



Volume 21 • Issue A

February 2023

## The Quarantine is Over... "Let's get out and do Something!"

### 2023 Christie Screech

It's been a couple of years since we attempted a written version of the Screech, so welcome back. It's clear from reading the family editorials that we're all eager to put Covid19 behind us or at least learn to adapt to it. One thing is crystal clear... we're ready to travel.

Families have been venturing near and far together with friends and some with family groups. That's encouraging and certainly nothing new for the Christie's. Our parents have travelled the world many times together as larger entourages. We've all seen the photos and cherished the many souvenirs that are now collecting dust somewhere in our archives. Good times were had then and great times are in our future travels.

Travel plans for our cousins this year include all parts of Canada, Hawaii, Mexico, Europe, South Africa, Australia, the USA and this list goes on. We should think about creating a network to advertise the proposed adventures so that others could join in. There can be loads more fun when we band together.

Family trips that have been suggested for consideration: a cruise, Nashville, Kentucky Bourbon Tour, golfing in Phoenix or Palm Springs, revisiting our roots in Scotland. Why not throw some ideas out to the large family unit and those who wish to join can take the plunge.

It's a new way to gather beyond the local family events. The question was posed to everyone about future family events. Here's the suggestions that were received and are presented in alphabetical order.



*Hanging out at the beach in the 40's and Japan in the 70's*

- **East Van Brewery Tour**  
Bob is the organizer
- **Family Crib Tournament**  
Uncle Russell is in charge
- **Family Cruise**  
Deb and Dan to arrange
- **Family Picnic**  
Tina and Margaret to source out a suitable location
- **Girl Cousins Adventure**  
Joanne, Colleen, Freda
- **Golf Tournament**  
Doug, Stewart and Joanne
- **Golf Vacation**  
Susan H and Daryl sourcing this out

- **Pickle Ball Tournament at Uncle Mac and Auntie Bonnie's**  
Organized by all the Family Pickled Ballers

We've had some family members offer to start the ball rolling on the East Van Brewery Tour, the Family Picnic and a Golf Tournament.

The rest of the names are strong recommendations based on interest and strengths. All of these are possibilities for 2023 so stayed tuned and feel free to bust out with something new and fun. Happy travels. Patty

## Marco casts Moira in the remake of “Brady for 80” replacing Jane Fonda.

*Freda’s PR firm considers a lucrative contract representing the Freedom Convoy Movement.*

### Mo & Bill

Mum and dad are still celebrating the first grandchild’s wedding (Cole and Maeg). Dad’s personal trainer helped to ensure he “danced at the wedding”, not a dry Colbourne eye in the crowd!

Mom is working on her golf game, trying to keep up with Oliver, Stew, Jack and Cole... and in garden “talking to her roses” or watching field hockey games of grand nieces or grand children when she is not dancing with dad.

Bill turns 90 this February!

### The Matthews Crew

Marg and Bruce have enjoyed a particularly awesome past few years of “the COVID”, as despite hosting their own “super-spreader” event last Christmas, they have managed to share some wonderful experiences with family and close friends.

As newly minted retirees, they curated their very own special “Seniors Tour” with both sets of grandparents, to Cape Breton to attend Jack’s graduation ceremony from the Canadian Coast Guard College last June. Jack is now aboard ship every other month based in Canada’s central region of the Great Lakes and St Lawrence Seaway.

Meaghan and her partner Brian have been more closely ensconced on the North Shore with Meag taking on an emergency nursing role in the Emergency Dept. at St Paul’s

Hospital.

The general theme for the Colbourne-Matthews clan has been to stay close to our mountains and ocean, whether on skis, snowshoes or hiking boots! Hoping to carry on much of the same this upcoming year with some added challenges of pickleball and golf - can’t let Stew get too far ahead ;0)



### Barb and Mike Hodges Family

2022 has been a year of transitions for the Hodges clan.

Gwen continues to live in Victoria and is pursuing her post-secondary education at the University of Victoria, though has shifted her major from education to the medical arena. No doubt there will be challenges ahead!

In September, the family went on a road trip which ended with Grace happily moved into residence at McGill University in Montreal, where she is enrolled in the Political Science program.

Grace also chose to play Field Hockey for McGill, which meant an unexpected but

fun road trip to Toronto for Barb to cheer her on against UofT.

Christina is now enjoying life as an ‘only’ child and looking ahead to potential post-secondary opportunities. With two kids in university and another one on the horizon, Mike and Barb both continue to work full-time, but are enviously watching the growing number of retirees around them and definitely taking notes.

### Stewart and Jackie

In August 2022 Stew retired from the Fire Department after 34 years, and has taken up golf on a full-time basis, he tells Jackie he is going to “work”. When the weather isn’t cooperating for golf, Stew and Jackie



join the other retirees on the pickleball court and bike rides.

Oliver is still enjoying working in Supply Chain Management at KPMG and is happy to be back in the office a few days a week. Oliver has done a bit of travel this year, and was happy to visit his best friend in Boston and see the Yale-Harvard football game.

Ellen is loving teaching kindergarten, and when she has time off she visits her boyfriend Quentin in Arizona - visiting Arizona in the summer - it must be love! Ellen's best friend from Germany came for a visit and they had a great time touring around Vancouver and Vancouver Island.

## The Moro Clan

It was a year of lows and then super HIGHS!! I'll start with the low. Eldest son Cole had open heart surgery last January to correct a defected aortic valve. It was quite a scare but everything went well and now he is the proud owner of a mechanical heart valve ticking away. He had to give up hockey, but took up golf in a big way and continues to cycle, canoe and waterski.

The HIGH was the entire Colbourne Clan came to Ontario in the summer to celebrate Cole and Maegan's wedding on August 12th the first marriage of the Colbourne grandchildren! Younger brother Marco was best man and cousin Oliver was a groomsman. Marco is finishing his final year of film at the Toronto Metropolitan University and hopes to be out in the real and reel world in April trying to find a job in film! Joe and Freda are not among the Colbourne and Christie retirees... still slugging it out with the working masses.



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

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## THE BIG MAC TIMES

# Classified Documents denying climate change found in Oil and Gas Executive's Residence Mac flees country and buys Tesla stock to throw off suspicions

### Mac and Bonnie

Mac, Bonnie and Michelle are presently on the High Seas again finally cruising from Melbourne to Auckland.

A holiday turned recovery time for Mac as he started the New Year with a fall that left him in the hospital until his 84th birthday on Jan 5th with a concussion, broken wrist and bruises but true to his nature he soldiered on 5 days later to Australia.

Mac had visited Gordon at Casa Christie in June managing to time it with Hurricane Bonnie's arrival and he managed to experience both torrential rain and sun. He, Bonnie and Joanne also tried to visit me in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua on a cruise last January but like cousin Dan Christie later in the year their cruises canceled their stops to Nicaragua.

### Joanne and John

The year of 2022 had its up and downs. John has started with a new Electric truck company and doing very well. Maybe that's why he bought himself an electric mountain bike, his passion for mountain biking has been revived.

Joanne has been working at 2 medical fields and taking courses a BCIT for more computer and administration training in the

cosmetic surgical office. Going to run the place soon.

They travelled to watch field hockey in Calgary and a relax trip with Danielle to Plan springs to relax. Danielle is in her 4th year at UBC in the Sociology program and playing Varsity field hockey. It has been fun having her Auntie Moe come out to the games at UBC, especially when they are against her cousin Ellen.

Derek is in his 4.5-5th year at Trent in Biology degree. He is close to graduating and has inspiration to continue his studies in another direction - Film and writing.

The family has a few trips in visit the McBeans in Toronto at Thanksgiving and a trip upcoming in February.

### Michelle

Michelle has been working away in Kelowna and growing her family of animals to include a cute miniature mule. Hopefully she will be returning to the Lower Mainland this year.

### Gordon

Dylan had an active and eventful 2022 managing to work long spells at Intensive Care & Emergency Wards and several



week-long holidays visiting his grandparents in Vancouver and Hawaii where he proposed to his long-time girlfriend Amy. They both hosted me for 6 weeks in London and Dylan and I managed to get away to Italy for 10 days. Afflicted with the same disease as his grandfather any spare time is spent at the golf course with Mac or I becoming useful caddies as he approaches scratch golf.

