



Volume 23 • Issue A

May 2025

Three Uncles Remembered

Over the past issues we have celebrated family members who have passed. This year we will focus on three uncles who passed prior to the inception of the Screech.

Uncle Bob (Robert Selkirk Wood)

Perhaps we don't remember Uncle Bob all that well. He often lived away from the regular family riff-raff in Quesnel, West Point Grey, Cedar, and travelled extensively throughout the world during his entire adult life. He was a serious individual and could be perceived as intimidating to many of us when we were young.

He was well educated, earning a Master's Degree at Syracuse in New York, and an incredibly astute businessman. One of his many achievements was writing forestry textbooks and the BC Long Range Forest

Legislation Act, which still endures today.

Uncle Bob was the master of sarcasm. While we didn't necessarily understand his humour at the time, many of us are very sarcastic and can now certainly appreciate his humour as adults. In order to maintain farm status, Uncle Bob ran a herd of beef cattle at their home in Cedar. Each year, he would select a theme to name the beasts. One year, he chose to name them after cities that should be annihilated, like Damascus. Other themes included politicians, such as Trudeau. I bet he'd name one after Trump, too. He named cattle after the Royal Family, celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee. His sense of humour was well developed.

Auntie Janet and Uncle Bob welcomed Jean into their home for her grade 11 and 12



Bob Wood and Family the quintessential 70's Point Grey Family



Janet & Bob's Wedding

years. Jean recalls that each night she and Uncle Bob played 3 games of crib for 10 cents a game. At Jean's wedding, when Uncle Bob gave the toast to the bride, he wiped out her \$90 crib debt. Jean also noted that Uncle Bob respected and liked our father, Peter, very much. It is comical to compare the two men as they were complete opposites: one was tall, well educated, dark haired, well dressed and strived for prestige, and the other, well, was the complete opposite. More about him later.

The two men did have an interesting relationship, though. Each Christmas, they would exchange gifts. Uncle Bob would give something interesting and expensive, which could possibly be stolen. Uncle Peter would present Uncle Bob with something homemade, which usually contained recycled materials like wood mandarin orange boxes or shipyard flotsam and jetsam. Let's just say they appreciated each other.

Patty remembers one summer when Auntie Janet and Uncle Bob, along with their offspring, visited Lasqueti. Auntie Janet and Uncle Bob were going to lead us on a beach walk from False Bay to the Lagoon. There was quite a group of us hooligans that tagged along, all ears and ready to learn about whatever came our way.

Auntie Janet was the Ocean expert and pointed out many aquatic wonders to us along the route. Uncle Bob was more interested in the land. He would drag us off the beach and into the forest to teach us about the plants and trees. His primary



focus was treasure! He would have us rip apart mounds of shells in search of ancient artifacts—something that, if we did today, may get us arrested. I can't recall if we actually found anything of archeological value, but the whole group of us were thrilled with the exotic nature of the adventure!

Many of us have commented that when Uncle Bob took notice of our achievements with a compliment, we honestly felt a heightened sense of pride as he wasn't someone who offered undeserved praise.

Uncle Peter (Peter Whyte Forbes)

As mentioned before, Uncle Peter was almost the polar opposite of Uncle Bob.

With fair hair and blue eyes, an ear-to-ear grin and standing not quite 5'7", Uncle Peter was easily recognizable. His clothes were simple and most likely covered in grease. He was known to say, "I can afford to dress this way." He dropped out of school in grade eight and went to work immediately. At a very young age, he was in the forest logging and drove a logging truck before he reached the legal driving age.

He was hired to navigate the Patty G from Lasqueti to Texada while still in his teens. His education was far different from that of Uncle Bob. Uncle Peter did study to learn the welding trade and earned his ticket. He also earned his master mariner certification and, later in life, a Class 1 truck license. He became a partner in both a fishing and logging company on Lasqueti. He was successful at both, and his hard work ethic served as an example for his family.

He and Auntie Pat opened their home to all of the Christie relatives. While he kidded about the annual invasion, he loved every minute of it.

Susan Christie Fraser says that Uncle Peter was the uncle who always put a smile on her face. What with his smiling "Scottish" blue eyes, he was hard to ignore. I picture him arriving home from Scottie Bay with grease under his stubby fingers that is consistent with men (him and our Dad) who always work hard and have earned his tumbler of scotch (or coke) and a hearty meal prepared by his wife. He was jolly, and that's what I remember. I also had a little voice in my head of my mom saying he was the most moral person she knew, and she adored him. He was like a taller version of an Irish leprechaun with a twinkle in his eye. He



Pat, Peter and Jean

was totally a loveable uncle!

Daryl remembers Uncle Peter's amazing strength; he picked up a huge log and put it on his shoulder to use as a roller to move Tom's boat off the beach. The same log that both Daryl and Russ failed to move. Christy remembers his work uniform, jeans, suspenders, and being covered in grease and wanting a big hug.

There were two Uncle Peter's. One was Grampa C's brother known as tickly Uncle Peter, and the other was Dirty Uncle Peter – Lois started this name. Lois even requested a set of his clothes to wear as a Halloween Costume. (I remember wearing a hobo Costume one Halloween, featuring Uncle Peter's greasy suspenders too – Randy).

Susan H remembers being at Lasqueti and playing cutthroat hearts with the crazy cousins. The usually mild-mannered Uncle Peter would announce lights would be going out in two minutes. He wasn't kidding. He usually made the announcement as he was heading out the door, and we all had to scramble like hell to get to bed. There always seemed to be a lack of flashlights around, so it was a mad dash in the pitch black.

Bob remembers: When I was about 10, Uncle Peter came to town on one of his fish boats. He was at our house and I was there playing with my friend, also named Peter. Uncle asked us if we wanted to go out for a ride in his boat. I remember telling my friend that he was not going to believe how big the boat was. We ran to his place, got permission from his mom, and we were off.

The boat was docked at Granville Island. We got on and sailed around Stanley



Park, got gas at one of the barges in Coal Harbour, and then went right back to Granville Island. But wow, that was such a huge adventure. It took several hours, and by the time we got home, it was dark. Peter's mom had grown worried about us and was watching the news, afraid she was going to hear reports of a boat sinking.

Randy similarly remembers Uncle Peter taking him to his fishboat in False Creek. "I was blown that this person whom I was in such awe of would deem me special enough to spend a day with."

Uncle Peter had the coolest tools and machinery. One of my favorite memories was spending Spring Break at Lasqueti while Mom and Dad vacationed in Hawaii. That year, Uncle Peter was building roads. I could believe my good fortune in being to ride in the dump truck (and sometimes in the dumper) as he moved gravel around. Then, follow him around his fishboats as he tinkered on them.

Uncle Peter always showed the most tremendous respect and affection for my Mom (Auntie Kay). Every Christmas, he would show up with an enormous Pointsetta in appreciation for shopping for his Christmas gift to Auntie Pat. It's remarkable how these small gestures informed what it meant to be a "real man."

Uncle Peter was kind and thoughtful. One summer, there was an eclipse. We all wanted to watch it. Without notice, Uncle Peter went to Scottie Bay and returned with welding masks and goggles for us to wear so we could witness the wonder of an eclipse safely.

Jean says that Dad worked seven days a week, from dawn until dark, until he was introduced to golf. He is remembered for his acts of kindness; a prude with great respect for women. When he got his first "Gofer" speed boat, he started water skiing more often, his bowed legs gave him stability, my kids were quite small and he'd

take them for boat rides zooming around False Bay and in/out of Johnson's lagoon. Cameron and Aggie said he drove like the Duke of Hazzard on TV, but Uncle George commented that he was more like Relic from the Beachcombers.

There were many times in the summer that Uncle Peter would arrive home in the afternoon to find us all water skiing from the beach in front of the house with either Uncle Tom or Uncle George at the wheel. Uncle Peter would take off his Romeos (work boots), remove the tools from his pockets and step into the skis to go for a spin. His style was similar to the posture of one sitting on the toilet and was thus named "the outhouse crouch."

Uncle Tom (Thomas Robert Christie)

Uncle Tom was slightly better dressed than Uncle Peter and approximately the same height. He was popular with his sisters as being a very strong man and a hard worker. He was known throughout East Vancouver as someone not to cross or provoke.

In the 1940's, Uncle Tom needed a bowling partner for a mother-and-son bowling league. Naturally, he invited Granny to join him. This was a sport she enjoyed for the next 35+ years and quite possibly the start of the entire family's and generations to follow keen interest in sports. He excelled at the sport of rugby and earned a spot on the national team, and had a reputation for being a fierce (dirty) player. "Always be one up," is what he would tell us. Hit them first, then you're already ahead." Play to win."

