



# G & S GAZETTE

December 2004



In our 2003 newsletter, we said we were looking forward to Christmas in Calgary and New Years at the Shuswap, house boating, celebrating Glen's parents' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and going to New York for Susan's cousin Doris' wedding. We did all that and more. Read on to hear about our year.

For Christmas Eve 2003, Susan had the day off from her then new job at the HPO, which allowed her to prepare for our flight to Calgary. Glen was tied up at work until after 2:00 that afternoon, and so was in a bit of a rush driving home from his workplace in Richmond, packing, and arriving at the airport in time for our flight. We did make it and had our Christmas Eve dinner at the airport Milestones, how quaint (NOT).

In addition to Susan's usual relatives in Calgary, Susan's cousin Zhi from New York was also visiting. He had flown out for the holiday season

and was looking to do some skiing. Although it was late when we arrived at Susan's parents' place, Zhi had already arranged for skiing at SunShine Village in Banff the next day (Christmas). Glen, Susan's cousins Amy and Kenny (from Calgary), and Zhi were going skiing, while Susan decided to spend a relaxing day visiting with family.

On Christmas morning, Glen was up early and on the road to SunShine before sun-up in Uncle Darcy's van. Skiing on Christmas day is definitely a different experience, the staff and people in general are friendlier, and it's actually something Glen would

recommend. Christmas dinner was spent at Susan's parents with family.

Over the coming week, we (Susan and Glen) went to SunShine a couple more times and had a good time skiing and snowboarding. We also drove to Edmonton for a day, where we spent some time at West Edmonton Mall, and visited with Pauline, Eddy, Hayley and newborn, Nicholas.

On the 31<sup>st</sup>, we flew out of Calgary and landed in Kelowna. Glen's parents picked us up and drove us to their place at Shuswap where we joined up with Glen's brother Jim's family. With all of the Scott family at the Shuswap, we had decided in advance to "delay" Christmas for almost a week so we could be together to open presents. So on New Year's Eve, we again experienced Christmas. For almost a week, we had fun playing games, and playing in the snow

before we had to board a Greyhound in Kamloops and head back to the coast for work.

In January, Susan started volunteering at the downtown YWCA as a Fitness Coach. She hadn't worked in the health and fitness industry for a number of years, and thought she should get back into it to keep her registration current. It was also a convenient location since the Y is right across the street from where she works. She enjoys showing people around the facility and using the pool and exercise equipment for herself. Also in the new year,



*Glen and Susan celebrate Christmas in Calgary during 2003 with cousins Kenny, Amy and Zhi.*

*(Continued on page 2)*



Glen rejoined Golden Eagle Toastmasters to brush up on his public speaking skills. Susan has not yet rejoined, but does humm and haaa about the idea... maybe 2005?

During January and February, we enjoyed weekend drives to Whistler for some skiing. We purchased a five-day visit card. Glen used up all his visits, but Susan missed one day. We purchased new skis for 2004. Since Susan is relatively new to skiing and purchasing ski equipment, she was unfamiliar with how ski boots should fit. We purchased some used boots for her at first. They seemed comfortable at the store, but when we hit the slopes, she was more out of control than normal. We tested the boots with rental skis, and then rental boots with her skis. We determined that the boots did not fit right. We decided to buy some new ski boots. We went for a quick run on one of the local mountains and they seemed to work for her. The following weekend we headed to Whistler. We skied in the morning and she was actually in control. By noon, she was complaining that her big toe was throbbing. When we stopped to take a break, she took off her boot and, sure enough, she had a purple toe. That ended her ski day. Susan took a break from skiing for a couple of weeks since her toe was quite soar. Glen ventured up on his own one day to get the most out of his pass. Once Susan's toe felt better, she gave it another shot. She did quite well on the green runs; they were much steeper than the green runs at the local mountain and Banff. She even skied a blue run—by mistake. She was skiing on her own, and misread the trail markings and was headed down to Creekside, where her choice was either a blue or black diamond run. Some how she managed the blue run without falling. It amazes her to this day of how she did it.



