commercial, which is airing on TV already! So they all have made a little money with their acting skills.

Jen & Chase have been working hard renovating their East Vancouver Heritage Home. If you have ever seen the movie "The Money Pit" you would understand what they are going through. Wyatt turned five in February, and Lennon turned four in July. Wyatt started playing hockey at the Burnaby Winter Club, and both are loving their neighbourhood schools.

Jeff has been working hard this year but no traveling as well; you all know why. But doing great, none the less. We are all grateful that no one has been ill or in contact with the dreaded Coronavirus so we all are managing to stay safe and loving our time as a family.

All are looking forward to a much better 2021 hopefully with this pandemic behind us.

Merry Christmas Christie Family!



Forbes report Lasqueti in Lockdown: Nothing has spread here like this since VD in the 80's

Weighill

Dorianna tells us all to Stay the F*@K home!

We begin the Weighill report with messages from Cameron and Dorianna. They have been working tirelessly in the Public Health offices of the York Region of Ontario... "If you go for a COVID test, stay the F*@K at Home until you get your results." "If you are feeling unwell, Stay the F*@K at home until you have confirmed that you do not have COVID."

In all seriousness, we are extremely proud of Cameron and Dorianna's work since the pandemic started. Dorianna has been 'redeployed' numerous times as her skill set is varied, and she's used to dealing with difficult people! She has coordinated contact tracing and outbreaks. Her colleagues know how the day is going by her language – she starts off the day sounding like Auntie Kay and ends it sounding like Bill Forbes! Cameron is coordinating the communications for York's public health call centre. Ultimately it is his job to figure out what Doug Ford actually means! We're thinking he may need to hire Cousin Freda for help with this soon!

2020 started off pretty normal, with the Weighills heading for warmer locales – Aggie headed to Tanzania for work, Cam, Dorianna, Pietro, and Violet headed to Turks and Cacaos for a family vacation, and Jean (feeling left out) headed to Arizona to visit

Cousin Helen. The island getaway provided Cam with the opportunity to introduce the kids to snorkeling, sailing, and swimming in the ocean. Dorianna enjoyed the chance to relax on the beach while someone else did the cooking, cleaning, and drink delivery! Violet has kindly invited Aggie and Jean to join them the next time they go – something that is being considered for Feb 2022 when Cameron turns 50 (bet that makes a number of you feel old).

Pietro (8) and Violet (5), both survived the long break from school in 2020 by attending Zia School! Dorianna's sister Angela is a schoolteacher and kept the kids on track! Nana Jean and Auntie Aggie helped by sending stem kits, puzzles, and trivia quizzes every other week. They are back in school, with Pietro enjoying grade 3 and Violet finishing up senior kindergarten. It didn't make Dorianna happy when the first COVID-related school outbreak was in the kids' school; hence, the advice she provided about staying home after a COVID test!!

2020 has been an odd year for Aggie as COVID forced her to spend most of it in Canada...with her mother! After receiving some insider information about COVID, Aggie was able to get back to Canada just days before the global pandemic was announced and travel restrictions were put into place. Since returning home, she has continued to recover from the gastric sleeve surgery she had in the fall of



2019, focusing her time on running, hiking, camping, and figuring out how to teach online! Anticipating that international travel won't resume until late 2021 or 2022, Aggie spends most evenings holding her passport and dreaming of the trips yet to come!

Jean spent 2020 worrying about her kids, missing her grandkids, battling the jungle that is her garden, and dealing with the stresses of living with Aggie 24-7! When she invited Aggie to live with her, it was with the understanding that Ag traveled several months a year, and so did Jean! Jean enjoyed her trip to Arizona and was sad that the planned trip to South Africa and Zimbabwe was canceled. She is thankful that she and Aggie could take a quick (health inspector approved)





trip to Ontario to celebrate "Christmas in November" so that she could spoil her grandkids and hug her son.

Bill Forbes Family

Aaargh, is it over yet!

2020 found the PJ Forbes clan juggling more rules and regulations than we care to (PJ has always had issues complying with authority). Thank god we work in the gray.

As much as we've been allowed to, the sporting world of Kaiya and Peter has continued. When travel allowed, Kaiya made her way to the coast to try out as an A-ball pitcher in Langley and made the team!

Not to be outdone, Peter would find himself scoring his way onto Niedermayer's (note the name dropping) team for another season in Penticton. PJ's just happy with the

decision to buy a Honda Fit.

In the Spring, a crew of us, including Mom, Dad, Patty, Steve, Kaiya, Peter and some friends, all took a trip on the Lasqueti Sons to spread some ashes of our dearly departed Trevor in Knight Inlet.

It was a wonderful trip filled with great scenery, killer whales, grizzly bears, prawning, and a private tour of Michelle Pfeifer's (more name dropping) private resort in Bute Inlet.