After high school, Uncle Tom apprenticed

as an electrician, a trade that would serve him well. In addition to that, he also became a professional firefighter in Vancouver and was well respected by his colleagues well beyond his retirement. His hard work ethic and lead-by-example mentality instilled the same standards in his children. He was popular with his sisters as being the "go to" repair man.

As an electrician, Uncle Tom took on some interesting clients – those who didn't always pay their bills in cash. For years, Uncle Tom would arrive at Lasqueti with cases of produce liberated from the Salad King warehouse. Most memorable is the moldy cantaloupe that Jean mentions, after nearly 60 years, that she still can't eat cantaloupes.

He took on an electrical contract with Mohawk Oil to service their gas stations throughout the province. He wired many of the Christie Family basements with liberated and reclaimed electrical equipment from these jobs. As Brother Bill would remark, the jobs were never really completed, so he had an excuse to come back.

He must have done a job for someone in the Okanagan as well because every fall, Uncle Tom would deliver cases of apples to every Christie family household, or maybe he just stole them.

Uncle Tom would travel to Lasqueti several times a year. Uncle Peter would refer to him and his entourage as "Tom and the Idiots." The idiots were comprised of: Uncle Bill Christie, Uncle Russell, Uncle George, John Sabourin and Daryl Herndier. Uncle Tom worked through his vacations along



with his brothers and in-laws, filling sister Pat's wood shed, something she was always grateful for.

Uncle Tom was not known for his conservation efforts and had a tendency to overfish the grounds. It was documented that in one year in the 70's he landed over 30 coho salmon himself. Uncle Tom was also known for his speedy driving. That was a big "no, no" for Lasqueti. Before he arrived on the island, Uncle Peter would take the strap off the battery that held it securely in place. Should Uncle Tom drive too recklessly, the battery would turn over, making the truck lose power.

Christy still remembers Uncle Tom spanking us whenever we saw him as kids. Everyone remembers "We three Kings" with the toothless 3 brothers. I have a vivid picture of Uncle Tom smiling like a goon with those missing 2 front teeth. Unforgettable!

Also, as an adult at work at Mohawk he would always yell "hey brat, how are doing". This was his term of endearment for me.

One summer on Lasqueti, our dog Pepper was sleeping under the truck and Uncle Tom moved the truck and fatally ran over Pepper. Later that day he leaned over to Russ and said "at least you will save a buck on the ferry ride home"

Randy remember fondly spending time with Uncle Tom at Lac La Hache. In particular, once the water Skiing boat was acquired. Whereas Uncle George taught us how to get up on water skis, Uncle Tom taught us when to get off. Failure to let go of the rope resulted in being pulled through the whiplike reeds beside the dock.

Randy also recalled being with his father on the terrible night that the cancer

diagnosis came. Dad was so distraught. It was no secret how fond Dad was of all his siblings but that night I realized how deeply he loved, admired and looked to his older brother for support.

Susan says, "I know our Dad was a favorite for a lot of people in the Christie Clan and beyond. I think it is because if you needed help and asked him, he would be there in a flash, regardless of his skill level, to be of service to you.

Back in the 90's when I was a single working Mom living in my Townhouse on Burnaby Mountain, there were several times whereby I called him up to help me for such things as an electrical problem, removal of a defunct water heater and subsequent install of a new one.

In 2002, I was dealing with some issues in my townhouse that would soon require repair. I stepped into my all-white tiled shower/bathtub, and one of the 4 by 4 tiles fell into the tub. I called Dad and left a message on his answering machine, asking if he could come over and replace the tile for me.

A day or two later, I arrived home and entered my bathroom to see that he had responded to my request and installed a new tile. Immediately, I was filled with mixed emotions of gratitude and horror. He had replaced the white tile with a "turquoise" one he found kicking around in the basement on Yeovil Avenue. He decided in his "this- should- suffice- attitude" that the color did not matter. He was, after all, colourblind. When I think of this incident, it always puts a smile on my face. Dad's



heart was always in the right place, but aesthetically pleasing things were NOT his forte!

Fast forward a year and a half later.... I met and married a man who is an equally hard worker who likes to help family and friends, just like Dad. Just so you know, before we got married, he replaced that turquoise tile in my bathroom with a white one because aesthetics do matter to him. Lucky me! Two good men in my life with their hearts in the right place.

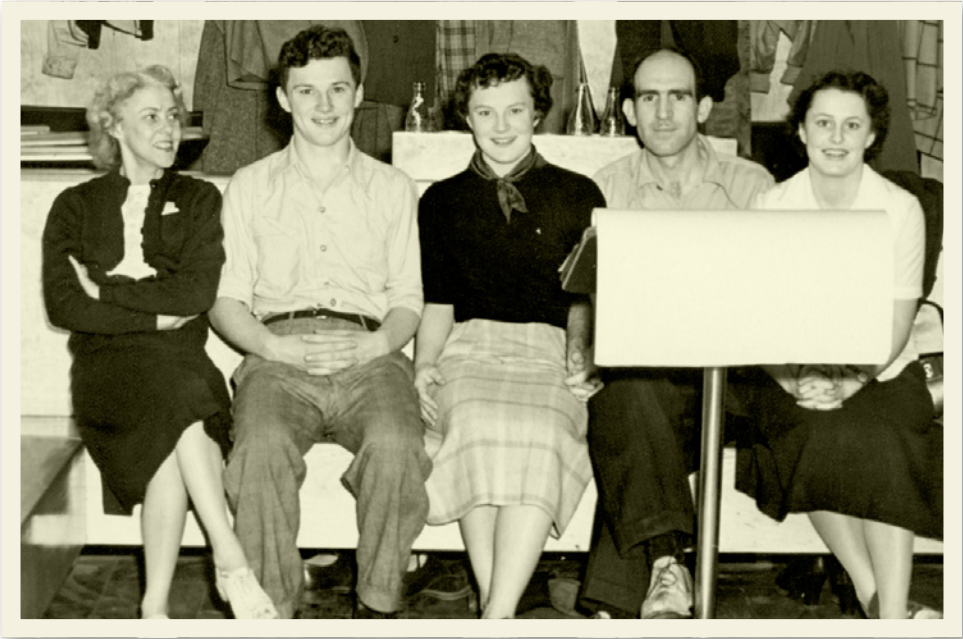
As for the cousins, Uncle Tom would tickle us until we cried, he would take us fishing for hours, and just for the heck of it he would boot us in the ass, hard, with his size 9 work boots just to show his love. He always had a coke in his hand. While we loved him



dearly, we were always aware that the boot was not too far away.

We knew that Uncle Tom would always help us with our home projects. He arrived at Patty and Steve's store in Deep Bay one summer, armed with air extraction hoses (courtesy of John Sabourin and BC Tel). Someone must have commented that the shop's kitchen and store needed better ventilation, and Uncle Tom delivered.

What he also brought to the family was our very lovely Auntie Lorraine. She tried her best to soften him. This eventually occurred with the arrival of grandchildren. He was an amazing grandfather and spoiled the kids and their families with annual trips to Molokai. That's a cool grampa. He was one of a kind.



Fifties Bowlers



Tom and Bill 1936



TRC REPORTER

Nanaimo Diva opens a Choral Celebration in Nanaimo

Craig offers Hunting Camp for Toddlers-It's never too early

Susan and Colin

The last year just blew by for Colin and me. At the end of last May I completed my first year in Nanaimo's Soundwave Choir for people over 55 (we now have 80 members) with our annual concert at the Port Theatre and with that, initiated my elder citizen goal to dance and sing my way through my 70's. This year our concert #10 is on Friday May 23rd. It would be awesome to have the whole family come out to cheer me on. I continue to Tap & Salsa and Sing and love, along with my Yoga classes.

The highlight for Colin was jumping out of a plane over the south end of Parksville to celebrate his 78th birthday which is June 17th. The first two jump dates we cancelled due to weather. He finally jumped alongside two others in early July. He loved it so much that one of his fellow jumpers asked him if he wanted to jump again as his daughter was inspired by her Dad to try it also.

On a sunny evening in the middle of July they jumped again and Colin claims it was even better than the first time. Yes, us old folks can still try something scary and survive to tell others. One of Colins' fellow skydivers was 92, proving that it ain't over until it's over!