I finished building the 3 condos called Casa-Christie in 2021 and have been renting 2 of them and living in the other. I am still working towards building more Condos but this new career in a new country has presented new problems so the battle goes on with 2023 hopefully the year of new construction. Lots of people from all over Canada in my town and hopefully some of the family will come visit soon.  
casachristie.net

Feliz Ano Nuevo Christie Clan



## Christy is tits up sporting a new set of Rockets!

### Susan shelters a homeless runaway from Vancouver Island.

#### Russell

2022 The year of many changes. Most significant was Grandpa Russell had to finally move out of his house. He had many trips to the emergency ward and then could not be left alone. Vanessa had just left her job, and her basement suite was empty, so Grampa moved in there in March. So far, he is thriving there, happy working in her garden and playing with their dog and with Jack and Mila.

We finally sold 312 Laurentian Cres in October, of course Dad is sad, but he does realize that he cannot live alone anymore. He is always looking for visitors or playing crib, so feel free to go and visit him.

#### The Herndier's

This year was going to finally be a year to travel after all the Covid restrictions of the past 2 years.

We managed to go to Phoenix for a couple of weeks of golfing, with Susan and Rob. We also met up Danny and Elaine for some fun golfing and dinners while in Phoenix. We did some fun camping trips in spring and early summer to Washington State.

I then got diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a full mastectomy in August. Absolute great news, no Chemo or radiation needed as it was non invasion. Daryl dropped me off at a surgical unit. He got the call 3 1/2 hours later to come get

me, barely time for his coffee. There I was, sporting a new set of amazing boobs!

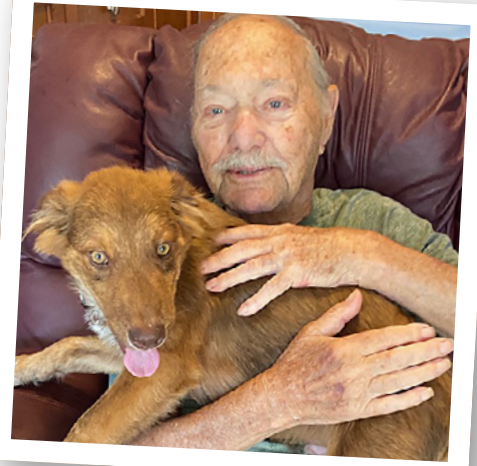
We did a lovely week in late September while I was recovering to Lasqueti Island and spent time with Patty and Steve, Bill and Georgia and Jamie and Steve. It was very relaxing, enjoyed the prawning, wonderful dinners and playing cards We also did a mini vacation to Las Vegas, and surprisingly came home with some money!

Daryl is still enjoying his volunteering at the fish hatchery, doing odd jobs for friends and family, and always has time for his many weeks of solo camping and fishing.

Lauren and Ryan have busy working schedules and spend lots of time playing soccer, doing yoga and hiking with their dog Franklin.

They have recently purchased an investment property in Playa del Carmen Mexico. It will be completed this spring and will be an VRBO – If anyone is planning to go there, it looks amazing!

Vanessa and Cody also have very busy lives, with Vanessa acquiring another dependant- "Grandpa". He put himself in charge of the yard work. This mainly involved him pulling out many of her beautiful flowers, over watering the vegetables and cutting down large shrubs. The kids stay very busy with school, friends and sports. Jack



plays soccer and lacrosse, while Mila does gymnastics and soccer.

Cody continues to work as a foreman at the dock. In their free time, they enjoy working out, hiking, going on jeep adventures and camping. They also decided to rescue a puppy from Texas. "Tex" is a very high energy Australian Shepard x who enjoys eating stuffed animals, digging holes and giving aggressive hugs.

Wishing everyone a very healthy, happy, adventurous 2023.

#### The Adam's Family

Another busy year for the Adams' family.

Eric and Alysha have settled into their new townhouse in Langley and spent most of last year renovating and updating the floors and kitchen, all of the work done by Eric and a few friends. Eric surprised Alysha in October, taking her away for a weekend in Sooke and proposing! Wedding date TBA.

Adrienne and Jeff are still happily living in East Vancouver just a couple of blocks from 2457. Adrienne finished law school in April and jumped right in to her year of articles with Clark Wilson downtown.



continued on next page



She wrote the BAR exams in December and passed. She will finish up with Clark Wilson in May and is hoping to be kept on as an associate.

Dave and Stef celebrated 1 year of marriage in October but decided to have another big celebration with all of their friends. It was called the "Sham Wedding", and they rented a kids camp complete with bunkhouses, fun games and a disco dress up dance party which was just as crazy as it sounds.

Julia finished her residency at UBC Victoria at the end of June. Took a few months off to come to our annual Christina Lake camp trip and attend the Sham Wedding before starting her career as a family practitioner in Port Alberni.

Rob and Susan managed to escape for a few trips, one to Portugal with Dave, Stef and Julia where we biked across the Algarve for 360km, a very hilly area... thank god for e-bikes, (for the 2 elders only) We would have never made it otherwise.

Finally went to Africa and went on Safari, and did manage to see the big 5! Wish we would have stayed longer especially in Cape Town, it's really a beautiful city!



## LAYFIELD LEDGER

### Doug diagnosed with dementia after coaching children to play for fun, and not to win Sandra petitioning court for Power of Attorney

*It has been a couple of years since the Layfield Ledger gave an update on all the happenings of the Layfield Clan. Weddings, birth, travel and surgeries all mixed in with daily life has kept us all active and aware of how lucky we are.*

#### Doug and Jacquie

Doug is still working at Metro Ford and recently was promoted to the big boss. Hopefully this will not cut down on his delivery of cars and trucks to other locations. He has enjoyed delivering cars to different areas of the province where he is able to visit some of his cousins and have some nice visits with them.

Now that the restrictions have been lifted Doug and Jacquie see the grandkids more. Doug has enjoyed coaching Channing at baseball and has tried to encourage the kids to have fun playing the sport. They had a good year and came second in the league. Brad is still involved with Special O and enjoys playing basketball, and is an incredible bowler. He must have got the bowling genes from his great grannie Christie.

#### Don and Brenda

With travel still having restrictions in 2021, Don and Brenda decided to do a complete overhaul on their home. It is now complete and Don has said it's the last time



he is doing any changes. Luckily he has a sister and nieces who require his carpentry services.

Once the borders opened up they packed their trailer and headed south to Arizona for the winter. It is always a nice break to relax in the warmth and get away from the rainy Maple Ridge weather. Brenda got away this summer to spend time in Ontario, and so Don didn't get bored Sister Sandra had a request to completely redo and expand her deck and enclose a storage shed underneath.

This winter was a change instead of Arizona they have rented a condo in Playa



del Carmen for 2 months, to just relax in the sun, and take day trips and experience the relaxing lifestyle of Mexico.

**Carol**

Lots of changes happened in the past couple of years. October 2021, Madison married Daniel in a beautiful wedding, and a few months later in March, Emily married Draven outside at the Rose Garden in Queens Park. For this occasion Carol wore grannie Layfields fur stole. So in a few short years Carol now has 3 sons.

Like Don, once the travel restrictions were lifted Carol took advantage and has travelled to Montreal a few times, stayed in an Ice hotel, visited Polar Bears, and travelled to Cuba.

Jettie is still teaching in Surrey and Brett is doing PDP up at SFU. Pretty soon there will be 2 teachers in the family. Madison is now working in the new Geriatric Psychiatric wing at RCH and Daniel is busy working with the homeless providing medical care. Emily and Draven moved to Tofino but their dreams ended quickly when the restaurant Draven was working at burned down and then the house that provided power and water to their trailer also burned down so they have moved back to the lower mainland. Once again Carol has all her children nearby.