*All dressed with our headlamps as we went spelunking at Horne Lake Caves on Vancouver Island.*

Also in January, we started a walking/hiking group on the weekend with some people from Susan's work. We went on about 3 or 4 hikes before we were unable to schedule anymore due to busy schedules. Glen and

Susan did a few more hikes throughout the year, but our hiking for this year really slowed down. Susan thinks it is withdrawal syndrome due to all the hiking and backpacking that we did last year. We didn't even touch our backpacks this year.

From February to May, Susan was busy with work travelling to various home shows around B.C. It was a fun experience, but it became tiring near the end of each show day. Also in May, we spent an extra long weekend on

Vancouver Island at Parksville. We stayed at a lovely vacation property resort on the beach and then went spelunking at Horne Lake Caves Provincial Park.

In the summer we started going to our cabin each weekend and had a marvelous time. Visitors this year included Erin, daughter of John and Maureen McKellar from Australia who had been with us on our Christmas 2002 Rocky Mountaineer trip; Eddy, Pauline, Hayley



*Eddy and Rob helped Glen assemble our barbeque on August long weekend—it was a hot.*



and Nicholas; Eddy's brother Rob and his girlfriend Diana; and Anna and Stephen. This year's water-skiing attempts included Stephen who almost got up out of the water; Rob who was up for a few seconds and definitely wins the award for most entertaining attempt (ask to see the video and you'll see what we mean); and Eddy who succeeded to go back and forth over the wake (we're still not certain whether it was intentional).

We also spent quite a bit of time covertly traveling the lake capturing video of Glen's parents' friends wishing them a happy 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. This was all in preparation for their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to be happening in September. We had a great time both with friends and when we were there on our own.

In late July, we were at the lake with approximately 50 other family members, it being Glen's annual family reunion. This year, the reunion started at Sicamous where we all boarded houseboats and headed up the lake. A couple of days later we pulled into Horseshoe Bay, which is just a couple of kilometers down from our cabin and we all enjoyed our day at the reunion's obligatory golf tournament. This year, we were very pleased that we had a more

resolute houseboat than the one we had had at the last Shuswap houseboating reunion in 2001 (meaning we didn't breakdown). The houseboat trip/reunion was soon over and we found ourselves back at work.



*Glen enjoying his new kneeboard.*

In late August, we took a trip to New York for Susan's cousin Doris' wedding. We were fortunate to be flying Cathay Pacific, which we both found to be one of the nicest airlines that we have been on. The flight to New York was uneventful but enjoyable. We were picked up at JFK by the bride herself. We stayed at Doris' parents' place. We met Zhi's girlfriend, now fiancée,

Michelle. Michelle and Zhi were mentioning that they would probably marry in 2005, and so we were hoping to visit New York again next year for their wedding. However, they've now moved their plans up to this year's Christmas holidays and due to vacation day shortage, we'll have to miss their wedding. Hopefully, we'll be able to see them next year. Staying at Doris' parents' place was a real blessing, since they live in Brooklyn near an express subway into Manhattan. The next morning we were on the subway, each with a seven-day pass, heading downtown to meet up with Doris and her fiancé, Marlin. They showed us around lower Manhattan, including Battery Park, Wall Street, the World Trade Center Site, and the South Street Sea Port. We had a great afternoon visiting, sightseeing and tasting great food on a deck overlooking the Sea Port on a beautiful, sunny, clear blue-sky day. We were blessed with weather in New York. It had rained heavily just before we arrived and, so the week we were there, the sky was blue and the air was relatively fresh.

We left Doris and Marlin as they had to do some shopping for their imminent wedding, and we explored Manhattan on our own. We had used some Air Miles' points to get what is called a New York City Pass. We had tickets to the Empire State Building, the Guggenheim Museum, the Intrepid Sea, Air, and



*On the Toys 'R Us ferris wheel at Times Square.*



Space Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, a Circle Line Sightseeing cruise, and the American Museum of Natural History. On this first day in Manhattan, we



*Glen in front of the Concorde at the Sea, Air & Space Museum.*

decided to take advantage of the Empire State building ticket since the visibility was so good (we didn't know if it would last). Soon enough, we were up on the 102<sup>nd</sup> floor of, what at one time, was the world's tallest skyscraper. We felt very lucky to be in one of the seven man-made wonders of the world on a day with great visibility. We experienced some great views of New York from, what is once again, New York's tallest building, before heading back to Brooklyn in the late evening.