My **Michael** is living in East Van with his lady and her daughter, going to school and doing construction work at the same time. His daughter Merle is now six years old and living with her mom and brother north of Munich. He misses her terribly as I do.

We are busy and are doing well. We keep trying to find the good in every day amidst the chaos dominating all of our lives currently. ENOUGH ALREADY! RELAX AND ENJOY!

The Houghton Family

Colleen survived another year in Kelowna. Living in Craig's home with Duke as Kristi has moved out and the Mexican Tenants were forced to return to



Maria and Nolan

Mexico. She's looking forward to turning the BIG 60 in July.

Kristi has moved into her condo she purchased in downtown Kelowna. She loves being able to walk to everything. When not working at Kelowna General Hospital she likes to attend music festivals, keeps very active with friends.

Kevin has been living in Kelowna for four years now. He is still working out of town with a two-week rotation at Bruce Jack Diamond Mine. This year was busy with travelling, dirt biking, golfing, snowboarding, snowmobiling and boating. It's the Kelowna lifestyle.



Craig & Megan are currently in Maple Ridge, but Mom keeps asking them to move to Kelowna... we will see!!

This year the two of them are headed to Japan for a very exciting holiday. Craig has the honor of being the first Houghton to get a hole in ONE with video proof!

Jaki & Beans Christie: It was another year full of adventures for Jaki and her perfect Cocker Spaniel, Beans. They have continued to enjoy life in Kelowna, with lots of road trips to visit Dan and Elaine (who?) while on their way to Vancouver Island! The highlight of her year was spending her 29th birthday screaming and dancing at the last show of Taylor Swift's Eras Tour! A great close to 2024.

Dan and Elain

Dan and Elaine spent less time jet setting this year, but somehow increased their pickleball court hours? We are still trying to calculate how that's possible.

Unfortunately, we recently said goodbye to Elaine's dad, Les. Elaine spent countless hours in 2024 visiting Victoria, cherishing the last year with her dad. Nothing will make you dislike B.C. Ferries more than bi-weekly trips back and forth! He passed peacefully after a lovely goodbye with his daughters and grandkids. Many will remember Les for his kind smile and gentle demeanour. He was well loved and will be well missed!

Jaki's goal for 2025 is to take a trip to Hungary in honour of her grandpa, with the intention of digging through archives to find more about his life and history. Hopefully Christie Screech 2026 will bring tales of relatives found and adventures aplenty!

Mike and Deb's Crew

Well, another year has come and gone and they seem to be flying by faster than ever. No travels last year for Deb and Mike but maybe this year.

Deb, Jeff and Jen continue to work and sell homes at Remax. **Jeff and Lauren** spent a month travelling through Europe in May/June mostly in Italy and Greece, Croatia, Switzerland, and then to Berlin to watch a Netherland vs Austria soccer game. Next they journeyed on to France and back to Canada! Another great trip.

Lauren appears to be a traveller and they seem to want to get the trips out of their system so they can settle down and give us a few more grandkids!!

Jen and Chase finished putting a beautiful basement suite in their home and made it perfect for Gigi and Papa to take advantage of if we end up between houses. Wyatt just turned 10 and plays hockey at Burnaby Winter Club and we get to watch him play often. Lennon is eight and loves her gymnastics and has been auditioning for commercials so fingers crossed.

Julie and Marko are doing great! Julie just wrapped her job with the costume department of "The Last of Us" and expects to go back for season three this September. She is currently working on another production.

They are planning a trip to Ireland and Scotland for Marko's 40th this year and they are going to try their darndest to get him a round on St Andrews while there. Leia is going on 10 and enjoys gymnastics and soccer and Indie just turned 7 and loves soccer! Both girls continue to audition for roles and commercials so stay tuned!! Deb Christie

Craig's family

Kasandra, Alex and little Alexis have been thoroughly enjoying family life. They had a very successful first year with their new construction business in 2024. Kasandra will be returning to work soon and celebrating 14 years with FortisBC.

Little Alexis got to go hunting several times with Grandpa Craig and she's been trying to share her baby bottles with Grandpa to try and help him ration his beverages better but so far it hasn't worked! Cheers to more family time in 2025. Craig accompanied cousin Bill and his side kicks on a hunting trip this fall with no success. Once Bill left Craig peppered him with pictures of surrendered moose. Tough Luck Billy Boy.

Maria and Nolan spent 2024 doing wedding research by attending two weddings in two different countries in one weekend. That's commitment. This fall, they said goodbye to Newfoundland and made the trek back across Canada with their dog, Rocky, settling in Prince George, where Nolan began a new career at UNBC and Maria continued working as an RN. They hope to buy a house in Prince George, Craig has been chatting a little too much about retirement, so Maria figures he could use a little home reno passion project!



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The Christie Screech is still published in Canada... Elbows up just as Uncle Tom taught us.

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christieclan.ca/screech

Above: Craig and the Moose Billie didn't bag.
Right: Kasandra, Alex and little Alexis

THE WJC NEWS

Bob overlooks obvious family stars for latest sausage commercial “Keeping it Juicy”

Kay Christie

Kay continues to enjoy the amenities associated with Seniors Living in Port Coquitlam, where she is constantly welcoming old friends, neighbours and extended family to Astoria.

In December, she and Bob flew to Quesnel to enjoy Christmas at Randy and Carolann’s new home.

Randy and Carolann

We broke free from the Big Smoke and moved to a far too large home in Quesnel with just enough acreage to keep us busy managing our small forest and landscaping Cariboo style.

December brought a dump of snow followed by torrents of rain which flooded the basement. The upside was that the renos we were planning were accelerated and covered by insurance. A large part of the basement was transformed into a self-contained suite, making hosting out of town guests more comfortable.

We continue to enjoy hiking vacations stretching ourselves with long distance running. We completed the BMO full marathon in May. In spite of injuring a knee just 9km into the run, Carolann ran on with one good leg for the final 33km and we crossed the finish line together.

As much as we are enjoying life in the Cariboo, we do miss friends and family, so if you’re travelling Highway 97 and need a rest stop, or a warm bed for the night please let us know, we’d be happy to host you.

David and Jen. Things keep chugging along for us as everyone gets a little older

and while we didn’t get to go very far, we managed to have some great family fun. Visiting my Dad at his new house in Quesnel was certainly the highlight of last summer. We were able to enjoy the time with Beth, Darryl and Ellie, along with Sean and Luisa. It provided for many amazing memories we hope to replicate again soon.

Brandon graduated high school last year while completing his first-year electrical university program. He got an apprentice job at Canem Electrical and has started his second-year program this Spring. He is well on his way to becoming a certified electrician.

Ethan kept busy last year playing flag and tackle football for the first time, which took him to Kelowna for the annual tournament and to the playoffs in the tackle program. He learned a lot and is looking forward to doing even better this year with his newfound experience.

Isabella joined the junior band this year, playing the clarinet, and also joined softball for her first year of sports, which has kept dad very busy getting various kids to practices and games.

Tristen has become the board and card game guru and is always roping one or all of us into playing every game we have in the house, and we’ve had to expand our collection to keep up. We hope to expand our horizons this year in travel and see and visit the special people in our lives, no matter how far they move away.

Sean and Luisa got engaged in January during a trip to Colombia to visit Luisa’s family. They are enjoying living in



Kay enjoying Christmas in Quesnel

Abbotsford, where they both work for the University of the Fraser Valley.

Darryl, Beth are still in Ontario, enjoying the mundane insanity of toddlerhood. **Ellie** is cheeky and sweet and has developed a wicked sense of humour that makes her parents proud.

Beth is still catching babies, and Darryl is... well, to be honest, Beth lost track of the specifics of Darryl’s job several transitions ago, but she’s proud of him nonetheless.



Sean proposing to Luisa in Colombia



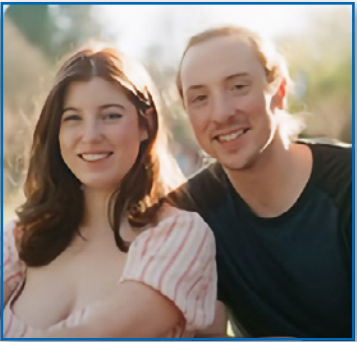
Randy, Carolann and Riley at their new home in Quesnel



With the Grandkids at Barkerville



Mark & Cheryl in Cappadocia



Nicola and Chad



Sarah & Wini



Adam

Cheryl & Mark

Uprooted, that describes 2024, but they hope by summer 2025 to be able to put down permanent roots. From January to April, Cheryl was traveling between Keats Island, where she was running her recovery program New Story Community, and their home in Cochrane, AB.