Our summer saw us socially distance at Lasqueti while packing up Fohla and moving her and Jordyn from the Island to Penticton. Dad and I took socially distancing to a whole new level by patrolling the Parsnip River looking for that elusive moose, while cousin Craig let us know what one looks like.

Till next year moose, we'll meet again.

It was a challenging year of toned down sports and school for the Foxes. Alicia continues to be the bookkeeper for a housing construction company. The pandemic has convinced many people to flood to our beautiful island, thus causing her workload to almost double.

Daughter Katie took a break from VIU. She was promoted to supervisor at Tigh Na Mara, while doing Criminology courses online. In his grad year, Son Will has completely retired from all sports and concentrating on his future career in Engineering. He is looking forward to attending school in Alberta in Fall 2021.

The baby, Jesse, now 15 and 6 "2, is still scoring goals for Oceanside hockey and throwing the heat for the

Royals Baseball Club. He is somehow surviving the explosive coaching techniques of cousins Bruce and Kevin.

There were many trips to Lasqueti this summer due to no baseball in June and July. It was great to take advantage of the incredible weather and a breather from the trials and frustrations of 2020. Missing our beloved Trevor every day, we are all so grateful for all the love and support we've received from our wonderful family and extended members.

Rob Forbes Family

This year, the Rob Forbes family focused on what truly matters: food and family. The major highlight of the year was celebrating the wedding of Kelly and Tim. The wedding was an intimate affair in Mill Bay, featuring tasty tacos and socially-distant good times.

Heather graduated with her MA in Community Development from UVic, but her convocation ceremony was canceled. Undeterred, the family held a very classy replacement ceremony on Lasqueti.

Coral and Heather continued to garden enthusiastically, both at Lasqueti and in their home gardens. Everett is growing strong on his steady diet of



Lasqueti apple sauce.

Rob brought home the protein with his prawning and salmon fishing.

Elliot is enjoying crabbing in Comox. Chris and Heather bought a house in Victoria in April and have enjoyed nesting.

The biggest excitement on the horizon is that Kelly and Tim are expecting a baby in March 2021."

The Biro Bunch

The Biro family has been closer than ever over this past year. All living close to each other in central Vancouver Island has had its benefits for a small bubble. Gratefully no one lost their jobs due to the pandemic, and for the most part, the work level increased. The family made several trips to Lasqueti, where Steve and Patty enjoyed the company of their boys and their partners.

Steve and Patty continue to be busy with their nautical chart business, as consumers were eager to spend their Justin Trudeau benefits.

They continued to love the role of grandparents. Steve regularly tends to his well-manicured lawn, "Augusta" and Patty would happily garden in her productive produce patch. Steve and Patty traveled to Mexico with Robert, Nicole, Kevin and Brooklyn in January. They had a great time while soaking up the sun before coming home and



Kelly and Tim's wedding in Mill Bay.

getting locked down into their garage. In June, they joined Bill, Georgia, PJ and 4 kids on a trip of a life time to Knight Inlet. Amazing scenery and great company.

Oldest son Robert, wife Nicole and daughter Brooklyn started off 2020 on a high note with a trip to Mexico in January with Steve and Patty. Brooklyn loved playing on the beach and in the pool with Nana and Grandpa.

Brooklyn turned 2 in May and is busier than you can imagine.

Robert still is working as an officer for BC Ferries and has been taking courses for his captain's ticket.

Nicole continues to work as an esthetician from their home in Cedar in the south end of Nanaimo while being a full-time mom. Nicole also celebrated her 30th birthday in May. She was serenaded by a drive-by parade of cars in the street followed by a socially distanced and a small, outside, Dr. Henry-approved, gathering in their driveway. It lasted several hours until the neighbours threatened to call the cops.

Sadly, this fall, Robert and Nicole suffered a huge loss with the sudden end to their pregnancy that resulted in the stillborn birth of their baby son, Saylor. Great sadness and grief rocked the entire family. We all came together once again to offer love and support when they needed us most. Rest in peace, little Saylor.

Middle son Bruce and (still) fiancé Brie made the tough decision to postpone their July wedding due to the pandemic. Still, they traveled to Tofino and made the walk down the aisle on the 25th of July, where Brie asked Bruce if he would still be engaged to

In memory and honour of our son, Saylor Biro

Saylor Biro, son of Robert and Nicole Biro was brought into the world on October 9, 2020. Sadly, he was not given the opportunity to live earth side. There were other plans for him and his precious little soul that did not include life here in his physical form.

As his parents we have decided to announce this to increase the awareness of miscarriages and still born births, which women and their families experience on a daily basis. We believe that honouring Saylor's little life and his birth story is important. It is also important to spread awareness that these situations happen often with so little information and many questions are left unanswered.