Monday we once again took the subway, as we were to do basically every day, into Manhattan. Our agenda this day took us to the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum. At this museum in west mid-Manhattan, we walked around on the USS Intrepid, a decommissioned aircraft carrier with many cool planes on the deck. Some of the highlights that impressed Glen included an F-14 Tomcat, an A-6, a Harrier, a MiG 21, an F-16, an F-4, a Huey, and believe it or not (if you know planes), a Blackbird. But wait, there's more... in one regard, we would have to say the best plane we saw wasn't on the deck of the Intrepid, but next to it on its own barge and that plane would be a Concorde. We actually walked through the Concorde, seeing the luxury served on what has been

the fastest commercial aircraft ever built. In case you don't know, the Concorde regularly flew from London to New York in about 3 hours. Another plane, such as a Boeing 747, takes 7-8 hours to make the flight. Besides planes, we also toured through the USS Growler, which is a decommissioned sub.

After the museum, we headed over to Broadway, THE Broadway, because we had tickets to the David Letterman show. Before the show, we went to The Hello Deli, owned and operated by Rupert, a regular on the show. Because Glen's mom is such a David Letterman fan, and actually a Rupert fan, we videotaped Rupert wishing Glen's parents a happy 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The show was fun, but not as entertaining as when we went to the Tonight Show with Jay Leno a few years before. It was probably due to the lack of big-name guests at the show. There were cameos by Les Moonves and Marion Jones, and the on-show guests included Jon Cryer, Chris Kentis, and Renee Olmstead. We'll be impressed if you know any of them with the possible exception of Marion Jones. On the night of seeing David Letterman, we enjoyed dinner at Ellen's Stardust Diner, a fun 50s-themed diner on Broadway that has singing waiters and waitresses. Fine food, excellent entertainment and highly recommended if you have an opportunity.

Speaking of food, the one other shop we should mention is Cold Stone, a wonderful place that serves delicious ice cream. We discovered this delight in

Times Square. Cold Stone, we understand, is a national ice-cream chain. You pick your ice cream and the ingredients you want thrown in (i.e. Oreo cookies, Skor bar, raspberries, etc.), and they mix it all together right in front of your eyes. If you give a tip, they'll sing for you (at least on this day at this particular store). We visited the ice-cream shop a couple of times while in New York.



*One of many "Woman's Torso" displayed at the Guggenheim Museum.*

On the Tuesday, we again rode into Manhattan, but this time visited the Guggenheim in East mid-Manhattan. Assuming you know we're not much of "traditional" museum or gallery people, we soon enough had our fill of "women's torso #3" - "Why that's just a rock". The



six parallel fluorescent light tubes pushed us over the edge and we retreated to have a “dirty dog” in Central Park. One saving grace, the Guggenheim building itself is very cool.

That afternoon we met up with Doris and drove out to La Guardia to pick up Susan’s cousins’ Amy and Kenny and their parents who were flying in. With Doris’ five seater Matrix, we knew we’d be taking the bus/subway back, and we thought if they had lots of luggage then Amy and/or Kenny would be joining us. The luggage and people all fit, so we rode the subway back by ourselves.

Susan’s parents and brother Richard and family also arrived, and so Susan’s aunt’s house in Brooklyn was certainly filled.

The rest of the week saw us visiting Manhattan daily, along with more people. We took a cruise right around Manhattan, that gave us great views of the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of Liberty and Yankee Stadium.

Doris and Marlin’s wedding the following weekend was a lot of fun, taking place in a very upscale golf and country club on Long Island. The wedding party was big, five attendants per side, plus junior attendants. It was a wedding with a lot of energy, and if you didn’t have energy when you arrived, the music certainly pumped you up! Similar to our own wedding, Doris and Marlin didn’t have only one ceremony. Their “western” ceremony was on the Saturday, and Sunday night



*Glen and Susan with her parents, brother Richard, sister-in-law Helen and nephew Daniel.*

found us in Chinatown at a Chinese banquet.