In February, Cheryl was able to sneak away to meet up with Sarah and Wini in Ecuador, and experienced snorkeling in the spectacular Galapagos with penguins, sea tortoises, baby hammerhead sharks as well as climbing Mount Cotopaxi in a hail storm. The beauty of both were spectacular.

In the spring Mark & Cheryl listed their home in Cochrane, and within a day it sold, and they began building their new home just outside Enderby, BC.

With the majority of their belongings packed up in a C-Can, they took a small load to Camp Caroline, Alberta where they moved into a 1970’s single-wide trailer. The recovery program was relocated from BC to Alberta for this year and they have been enjoying the beautiful scenery of the foothills of the Rockies. They look forward to moving into their home sometime in late spring or early summer. It will be situated high on a hill, directly across from the Enderby Cliffs and overlooking the Shuswap River. The 5-year plan, begun 12 years ago, of moving to Alberta, is finally coming to a close. They will be glad to be back in BC, but will miss the lower gas prices, and no PST.

Mark was granted a sabbatical for the fall semester, so they were able to take a trip to Turkey and Greece. Hot air ballooning in Cappadocia was a definite highlight. Also, during his sabbatical, he published his third and final novel on the life of King David, and sent to the publisher, his forthcoming novel on the French village Le Chambon Sur Lignon, which sheltered Jews during the second world war.

Adam decided to put down roots, after years of moving from one community to the next. He bought his first home in Logan Lake, BC. He continues to work for BC Wildfires as their videographer, travels the province during fire season, and creates content for promotion and training in the off season. In his spare time, he is transforming his home, one room at a time.

Sarah and Wini spent the first half of the year finishing their year and a half around the world tour, traveling through South America. Their photos and stories are absolutely captivating. They stopped in Germany on the way home, to catch T. Swift, and returned to Taiwan to begin work again, now saving for the next adventure (which looks to be a skiing vacation in Japan).

Nicola and Chad started 2024 with a trip to Panama to visit Sarah and Wini, and then in the summer took to the hills of the homeland and travelled around Scotland with friends. They are the most rooted of us all, enjoying their life in Victoria, and all the Island has to offer.

Bobby Love

The year started off with a bang! In January, I went to New Orleans for a

conference for the makers and buyers of documentaries, reality TV and other forms of “factual entertainment.”

New Orleans was colourful and fun, but the conference was a bust. The whole industry is a mess. I am still shopping around two documentary projects, which are ready to go into production, but still need one critical thing, financing.

The February highlight was, of course, the first annual Brewery Crawl. Carol got me really drunk on Long Island Iced Teas at the last stop. The rest of the night is unclear, but apparently, I drunk dialed mom to tell her how much fun it was, repeating “I am so drunk” several times. I didn’t remember any of this until she reminded me when I called two days later. I am glad both Crawls have been so fun. Fresh ideas welcome for next year.

Towards the end of the year commercials picked up again, and I did some funny ones. There’s a Jack Links beef Jerky spot coming out any day, with very cool Sasquatch and Yeti creatures.

The costumes and make-up were incredible, it took three hours to get them ready in the morning. It was a fun way to finish the year.



Bob making new friends at a sausage party. Bill thinks his set is still bigger.



LAYFIELD LEDGER

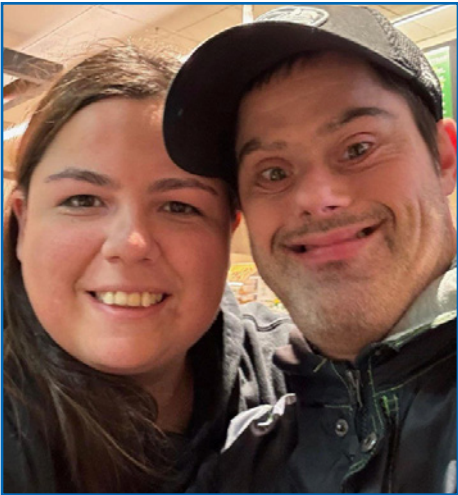
More babies are bouncing than basketballs

Doug and Jacquie

Once again Doug decided to retire on his 65th birthday. We all waited to see how long it would last and he made it to August and then was back working. He has found a perfect job working in the fall and winter delivering cars or picking up cars from other dealers which allows him spring and summer for baseball.

He is playing ball with some old folks who don't like to run the bases, and he is the youngest, so he is designated runner. Lots of A535 has been purchased. This winter Jacquie almost finished their reno. A little bit more work in the kitchen then all is done.

When Doug is not busy playing ball, he is spending lots of time helping Chaning excel at baseball. Last year was a tough year with Chaning throwing his shoulder



Brad and Kayla



Jacquie and Avy

out but he continued to strengthen it, and he is looking good for the coming season.

Brenda

Brenda is keeping herself busy with her year and half old Briard puppy named Eragon. He might not be the smartest of dogs Brenda has trained but he sure has enthusiasm. He loves going out to Sandra's where he has the run of the land. He met the herd of deer in the fall and thought he was tough and went towards them and realized their size and quickly ran back to Brenda. Just waiting for him to spot the bear.

Brenda took some much-needed vacations up in the interior at friend's places and is looking forward to more trips up there. She and her neighbour are planning a road trip soon, and Yellowstone may be the destination.

Sandra

I continue providing daycare for my two grandsons. Connor started kindergarten in September and loves it. Ronan is in preschool three mornings a week, so I have some time to myself, which is lovely with such a big yard to look after and more gardens being added. Thanks to Brenda, Don's quad is still at our house which allows lots of fun in the summer and winter taking kids for rides and tearing up the back fields.

Amanda is now working at Abbotsford hospital, as the PPA Team Lead. When not working she is at breakdancing



All grandkids being carted away



George and Sherry

classes, baseball, soccer and swimming with Connor. Ronan has now started swimming classes and possibly starting soccer soon. Shaun is finishing up at Site C dam and has accepted a job down in the lower mainland. They are all looking forward to their first big trip as a family to Cancun over Spring Break.

Christina is continuing to homeschool George and Sherry. This makes it convenient when she wants to take the kids on mini trips exploring the province. Tim is doing great he will be turning four, so soon she will be teaching all three. Kevin is still busy with real estate and is fixing up a 1941 Fargo truck.

Carol

In May/June she completed the Camino Frances 778,5km in 33 days from St Jean



Hudson and Myles

Pied De Port – Santiago de Compostela. She is currently planning to go to Lisbon to walk to Santiago 640.1 km in 24 days this September. When she isn't walking, she is playing with her grandchildren or in the garden. Life is grand

Jettie finished her basketball season off by heading to Lloydminster, Alberta for Nationals. Afterwards she traded in her basketball shoes for Maternity clothes. Jettie and Brett are expecting their first baby this May on Mother's Day. They are both teaching at the same school this year, Brett teaching grade 6/7 and Jettie teaching K/1 and Integration Support.

Madison continued to enjoy being off on maternity leave with her twin boys, enjoying lots of time outside and touring the various open gyms around the Tri-Cities and Pitt Meadows. With plans to return to work at the end of March, the boys will be starting daycare soon and both parents are excited but nervous. Daniel continues to work with IHART Tri-Cities doing outreach nursing.

Emily and Draven are still living in Port



McLaughlin Christmas



Christina and Timothy

Coquitlam. Emily is in the process of getting her CIP (Chartered Insurance Professional) designation. She has completed 4/10 courses so far. Draven is still working as an EA.

As we have said good bye to 2024 we all look forward in 2025 to the Layfield family getting new member with the pending birth of Jettie and Brett's baby. We hope 2025 brings everyone health, happiness and joy spending time with family and friends.



Channing



Connor and Ronan



Jettie



Carol

COLBOURNE CRIER

Next Generation guarantees decades of more free medical advice

Moira

Moira - Big news of the year for the Colbourne Clan was mom’s move into Mulberry Parc in the Edmonds area of Burnaby. After 64 years at Denbigh, it has not been without its challenges, but the wonderful residents and staff at MP have made the transition very positive. “Garden Club” meetings to begin shortly – little do they know the plethora of roses about to invade the premises!! Mom is hard at work recruiting everyone she knows to come join her at Mulberry. She loves visitors, so if you’re coming through town, please stop in for a cup of tea.

