



# G & S GAZETTE

December 2003



## The Adventures of 2003

Greetings everyone! When we last wrote our newsletter, it was early December 2002. Since that time, we've had an exciting year with travels, friends and a new job. We hope you enjoy our year in review.

Shortly after the 2002 newsletter was mailed out, we attended a David Copperfield magic show. Susan has always loved watching David Copperfield and his show did not disappoint us. We still scratch our heads on how he performed the illusion of traveling from the theatre to a beach in Thailand. It was truly amazing.

We celebrated Christmas in Burnaby with both Glen's parents and Glen's brother's family, and surprised his parents with a trip on the Rocky Mountaineer (of course, we were going too). Our trip was a one-way train trip from Vancouver to Banff with a night's stay in Kamloops. The trip was absolutely wonderful. We left on December 27<sup>th</sup>, the day of the first heavy snowfall for Southern BC and Alberta. The scenery was picturesque. We rode with the Red Leaf service (as opposed to Gold Leaf- upper deck seating) which was perfect for us. The train was super comfortable with lots of leg room, excellent service and constant food. We enjoyed the entertainment car where there was a bar and live band, as well as the kids' car with game and craft tables. We stopped over at Kamloops where we enjoyed a dinner musical show about Billy Miner- the train robber. We stayed at the Stockman's Inn, which



*Christmas greetings from Glen and Susan.*

felt a bit strange since Glen's parents' condo was only two blocks away. The next morning we continued our journey to Banff. At Craigallicie, we picked up Santa Claus and he delivered Christmas gifts for the children and scarves for the adults who were riding the train. All four of us thought our car was the most active. Riders on our train were chatting with one another and walking up and down to catch the different views, whereas riders on other cars were quiet and slept throughout the ride. We had many Australians on our train and we enjoyed talking with them about their travels. Our train trip ended in Banff.

Here, the four of us walked around the shops and stayed overnight. On the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>, we took a bus to Calgary to visit Susan's parents. We stayed one night enjoying dinner and dim sum with the family. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, we flew back to Vancouver and completed our Christmas travels.

In January, we purchased a one nighter ski pass at Mount Seymour. Susan enrolled in ski lessons and was pretty good by the time she completed her three lessons. Unfortunately, the season was not very long so the skiing was cut short. We may try skiing again in 2004. During March, we traveled to Kamloops for a weekend to attend a good-bye party for Glen's Uncle Lee and Aunt Christine, who have moved to St. Louis, Saskatchewan.

We officially opened our cabin on April 12<sup>th</sup> and received our new boat on May 10<sup>th</sup>. During the

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month of May, the gully next to our lot (which is owned by the golf course) had its trees cut down because the golf course owners wanted to sell the lumber from the trees. Our deck is getting much more sun exposure, thus making our home not as cool as it used to be. We were very excited to see our boat on the 10<sup>th</sup> and we

immediately took the boat out on the lake. We drove to Glen's parent's old cabin, which is approximately a 45 minute boat ride, to visit the Cowels and Nicholson's. The weather was quite cloudy and we encountered a storm at the Narrows on our way back. The boat handled very well through the rough water and we were quite pleased with our

purchase. We have named our boat "Magic Carpet" for its smooth, sleek and powerful ride. Needless to say, we spent the majority of the weekends riding in the boat and exploring the different areas of the lake throughout the summer. We did minimal work on the cabin itself, since we were having too much fun on the water. The only work that we did was finish the trim on the windows and doors; while Glen's dad built a garage to store the new boat and their old boat (he was very productive in completing the items in his job jar). Glen enjoyed being able to water-ski again. Susan gave it a few tries but was only able to stand up for a second and was then dragged through the water; she enjoyed tubing much more. Our 2003 lake guests who tried water-skiing included Zhi, Kathy, Zachary (nephew), Rebecca (niece) and Ellen (sister-in-law). Kathy was the only successful one who got up on the skis and stayed up...way to go Kathy!

Our guests at the lake for 2003 included Patrick & Ada during May long weekend; Pauline, Eddy, Hayley, Rita during August long weekend; Susan's cousins Zhi, Amy and Kenny during the first week of August, Kirsten & Detlef during late August; and Kathy during September.

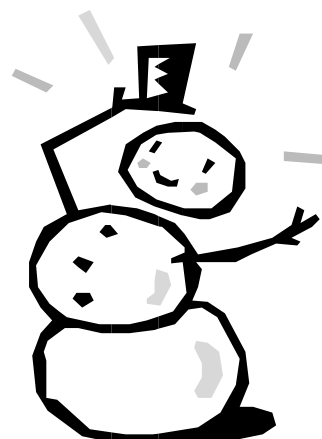
We continued our weekend walks and hikes throughout the spring and summer in preparation for our Chilkoote Trail hike. Some of our treks included two bush-whacking hikes over the mountain from the Nicholson's and Cowels' cabin to the Cassell's cabin at Shuswap Lake. The first time we went over was June