**Sandra**

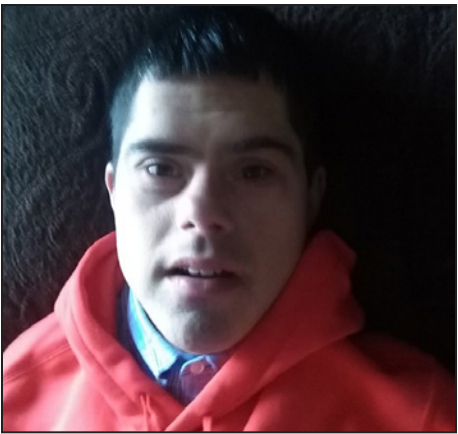
2022 started out with Timothy finally getting his palette surgery. He came thru it like a champ and is now able to eat solid food, and is starting to figure out how his

mouth works and is developing sounds and words.

May 1 came around and now it's time to celebrate turning 60. We all had a great day playing on dirt bikes and quads in the back track. Had a girl trip up to Balfour to celebrate all of us turning 60. What a lovely spot right on the lake.

Summer was spent renovating the deck. It took a bit longer when Amanda went back to work early from Mat leave to take a new job at RCH. Now I had two littles to look after. Thank goodness Don was patient and worked alone or around my schedule. In the fall I went up to Powell River to sit on the ocean at my girlfriends and watch the whales go by. It was a spectacular sight to see that many whales.

Lots of changes but so much has stayed the same. We all appreciate our health and happiness and wish the same for all your families. So from our family to yours may 2023 bring you health, happiness and lots of joy.



## Port Coquitlam Retirement Center bracing themselves for an incoming “Bridge Ringer”

### Kay Christie

Kay has finally reached the place where she's ready to leave the old homestead to enjoy the comforts of the Astoria Retirement Living Centre in Port Coquitlam. The thing she says she will miss most is being able to entertain her myriad of relatives. She also loves visits from her nieces and nephews, so if you want one last look at 706, drop in and visit Auntie Kay.

### Buchanan

In the fall of 2021, Mark and I launched a program of recovery and healing for Indigenous women on Keats Island. I'm thankful for enough time on Lasqueti to prepare me for this adventure. Keats is smaller than Lasqueti, with sadly no 'store', or bakery, but thankfully also no pub or marijuana plantation, so it makes it a fairly safe place for women walking free from addictions. Our pilot project, (7 months) ended in April with 2 graduates. It was an exciting day of celebration with family members travelling many miles to attend. I'm happy to report, both these women are still walking the road of sobriety and healing.

We returned to Alberta in May, and began planning for year two. A few trips to the Okanagan to visit kids and start preparing the ground, literally, on our retirement property outside of Enderby/Armstrong.

The month of July we were able to travel back to France, to finish the research we began in March 2020. We combined historical research with the appropriate amount of wine, cheese, baguette and croissant research while exploring beaches on both the west and south coast of France.



August we packed up again, and headed back to BC to begin year two of our recovery program. This year we have 5 women in various stages of recovery, including one of last year's graduates who came back to be an intern/assistant with the program.

Although my program was initially geared for women in their 20's and 30's, this year I have an elder from a Northern Ontario Nation who asked if she could come. She brings much wisdom and great humour to our little community.

Our kids continue to be scattered hither and yon, but occasionally touch down in our lives and give us some quality time. Sarah and her partner Wini finally travelled back to North America from their home in Taiwan, for a two-month road trip down the west coast. It had been almost 3 years since we had seen her in the flesh so it was such a wonderful time to reconnect. They returned to Taiwan in October, and will begin in January, a 6-month world tour.

Adam and Keaton moved from Lumby to Revelstoke, always looking for the best skiing location. Adam landed his dream job this winter, combining his two loves, videography and forestry. After many years of fighting and then investigating wild fires, he now works at a provincial level creating video content for BC Wildfires for both training and promotion.

Nicola and Chad continue to work and play in Victoria and surrounding areas. They travelled to Costa Rica in the spring. Nicola switched dental offices this fall, and is very happy with her new work environment. We were very happy to have Nicola and Chad as well as Adam (Keaton's flight was cancelled) join us on Keats Island for Christmas.

Mark has been living in two places this fall, as his university in Calgary wanted him teaching in class more this year. Between travelling back and forth between Calgary and Keats Island he completed his second novel in the David trilogy, and fairly far along on his novel on Le Chambon, the village in France we were researching.



All in all 2022 was a full and productive year, and we are very grateful not to have any major health issues.

### Boss News

2022 was an exciting year. My documentary Pat Rocco Dared premiered at the Whistler Film Festival in December of '21, and has made it into over 40 festivals around the world in '22, picking up several awards along the way. It was great to see this story that I had been trying to complete



for over a decade, finally make it to the screen, and into the hearts of audiences in so many different places (Serbia, Australia, Argentina, Mexico, UK, Taiwan...) I wasn't able to make it to many of the screenings, but closer to home it played in Toronto, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Ross, who was the project's biggest supporter for so many years, came to Toronto and LA, so we were able to celebrate in style together.

I spent much of the year working on a big budget feature documentary a friend directed, that reveals “untold story of lululemon.” It was a lot of fun. Among other things, it was a fascinating glimpse into the life of a certain

controversial Vancouver billionaire, which included lots of travel in the USA, and even a couple flights on his private jet. That film will be out in the Fall of '23.

Ross' work at The National Film Board is starting to return to normal after the pandemic; he was very busy traveling to education conferences across the country once again. When we weren't galivanting around for work, we were running away to the cabin we have in our friend's queer camping commune North of Pemberton. With no internet or cell service, it's a magical place to escape from the city. If we disappear entirely one day, you will likely find us there.

## Randy

While I read about all my cousins retiring, I'm still enthusiastically pursuing my dream of getting wide adoption of our environmentally-friendly water treatment systems. To this end, in 2022, we started ecoToken (eco-token.io), a cryptocurrency designed to fund innovative green technology. Well, I don't have to tell you what happened in the cryptocurrency/NFT space.



Nevertheless, we took what we learned and, with a partner, formed the waterDAO to produce "Regenerative Water" (rh2o.app). RH2O is a water credit, similar to a carbon credit. The water credit has been met with great enthusiasm from, among other groups, prominent Silicon Valley firms who are feeling the pressure to reduce the amount of water they are taking from drought-plagued regions.

We are excited that our first project employs an innovative desalination technology that can produce very inexpensive potable water from seawater powered by a solar panel.

Meanwhile, when I'm not trying to save the world, I still love seeing as much of that world as possible from the top of a mountain. Carolann and I are planning a tour of BC this summer to scale peaks in areas we haven't yet explored. In between, we have several half-marathons scheduled, plus a trip to visit my new granddaughter in Hamilton during spring break.

Dave's crew continues to thrive. They had a great time at family camp with a very pregnant Aunty Beth and Uncle Darryl. Dave changed employers in 2022, moving to Starwest lending his talents to ensure that Uncle Mac's legacy is an ongoing success.

Rob, Jenelle and their family moved back to North Bay, Ontario, to keep the Canadian Airforce operating smoothly. Jacquie and Jeremy are excelling at competitive swimming. Jeremy is looking forward to graduating this year.

Sean is winding up his tenure as



guardian of his grandmother and her estate on Newport Street. He is thankful that he had the chance to be with grandpa and grandma during their later years. Sean kept the lawns mowed and the driveway shoveled, although never loving it quite as much as his grandpa did. He added when I think of "home," I'll always think of 706. Sean has agreed to work with his dad in 2023, keeping my eclectic group of businesses operating smoothly.

Beth decided to take some time off from catching other people's babies and blessed the family with a baby of her own. On November 18, 2022, Eliana Marie Davies became an official member of the Christie Clan (and already a first-rate screecher).

Beth and Darryl bought a lovely home in Hamilton, where Darryl can set up a home office and work remotely for most of the week as he scales the corporate ladder at TD Bank.



## REMEMBERING ROBBIE FORBES

### Robert Malcolm Forbes aka Robmac, Big Rob, Codfish, Rob the Cod and The Colonel

Rob was born on February 9th, 1954 in Vancouver, BC and raised on Lasqueti Island. Throughout his life, Lasqueti remained one of Rob's most cherished places. It was where Rob met his wife Coral of 43 years, and where Rob taught his cousins, siblings, children, nieces and nephews how to jig for cod, shiners, perch, and dogfish with not much more than a piece of kindling and fishing line. From childhood he was happiest out on the water just fishing for fun.