Mathews Missive

Marg and Bruce have fallen deep into the racquet club vortex of tennis and squash, and as volunteer pools dry up, they have taken on an extra load of organization and administration. Upside of tournaments this past season meant Marg was finally able to connect with her dear godmother, Jean, when the BC Provincial Squash Tournament was held in Nanaimo last spring.

Meaghan and Brian, happily ensconced in their first “real” home on the North Shore, decided to make things official and surprised us with an engagement

in January! Next steps still a work-in-progress. Meaghan will also be diving back into academia in September, to pursue a Nurse Practitioner designation.

Jack survived his first 6-month Coast Guard assignment as First Mate in the Artic region. Stationed on ships both in Hay River, NWT and Inuvik, things seem to have gone well as he’s actually very excited about his return north in May.

Barb and Mike Hodges Family

Gwen completed her coursework for her Bachelor of Science at UVic and will be officially graduating in June. Yay!! Her career path continues to be moving toward obtaining her Physician’s Assistant designation and is planning to pursue an EMT certification to help strengthen her application for entrance into one of these highly competitive programs.

Grace continues her studies at Montreal’s McGill University, now in her third year. She has taken on the role of co-captain of the varsity Field Hockey team and has been heavily involved in fundraising efforts to support their program. As part of her studies, Grace is currently doing a semester in Hong Kong. Now over the



Last Dinner at Denbigh

jetlag, she is thoroughly enjoying her time abroad.

In 2024, Christina launched her university career and is thriving in her first year in the Motion Picture Arts program at Capilano University. Rather than deal with a two-hour commute, Christina has moved into residence, which makes Barb and Mike empty nesters for the first time.

Mike and I continue to toil away in the work force, even though the retiree class surrounding us grows by the day. We did take one baby step toward retirement and purchased an RV to use at our friend’s getaway at Lac La Hache.



Christmas 2024

Stew Colbourne Family

2024 was an exciting year for Stewart and Jackie. Ellen and Quentin married in a small afternoon wedding in May and moved to Arizona in August. Finally, we met someone who cries more “happy tears” than Stew – Quentin’s dad, Omari!! Quentin graduates from medical school in May and they will move to wherever his residency takes them.

Stew, Jackie, Oliver and Maple took a road trip to visit the newlyweds, and of “course” Stew took some time to check out the local golf. Oliver and his girlfriend, Alanna, moved in together and are enjoying cooking and hosting their friends.



Marco & Sarah Pendance Film Festival



Cole and Maegan

Other than regular trips to Arizona to escape the Vancouver winter, Stew and Jackie stayed close to home this year, did a beautiful bike trip in Calgary and continue to be happy puppy parents.

The Moro Clan

The Colbourne Moro clan have great news to share. Cole and Maegan are expecting the first great-grandchild in the Colbourne Clan. Due date is on Great Granny’s wedding anniversary May 18th! Grandparents Nonni Freda and Nonno Joe are thrilled. While spending time decorating the new baby room, Cole and Maegan continue to be busy as physician assistants in Hamilton.

Marco made his first short film outside



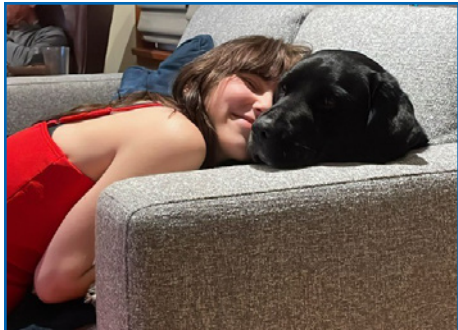
Christmas Club with Jack 2024



Grace in Hong Kong

of film school and was picked as an Emerging Film Maker at the Toronto Pendance Film Festival. He continues to send the film to other film festivals, hoping to get into the Vancouver one next year, fingers crossed. He started working in a television production company in early March and continues to write film scripts.

Joe and Freda did a great cycling trip in Sardinia in the Fall, followed by hiking and beaching in Corsica. Retirement is not yet on the horizon, but maybe soon!



Above: Christina and Tuxie
Below: Maple’s Graduation



Barb, Gwen and Mike



2025 Whistler Dad’s tree

THE BIG MAC TIMES

Let's Get Pickled Tournament Date TBA

Mac removes travel advisory and declares "it's very safe to visit Nicaragua"

Amber Alert lifted after one month when Screech material was finally submitted.

Mac and Bonnie

Last year saw Auntie Bonnie and Uncle Mac travel to Ireland to attend Dylan and Amy's wedding. There was a large family contingent there to help the newlyweds celebrate. The whole Malcolm Christie family along with Auntie Mo, Dan, June, Hannah, Caleb and Ben Jeffries all attended.

It was a wonderful wedding and a beautiful family event. Bonnie and Mac have no immediate plans to travel in 2025. They do enjoy going to Whistler and along with Joanne invite all of the Christie cousins to join them there anytime.

Uncle Mac keeps Daryl H on retainer to keep the pickle ball court cleaned for the much-anticipated Christie "Let's Get Pickled" Challenge

Joanne and John

Last year was a busy one for Joanne's family. **Derek** graduated from Trent in Peterborough Ontario with his degree in Art, English Literature Major and a Minor

in Science. **Danielle** graduated from UBC with her degree in Arts; Majoring in Sociology. She played field hockey at UBC and placed 2 in the Western finals.

Joanne is working as a Dr.'s assistant/ medical laser technician for West Dermatology and John has entered a new career in sales.

We recently received the sad news that our much-loved sister and aunt, **Joan Jeffries**, passed way. We thank the family for their support in this sad time. Joan was very active in the family events. She enjoyed traveling with the family to warmer climates, often with Auntie Janet and Jane and Barbara. She was an avid golfer and bridge player and a very proud grandmother. She will be fondly remembered in our hearts. May she rest in peace.

Michelle

Michelle has been working and volunteering at Fraser valley Therapeutic twice a week, while taking care of her seven animals.

Michelle has turned much of her yard into a productive vegetable patch. She even sold some of her excess produce last summer. Trying to get farm status and save on taxes perhaps?

She is looking forward to more travel and one day hopes to get to South Africa.



Bonnie & Mac Anniversary

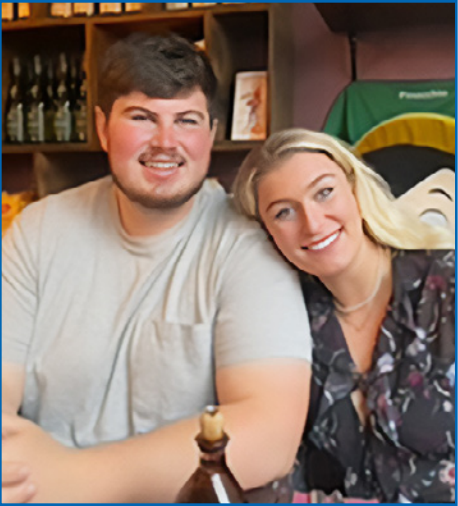


Derek and Joanne Graduation

She's heard good things about this area as Dylan and Amy went this year and Dan Jeffries and June met Hannah their daughter there. Hannah's boyfriend is from there.

Gordon

Gordon is still hanging out in Nicaragua. He has completed his first 3 rental units which are said to be listed on Air BnB so check it out. He has moved up the hill a bit from his rental units into what Mac describes as a beautiful place with a fantastic view. Uncle Mac encourages everyone to travel there to visit Gordon. He says it's safe to travel there for vacations. Yes, well you go first.



Derek and Danielle



Derek and Danielle



Joanne, Michelle, Mac, Bonnie & Gordon



Michelle, Danielle and John



Milestones for 2025

Celebrating 90
Kay Christie

Celebrating 70
Mike Christie

Celebrating 60
Joanne McBean
Colleen Houghton

Celebrating 40
Amanda Shaw

Celebrating 40
Rob Christie

Celebrating 30
Ellen Colbourne
Kevin Houghton
Madison McLaughlin
Nicola Buchanan
Maria Christie
Jacklyne Christie

Celebrating 20
Jessie Fox
Naden Forbes

Celebrating 10
Isabella Christie
Jack Dahm

Births in 2024
Olivia Adams
Frankie Louise Adams
Evelyn Oliver Browes

HENSCHEL HERALD

Russ is still cheating the undertaker and at crib
Daryl draws attention while “noodling” for
catfish at a Nashville Urinal

Russell

2024 brought changes to Russell’s living arrangements. He had spent the last 30 months living in Vanessa and Cody’s basement suite, which was a wonderful scenario for whole family. He spent a great deal of time playing with his great grandchildren Jack and Mila. He also continued with his green thumb over watering all Vanessa’s plants. Russell moved into long term care in August (Delta View Manor -in case anyone needs to be beaten in cribbage.) He still has his good sense of humour.