Monday found us again in Manhattan, where we walked fully across the Brooklyn Bridge. That night we took a red-eye Cathay Pacific flight back home. Something didn’t agree with Glen, and he made good use of the supplied vomit bags, but thankfully it was temporary and we both struggled into work on Tuesday morning.

Late September saw the culmination of the time spent preparing for Glen’s parents’ 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Glen’s brother, Jim, had actually taken all the footage and digitized pictures we had collected and turned them into a

presentation on DVD. The event itself took place at the Kirin Mandarin restaurant in Kamloops, attended by friends and family from near and far. Besides the scrumptious dinner, we had entertainment that

included playing the video, at least part of it; a couple of games; a little dancing; and a lot of visiting. The “theme” of the celebration was modeled after the TV show *The Bachelorette*, one of Glen’s mom’s favourite shows. One game played was “questions from the bowl” which was taken directly from *The Bachelorette*. To keep with the TV theme, all the other games we played were also of the game-show variety. In *the Oldlywed Game*, where the competing couples found out how much each spouse knew about each other, we had Glen’s parents, Jeanette and Dale, Al and Lynn, and Keith and Janet. Picking the best husband for a date in *The Dating Game*,



*Cousin Doris with her new husband, Marlin, and ring bearer.*



Glen's mom was choosing between Glen's dad, Dennis Lyall, and Dave Chartres. We all had a fun time celebrating their 40 years of marriage.

In November, Glen left McKesson/ALI, where he had been working for the last three and a half years, to join IBM. Not being one to rush between the jobs though, we took a week off in between Glen's jobs to go down to the States for some fun.



Glen & Susan hiking at Bryce Canyon.

We flew down to Vegas, rented a car and drove out to Death Valley in California. We stayed overnight in a little town called Beatty. We hiked in Death Valley in a beautiful place called Mosaik Canyon. We drove back into Vegas after hiking and stayed for a few days in the Excalibur hotel and casino. While in Vegas, we spent time sightseeing, had dinner at a wonderful buffet called La Village at the Paris Hotel with Rob and Kim and Kim's mom, and saw *Legends in Concert* with Kim- a great music show where we saw Elton John, Barry White, Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, the Blues Brothers, Aretha Franklin, and Elvis Presley (or at least very good impersonators).

After a couple of days in Vegas, we drove out into Utah where we spent a day hiking in Bryce Canyon. We then drove down to Zion National Park, where we again did some hiking. We hiked to a place called Angels Landing, one of the scariest hikes we've ever done. The two and a half mile hike gains 1700 feet in elevation, with the last half mile going up a very steep, VERY NARROW trail with a shocking drop off on either side of the path. The trail guides sensibly warn that this trail is not for people with a fear of heights. The spots you pass through make even people with no fear apprehensive. Although, I think we were both desensitized to the height after a while of being up on top. The view from the top is fabulous. We both agree that Zion National Park is the nicest place we went on the whole trip. It didn't hurt either that we stayed in a delightful hotel called the Desert Pearl Inn, more of a resort than hotel. After Zion, we drove down to Page, Arizona and Glen Canyon where we spent a day looking around and boating on Lake Powell. After Glen Canyon, we went to the Grand Canyon. We again went hiking and hiked down into the canyon for about an hour to a place called Cedar Ridge. We had lunch and hiked

back up, surprising ourselves getting out of the canyon as fast as we had hiked down. After the Grand Canyon we went back into Vegas for one more night, staying downtown at the Main Street Station, just off Fremont Street. Rob came in for breakfast with us, and we left just as it started to rain in Vegas. We had had good weather throughout the trip, so it seemed sensible that we leave as the rain started.

Glen started with IBM the last week of November, and has so far found it a good place to work with nice people.

The Christmas season has started, and we're looking forward to spending Christmas here in town (no more vacation days). We're not sure what 2005 will hold, but we're confident we'll have a good time whatever happens.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! \*

*Glen & Susan*

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