Robbie was the third child born to the Patricia and Peter Forbes and was the younger brother to Jean and Bill, and older brother to Patty. Rob was much quieter in nature than his older siblings, making him definitely more Forbes than Christie in character.

He was watchful, a bit shy and preferred to remain unnoticed. He had an amazing smile and approached life with a calm and good-natured manner. Growing up on Lasqueti was great for Rob. The island was an adventure playground for all of us. Rob relished his time in the woods and on the water. His childhood nickname was "Codfish" mostly because of his huge blue eyes but also because of his skill as a fisherman. Those big eyes also came in handy for swimming. Rob could swim underwater from the dock all the way to the beach. He'd emerge from the water huge eyes wide open.

Very early in his life Rob would take Granny Christie fishing in the old clinker and would often be called upon to stand be-

tween Granny and Uncle Jimmy as they jousting with their fishing rods. Rob would just laugh it off and continue to steer the boat, and net their fish.

Rob taught a lot of us to fish when we were younger and many of our cousins continued to return to Lasqueti and Rob would be there to take them fishing. Daryl and Christy always appreciated the time Rob would spend out on the water with them. Daryl commented, "Rob was always good to me, as is all of the Forbes family. We could spend hours in his boat and just lose track of time while we were talking. The lines would just hang there sometimes."

Auntie Kay mentioned how much she enjoyed Rob on her last visit to Lasqueti in 2020. Rob went out daily to gather prawns from the traps, as well as salmon and cod to feed to his Auntie Kay and good family friends Barb Waugh and Jane Strang. He took great pride in his role of the "Provider," of seafood delicacies for our summer guests. Rob had a soft heart for the family elders and it pleased him to be able to enrich their vacation.

**Randy Christie:** One spring break, my parents headed to Hawaii, and I found myself on Lasqueti. While there, Robbie took Patty and me up Mount Tremerton. I was in awe that my older cousin would take me to such a fantastic place. To this day, sitting up there on the mossy banks looking out at stunning views evokes that memory. I credit Rob for instilling my love of climbing mountains.

Later in my teen years, Rob demonstrated his generosity (stupidity?) when he let Don Layfield use his MG during the fishing season. Patty, Don and I had a great summer putting miles on the convertible – a much sweeter ride than any of the vehicles our parents provided at the time.

I recall, around the same time, Rob took aside some idiot who was giving me a hard time. Rob set him straight, explaining that I was family and any further provocation would be answerable to him.

It was clear that Rob never lost his appreciation for his heritage. During one of the last fall fishing trips I went on with dad, Rob and I sat down for a conversation. He

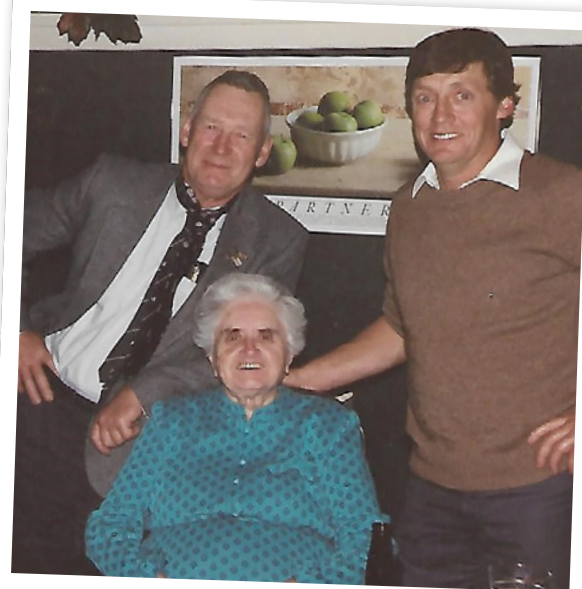


told me in what high esteem he held my mother. I think he was trying to say that in a family where kindness often comes disguised as an insult, he appreciated that she showed him love without a filter.

**Helen Wood** also had a soft spot for Robbie as he was one of her only older cousins. Where Bill was too scary, Robbie was quiet and kind to her. She admitted to having a little crush on her older cousin.

Many of our cousins recalled playing cards in the dining room at Lasqueti. We were all loud and boisterous. Rob sometimes would join in the games and play his quiet game. We loved to play hearts and we all knew that Rob would go for control and would get it more times than any of us despite our efforts to prevent that from happening. He was patient and smart and frequently kicked our butts at cards.

Rob started commercial fishing at a young age with our dad and brother Bill. In his 20's he became the captain and proud owner of the Lasqueti Isle. Rob travelled the



BC coast in search of salmon and herring.

**Bill Forbes:** When a guy has so many nicknames you know that he's made some kind of an impression.

Our old neighbor once told me that you have to make a mark on this world before you go. Rob made his fair share. An old Jeep commercial phrase said, "Jeep wrote the book on 4-wheel drive," when Rob had his little red jeep, he added a few more chapters in Jeep history.

When Rob went hunting with Uncle Tom, Rob would take off the V-Belt on the engine before fording a creek or a river. This way the fan wouldn't shower the engine with water and stall it out. On the other side if there was a high bank to climb Rob would pull the cable on his winch up to a tree and yank himself up and over the bank. Rob worshipped his Uncle Tom.

Rob was a good fisherman, both salmon and herring. He also excelled as a sports fisherman. No doubt about it, he could catch fish. One of his favourite spots was Whales Channel in the Great Bear Rainforest. He worked the shoreline from the water fall all the way up to Cummings Point. This was the same grounds that our dad worked and where he taught us both how to fish salmon. There's a stage of the tide shortly after the start of the flood that's called the "RIP." If you catch it just right you can get a really good set, Lots of fish! Rob definitely had the patience to wait for this to happen and he was fortunate to get some very nice big sets there.

Sometimes however, the RIP gets you and it never plays fair. Our Uncles always told us, "There's no such thing as a fair fight." Rob got caught in the RIP one time. The tide wrapped the net around the Lasqueti Isle and pushed the whole works up the beach. Deep water runs right up to the shore which is basically a cliff. Only thing though is there are a few windfall trees leaning over the water. The tide pushed the Lasqueti Isle under a few of these trees and wiped out some radio antennas. The plexi-glass on the dodger took a beating and the top steering station and hydraulic plumbing just got hammered. With some effort Rob got the net back, but his top side steering was screwed and he didn't have the parts to fix it. He called me, his big brother, up and gave me his shopping list. One of the many things our father taught us was "the art of Haywire," and Rob was very good at it. Finesse and attention to fine detail was not his strong point, but he could definitely haywire things back together. By the time we met up I had scrounged

up what he needed and Rob was back in business in no time.

Years later the Lasqueti Isle was getting rebuilt in Scottie Bay expanded hull, new engine and a big new stern. The old man, Tom Millicheap and Mike Taylor did a beautiful job. They turned a good boat into a really good boat. Rob must have pissed off Mike one day. Mike marched up to Rob and explained to him that a cutting torch is not a hammer, or a scraper or a pry bar. Rob just looked at Mike and said, "so." Rob didn't really care what other people thought of his methods. He did his own things, his way, like it or lump it. That's why we called him the Colonel. The Cod aka the Colonel carved his own path.

**Don Layfield remembers:** My best memory of Cousin Rob was that he gave me my first full time job working on the Lasqueti Isle, I had just graduated from high school. I was extremely nervous as I had never worked on the fish boats before. That summer we started with a crew of 5, I was the cook and deck hand, Rob was skipper, cousin Rick Jeffries was beach man his friend Kevin was the Skiff-man and one of the locals from Lasqueti was drum-man. We had a blast that summer the work was long and hard but I got to see how amazing our coastline is in B.C. When the summer



ended Rick and his friend headed back to school and one of my school friends Glen came out as the skiff-man and I took over as beachman. I spent the next couple of years fishing with Rob and almost always had a good time. I will always remember the good times whether it was fishing or hunting, Rob always made it fun.