The Herndier’s

Daryl and I kept very busy this year with many trips. Our annual two-week trip to Phoenix with lots of golf, dinners and meeting up with Dan and Elaine. So much fun!

Our next trip was the 2024 World Bourbon tour of Memphis, Louisville, and Nashville. Hanging out with Steve, Patty, Bill and Georgia we visited Graceland, and crossed the Mississippi into Arkansas where Daryl wanted to noodle for catfish.

We visited many historic sites and

enjoyed the Blues music. We did a road trip up to Louisville for some intense sampling of the bourbons. Patty led by example and was our leader in sampling the drinks and wowed us with her karaoke skills.

Our last stop was in Nashville where we visited the Grand Ole Opry to see Carrie Underwood. We visited all the bars on Broadway and Daryl was lucky enough to get propositioned by a young man who bought him a round of bourbon. The entire trip was great fun!

We also toured Alaska on a big white boat in September. Too may whales.

In November we celebrated Christy’s birthday in Bucerias, Mexico for a fabulous week.

Vanessa and Cody are busy working hard, camping in the summer and had a



fall trip to Mexico.

They are busy with their kids’ sporting events. Jack is playing box and field lacrosse. Mila continues to excel in gymnastics. She won many gold medals this year in her competitions and came third in BC. She was also the gymnastics athlete of the year for Langley.

Ryan and Lauren are also busy working and spend lots of time hiking with their dog Frankie. Their condo in Playa Del Carmen is finally completed and is now rentable on Air B & B if anyone is interested in a Mexican vacation. The place is gorgeous. Both Lauren and Ryan continue to play competitive soccer. We still enjoy watching them play.

Looking forward to good health and many more travels in 2025.

The Adam’s Family

Hot off the press: Julia and Vince got engaged on Christmas day! Wedding date TBA.

Julia is currently doing locums in the Sechelt area and actively looking for permanent housing.

They are just renting in the area and going back and forth between the Sunshine coast and Vince’s place in North Van.

Eric, Alysha and baby Olivia have had a few milestones as well. Olivia turned 1 and Alysha is now back at work.

After a few rough weeks attending daycare Olivia has finally settled in. They are also on the hunt for a new establishment.

Dave, Stef and Frankie moved to Brackendale in December, just10 minutes north of their old place in Squamish.

Frankie also turned one and went into daycare with no hesitation. She is a

busy little beaver and seems to be quite unaffected.

Stef went back to work full time and is finding it a bit of a challenge. Long hours at the computer are not so much fun.

Adrienne and Jeff are still in East Van, and are planning on upgrading to a larger and newer establishment hopefully later this year.

Adrienne is in the process of a change in her career, looking for a better work/life balance.

As for the parentals, Susan and Rob are travelling about and trying to stay active and healthy so they can enjoy their time with the 2 babies.

A big trip is planned for September, cruising around Japan. Our first cruise since COVID!

We joined the” Bobby Love Pub Crawl” this year and had a great time visiting with the cousins.

Looking forward to more Christie Clan fun activities. {golf tourney, bocce and picnic, pickleball?}

Can’t wait to see what 2025 brings.

Constable Chatter

Early last summer Jamie and Steve sold their home overlooking the waterfront in Qualicum Beach and moved into a new home Esquimalt. Sarah and Andy also moved their family back to the



Julia and Vince

mainland around the same time. Scott still lives in Poco and continues to work at Phoenix Truck and Crane. Mid-island life appeared to be a wee bit slow for the Constables. In Victoria Steve enjoys the convenience of cycling throughout the city on the abundance of accessible trails. There are also the more opportunities for him to fulfill his interests in bird and wildlife photography. It appears that the move included a new selection of camera equipment. Jamie continues to work as a controller for a select group of clients and also enjoys the added convenience of city life. Friday night Ubers are a welcome game changer for Steve and Jamie.



Cristy & Daryl Cycling



Daryl in Tennessee



Eric Alysha and Olivia



Dave, Stef and Frankie

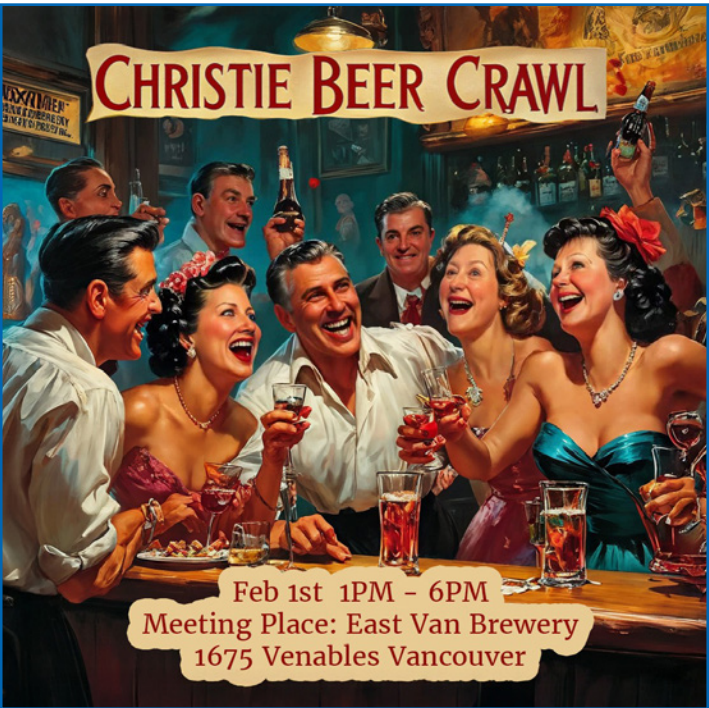
PUB CRAWL 2025
Westside City Socialite admires
City's Eastside amenities
Quiet Cousin Jean declares
Pub Crawling Crowd Too Noisy

I can't believe cousin Patty has tasked me with doing a recap of our delightful Christie pub crawl this past February. Thank you Bob, for being the Master Tour Impresario, you are a star among us minions.

My focus was to remain standing up and putting one foot forward without falling down, so made a wise choice to pick a nurse and her husband to escort me around: The Adams family are my heroes and deserve massive accolades for putting up with me. I know we typically don't praise people, so I won't in true Christie fashion go overboard, but thank you both for carrying me and saving me from too much "family walking".

I missed the first venue, but caught up with the family at venue #2: Luppolo Brewing Co. The pizza was great and I was finally fed, and over the moon to see such a great turn out.

It felt like a Christie Olympics event: lots of enthusiasm, great participation. Perhaps there would be an opportunity to award some black "loser" ribbons. One thing that I noticed right away was that there was PIZZA everywhere we went: Crap, we are Scottish, where was the haggis Bob? Do Eastenders not realise this is a staple food and where was the goddamn black pudding? On a positive note, the beer choices were staggering. I noticed cousin Freda, who



has adopted white wine, went for no craft beer. She probably likes Premier Doug Ford as well, though I have to say his reaction to the orange idiot's tariff crappola would make us all switch to Canadian wine, good call Freed's: ahead of the curve as always you starlet!

We are showing our age a tad: no physical blows, no teeth knocked out, no one was rowdy and we made it to venue #3 without incident: Strathcona Beer Co, which was lovely! Who knew the East End could develop such stellar and admirable entities? It was dear Patty who picked up the bill for the entire group, hugely appreciated. We are SO blessed with the BEST family, thank you the Christies! I cannot express this enough - it was the gratuitous ethos of the day, and carried me happily and lovingly on.

Off The Rails Brewing was venue #4 (I was again chauffeured, none of this pedestrian walking crap), and STILL no noticeable drunks, doing our uncles no grace, bit of a shame there family. Even Jean exercised decorum and didn't get up and give a speech about being #1 grandchild of the Clan: remarkable staying power in a field of the 18 who were present. We raised our glasses in thanks for not having to hear that diatribe AGAIN We are mellowing, a bit kinder, a bit quieter (not a frequent Christie trait) and simply so flipping happy to be together through our shared history and wonderful experiences together.

Final jaunt was Resurrection Spirits, also fabulous: it was great to see there is so much going on in the east end besides the Christies. The absolute VIP of the day was the totally amazing and always-on,

Auntie Mo, such a treat, so wonderful and ever beautiful and loved. She added much life, love, and expressed great interest for each of us that were present. Thank you, marvellous Auntie Mo, you shining superstar and inspiration, you were the hit of the party. Blue "first place" ribbon for you.

