

*2173 Tryon Rd, North Saanich, BC, V8L 5H6, Canada*

Dear Friends,

We have been wondering about moving to a smaller place nearer the shops but as we can both still drive and we like it here so much we are staying put for now.....



.... and so are these birds who make nests in the holes made by woodpeckers in the decaying fabric of the roof. Note hungry fledglings, bottom left

We used to have a 50 year old grape vine on the trellis over the picnic table which provided shade in summer but it died and we planted a wisteria in its place. The wisteria has spread all across the trellis now, and the vine branches which we left there to support it are all rotten and we have removed most of them.

Here is the wisteria in bloom.

The blossoms hang down so far it makes it difficult to get in the back door.



In the pic below we are in the breakfast room with the trellis visible outside the window, but this must have been much earlier in the year.



Our youngest grandchild Claire comes to see us quite often. She is now a schoolgirl, doing well, and has a very active life including playing soccer. (Women's Soccer is big in Canada - bronze medal in 2012 Olympics).



Our children have done interesting things this year. Al retired from his job with the BC Government and is working independently as an archaeologist, sometimes in collaboration with Quentin. It has been a productive year for both of them. Quentin's work in Haida Gwaii produced a notable breakthrough. Using an autonomous underwater vehicle equipped with sonar he and his colleagues discovered what appears to be evidence of human habitation 100m below the surface. If confirmed, this will be the earliest archaeological site yet found in Canada, dating from 13,800 yrs ago.



Tina had a wonderful show in Chicago – I wish I had room for some photos - and is now busy preparing one which will be on in London at Tate Britain in 2015. We have had brief but very nice visits from Tina and Chris (in October) and from Richard and Sue, when they can get away from their absorbing work in Vancouver.



Rachel has been making more beautiful raku beads, earrings etc and selling them very successfully online and at sales. She and Olivier go climbing in the French Alps (3000m up in this pic).

In September Gillian and I went to the cabin at Sugar Lake, still as beautiful as ever and with many fewer tourists now the campground has closed. Gill baked bread as usual and I cut wood for the kitchen stove and fireplace.





In October we went over to Friday Harbor with longtime friend and coworker Bob Meech from Bristol University, my last such research trip, 53 years after my first. We visited some of our favourite spots like the Bell Point walk from Garrison Bay to Westcott Bay



In November Gill and I went to New Zealand for three weeks and had a wonderful time, travelling to and fro across the South Island, both East and West coasts and the Catlins in the Southlands. The part we like best is still the Otago Peninsula (above) with its endless rolling green hills, sheep pastures and long beaches with only birds and seals for company.

Finally we are still keeping up with our handicrafts. Here is Gill's latest quilt and one of her blue and white 'delftware' plates....



and two of my earthenware plates – the same basic pattern (done with help from Photoshop) filled in with coloured glazes in two different ways



Gillian joins me in wishing you all the best for Christmas and 2015,

George

December 2014