As a young boy Rob developed an avid interest in playing soccer. Every Saturday he would travel from False Bay to French Creek on the Captain Vancouver to play soccer in Parksville. When the family moved to Coquitlam Rob continued to play soccer for the Belair Soccer club. As an adult Rob continued to play. He was a member of Comox Valley United Soccer Club for many years. Although a small man, Rob was a big presence on the pitch. He excelled as a central midfielder who could proudly kick the ball with both feet - a skill he passed along to his children and to the many young players he coached. Rob was a faithful fan of Liverpool FC, and was



known to quote their slogan “Never walk alone” to his children during tough times.

**Doug Layfield** also remembers his older cousin. I was about ten when my dad dragged me up to Blue Mountain Park in Coquitlam to watch cousin Rob play soccer, while he wasn't the biggest guy on the pitch, no one played with a bigger heart. Six years later I got to work for Rob on the Lasqueti Isle. To my surprise when we ended up in Oceans Falls, a port with no pub, we go play soccer. Another life lesson from Rob happened one summer when my dad was on strike. Our family spent a month at Lasqueti and every day at 3:00pm the kids would all get kicked off the porch because it was cocktail hour.

One afternoon a hippie paddled across the bay to tell Auntie Pat that her laundry out to dry on the close line ruined his view. The hippie called it “visual pollution.” Well cousin Rob was not too friendly to the hippies at the best of times; Rob came out from house with a shotgun and walked towards this fellow on the beach and calmly but firmly reminded him that he was trespassing and had better paddle his ass back across the bay. Funny thing is, that same hippy actually tried to get a job with Rob a few years later. Can't say that the request was met with a favourable result.

I worked as cook for Rob and one day I gave Rob day old coffee. We learned not to waste anything from working for Uncle Russell at Playland. Well, the coffee went overboard. Rob never really got mad, he just got even. He would make me cook when I was seasick. That was awful but you



didn't dare complain. Another time I was at the wheel and feeling ill so I went out back to puke. I noticed that the back of boat was under water. I thought I was going to die. Rob looked at me and laughed he turned boat around and bucked into sea and the water ran off. He saved the day and was cool as a cucumber about it. I was impressed.

I did eventually get even with Rob. We were docked in Port Alberni. I was too young to drink so the boys headed off to the bar and I stayed back on the boat grateful to catch up on some sleep. Those 4-day openings would drain you. Hours later I was woken up by this ruckus on board. It's Rob and he's sitting in the galley soaking wet as he fell in the water trying to get on the boat. He's shivering so I offered to make him coffee. Rob replied, “not your coffee,” and then decided to sit on the stove to warm up. Well, he burned his ass and couldn't sit for a week. Lesson learned; he should have taken the coffee.

**Joanne (Christie) McBean** commented: I will always have a favourite memory of being a human taco, when Rob would roll Gord and me up in our single mattresses and sit on us.

Robbie was also an avid hunter. He learned to hunt as a young boy at Lasqueti alongside dad and his uncles. There was a rule about hunting, if you killed it you have to eat it. Rob was quite small in stature. Our Nana Forbes understood that the best skill Rob could learn would be to cook, that way he could earn his spot on the crew of a fish boat. She helped him to hone his skills as a cook. One day Rob shot a cormorant. Nana, insisted that this bird be cooked as Rob had shot it. Together they prepared the bird with a fancy dish similar to duck a l'orange. Rob made a huge deal about how delicious this dish tasted and that he didn't want to share it with the rest of the family.

Well of course that piqued our interests and we begged him to share the catch. He suckered us all in, the bloody bird tasted like low tide. It was just awful. He was grinning ear to ear. He got us good. Some years later he graduated from birds, deer and sheep hunting at Lasqueti to joining Uncle Tom on moose hunting trips in northern BC. These northern trips became annual



events that included John Weighill, Bill, PJ, Robert, Bruce and Heather and let's not forget Craig Christie whose home is still frequently invaded by the Coastal Cousins.

**Jean:** My baby brother Rob was a cheerful little boy who actually thought he was a Wamer kid. The Wamers were our closest neighbors on Lasqueti. Rob spent days and often nights next door at their place. He would climb trees, build forts, catch frogs and pack wood. This was a life long friendship as Rob and his family camped and fished together with the Wamers for years.

When Rob was 15, I married John and provided Rob with a new hunting and fishing partner. Together they hunted, fished, trapped and snowshoed in the Pine Pass in addition to hunting and fishing on Cortes Island, Port Renfrew, Lake Cowichan, Lasqueti and the annual trips to northern BC to hunt moose. He was a good brother and I miss knowing he's there.

Rob was a keen wildlife spotter – a skill honed while moose hunting that he made excellent use of during a family vacation to Kenya and Tanzania. His eagle eye scanned the Serengeti for lions, elephants, and warthogs, much to the joy of his wife and kids.

Keen wildlife spotter indeed: I recall taking a fishing trip with Rob, Elliot, Trevor, and Bill on the Lasqueti Sons. We were fishing for chum salmon in the Johnstone Straits. Rob, Bill and I were all sitting up on the dodger scouting for fish. Well, truthfully Rob and Bill were, I was just trying to stay out of the way. Bill had the binoculars out scanning the water. Rob quietly pointed to the shore, “Big Set, look over there close to the shore.” Bill looked through the binoculars and hesitated then looked at me and



said “that little shit can see a fish fart ¼ mile away.” Sure enough, we headed off in the direction to make a set. Rob had a keen eye.

Rob’s skills as a mechanic and engineer were noteworthy. He was very calm and methodical in the care and maintenance of all his equipment. He very easily could have opened a successful small engine repair shop. He most likely didn’t want the pressure of answering to impatient customers. He could tinker with his engines for hours and emerge from the mess with a satisfied grin, covered in grease and greatly resembling someone else we knew.

While Rob often demonstrated no sense of urgency, he was very dependable. In a way he could be considered our unsung hero. He loved to help other people. After retiring from fishing, he starting a small excavating company serving people in Merville and the Courtenay area. He supplied neighbors with firewood, cleared their driveways from snow and assisted with fixing septic fields and yards with drainage problems. After dad died Rob became our Lasqueti maintenance man. He looked af-

ter all our plumbing and electrical issues. He overhauled the septic system and was key in improving our perimeter drainage. He kept mom’s lawn mowers and rototiller running and usually turned the soil over in her garden in the spring and fall. As mom grew older and required more assistance Rob would launch his boat at our place in Deep Bay and head over to help her out. For Rob, fishing regulations did not apply on his way to Lasqueti, only on the way back. He nearly always arrived with a fresh lingcod for her, which she loved. She even dismissed his annoying habit of dumping a whole fish dripping with blood and guts into a clean kitchen sink and announcing, “I have provided.”

When Rob and Coral got married and then had kids, he was very content. The family enjoyed many adventurous camping vacations, trips to sporting events and vacations abroad. Rob and Coral went on an arctic expedition cruise, several trips to Mexico and Molokai. Rob travelled with the Golden Oldies Field Hockey group to Fiji where he donned a skirt, a coconut bra and made a cameo performance as goalie. The high-

light trip though was the family safari to Kenya and Tanzania. Rob carried his digital camera around for months following that trip and shared the photos and experiences with anyone who showed the slightest interest. That trip was a life highlight for him without a doubt.

His kids and grandchildren were his pride and joy. He particularly loved to show off his toys - excavators, ride-on mowers, boats and bobcats

brought delight to his grandchildren. He loved to brag to me about his kids and their countless accomplishments in sports, theatre, university and work. He was incredibly proud of his family and bragged about them to me regularly on his weekly phone calls. He was often accused of being a poor communicator, but he never failed to share the love and pride he had for his family. I miss those phone calls.

**Susan Christie Fraser:** My most recent fond memory of Rob occurred while attending the memorial service for Auntie Pat in Parksville in early 2019. Rob had approached me to let me know that he had “gallantly” conceded cousin position number 3 to me after Cheryl Buchanan had taken it upon herself to make numbered sashes for the “Dirty 30”. If you do not already know, Rob was born in February of 1954. However, in 1960 after my Mom and Dad were married and my brother Michael and I were legally adopted into the Christie Clan. My birthday being Oct.15, 1953 that bumped Rob down to position number 4 on the cousins’ birth order chain. His gentle ribbing of me in typical “Forbes” fashion made me laugh and also made me feel like he truly considered me a “Christie cousin” I am really saddened that his departure from our lives far too soon has officially left me in position number 3 of 29. He will forever occupy a place in my heart.