Christie gang: We are kind, humble, resilient and strong people. But Bob, could we have a haggis and scotch tour next year? Do we have any local Scotch distilleries here? It is kind of vital to my identity and I know we can handle it. One further note, to those non-drinkers that opted out, every venue offered a variety of non-spirited beverages. We would love to see you next time!

- Tina



Cross Dressing Adults raise eyebrows of family elders

Bill and Georgia Family

Alicia's daughter **Katie** is in her 4th year and final year at VIU completing her Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. She will be moving to Victoria in the Fall for the law portion of her education working towards becoming a lawyer.

Will is in his 4th year of Mechanical Engineering, with one more year to go. He has accepted a design job at Makon Projects beginning in the Spring. His job there entails designing the controls in the excavators used for mining.

Jesse, 3rd year at university of Grampa Bigset Bill Fishing continues to enjoy the lifestyle and adventures on the water.

Alicia - spinster bookkeeper in the land of poor is, also overworked and underpaid, but never seems to be at a loss for words. Don't believe us, just ask her.

PJ and the family had a busy year as well, most of it spent in a rink. During the spring, they had a guest coach of Bill Forbes when playing in Calgary. The move proved perfect as they took home the trophy then promptly went up to Edmonton to watch Vancouver win a playoff game there.

Peter spends his time avoiding school and hitting the ice. **Kaiya** has been busy this past year competing her grade 12 studies year and looking forward to attending the University of the Fraser Valley in the Fall



Weighill Family in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

2025. Jen's son, **Ryan** is working towards his red seal in carpentry. **Amy** has been all over. Amy spent last year going to the Esso Cup with her Okanagan Lakers hockey team. Amy would follow that up by going to Canadian Nationals with her softball team the Fraser Valley Fusion. PJ and Kaiya would also help coach the Zone 2 Summer Games softball team which Amy played on.

PJ turned 50 this year and the family put on a great party at the False Bay property at Lasqueti. There was a line up at the

little house for the bathroom but that's for another day. PJ and Jen travelled to Playa del Carmen to celebrate turning 50 with friends.

Trevor's kids appear to be doing well, although they are too cool to respond to our request for information. Thus, we will call it like we see it. **Taylor** has returned to school to continue nautical studies – working towards a Master ticket. When he is not a school he joins Bill on the Sons as a lead deck hand.

Maiah, our favourite Qualicum Beach bartender, has also returned to VIU to study Business. **Naden**, absolutely no clue what he is doing although there have been occasional sightings of him throughout the area.

Bill and Georgia have been easing into retirement with the sale of the Lasqueti Sons, which Bill will continue to run until the new owner fires him.

Bill and Georgia took a trip to Nashville to test Trump's bourbon before it would be tariffed and removed from the store shelves. Bill felt right at home on Beale Street in Memphis where you could stroll down the street with open liquor. Within an hour of landing Bill was informed that Tennessee allows open liquor in vehicles which was something the travelling group that also included Steve, Patty, Christy and Daryl took full advantage of.

In Louisville Bill's first distillery choice was "Old Forester." He was very nostalgic in his bourbon selections but got a rude awakening when he was charged over \$25 US for one shot of something called "5 Uncles." His focus shifted to beer shortly thereafter.

Celebrating the sale of the Lasqueti Sons, Bill and Georgia took the whole family to a Canuck's game this fall. His grand daughters weren't shy about abusing his credit card as they loaded up on beverages. Everyone commented on how much fun the whole evening was.

Shortly after Bill cashed the big cheque he showed up at Patty's place with a bottle of "Brother's Bond," bourbon to celebrate. In anticipation for his arrival, she and Steve created personalized flight boards to help him celebrate. And so, they did!

The Forbes/Weighill/Biro families wish everyone much merriment and good health in 2025.

Rob and Coral's Crew

The Rob Forbes Family had another fun filled year in 2024. **Coral** and her dog, Fisher continued to run, swim and play their way around Vancouver Island, with a cruise along the St Lawrence and a sunny trip to Phoenix thrown in for Coral.

Elliot and Jenice continue to enjoy life in Courtenay with Hubei, and Elliot



Aggie, Cameron, Kevin, Robert & Kelly

continues to bring home fish from his fishing gigs, which his family appreciates. A highlight for them was a trip to the Philippines and Thailand.

Heather, Everett and **Livia** (Heather's dog) continued to zoom and challenge themselves.

Everett started Grade one at Tillicum Elementary, where he enjoys math, Lego, and gymnastics. He also has a never-ending boat building project with his dad Chris where they are converting a canoe to a sailboat (no boat is ever finished!)

Heather continues to enjoy her work at the Ministry of Health helping to address the toxic drug crisis, as well as playing soccer and cycling. Her garden is beautiful but nowhere near as productive as Coral's.

A definite highlight was a trip to Kauai for New Year's with Heather's boyfriend Lewis. Heather and Everett saw sea turtles for the first time - their minds remain blown. We needed to get special permission for Everett to go on an epic helicopter ride - he sure is a thrill seeking 6-year-old!

After years of apprenticeships and hard work, **Tim** earned his accreditation as a full-fledged BC Land Surveyor. You can find him up and down Vancouver Island, flagging property lines and swinging his trusty machete.



Bill and Georgia's Family



Kelly, Tim, Maeve & Autumn



Everett

Kelly spends her days chasing her very active girls, **Autumn** and **Maeve**, and her pooch Pemba. **Maeve**, at only three years old, mastered a two-wheeled pedal bike, which is surely another highlight of the year. In April, Kelly will reluctantly return to work at Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, chasing illegal campers and patrolling Barkley Sound for sneaky fisherman and beachcombers (Watch out Uncle Bill).

Weighill Clan

Aggie: 2024 proved to be another wild ride for the Weighill family—quite literally, in Aggie’s case, as she reluctantly discovered that rollercoasters and 3D rides aren’t exactly “50-plus friendly.”

Cameron: Meanwhile, **Pietro** became a certified scuba diver, granting Cameron a guilt-free pass to disappear underwater during family vacations without receiving **Dorianna's** signature evil eye. Adding to Cameron's anxiety, Pietro also earned his yellow belt in Taekwondo and demonstrated his newfound talent for fatherly takedowns—Dad better watch his back!

Not to be outdone, **Violet** joined Girl Guides and volleyball and eagerly embraced sewing, prompting Nana Jean to plan a trip to Ontario faster than a Hogwarts owl to deliver lessons. Speaking of Hogwarts, Pietro bravely proved that the sweltering Florida heat

was no match for a determined kid in a thick black Slytherin cape, while Aggie learned that her role as “cool auntie” now includes riding every rollercoaster Dorianna vetoes.

Jean decided on an unconventional weight-loss strategy—partial mastectomy—and earned a few colorful new nicknames from her kids and brother Bill, including “One Boob Wonder” and “Lopsided Sister.” Ever resourceful, she smartly scheduled her treatments around vacations and joined a clinical trial that shortened her treatment schedule. Now, she’s proudly rocking her new falsie with style.

Jean also transformed from “Mean Auntie Jean” into everyone’s favorite great auntie through treat- and cookie-dispensing during summer camping trips with the Biro clan.

Aggie celebrated 20 years at Vancouver Island University by not slowing down as she balanced planning conferences, teaching, and field work. She's following Granny Forbes's (Auntie Pat) example by joining the BC Recreation & Parks Association and Tourism Nanaimo Boards, and VIU's Senate. She channeled Grandpa Forbes's (Uncle Peter) legendary roadside skills by heroically changing a motorhome's inside dual tire with an axe and tire iron (and a few choice words) on the Dempster Highway, earning imaginary kudos from beyond.

The entire clan enjoyed a sun-soaked



Kalista, Brooklyn, Isla and Scotlyn



Nicole, Robert, Scotlyn & Brooklyn

Mexican adventure with the Biro clan, complete with scuba diving, dolphin swims, endless slushie drinks, and Auntie Patty's unforgettable pirate ship stripper dance for a free t-shirt. All in all, 2024 was filled with laughter, questionable family nicknames, tire-changing triumphs, Girl Guide cookie sales (Pro-tip: Dorianna signed up Violet to sell at RV and Home Shows so she could get free admission), and proof that the Weighills know how to make any year unforgettable

Biro Family

Patty and Steve enjoyed fun travel in 2024-5. It included a month-long road trip to Arizona and back visiting friends and relatives along the route. We stayed a week in Scottsdale enjoying the company of Bruce, Brie and Isla and Brie's parents, and attended several Spring Training games soaking up the sun. From there we ventured to Maricopa for a short visit with cousin Helen. On the return trip we stopped at Indio for a few nights of unforgettable hospitality courtesy of cousin Craig. We needed another month to heal our livers.