Our hearts are heavy, they are still very much broken as this has been an extremely difficult and emotional experience. We were shocked and in the kind of pain you only hear about, the kind of pain we've never felt before.

Saylor was and will forever be a part of our hearts and a part of our family. We want to remember him and honour him. We want to share with others how much he was, is and always will be loved.

The greatest pain on earth is carrying and delivering a child that you never get to bring home. We were going to have a baby but we gave birth to an angel instead.



her. He accepted. They have postponed it one year to the date and are looking forward to July 25, 2021.

While in lockdown, Bruce and Brie attempted online teaching with varying levels of success.

Bruce also turned 30 this year and celebrated with a family whiskey tasting party. Four rounds of tasting that ended in another playoff round. Awesome!

For most of the spring and summer, Bruce and Brie stayed at their home and saved money, which enabled them to buy a house in October!

Both Bruce and Brie signed continuing contracts in the Nanaimo School District, with Brie teaching Genocide Studies and Indigenous Support at Dover Bay Secondary, luckily just steps away from their new house.

Brie was also accepted into a Masters Degree program in counseling and uses Bruce as a test subject so she can practice. She will be the go-to counselor within the Biro and Forbes family.

She will be very busy. Bruce travels to the south end of Nanaimo and is teaching Grade 7 at Fairview Elementary. When permitted by the Provincial Health officer Bruce and Kevin continue to coach baseball with the Parksville Royals.

Youngest Kevin continues to work in a managerial role for his K-9 security company. Kevin is busy dealing with the challenges presented when his staff takes "sick" days in the middle of

a pandemic. He even had a K-9 dog named Jazz for a while so he could fill in shifts when needed.

The holidays for the Biro family will be low key with small Bonnie Henry approved encounters. Christmas will look different this year, with bubbles remaining small as the boys and their partners work in the public service sectors. Nonetheless, the holidays will be enjoyed, and everyone is looking forward to 2021.



Brooklyn



Milestones for 2020

Deaths

Uncle Bill Christie
Saylor Biro

Celebrating 60

Margaret Colbourne
Don Layfield
Tina Oliver

Celebrating 50

Michelle

Celebrating 30

Bruce Biro
Kasandra Christie
Scott Constable
Sarah Constable
Alexander Oliver
David Adams
Beth Christie

Celebrating 20

Derek McBean
Caitlyn Fox
Maiah Forbes

Born 2020

Sadie Eloise Hamilton
June 22nd
Eric William Browes
July 13th

Remembering William James Christie

One of my fondest memories of Dad was of him tapping the barometer before forecasting the weather. I think he took a look at the forecast for 2020 and decided to take an early exit. I'm thankful that he blessed his family in his passing, just as he did throughout the rest of his life.

Somehow, he picked a day when all of his children and his beloved wife were able to have one last family gathering at his bedside. It was an intimate moment I will cherish forever. I often think of it as I see how Covid has stolen those precious rites of passage from so many other families this year.

Dad was at his heart a teacher. He spent his life imparting knowledge into those who were wise enough to receive it. He intentionally taught me many practical things, such as how to tie a knot and how to spell (although that skill was never really apprehended to his satisfaction).

But mostly, he taught by example. He didn't just preach love and generosity or how to serve those in need... or at least how to serve someone who may have a beer, he demonstrated it.

He didn't spout trendy opinions or demand adherence to a standard no one could achieve. Instead, he knew who he was, what was right, and lived his convictions with honesty, sincerity, and a sense of humor.

Not that he had any compulsion to abide by a strict adherence to the law. Instead, he pursued his recreational activities with reckless abandon, which made the formative years of our generation full and exciting.

A literary major, he was a classical romantic at heart. We didn't go on vacations, we went exploring! A boat ride was a pirate adventure, a hike as a quest for lost Incan gold, a rustic cabin in the woods was somehow transformed in our minds into a knight's stronghold.

He'd quote classical poems and reference ancient legends to create a sense of nobility and a place in the continuity of history. And do it all with his own quirky, humorous flair.

I admired him greatly and never more so when faced with a difficult ethical, moral, or troubling dilemma. He always seemed to work out solutions that were a measure of his wisdom and love. Both my parents had this ability, and I see the same traits in my siblings, so they clearly had the ability to pass it on.

He even taught us how to die with dignity. Alzheimer's is a cruel disease that torments its victims and their loved ones with a slow, relentless progression. But Dad was able to

handle it not just with stoicism but also with humor and grace.

Right up to the end, Dad greeted anyone who came with a smile. Even if he couldn't get the words out, the twinkle in his eye told you everything you needed to know.

And in the end, he escaped Covid's treachery and cheated Alzheimer's out of its prolonged indignity, passing peacefully into a joyous reunion with his parents and the siblings who had gone before him. Where even now, the old stories are being retold.