Robert Malcolm Forbes passed away at the age of 68 on December 18th, 2022 in Victoria, BC. Rob is survived by his wife Coral (Greaves) and his three children, Elliot (Jenice), Heather (Chris) and Kelly (Tim) and two grandchildren, Everett and Maeve. May he find himself a peaceful and fruitful fishing hole.

-Patty



## Ballroom Dancer Plans To Teach Pole Dancing to Sexy Seniors in Nanaimo

### *Craig relocates to Phoenix to launder money generated from anti-climate change lobbyists*

#### Craig Christie

After graduating nursing school in May 2021, Maria, her partner Nolan, and their dog Rocky packed their minivan and moved across the country to Newfoundland! Nolan is completing a graduate degree at Memorial University in St. John's and Maria has started her career as a Registered Nurse on a Neurology floor.

Last year, Maria trained for a completed a half marathon with a LOT of support from her friends and family. This year, she is looking forward to a trip to Italy in May and if she's lucky, maybe even a visit from her good ol' dad in NL if his boss gives him some time off! Lots of love (and room at 'the Inn') from the Rock.

Daughter Kasandra, While also living the life of sin with her Boyfriend Alex and dog Rudy, she continues to work at utility company Fortis and grow fresh herbs & vegetables at her little urban farming business where she often supplies her father with fresh stuff. During the Christmas break of 2022 Kasandra announced that there will be a new member of the Christie Clan arriving in 2023 as we expect the first grandchild in our immediate family.

Not too much to report in Craig's life as he still runs a few businesses from his Prince George base for most of the year and spends a lot of time golfing in warmer climates (Palm Springs/Phoenix) in winter months.

However, in 2022 he was required to fend off a mass invasion, from Forbes family members (Billy/PJ), of his PG Layer and highly secret and Private Moose Hunting Locations. (AKA, Craig Teaching Bill how to hunt!)

#### Dan & Elaine Christie

As of June 2021 Dan & Elaine are now both officially retired. Golf, Pickeball, and travel are the passions now. Lots of cruises, Mexico and Pheonix are the usual. Jaki got here BA at UBCO, enroute to a teaching degree, got a part time job at the bank and never looked back. Now works as a licenced assistant for TD Wealth in Kelowna. Looking forward to Elaine's big 60 this summer.

#### Susan & Colin

It's been 3 years since the onset of COVID and it's probably safe for me to say that almost everyone has more or less experienced many trials, tribulations, adaptations and reworkings of their life plan. Although the pandemic has solicited many negative emotions and reactions amidst a weird political landscape, pervasive housing shortage and food insecurity, mental health and/or addiction crises, crime waves and war crimes and general bad human behavior... I remain the perennial



optimist! I do still believe there is light at the end of the tunnel? However, that tunnel has presented itself to most of us with many twists and turns and therefore that light is hard to see but is there nonetheless.

So, having said that, my family (probably like many of yours) has had a variety of challenges to deal with over the recent years. This has put me in a "bad mood!" (that could be just because I am a "cranky old person") but because I have so much support from my family (special shout out to Deb and Mike and Colleen) I have been able to weather the storms and I really do believe better times are just ahead for all of us.

What this global situation has reinforced in me dear elders, siblings and cousins is just how incredibly important "Family" is during both good and tough times. (I would also venture a guess that all of the members of the 8 Christie families would agree?) I am grateful to be a member of this large clan that affords me the opportunity to honor and celebrate together in both good and sad times.

After the sudden and tragic passing of our dear cousin Rob it is now incumbent upon us to gather yet again together to celebrate his life and show our loving support to his grieving family. Rob was an integral member of this large, loud, sometimes obnoxious but mostly loving family and will surely be lovingly remembered and sorely missed. I am humbly grateful to the "family" I have been blessed with.

On a positive note, Colin got an electric bike last June which has kept him in good health at age 76 and he has resumed doing



his ceramic sculpture as well as being an active member of our strata council as building manager/caretaker. He organized the annual Nanaimo Yacht Club Christmas Craft Fair (Nov.26/22) which successfully donated \$1600 to our local Nanaimo Food Bank in time for the New Year.

I decided last spring that I missed dancing and joined the local Seniors Centre to take up Latin/Ballroom line dancing and joined a Tap Dancing Group (have not tap danced since I was 12) and subsequently made a commitment to myself to continue dancing my way into my 70's ( I will turn 70 this year on Oct.15/23) This is keeping my crowded and sluggish brain on active alert and most importantly it is simply FUN.

I continue to try to get to Yoga classes and hope to maybe teach a class in the near future and do a bit of massage with people who dare to let me put my hands on their bodies once again (retired RMT now since early 2020)

More than anything though, I am happy that my son has returned home to Canada and temporarily living at Deb and Mikes while he gets his life back on track after some setbacks. He keeps in touch with his daughter Merle who is now 4 as I do regularly. She of course is very precious and he misses her immensely. We had our first Christmas with Michael in 6 years and I am grateful for the kindness and generosity of my brother and sister-in-law for this to happen. Thankyou. Thank you!

So, here's to more sunny days ahead dear family and please celebrate with each other, keep on dancing and most importantly have some fun!!

### Colleen Houghton

It was a changing year for our family. Kristi has turned a new leaf and took 4 months off from nursing burnout to travel. The highlight was Trekking in Nepal with her best friend then a relaxing typhoon stay in the Phillipines. She hit a milestone and turned 30 in November.

Kevin (27) has been enjoying his new home in Kelowna and working as a Heavy Machine Operator. He decided to try the camp life and has been working at Brucejack Gold Mine way up North on a 2 week rotation.

Craig (24) is still working at Kingston Construction and hasn't followed us to Kelowna...yet? Colleen is still conveyancing at Royal LePage Kelowna and is relieved the market has finally slowed down.



### Mike & Debbie

Mike and Deb started off the year with a 3-week trip to Ixtapa/Zihuateneho which was amazing and then a 2-week replacement cruise for the Covid cruise they were on in 2020. All went well and thank God no Covid on board.

The rest of the summer and fall was a challenge with a few health issues for Mike which are thankfully resolved. Another one-week Mexican Riviera Cruise in November with Dano & Elaine was great!

Mike retired from real estate last year and Deb, Jen & Jeff are still at it helping friends and family with all of their real estate needs.

Jule & Markos girls, Leia, 7 in Grade 2 and Indie in Pre School full time which lets Gigi off the hook a little for after school care. Jule has taken a job in the costuming department in the Movie business and has currently been working on The Nancy Drew Series which is just wrapping up for good. Marko is still at Viterra Grain Terminal and his golf game is doing amazing.

Jule and Marko took the girls to Disneyland for a week and had a ball between the Princess Breakfasts and Star Wars experiences and they all had a great time!

Jen & Chase's kids are currently attending school in East Van. Wyatt (7, Grade 2) is a member of Burnaby Winter Club and is taking his hockey very seriously. Lennon (6, Grade 1) started at Ringette this year and is loving her time on the ice.

Jen & Chase have their 100-year-old Heritage Home on the market and are planning a move to North Vancouver! Jeff is doing well and we are looking forward to proceeding with the subdivision of our property in the next year. Jeff has a new pup, Oakley a purebred Aussie Shepard and the whole family is loving this gentle soul to our family.