The next adventure was with Daryl and Christy, and Bill and Georgia. What a hoot. We all ventured to Memphis to visit Elvis, then onto Louisville for Bourbon & Karaoke before finishing off in Nashville for music and more alcohol. It was an incredibly amusing adventure, with too many anecdotes to share on paper. Go ask Daryl or Bill for the details.

We have just returned from a family trip to Puerto Vallarta with all of Jean's family, Robert's family, Kevin and his girlfriend Kennedy, and one special afternoon with Kelly Forbes and her family.

As always, we continue to enjoy the company of family who visit us in Coombs and on Lasqueti. Those doors remain open. We always enjoy spending time with our four grand daughters and are looking forward to the arrival of grand baby #5 in the summer.

The three Biro Brothers have the great fortune to have wonderful partners who tolerate their antics. Nicole and Rob hosted a “dress as your spouse” party this past fall. You can imagine the hysterical experience this must have been. We’re all so fortunate that everyone gets along, especially the little ones. We know that we’re lucky to have our whole family living so close together.

Robert, Nicole along with their daughters **Brooklyn** (6) and **Scotlyn** (3) continue to be busy. Much to the delight of her grandmother, Brooklyn has experienced great success in highland dance this past year and has won numerous medals. She's got a competitive spirit! Any idea where that came from?

Brooklyn and Scottie have both completed swimming and skating lessons. Brooklyn is now looking forward to the start of the softball season.

Scotlyn loves playing with her cousins and has quite an amazing sense of humour, a class clown in the making. As a family they love to camp and most weekends in the summer are filled with camping experiences all over Vancouver Island. In



Custom flight Boards



Possibly Robert, Nicole, Brie, Bruce, Kennedy & Kevin

addition to a few family trips to Lasqueti they also traveled to Paradise Village in Nuevo Vallarta for much fun in the sun and a chance for Brooklyn to swim with the dolphins.

Bruce, Brie and **Isla** (19 months) are also pretty busy. Brie returned to work in September as a high school counsellor in Nanaimo. Bruce has continued to teach high school PE and has been appointed the PE Department Head-lots of extra work with no extra pay.

Isla goes to Auntie Nicole and Uncle Bobby's place for daycare and keeps

Scotlyn company. Isla is a delightful little girl with a wonderful temperament.

Bruce and Brie surprised us in January with the announcement that they are expecting their second child this summer. We can't wait. This family has also done some travel in the past year with a family trip to Scottsdale last spring, a road trip to Jasper, and several trips to Edmonton to visit family. They are also traveling to Disneyland this March. Bruce and Kevin continue to coach the Parksville Royals Baseball team with both declaring that this will be their last year. Famous last words.

Kevin and his 3½ year old daughter, **Kalista**, moved in with Kevin's partner **Kennedy** before Christmas. Kevin and Kennedy joined the family in a recent trip to Mexico, where Kevin and Robert entertained us daily with their tacky tropical attire. Quite the fashionistas. Both Kennedy and Kevin keep active at the gym, make short vacations to Vancouver, and Lasqueti, and camping with friends and family when the opportunity presents itself.

Kalista is a bundle of uplifting energy that one can't help but be drawn into. She has enjoyed sleepovers with her cousins and grandparents in addition to dance and swimming lessons. That girl is a whirlwind of activity.

Christie Cures the Clap in Comox

Helen is declared an Alien....no one is surprised!

Helen's Family

Tale of the Woods: always save the best for the last page!! My life certainly seems boring compared to the rest of the enthusiastic globe-trotting action filled Clan!! Life for me and my family is pretty low key and tranquil. Still loving my retirement/work life balance; south for 5 months in winter and north in the summer. Work is casual – do what I want, when I want – and of course this helps pay for the life in Maricopa.

Life is awesome in Maricopa – that's where I relax. Endless activities include hikes, golf, pickle ball, water sports, lots drinking and a LOVELY group of friends. I have even started a group to play cards, lots of swearing, yelling, drinking, laughing and fun. I remember our parents playing cards when I was young and thought, how boring, rolling my eyes. NOT now, even in Vancouver I have a fierce card group going.

My next trip south, March 1st, might be marred with the newest presidential team either trying to run or is it ruin the country, (for sure their reputations). I learned, living my nomad life, to keep things low key. When in Rome, do as the Romans, assimilate! In Saudi Arabia, I wore an Abaya; in France, I was as rude as the French; in Italy, I spoke with my hands and made spaghetti; in Poland, I just FROZE like they did. So, going to the USA, I speak American, I drive American, I will hike, golf, entertain, laugh like an American!! I will live like the very smart Americans, but will camouflage. I will behave, not insult (at least not out loud) their new tRump & Muskrat officials. I will NOT proudly fly my Canadian flag. I will see how long before we snowbirds are kicked out too! That said, I will enjoy the climate, the many good friends, and the life I love. We just got word that Canadians traveling to the USA for periods of over 30 days will soon have to register as "ALIENS." It's official, I'm an Alien.

Christie & Michael are thriving in their part of the world, in Cumberland, on Vancouver Island. They enjoy climbing the gorgeous mountains, Christie runs Ironmans, and Micheal enjoys fishing on the many island lakes. They love their area

and take advantage of all that it has to offer. Christie works at a clinic in Courtenay which focuses on treating, and hopefully lowering, the spread of STDs (yes, Sexually transmitted diseases); Antiseptic Annie would be so proud. Michael is a shop teacher at one of the high schools in Courtenay. They are enjoying their newly found-garden life. Like mom did for me at the start of my gardening journey, I happily dug out the descendants of the plants she shared with me, and Christie and Michael have now transplanted them into their yard. Gran is smiling.

Stefan is private as always, still thriving somewhere in the Okanagan.

Tina's Gang

It has been an interesting and challenging couple of years, but as a steely Scot, Tina has soldiered on with determination! After badly injuring her shoulder and arm, while gardening (Gorgeous Auntie Janet would be proud of the sacrifice), Tina carried on, doing well in Real Estate, her eighteenth career and loves living in beautiful Kitsilano - come visit any time. In October, Tina developed two undetected, serious chest infections and admitted herself to hospital (Carol and Patti were coming for a visit, that was kiboshed) which then turned into pneumonia! It was a tough, lengthy hospital stay, leading to the loss of about 25 pounds. Following that hospital stay, Tina underwent an Endoscopy under anesthetic, which may have contributed to the next trial: a mild stroke. Needless to say, back in hospital for another two and a half weeks. She is on the mend now, gaining weight, getting back to work, and the doctors are happy with the progress, it has been a scary time.

Jillian and Chris - The brats are reproducing - this is excellent! Jillian and Chris welcomed Evelyn aka Evie Oliver Browes in February 2024, a big healthy girl who is hysterical and just wants to follow her brother Eric around, so is walking early. Recently, they took a vacation to Hawaii. Because Eric has an interest in volcanoes, they took him to Wailea and indulged him with an up



Michael, Helen and Christie

close and personal view! They continue to live in pot-happy Nelson BC, and you can watch Jillian on Rob Shaw's show, Political Content on Chek TV. They are super happy.

La petite singe, Miss Sophia, is doing great, she has been in remission from her Multiple Sclerosis for the past four years, thank God. She rallies on, as a computer coder, doing brilliantly. She has always been mathematical and brilliant with numbers. She is utterly devoted to her fabulous dog, Miss Frankie, who is trained as a Therapy dog. Soph has been a great support during these medical nightmares, always answering the call when help is needed. Dear Soph is playing at a high level in women's soccer, so that chick is shining!

Sandy aka Alex

Alexander is thriving and loves life in Berlin. He doesn't seem to realize he is no longer eligible for the Christie Scholarship, nor that his parents are working on retirement plans, but he is really enjoying his school journey there and sucking up every moment. He does truly relish his opportunities and grasps everything Berlin and Europe have to offer. We are anticipating he will finish his Masters degree at Catalyst Institute for Creative Arts and Technology in Spring 2025. One can hope he is happy, fulfilled and DONE soon! That he is happy and pursuing his dreams is everything, I just wish it didn't cost so much, as I am trying to retire and not live on cat food!

Helen Wood