7<sup>th</sup>. We were accompanied by Keith Nicholson and Glen's dad. We loved Keith's outfit—he was sporting a black dress belt with a water bottle hanging on the side and a bag of cheezies sticking out of his checkered shirt. Glen had recently purchased a GPS and wanted to try it on the hike. He was having fun with his new toy. The rest of us weren't as impressed with the GPS, since many times we weren't able to get a position

reading due to all the trees. We relied on the old fashion compass to lead us over the mountain... Glen's dad. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, we went over the mountain again with Glen's dad and bear-spray man Dale Cassell. Fortunately, we didn't run into a bear, otherwise the bear would be in big trouble with Dale around. Also during June we did an overnigher at Garibaldi Lake which was Susan's first time camping in the snow. In early July we enjoyed a walk to Hunakwa Lake, at the end of Anstey Arm, with Glen's parents, Jim and family, and Dale Cassell. A few final tests were done in July before going on the Chilkoote Trail. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, we did a hike up to Wedgemount Lake near Whistler. The round trip hike was 14 km, elevation gain of 3,800 feet and an average grade of 16.6%. This hike was similar to the hardest part of the Chilkoote Trail. We told ourselves that if we were able to do this hike, then we would be fine on the Chilkoote Trail. We completed



Dale, Bill (Glen's dad), Glen and Susan finish their hike over the mountain





the hike in just over 8 hours. Also in July, just one week before our trip, we back packed in to Pierce Lake on Mount MacFarlane in Chilliwack. With an elevation gain of over 3,400 feet, and with full packs on our back, we were very pleased to complete the trip. With our successes, we were committed to hiking the Chilkoot Trail.

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, we flew to Whitehorse and took a bus to Skagway and stayed overnight at a Bed & Breakfast, the Skagway Inn. The owner of the Inn drove us to the trailhead at Dyea on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Here we began our 5 day back pack trip for 53 km. The first two and a half days were rainforest conditions on the American side. During the day, the weather was great for back packing—overcast. During the night it rained, so it was kind of yucky packing up the tent and other items when they were wet. On the third day we went over the summit and crossed the border onto the Canadian side. It was such a great feeling crossing the border and seeing the Canadian

flag. The Canadian side was clear skies and absolutely beautiful with the lakes and mountains. We saw some neat artifacts and bones on the trail leftover from the Gold Rush during the late 1800's. We met some wonderful people from around the

world, including Kirsten and Detlef from Germany who came to visit us at Shuswap during the Labour Day long weekend. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, we successfully completed our hike. Our shoulders and feet were slightly soar but we were high in spirits—the adrenaline was going. We toured around Skagway, purchased some



*Glen & Susan hike the Chilkoot Trail*

souvenirs and headed back to Whitehorse for our flight. For more details and photos on our Chilkoot trip, please visit our web site.

We spent another week's worth of holidays at the lake during August. During the month of August the interior of BC was big in the news with many forest fires happening. Although it was smoky at our cabin, the closest fire was about 40 kilometres away. Though we avoided the fires, we didn't avoid the drought (which caused the fires). Throughout the month of August, we were frequently out of water at our cabin. Often, we only had running water for four out of the twenty-four hours during the day. In October, we went to Nanaimo for Nik and Barry's wedding reception (congratulations), and closed our cabin for the year on Thanksgiving weekend. Susan finished her last day of work at Safeway at the end of October.

At the beginning of November, Susan started her new position at the Homeowner Protection Office as the Communications Officer, and so far she is really enjoying it. The HPO is a Crown corporation that looks

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*Kirsten and Detlef visiting us at the lake during their one year travels around Canada and U.S.*

after licensing residential builders, providing financial assistance to those affected by leaky condos and provides research and education to benefit the housing industry. Susan's day is spent working the logistics on tradeshow, updating the web site and marketing material, coordinating advertising orders, and

assisting with the information line. The work days go by quite quickly for Susan as there is constantly something keeping her busy. In the New Year, she'll be busy with approximately seven trade and consumer shows between



*At the top looking at the beautiful Wedgemount Lake*

February and March. It will be a neat experience for her. Also in November, after four years at BCIT, Susan completed her Certificate in Marketing Communications Management.

In late November, we hosted an Indiana Jones Trilogy night. We realized we were getting older and could not stay up past midnight. Our lesson...when we do another trilogy night, we need to start earlier during the day.

In early December, we took a weekend trip to Seattle and enjoyed the entertaining cooks of 13 Coins Restaurant, the finger-licking and smashing good seafood at the Crab Pot, and the festive sight and sounds of Seattle.



*Glen & Susan celebrating Mother's Day with Glen's parents at Creekside Restaurant in Scotch Creek.*

then fly out to Kelowna, where Glen's parents will pick us up and drive us to their place at Shuswap. We'll be able to enjoy New Year's Eve with Glen's parents and his brother's family.

For 2004, we're looking forward to spending a week house-boating on the lake during Glen's annual family reunion, celebrating his parent's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, going to New York to celebrate Susan's cousin Doris' wedding,

and continuing with our walks and hikes.

Thank you for spending your time reading our update. We hope you have a super holiday season and best wishes to you and your family for 2004! \*



*Portly the chipmunk was our new and regular visitor to the feeder during the summer of 2003*



*Glen having a seafood feast at the Crab Pot in Seattle*



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