## Milestones for 2023

### Deaths

Robbie Forbes

Jane Strang

### Celebrating 90

Uncle Bill Colbourne

### Celebrating 70

Susan Fraser

### Celebrating 60

Cheryl Buchanan

Stewart Colbourne

Craig Christie

Elaine Christie

### Celebrating 40

Jennifer MacLeod

Elliot Forbes

### Celebrating 30

Sarah Buchanan

Julia Adams

Kevin Biro

Oliver Colbourne

### Celebrating 20

Will Fox

### Celebrating 10

George Lepp

### Born 2022/23

Eliana Maria Davies

Charlotte Aurora Hamilton

## Archaeologists have found BC's oldest living Sasquatch

*Photos are too disturbing to share publicly*

### Bill and Georgia Family

PJ – 2022 started out with a bang. We planned on spending a week in Maui with Mom and Dad but all got COVID so had to quarantine with the folks for their entire vacation. Mom was happy to have us stay. Thankfully I only had to view Dad naked a half dozen times as clothes seem to become increasingly optional for him.

Kaiya (15) is a complete teenage disaster but we still love her. Kaiya and PJ travelled to Georgia this October to play a handful of colleges in a softball tour. Peter (13) is only slightly less a disaster than his sister.

Peter, Amy (13), Jen and PJ had a successful wrap up to 7 years of Nighthawks hockey. Ryan (20) wrapped up his junior hockey playing with the Nelson Leafs and has found a new love in Penticton pounding nails. Closing out the year, Jen agreed to marry PJ and coincidentally has really taken a liking to tequila. I'm sure those 2 things are not related.

Trev – Taylor (24) has jumped ship from Gpa's boat and is now pulling it on a tug. He's also taking some marine courses working towards getting his pilot's license.

Maiah (22) has been working at the beautiful Qualicum Beach Inn. When not serving it up to locals she's modelling abroad. She's made it into 4 international magazines,

none that Trevor would have purchased for the boat though. She's currently down in Mexico on another photo shoot.

Naden (18) is graduating this year, we hope. He's also working with big sis at the QBI. He's been coaching volleyball and playing with Maiah in the local beach volleyball tournaments. After high school's finally over, Naden is hoping to get into interior design and continue coaching.

### Alicia

Katie (22) now second year criminology and absolutely loves it, Will (20) finished second year engineering (mechanical) early and is now living in Surrey with our wonderful Susan & Rob Adams while he's working his first CO-OP job with John Deere until August of this year. Much gratitude to Susie & Rob for generously offering to host Will for 8 months. Jesse (18) now in his high school grad year, suffered a knee injury late last summer so now in hockey retirement but pushing for a return to sport for baseball in the Spring 2023. Alicia works and gets mentally and emotionally abused by the family on a daily basis, have now packed bags & Kevlar vest for sunny trip to Mexico - they told me there's mermaids & sharks, I was sucked in.

**Bill and Georgia** – Aside from having PJ and his crew invade our Maui vacation, it was



lovely trip, well maybe the first day before PJ arrived. Dad keeps finding excuses to not retire while Mom keeps busy trying to keep deer and rabbits out of her garden. Both have somewhat kept their wits about them wait a sec, what were we talking about? Mom and Dad both celebrated their 70th birthday in 2022. In typical Billy fashion he found himself surrounded by young women in a hot spring up the central coast while mom was celebrating with friends and family (family are not necessarily friends) at Lasqueti.

Bill was faced with another dilemma this summer as Steve installed hunter cameras at Lasqueti... much to everyone's dismay





we get frequent footage of a naked Bill or maybe it's a sasquatch. It looks ancient.

### Rob and Coral

We family started 2022 on the move. In February, Maeve, daughter of Kelly and Tim, took her first steps on Rob's 68th Birthday, and has been running ever since. Inspired by her daughter, Kelly entered her first 50km Ultra running race in July, and immediately regretted it.

Heather, Chris, Everett and newly adopted dog Livia joined Coral and her converted Dodge Caravan campervan, the "GTRV" (Grandma's Totally Rad Van"), on many outdoor adventures, including trips to

Buttle Lake and Salt Spring Island.

Meanwhile, Elliot once again joined the crew of the "Moon Dancer" in search of tuna. The exceptionally warm waters this past summer brought weird and wonderful fish to the Pacific Northwest, which Elliot promptly gutted and shared with his partner Jenice.

The passing of Rob undoubtedly casts a heavy shadow on 2022. As the family looks back on the past year, they fondly recall Thanksgiving weekend, when Rob, alongside his daughters and son-in-laws, donned his chaps and signature dimpled smile, wielded his chainsaw and prepared his last loads of firewood.

Robert Malcolm Forbes passed away at the age of 68 on December 18th, 2022 in Victoria, BC. Rob is survived by his wife Coral (Greaves) and his three children, Elliot (Jenice), Heather (Chris) and Kelly (Tim) and two grandchildren, Everett and Maeve.

### Weighill Clan

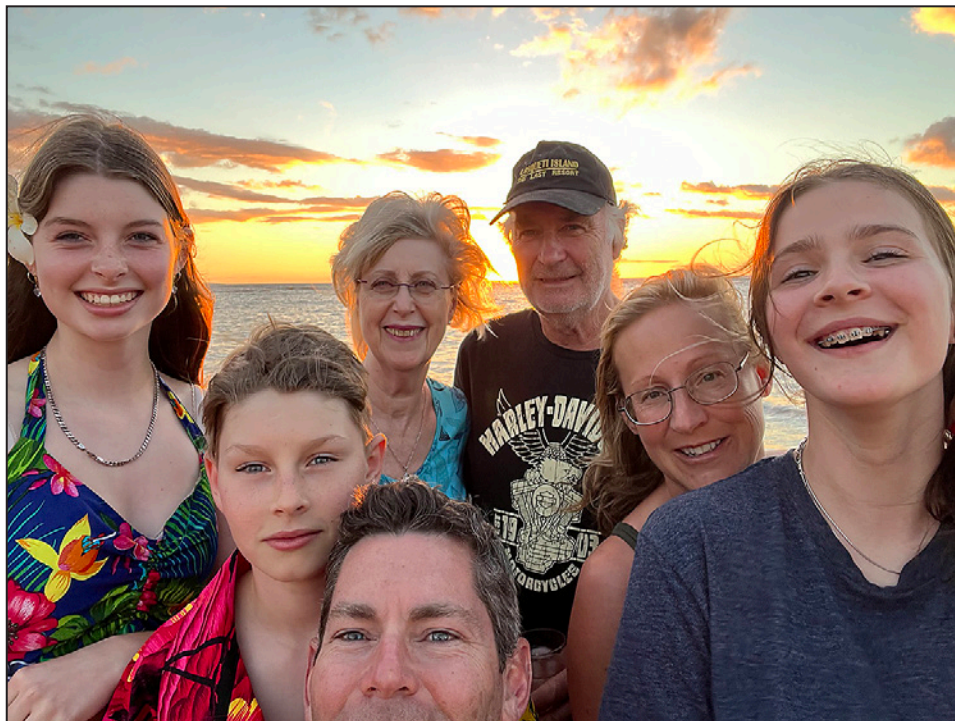
In 2022 the Weighill clan took advantage of improving pandemic conditions to make up for a couple of years of missed gatherings and holidays. It all kicked off in February when the family gathered at Blue Mountain to celebrate Cam's 50th! That's right – the first great-grandchild is officially 50! In May we gathered again to celebrate Pietro's first communion – it was a beautiful ceremony and Violet did a wonderful job of helping her heathen

Auntie through the ceremony. Jean and her friend Helen then road the rails as they returned to BC via Via Rail!

In true pre-pandemic style, Jean joined Aggie on some work-related travel as she drove an RV up the Alaska Highway to begin her 5 weeks of fieldwork in rural Yukon. After 4 long days of travel with occasional bathroom and wildlife breaks, Jean returned to the coast. Cam and Dorianna to the kids on the east coast a summer adventure – showing their Forbes/Christie roots, Pietro and Violet were excited by PEI potatoes!

Ag took a break in her fieldwork to head back to Cam's to run a week of Camp Auntie Aggie. After a week of behind-the-scenes visits to Toronto Zoo and multiple trips to Canada's Wonderland, the highlight was a family trip to watch Toronto FC beat Portland. Pietro has announced his intention to watch Team Canada in the next World Cup!

The final family gathering of the year was for the Weighill Family Christmas in November. This year the crew travelled to sunny and warm Montreal. It was a long weekend of adventure, learning, laughing, and a whole lot of eating! Jean, is thankful for a healthy family as well as for her opportunities to travel this year. She enjoyed Montreal inn November where she escaped the snowfall at home, San Diego in December where she again avoided the snow at home and Maui in January missing the endless cold drizzle in BC.



## Biro Family

The Biro family continues to grow over these last few years with new additions, new babies, and more to be coming!

Patty and Steve's nautical chart business is booming with grandparenting time taking up all the spare moments. The family was able to get together for Christmas brunch this year, hosted by middle son Bruce and his lovely wife Brie. Both of them, currently kids-less, offered up their home to the chaos of a family gathering with 4 children 5 and under. Yelling, screaming, crying, and screeching had by all, parents and grandparents included. However, it made for a fun morning as a family.

The family was together for their annual siblings' gift exchange, and as usual the boys and their partners went in together for a gift for Steve and Patty to use on their trip to Hawaii. Bruce and Brie went a little overboard though and gifted the family with exciting news; another baby Biro coming in July 2023!

Oldest Son Robert with his wife Nicole continue to raise their two children, Brooklyn and Scotlyn. Brooklyn turned 4 in May and is involved in everything to keep her busy. On the ice for skating lessons and has followed in her Forbes' cousins' footsteps by getting into highland dance. She was even showcased at the Port Theatre for the Brigadoon Express Christmas event.



Scotlyn turned 1 in September and is mastering the art of walking and saying "hi" to everyone she meets. She will be joining her sister in activities soon enough!

Robert, still up in the bridge aboard BC Ferries as an officer is working towards his captain's ticket, while his wife Nicole is busy as ever as a full-time mom. However, the two of them were able to travel kidless down to Vegas in the fall to relax and enjoy their own much needed personal time!

Bruce and his wife Brie continue to work in the Nanaimo School District. Brie finished her Master's Degree in counseling in June and walked across the stage in Seattle across the infield of T-Mobile Park, much to the jealousy of Bruce who was in the stands eating a hotdog. Brie is now working at a high school in Nanaimo as a counselor where there is never a dull day. Bruce continues to teach Grade 6/7 and coach community baseball.

The two celebrated their honeymoon this past summer traveling to Scotland in August. 3 weeks of hiking, distilleries, museums and taking in the highland culture. Scotch whisky was consumed.

Youngest Kevin is a busy bee

with full time work and being dad to his daughter Kalista who turned 1 in June!

Kevin continues to work managing K-9 security, still struggling with staff taking "sick" days in a post-pandemic world. He has shared parenting time of his daughter Kalista whose infectious laugh is always on display! Kevin's girlfriend Jessica, and daughter Emmy, had an exciting year. The two have made trips to Toronto, Tofino and have a favourite camping spot in Cowichan. When the two find their rare moments alone, they can be found at the softball diamond continuing to live the slo-pitch beer league dream.



## Margaret McLaren Strang (Jane)

Jane was one of the first people Pat Forbes met when she moved the family to Coquitlam in 1967. Jane was a primary teacher in the classroom beside Pat and they remained the best of friends from that first meeting. Jane and Barbara were officially adopted into the Christie family on January 25th, 1986, nearly 20 years after Jane was initially introduced.

Jane was an accomplished and respected educator, an avid golfer, an enthusiastic walker, a gifted artist, a curious world traveller, an eager conversationalist, a marvelous cook and gracious hostess but above all she was a treasured and loyal friend to our entire Clan.

Jane was exceptionally proud of her Scottish roots and relished the celebrations associated with all things Scottish, especially the haggis! For decades Jane and Barbara hosted lively Burn's Dinner Nights for our Christie family elders. This was an event that many looked forward to attending each year.

Jane and Barbara joined Auntie Kay, Jean and Rob Forbes in August of 2020 for a lovely vacation at Lasqueti. Robbie kept them supplied with oysters, salmon and prawns, which made for a very enjoyable and memorable trip for everyone. Sadly, this would be Jane's last trip to Lasqueti. She was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma shortly after and remained in hospice until her death in November of 2021.

Jane wished for her ashes be scattered in



the waters just off Dallas Road. A few of us gathered on a calm afternoon in January 2022 to fulfill her request.

In Jane's honour there has been an installation of a memorial bench along Dallas Road in Victoria, it's located at the far end of Beacon Hill Park on the water side. There's easy parking access for those of you who wish to visit the bench. Barbara chose a beautiful phrase for the bench.

"The song ends but the melody lingers", Irving Berlin.



### OFFICIAL ADOPTION PAPERS

#### Oath of Adoption:

In front of the Christie clan, raise your right hand and say,

"I promise to love the Christie clan with all my heart.  
I promise to be a good and kind member.  
I will always remember how special the clan is to me."

This certifies that M. JANE STRANG  
was adopted on January 25, 1986  
into the Christie clan (with in-law status only).

Patricia J. Mc (Christie) Forbes

Executrix for matriarch Jean M.T. Christie

Heleen (Christie) Rayfield

Power of Attorney for matriarch Jean M.T. Christie



## TALES OF THE WOODS

### No Longer Lost in the Woods

#### Helen's Family

Myself and my offspring are thriving welcoming 2023!

I split life now between Vancouver in the summers and Maricopa, Arizona winters (Nov Dec March April May). I've found my PEACE, HAPPINESS & SERENITY! Being warm, even when you were buried under snow and freezing, I'm sunning, swimming, golfing, pickleball, hiking, socializing, even playing Mah Jong and much more. Thanks to Sandra I was bequeathed Granny Christies Mah Jong set!! I DID try to retire March 2022, but was coaxed to continue working part-time.

Christie & Michael got engaged last September about time after 8 years together. They bought a little home in Cumberland BC and love the life there. He's teaching high school and she's in Public Health dealing with communicable diseases on the North Island. Christie has continued with her athletic interests and now is on the Ironman circuit (IRON Woman I call it!).

Stefan finished his UBC Okanagan Degree a few years ago, went into the military and then decided to take up a trade. He's doing his Pipefitter apprentice now. He flies out to Kitimat two weeks (L&G Pipeline) and one week Kelowna. Saving all his money to buy property to maybe one day be a gentleman farmer.

#### Lois Wood

##### *My Bags Are Packed!*

Billie dog and I really enjoyed being back to normal activities after COVID pandemic ended, I continued volunteering work with



Deaf organizations.

It was my best 65 birthday gift to be in the Dominican Republic - I had a wonderful time as a volunteer with other staff (see picture) and there were 650 Deaf people from all over different countries, staying at the 5 stars resort in Punta Cana for a week.

As for other expensive 65 birthday gift, this May I will be going to Barcelona, Spain and meeting the Deaf group tour - we will be at the Celebrity Edge Cruise on the Western Mediterranean Sea for 2 weeks. Then I will fly to Switzerland with a small group from Rome, Italy and travel on the tour bus for a week.

#### Tina's Gang

##### *Celestiallly Natigating The Spanish Sea*

The errant and wayward Oliver's have had an active year, lots of news.

Jillian's husband Chris now has a man bun as they joyously live their life in Nelson BC, actually growing pot; Jilly can be seen on Check TV (confirmed by Steve Biro) as a political commentator for the Green Party of BC and Canada - apple doesn't fall far from the tree, though she loathes the association. Right? We know it! Brat.

Alexander thrives in Montreal, I was there



recently to celebrate him and his 32nd birthday, fabulous time, spoiled him rotten. And myself - why wouldn't I? He is a stylist and manager of a John Fluevog store in old Montreal - best City in the Country! He is looking into another designation in Production work and has a healthy career in stand-up comedy and music production. He has a fantastic voice.

My Sophia has had some recent, I want to say, very tough challenges that have rocked me to my core: she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (she went from being top of her grad school at U Western, honours with Distinction And Med School acceptance to something completely different. Ever cavalier, she went from a call to medicine to Computer Coding, and she is doing brilliantly, bless her strong heart.

Me? I have had a tough time getting over cancer, down to 96 lbs, working on it! Went on a sail boat for two months in Spain, I speak the language, so great thing to do. Back working, my house has been fully gutted through Covid, took forever, but it is done, apparently, patience is a virtue; ergo, I am virtuous.

Off to Mexico!"

